



City of  
**LAUNCESTON**

# **COUNCIL AGENDA**

**COUNCIL MEETING**  
**THURSDAY 5 SEPTEMBER 2024**  
**1.00PM**

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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: 5 September 2024

Time: 1:00pm

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### 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

### **AUDIO of COUNCIL MEETINGS**

An audio recording of this Council Meeting, except for any part held in Closed Session, will be made in accordance with our Council Meetings - Audio Recording Policy - 14-Plx-008.

This Council Meeting will be streamed live to and can be accessed at:  
[www.launceston.tas.gov.au/Council/Meetings/Listen](http://www.launceston.tas.gov.au/Council/Meetings/Listen).

### **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](mailto: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 positions of General Manager Community and Place, General Manager Organisational Services, General Manager Infrastructure and Assets and General Manager Creative Arts and Cultural Services do not assume the functions and powers of the term *general manager* in a legislative sense: any legislative functions and powers to be delegated to these roles will be made by Council or the Chief Executive Officer. 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 - ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES**

**2. MAYORAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

**3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

*Local Government Act 1993 (Tas) - section 48*

*(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 2015 - Regulation 35(1)(b)*

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the City of Launceston Council held on 22 August 2024 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

**5. COUNCIL WORKSHOPS**

*Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015 - Regulation 8(2)(c)*

**5.1. Council Workshop Reports - 22 August 2024 and 29 August 2024**

**FILE NO:** SF4401

**AUTHOR:** Lorraine Wyatt (Council and Committees Officer)

**APPROVER:** Sam Johnson OAM (Chief Executive Officer)

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**DECISION STATEMENT:**

To consider Council Workshops conducted since the last Council Meeting.

**RELEVANT LEGISLATION:**

*Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015 - Regulation 8(2)(c)*

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council, pursuant to Regulation 8(2)(c) of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015*, notes the Council Workshops conducted and attended since the last Council Meeting, for the purposes described:

1. pre-Council Workshop conducted on 22 August 2024:

**Bell Bay Advanced Manufacturing Zone Update**

*Councillors were provided an update on activities and projects occurring at Bell Bay Advanced Manufacturing Zone's (BBAMZ) by Chief Executive Officer, Susie Bower.*

*In Attendance:* Mayor Councillor M K Garwood, Deputy Mayor Councillor D H McKenzie, Councillor A E Dawkins, Councillor A G Harris, Councillor T G Walker, Councillor Prof G Razay, Councillor A J Palmer, Councillor S Cai and Councillor A J Britton

*Apologies:* Councillor D C Gibson, Councillor J J Pentridge and Councillor L M McMahan

2. Workshop conducted on 29 August 2024:

**Federal Election Advocacy Projects**

*Councillors discussed and agreed which projects will be put forward, seeking Federal Government funding at the next election.*

**Launceston Central Marketing Biannual Reporting**

*Councilors received a bi-annual progress report from representatives of Launceston Central Inc., updating them on developments since the last workshop presentation held on February 29, 2024.*

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**Launceston Central Marketing - 3 Year Agreement Review**

*Councillors were provided direction on the extent of the review for the Launceston Central Inc. Agreement.*

**Aboriginal Cultural Activities Licence at the Cataract Gorge and Amendments to the Aboriginal Lands Act 1995**

*Councillors were informed about a proposal officers have received for a licence to undertake Aboriginal cultural activities in a selected area of the Cataract Gorge, and provided context about Aboriginal land management in Tasmania.*

*In Attendance:* Mayor Councillor M K Garwood, Deputy Mayor Councillor D H McKenzie, Councillor A E Dawkins, Councillor A G Harris, Councillor T G Walker, Councillor Prof G Razay, Councillor J J Pentridge, Councillor A J Palmer, Councillor L M McMahon, Councillor S Cai and Councillor A J Britton  
*Apologies:* Councillor D C Gibson

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**REPORT:**

Regulation 8(2)(c) of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015* 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 Corporate Strategic Plan 2014 - 2024*

Strategic Priority 3: We are a progressive leader that is accountable to our governance obligations and responsive to our community.

10-Year Goal: To ensure decisions are made in a transparent and accountable way, that effectively meet our statutory obligations, support quality services and underpin the long-term sustainability of our organisation.

Focus Areas:

2. To fairly and equitably discharge our statutory and governance obligations.

**BUDGET AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

Not considered relevant to this report.

**DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:**

The Author and General Manager have no interests to declare in this matter.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Nil

**6. COUNCILLORS' LEAVE OF ABSENCE APPLICATIONS**

**Councillors' Leave of Absence Applications will be considered in Closed Council at Agenda Item 23.2 - Councillors' Leave of Absence.**

**7. COMMUNITY REPORTS**

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

**7.1. St Vincent de Paul Society - Samantha Grace (Youth and Community Manager – North)**

**FILE NO:** SF6368

**AUTHOR:** Lorraine Wyatt (Council and Committees Officer)

**APPROVER:** Sam Johnson OAM (Chief Executive Officer)

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**SUMMARY OF PRESENTATION**

Samantha Grace (Youth and Community Manager – North) will present an overview of the St Vincent de Paul Society work in Northern Tasmania including localised statistics around trends that have been identified.

**8. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

*Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015 - Regulation 31*

**8.1. Public Questions on Notice**

*Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015 - Regulation 31(1)*

**8.1.1. Public Questions on Notice - Ian Goninon - Flood Risks: Levy in Newstead, and Tamar River Silt - 22 August 2024**

**FILE NO:** SF6381, SF6381

**AUTHOR:** Lorraine Wyatt (Council and Committees Officer)

**APPROVER:** Sam Johnson OAM (Chief Executive Officer)

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**QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES:**

The following question, submitted to Council on 22 August 2024 by Ian Goninon, has been answered by Shane Eberhardt (General Manager Infrastructure and Assets Network).

**Questions:**

1. 2016 and 2022 were two memorable years in Launceston for the floods, and for people on the flood levy, the flood got to within four or five inches of going over. In Newstead in 2016 and 2022 the flood went over the netball courts and was just about to go into Newstead. I was perturbed when I saw thousands of tons of earth and fill put in a flood plain at Killafaddy, and I'm really concerned that Council has allowed this, and it will cause it to go over, certainly at Newstead. The amount of fill being placed will have a direct affect for those residents there.

Secondly the Tamer River is filling up with silt and again when you've got an active flood plain like that filled with loose fill, lots of that will end up in the Tamer River.

Why has Council allowed it, and what precautions has Council put in place to prevent additional flooding and the silt from going down the Tamar River?

**Response:**

*It is agreed that both 2016 and 2022 were memorable years in Launceston for flooding, particularly in the Newstead area. The information included in the preamble to the question regarding flood waters being within four or five inches of going over the flood levee is incorrect, however that is not relevant to this question. Notwithstanding this, the statement that filling within the floodplain can raise flood levels, is correct.*

*The activity in question, works within the floodplain in the Killafaddy area, have previously been investigated by the City of Launceston. The outcome was confirmation that the filling is occurring to improve the land for agricultural purposes. This is a permitted activity under the planning scheme, subsequently there is no action that can be taken to prohibit this under current planning arrangements.*

*Regarding sediment management, the Launceston Flood Authority (LFA) has historically undertaken sediment management within the upper kanamaluka/Tamar Estuary. The sediment management (silt raking) program was reviewed in 2019, and the activity ceased on the basis that the LFA can only undertake activities that align with their purpose within the Launceston Flood Risk Management Act 2015 section 6(1)(a), specifically that they can "take action to reduce the likelihood, severity and duration of flooding in the flood-prone area, including (but not limited to including), if it thinks fit, dredging for such purposes;". The program was not achieving the primary objective of reducing the flood risk and also others such as not resulting in net loss of sediment and increasing useability of the river.*

*A number of actions to address sediment accumulation in the upper estuary have been undertaken since the late 1800's. All of the actions have been short-lived and have not provided long-term results, with many having other unintended consequences. In 2021 the Tamar Estuary Management Taskforce (TEMT) commissioned a comprehensive review of sediment management to provide a better understanding of sediment management options. The review is a scientifically robust, evidence-based and peer-reviewed assessment of a wide range of sediment management options for the estuary, including various community proposals that have been put forward in recent years. The review brought together technical experts in flood management, estuarine dynamics, ecology, engineering, and infrastructure management to evaluate the potential management options. A copy of the report is available at: [https://tamarestuary.com.au/programs/sediment\\_management](https://tamarestuary.com.au/programs/sediment_management)*

*Based on the findings of the report, TEMT has been successful in obtaining an \$8 million grant through the Federal Urban Rivers and Catchments Program to undertake a trial project to work with natural processes of the North Esk River to assist in sediment reduction. This project will restore wetlands in the North Esk River with the aim of reducing sediment in the kanamaluka/Tamar Estuary by increasing the tidal prism.*

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**ATTACHMENTS:**

Nil

**8.1.2. Public Questions on Notice - Ray Norman - Diverting Food Waste from Landfill: Food Recycle Start-Up - 28 August 2024**

**FILE NO:** SF6381, SF6381

**AUTHOR:** Lorraine Wyatt (Council and Committees Officer)

**APPROVER:** Sam Johnson OAM (Chief Executive Officer)

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**QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES:**

The following question, submitted to Council on 28 August 2024 by Ray Norman, has been answered by Shane Eberhardt (General Manager Infrastructure and Assets Network).

**Questions:**

1. Given Council's declaration of a Climate Emergency, the need to divert food waste from landfill will Council itself seriously consider investing in this start up enterprise and likewise broker adjoining Councils and private investors coming together to invest in this enterprise with a view there being facility located in Launceston?

**Response:**

*City of Launceston through its leadership in sustainability and waste reduction operates the only commercial scale organics (including food) processing facility in the Northern Region and proactively works with commercial enterprises to divert food waste from landfill.*

*Through the City of Launceston's partnership with Circular North there is a coordinated approach to the reduction of organic waste to landfill. Circular North have and will continue to provide grant opportunities for enterprises wishing to invest in circular economy initiatives.*

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**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Public Questions on Notice - Ray Norman - Diverting Food Waste from Landfill Food Recycle Start- Up [8.1.2.1 - 3 pages]

**8.2. Public Questions Without Notice**

*Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015 - Regulation 31(2)(b)*

**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. DA0176/2023 Midlands Highway, Kings Meadows (CT15574/7) - Construction of an Acoustic Wall**

**FILE NO:** DA0176/2023

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

**APPROVER:** Chelsea van Riet (General Manager Community and Place Network)

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**DECISION STATEMENT:**

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

**PLANNING APPLICATION INFORMATION:**

Applicant:	Pitt & Sherry Pty Ltd
Property:	Midlands Highway Kings Meadows
Zoning:	Utilities
Receipt Date:	4/04/2023
Validity Date:	1/05/2023
Further Information Request:	05/05/2023
Further Information Received:	10/07/2023
Deemed Approval:	19/09/2024
Representations:	0

**RELEVANT LEGISLATION:**

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

**PREVIOUS COUNCIL CONSIDERATION:**

N/A

**STANDARDS REQUIRING PLANNING DISCRETION:**

26.4.2 Setbacks – P1  
C7.6.2 Clearance within a priority vegetation area – P1  
LAU-S14.7.1 Visual Impact - P1

**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 Utilities - Construction of an acoustic wall along the Midland Highways (CT15574/7) for the following reasons:

***LAU-S14.7.1 Visual Impact  
Performance Criteria P1***

*The proposed acoustic wall fails to protect the visual qualities of the southern approach into Launceston and the municipality by being intrusive and incompatible with the existing natural character of the area.*

***Clause 26.4.3 Fencing  
Performance Criteria P1***

*The proposed acoustic wall will detract from the appearance of the surrounding area by being incompatible with the streetscape.*

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**REPORT:**

**1. THE PROPOSAL**

The application proposes an acoustic noise wall at the Kings Meadows Heavy Vehicle rest area. The wall is located within the utilises use class, which is a permitted use within the zone.

The wall will be approximately 205m in length and 4m in height, and setback between 3.0m and 6.0m from the eastern boundary. It will be supported by a concrete panel retaining wall, resulting in an overall height of 6.7m. The supporting retaining walls will flatten and widen the area for the heavy vehicle rest area. The wall will be constructed with galvanised steel columns with plywood panels.

The wall is being proposed as part of a heavy vehicle truck stop rest area. The upgrade of the parking area is exempt from assessment under Clause 4.2.4 of the Planning Scheme, however the wall requires assessment.

**1.1 BACKGROUND**

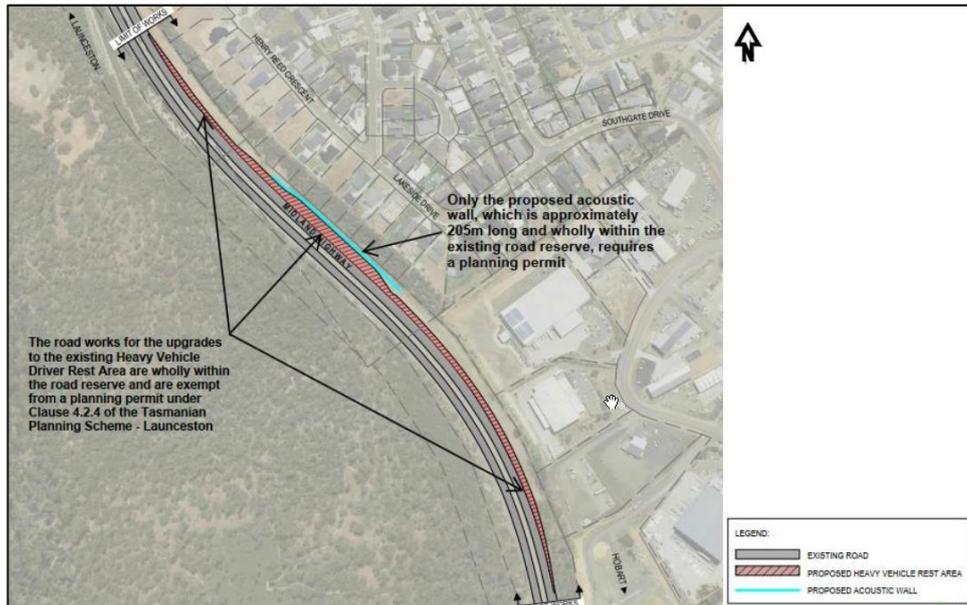
The application was originally prepared to be considered at Council meeting of 10<sup>th</sup> August 2023, with Council officers recommending that the application be refused. Prior to the meeting, further discussions occurred with the applicant and the application was removed from the agenda, with an extension of time was signed until September 2023. Since then there have been several further extensions of time, with the latest being until 19<sup>th</sup> September 2024. The extensions were granted to allow the applicant and the Department of State Growth time to revise the plans and address the concerns raised by Council officers.

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## 1.2 REVISED PLANS

Council negotiated with the applicants in good faith to achieve a favorable outcome. However, through a lack of information and feasible options a resolution could not be made. As such, the assessment has been made on the original advertised plans.

## 2. LOCATION AND NEIGHBOURHOOD CHARACTER



The site is a section of the Midland Highway on title CT15574/7. The section of highway is located between the Midland Highway and Bass Highway turnoff north of the site, and the Midland highway and Kings Meadows Connector south of the site. It will be located to the east of the Highway, east of the southern lane.

Directly to the east of the proposed wall are nine residential properties. At the rear of each these properties, closest to the highway is a protected scenic vegetated area.

The site is zoned Utilities and is owned and operated by the Department of State Growth. Applicable codes include bushfire, airport obstacle limitation area, priority vegetation, and the southern gateway specific area plan.

## 3. PLANNING SCHEME REQUIREMENTS

The assessment against the Tasmanian Planning Scheme - Launceston is detailed in Attachment 1.

#### 4. REFERRALS

REFERRAL	COMMENTS
<b>INTERNAL</b>	
Infrastructure Assets	N/A
Environmental Health	N/A
Heritage/Urban Design	N/A
Building and Plumbing	N/A
<b>EXTERNAL</b>	
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 15 July 2023 to 31 July 2023. No representations were received.

#### 6. CONCLUSION

It is considered that the proposal is unable to comply with the Scheme and it is appropriate to recommend a refusal.

#### **ECONOMIC 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 economic impacts have been considered.

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL 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 environmental impacts have been considered.

#### **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 social impacts have been considered.

**STRATEGIC DOCUMENT REFERENCE:**

Tasmanian Planning Scheme - Launceston.

**BUDGET & FINANCIAL ASPECTS:**

N/A

**DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:**

The Author and General Manager have no interests to declare in this matter.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. DA0176-2023 Midlands Highway - Planning Scheme Assessment [11.1.1 - 8 pages]
2. D A 0176.2023 - Application Documents [11.1.2 - 101 pages]

**11.2. DA0276/2024 - 2 Invermay Road Invermay Tree Removal - Removal of a Tree  
UTAS Stadium**

**FILE NO:** DA0276/2024

**AUTHOR:** Chloe Lyne (Consultant Planner)

**APPROVER:** Chelsea van Riet (General Manager Community and Place Network)

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**DECISION STATEMENT:**

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

**PLANNING APPLICATION INFORMATION:**

Applicant:	ERA Planning and Environment
Property:	2 Invermay Road, Invermay
Zoning:	Particular Purpose 4 - Inveresk Site
Receipt Date:	24/06/2024
Validity Date:	26/07/2024
Further Information Request:	03/07/2024
Further Information Received:	26/07/2024
Deemed Approval:	6/09/2024
Representations:	2

**RELEVANT LEGISLATION:**

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

**PREVIOUS COUNCIL CONSIDERATION:**

N/A

**STANDARDS REQUIRING PLANNING DISCRETION:**

C6.6.10 Removal, destruction or lopping of trees, or removal of vegetation, that is specifically part of a local heritage place

**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 for Tree Removal - Removal of a tree at 2 Invermay Road, Invermay subject to the following conditions:

## **1. ENDORSED PLANS & DOCUMENTS**

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

- a. Supporting Planning Report, Prepared by ERA Planning, Final Revision, dated 24/06/2024

## **2. REPLACEMENT TREE PLANTING**

Within 18 months of the removal of the Elm tree (or as otherwise approved by Council's Chief Executive Officer), a total of four, mature Acer Rubrum 'October Glory' trees must be planted on the site between the stadium and Invermay Road to the satisfaction of Council's Manager City Development.

## **3. TREE REMOVAL**

The tree approved for removal as shown on the endorsed plans shall not be removed until a planning permit is issued for the UTAS centre west stadium upgrades.

## **4. RE-USE OF TIMBER ONSITE**

Within 3 months of the tree removal, a plan must be submitted to the satisfaction of the Manager City Development detailing how the timber will be re-used on site, including the timeframes for installation.

## **5. 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.

## **6. HOURS OF CONSTRUCTION**

- a) Unless otherwise approved in writing by the Manager 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).

## **7. DAMAGE TO COUNCIL INFRASTRUCTURE**

The developer is liable for all costs associated with the repair of damage to Council infrastructure 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.

## **8. FACILITIES AND HIGHWAYS BY-LAW**

Prior to the placement of any skip bin, security fencing, hoarding, shipping containers, site offices or amenities within a local highway, the person, corporation or other legal entity must seek and have issued a permit pursuant to the Facilities and Highways By-Law (No. 1 of 2021). The payment of the scheduled Occupation Fee (comprising a minimum base fee and a square metre weekly rate) is required prior to the occupation commencing. No occupation of the road reserve is permitted without approval.

## **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. CONTAMINATED LAND**

The developer must comply with the environmental site assessment (ESA) report prepared by Andrew Roberts dated 17 June 2024 on behalf of Elgin Associates Pty Ltd and complete all works required in the ESA report's *Recommended management measures* section.

Any new information which comes to light during remediation, demolition or construction works which has the potential to alter previous conclusions about site contamination and remediation must be notified to Council (and the Environmental Protection Authority if relevant) immediately upon discovery.

## **11. CHAINSAW OPERATION AUTHORISATION**

- a) The operation of a chainsaw for the purposes of felling and removing a tree at the University of Tasmania (UTAS) Stadium Invermay, TAS 7250 is permitted between the hours of:
  - i. Monday to Friday - 8am and 5pm
  - ii. Saturday - 10am and 4pm
- b) Notwithstanding the above paragraph:
  - i. the operation of a chainsaw must not be carried out on public holidays that are observed State-wide (Easter Tuesday excepted); and
  - ii. the operation of a chainsaw is permitted on only three days in any consecutive 7 days for a maximum of three months from the issue of this permit, except with the consent of a person from each of the residential premises located within 300 metres from the land on which the chainsaw is to be used.

## **12. PROTECTION OF EXISTING TREES**

Existing trees identified for retention on the subject land must be retained and must not be damaged, removed, destroyed or lopped without the written consent of the Council. Such trees must be satisfactorily protected both by the design of the building and during construction work by barriers and similar devices in accordance with *Australian Standard 4970 Protection of Trees on Development Sites to Protect Existing Trees*.

## Notes

### A. General

*This permit was issued based on the proposal documents submitted for DA0276/2024. 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) <<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.*

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**REPORT:**

**1. THE PROPOSAL**

The application seeks approval to remove a Dutch Elm tree (*Ulmus x hollandica*) which is situated adjacent to the existing Centre-West Stand/function area at UTAS Stadium. The location of the tree is depicted in the image below reproduced from the ERA Planning Report.



The tree has a height of 17m and a spread of 27m and is estimated to be 70-80 years old. York Park was established in 1886 and it is estimated that the tree was planted between 1940-1950.

The arborists report, which has been provided with the application material, confirms that the Elm tree is a *“healthy specimen which shows signs of care being taken and subsequently it is in good shape.”*

The proposed tree removal is as a direct result of the proposed UTAS Stadium upgrade, which will ensure that the stadium will be fit for purpose to continue to host elite level sport into the future.

The subject Elm tree is in a critical location in terms of the design of the stadium upgrades. The location of the tree will impact the overall design of key facilities on the centre-western wing of the stadium. The applicant has provided information around the existing constraints on the facility redevelopment that confirms from an operational perspective that the new structure needs to extend across where the tree is sited to ensure the required floor area is provided to meet Tier 2 AFL and Cricket Guidelines.

The series of images below provided by the applicant outline how the location of the existing Elm tree impacts the upgrade of the Centre-West Stand.

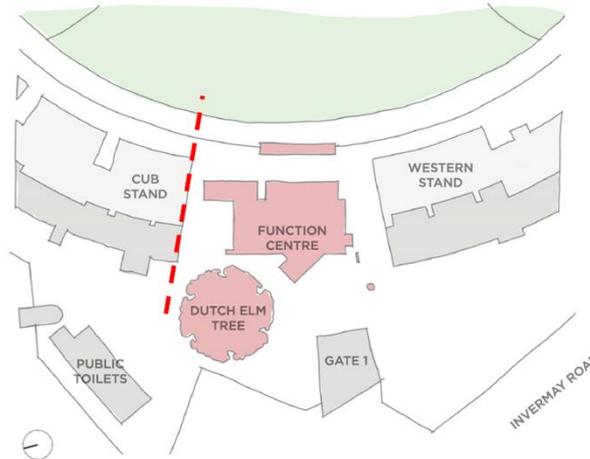
02/ Design Concept Plans indicating the requirement for the tree removal

10

**Existing Constraints**

A new 'Centre-West Stand' is proposed on the location of the existing function centre. There are a number of site constraints which pre-determine the proposed footprint of the new stand including the following;

- To the north is the existing CUB stand



UTAS STADIUM REDEVELOPMENT | RTRFI - Dutch Elm Tree Removal | 25.07.2024

POPULOUS + PHILIP LIGHTON ARCHITECTS

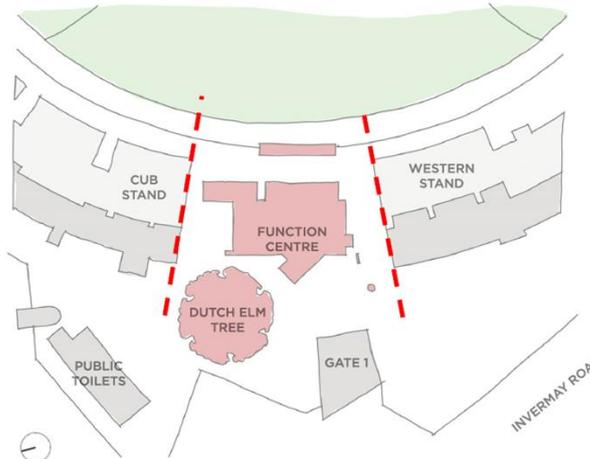
02/ Design Concept Plans indicating the requirement for the tree removal

11

**Existing Constraints**

A new 'Centre-West Stand' is proposed on the location of the existing function centre. There are a number of site constraints which pre-determine the proposed footprint of the new stand including the following;

- To the north is the existing CUB stand
- To the south the Western Stand.



UTAS STADIUM REDEVELOPMENT | RTRFI - Dutch Elm Tree Removal | 25.07.2024

POPULOUS + PHILIP LIGHTON ARCHITECTS

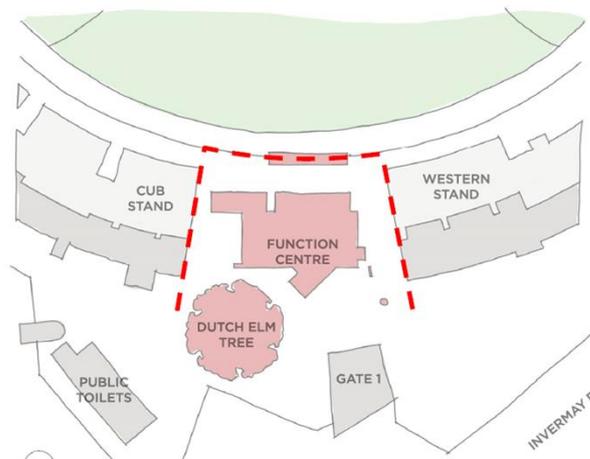
02/ Design Concept Plans indicating the requirement for the tree removal

12

**Existing Constraints**

A new 'Centre-West Stand' is proposed on the location of the existing function centre. There are a number of site constraints which pre-determine the proposed footprint of the new stand including the following;

- To the north is the existing CUB stand
- To the south the Western Stand.
- To the East, the field of play



UTAS STADIUM REDEVELOPMENT | RTRFI - Dutch Elm Tree Removal | 25.07.2024

POPULOUS + PHILIP LIGHTON ARCHITECTS

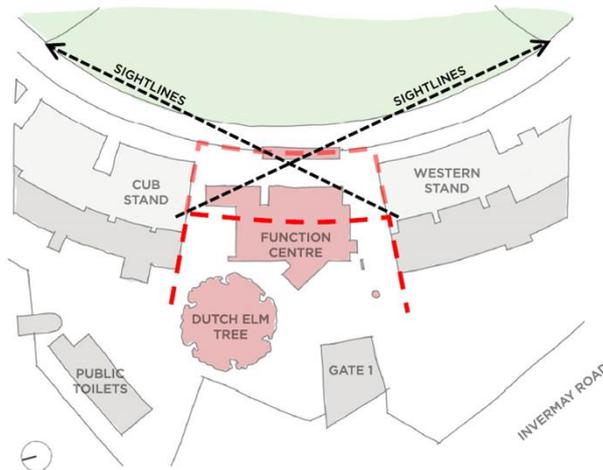
02/ Design Concept Plans indicating the requirement for the tree removal

13

Existing Constraints

A new 'Centre-West Stand' is proposed on the location of the existing function centre. There are a number of site constraints which pre-determine the proposed footprint of the new stand including the following;

- To the north is the existing CUB stand
- To the south the Western Stand.
- To the East, the field of play and the sightlines from the tiered seating and adjacent stands determines the eastern boundary.



UTAS STADIUM REDEVELOPMENT | RTRFI - Dutch Elm Tree Removal | 25.07.2024

POPULOUS + PHILP LIGHTON ARCHITECTS

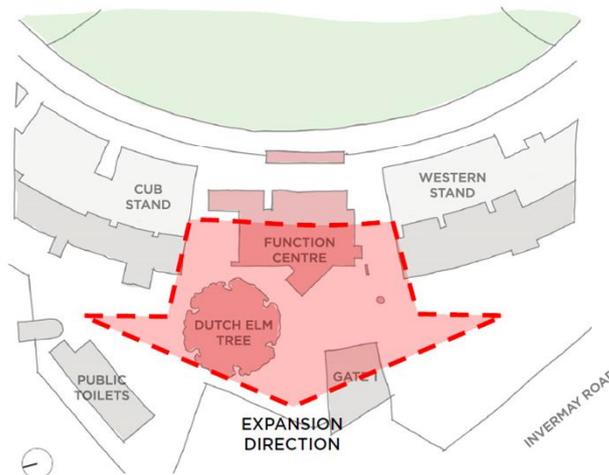
02/ Design Concept Plans indicating the requirement for the tree removal

14

Existing Constraints

A new 'Centre-West Stand' is proposed on the location of the existing function centre. There are a number of site constraints which pre-determine the proposed footprint of the new stand including the following;

- To the north is the existing CUB stand
- To the south the Western Stand.
- To the East, the field of play and the sightlines from the tiered seating and adjacent stands determines the eastern boundary.
- This leaves the western boundary the only variable available to accommodate the required floor area.



UTAS STADIUM REDEVELOPMENT | RTRFI - Dutch Elm Tree Removal | 25.07.2024

POPULOUS + PHILP LIGHTON ARCHITECTS

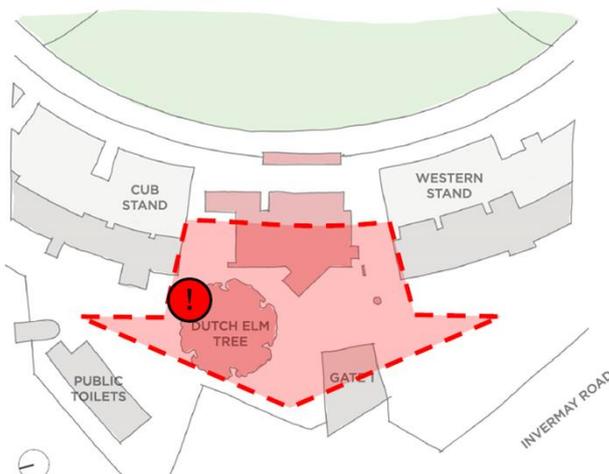
02/ Design Concept Plans indicating the requirement for the tree removal

15

Existing Constraints

The ground floor of the centre west stand is dedicated to player amenities, including change room, warm up room, wet area amenities and associated spaces.

The floor area allocation for each of the spaces is pre-determined by the requirements of the Tier 2 AFL and Cricket Guidelines. Combined with the required spatial relationships for entry areas and egress, the floor area extends much further to the West, conflicting with the existing Elm Tree.



UTAS STADIUM REDEVELOPMENT | RTRFI - Dutch Elm Tree Removal | 25.07.2024

POPULOUS + PHILP LIGHTON ARCHITECTS

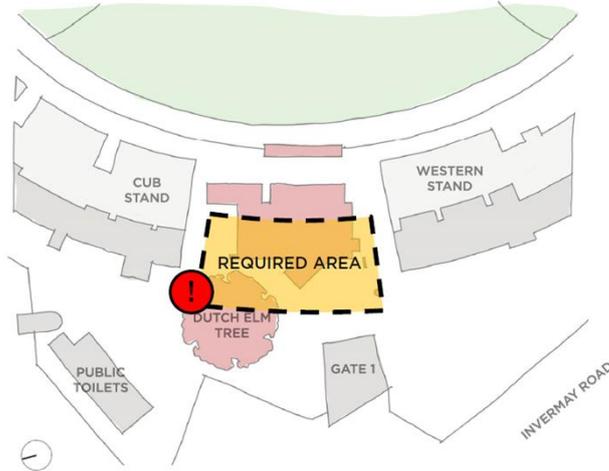
02/ Design Concept Plans indicating the requirement for the tree removal

16

**Centre-West Stand Planning**

The Design team considered several design iterations, to avoid the removal of the Elm Tree, including setting the building out around the tree.

The resultant plans were inefficient from a planning and structural sense and failed to meet the functional requirements. It also pushed the building further into the primary circulation path, closer to the Invermay rd primary frontage which results in sitewide circulation and egress issues.



UTAS STADIUM REDEVELOPMENT | RTRFI - Dutch Elm Tree Removal | 25.07.2024

POPULOUS + PHILIP LIGHTON ARCHITECTS

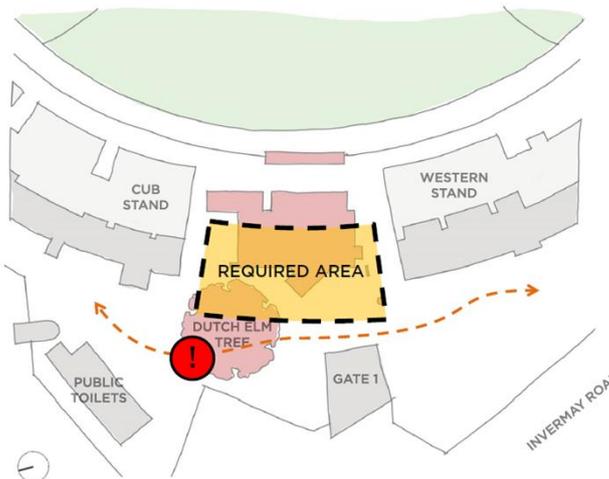
02/ Design Concept Plans indicating the requirement for the tree removal

17

**New Infrastructure Requirements**

The Development requires the replacement of critical infrastructure to the precinct and surrounding buildings, including water mains, new fire main, electrical mains, sewerage and stormwater mains, including the provision of a new stormwater pumping station.

This infrastructure passes through or adjacent to the existing tree protection zone and the level of trenching required will have significant impact on the tree roots.



UTAS STADIUM REDEVELOPMENT | RTRFI - Dutch Elm Tree Removal | 25.07.2024

POPULOUS + PHILIP LIGHTON ARCHITECTS

02/ Design Concept Plans indicating the requirement for the tree removal

18

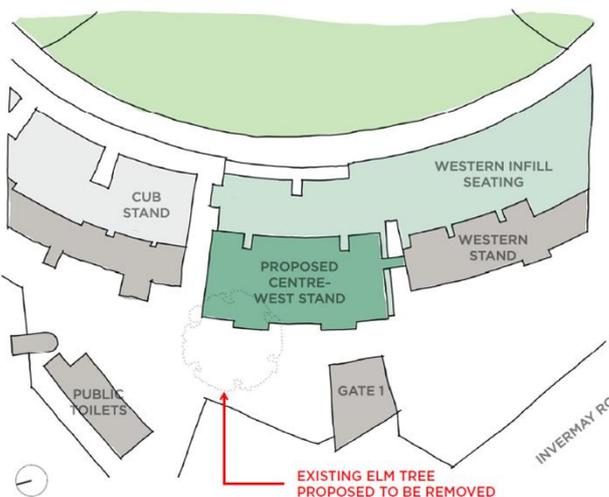
**The proposed Building Envelope**

Due to significant site constraints, the removal of the elm tree is crucial for the redevelopment project and the stadium's future use as a tier 2 sporting venue.

The design team therefore recommends the removal of the existing elm tree and proposes a new centre-west stand footprint which takes into consideration structural efficiencies, site circulation and the required site infrastructure upgrades.



Indicative Visualisation of the proposed centre-west stand  
- Note that final design is subject to change



UTAS STADIUM REDEVELOPMENT | RTRFI - Dutch Elm Tree Removal | 25.07.2024

POPULOUS + PHILIP LIGHTON ARCHITECTS

The application for removal of the Elm tree has been lodged in advance of design finalisation for the Stadium upgrades to provide certainty to the design team around the available building footprint area.

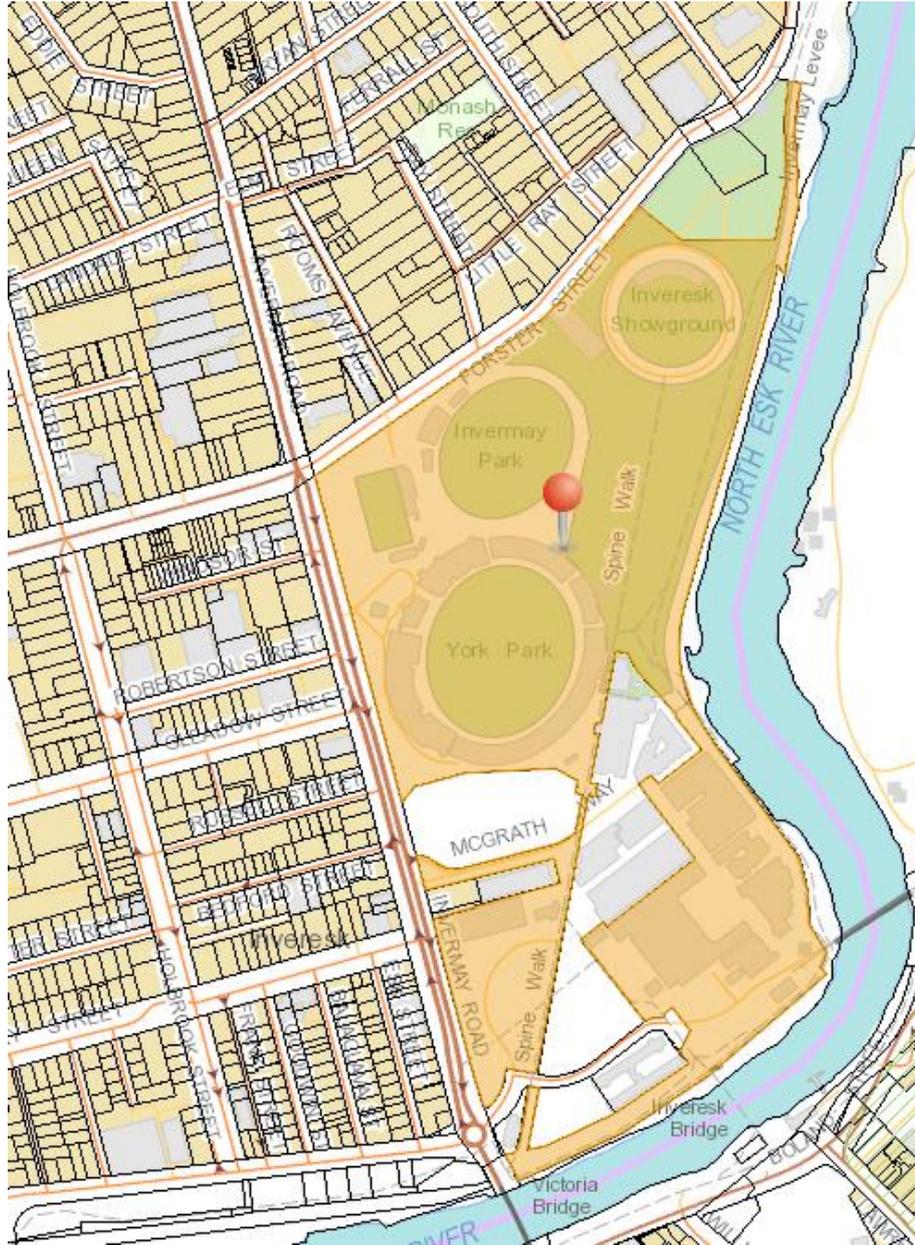
It is proposed to offset the removal of the Elm tree with four mature *Acer Rubrum* 'October Glory' trees to be planted nearby.

It is proposed to re-use the timber from the tree in landscaping elements on the site. This commitment will be secured by a recommended condition on the permit.

## **2. LOCATION AND NEIGHBOURHOOD CHARACTER**

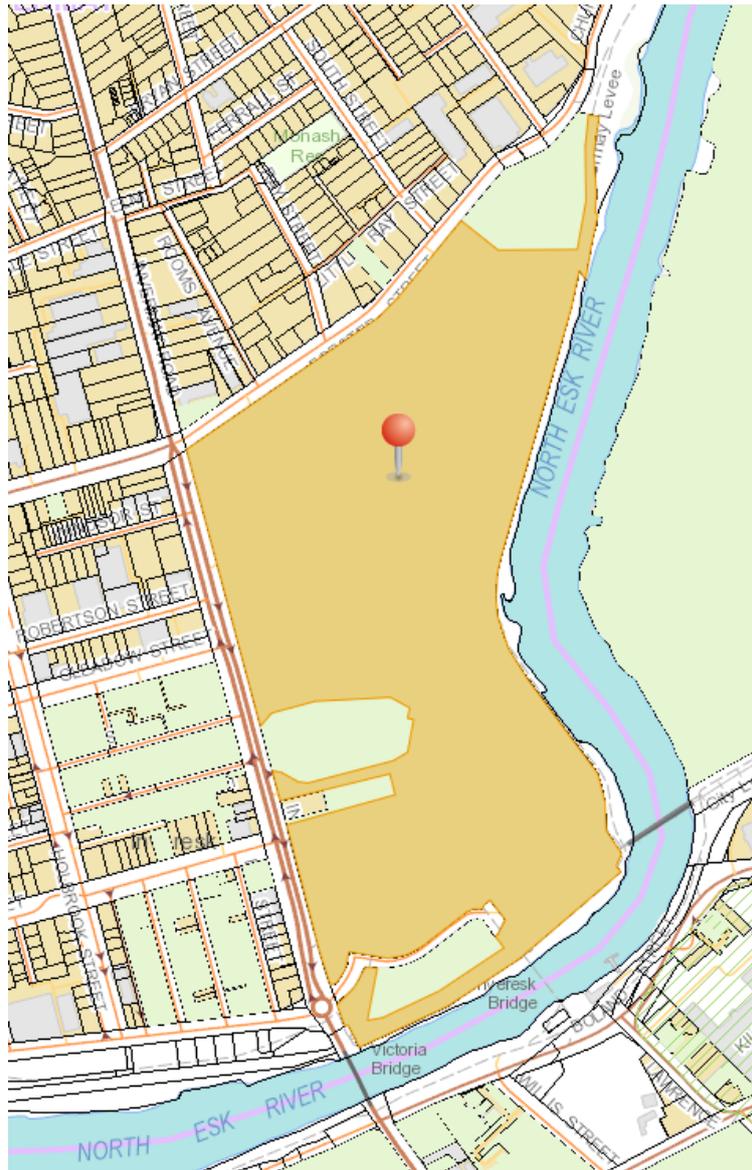


The subject site is a 21.68ha irregular shaped site which forms a mixed-use community precinct. The site contains the Queen Victoria Museum, the University of Tasmania's Inveresk campus and a range of sporting facilities including UTAS stadium also known as York Park. The extent of the title is shown in Figure 1 below.



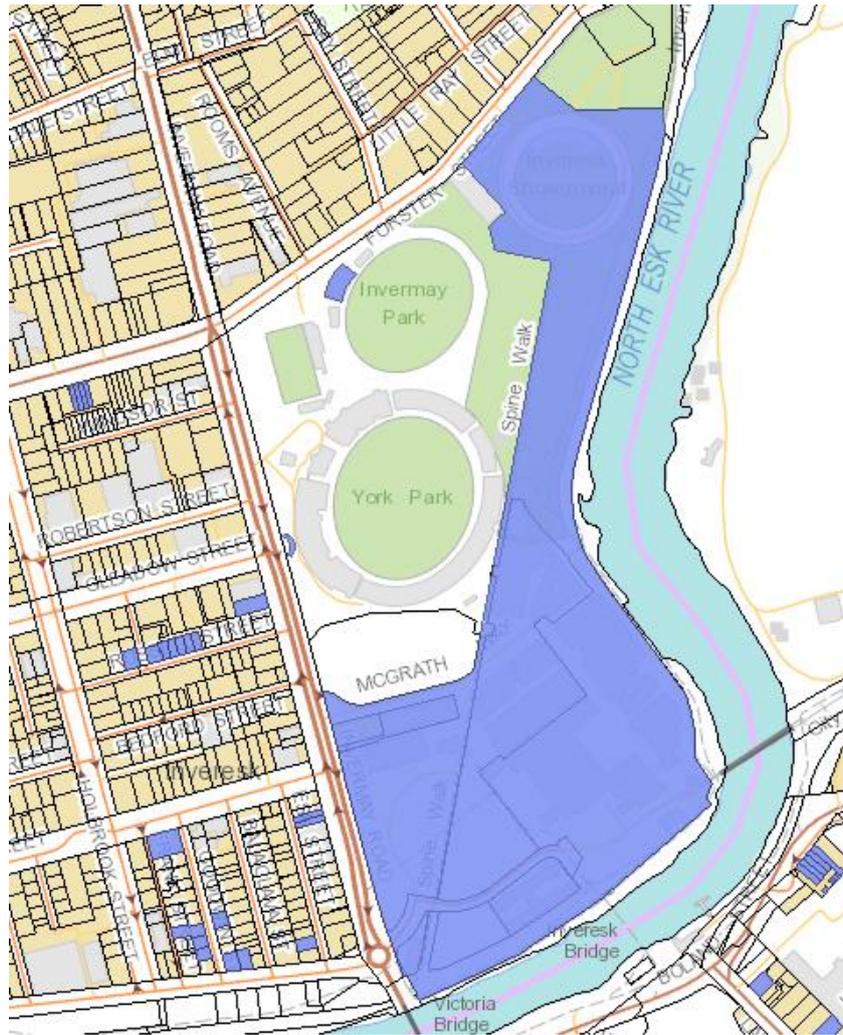
**Figure 1: Extent of subject title (highlighted orange)**

The subject title is identified as a Local Heritage Place as per the Code Overlays under the Scheme (refer Figure 2 for extent of listing). The LPS reference number is LAU-6.1.944. There is no Local Historic Heritage Code Datasheet for this site at Appendix A of the Local Provisions Schedule.



**Figure 2: Extent of local heritage place listing on subject title**

There are elements of the site that are include on the Tasmanian Heritage Register but the Stadium and surrounds are not included as shown in Figure 2 which identifies the sections of the site that are listed (shown in purple).



**Figure 3: Extent of Tasmanian Heritage Register listing**

**3. PLANNING SCHEME REQUIREMENTS**

The assessment against the Tasmanian Planning Scheme - Launceston is detailed in Attachment 1.

**4. REFERRALS**

REFERRAL	COMMENTS
	<b>INTERNAL</b>
Infrastructure and Assets Network	Conditions recommended.
Environmental Health	Conditions recommended.
Heritage/Urban Design	The documentation associated with Development Application (DA0276/2024) has been reviewed. The subject site falls within the 'Inveresk Precinct (former Launceston Railyards site),' listed under the <i>Launceston Provisions Schedule</i> (LAU-C6.944 [Folio No. 174633/2]). It is understood that the DA would comprise the removal of one (1) Dutch Elm Tree.

	<p>A request for information regarding heritage and urban design was submitted on 3 July 2024, asking for the following information from the Applicant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plans indicating the requirement of tree removal.</li> <li>• Significance of the tree.</li> <li>• Significance of the Inveresk Precinct.</li> <li>• Heritage impact of tree removal.</li> <li>• Indication of tree replacement, and alignment with the Urban Greening Strategy.</li> </ul> <p>The Applicant has since provided detailed plans indicating the requirement for the tree removal, a response to heritage significance/impact, and confirmation of mitigation measures for tree removal comprising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planting four mature Acer Rubrum 'October Glory' trees.</li> <li>• Dutch Elm timber recycling to be used in the stadium site landscaping.</li> </ul> <p>As such, we are satisfied with the proposal from a heritage/urban design perspective - the request for information is considered fulfilled. I trust the information included within this memorandum provides adequate advice for the progression of the application. Should you require further information or have additional questions, please do not hesitate to ask.</p>
Building and Plumbing	N/A
<b>EXTERNAL</b>	
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 31 July 2024 to 14 August 2024. Two (2) representations were received. The issues raised are summarised in the following table. All representations received for this application were circulated to Councillors on 29 August 2024.

**Issue 1**

The application does not place a value on the significant tree situated on a heritage site. Representation disagrees with the Heritage Assessment that found that the local historic significance of the place is as a sports and recreation ground, to which the tree is not relevant, and submits that it adds value to the sport and recreation facility with its visual benefits and the shade it offers. The representor opposes the application on the basis that the tree does hold cultural significance and heritage value.

**Response 1**

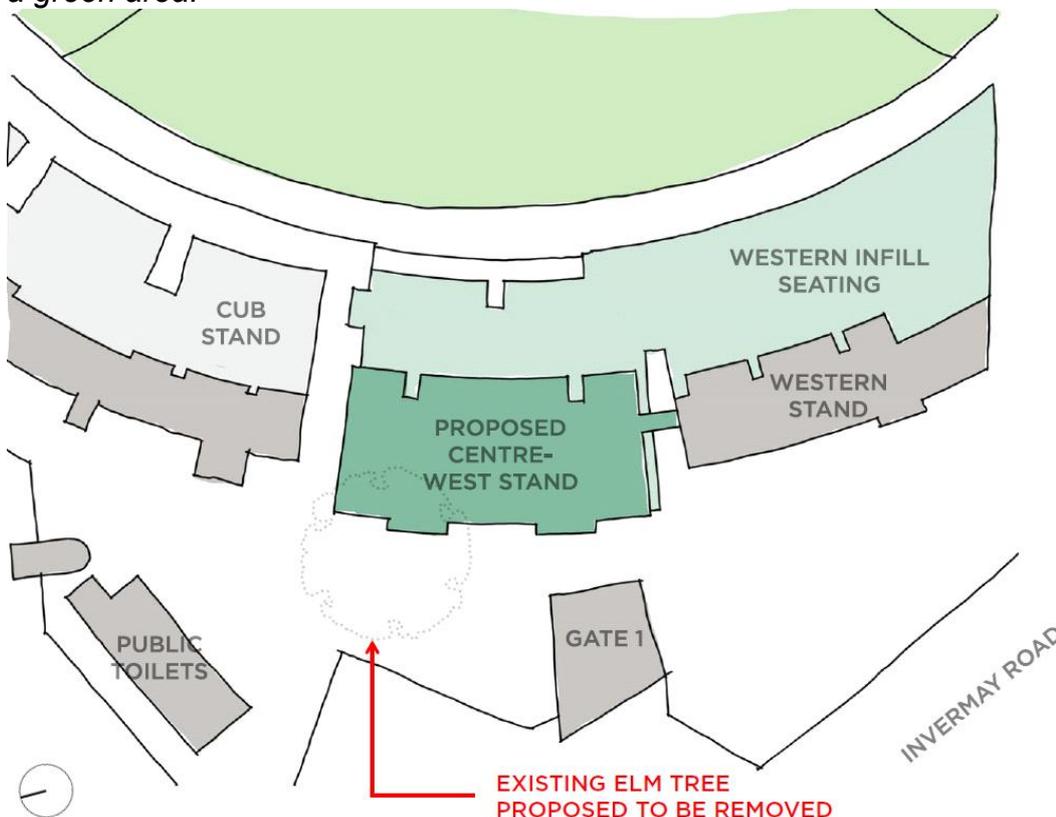
The application is accompanied by a Heritage Impact Assessment which has been prepared by a suitably qualified consultant which has determined that the local heritage significance of the place relates to its use as a sports and recreation ground and that the tree does not contribute to that significance. It is agreed that the tree does provide other benefits to users of the stadium and as a general aesthetic but the assessment against the relevant standard at C16.6.10 of the Scheme is whether the removal of the tree will cause an unreasonable impact on the local heritage significance of a local heritage place. The assessment against the clause has determined that the removal is not unreasonable when tested against standards C6.6.10 P1 (a)-(e). Refer to the assessment in this report.

**Issue 2**

**Queries why the tree couldn't be pruned to accommodate future development.**

**Response 2**

Information submitted by the proponent in response to RFI confirms that the design of the proposed centre-west stadium encroaches into the area of the canopy of the tree and it is unable to be retained. The proposal includes planting of four Acer Rubrum 'October Glory' trees to offset the tree removal which will assist in retaining the space as a green area.



**Issue 3**

**The remaining trees in the area are significantly older than the subject Elm and show greater signs of decline in health. The healthiest tree should not be removed.**

*Response 3*

*The proposed tree removal is not based on the health of the tree but rather its location causing an impediment to future stadium upgrades. A condition of permit will require the tree to remain insitu until a building permit is issued for the stadium upgrades to ensure it is not removed prematurely in the event the stadium upgrade project did not proceed.*

**Issue 4**

**Given there is contamination at the site the tree removal will place the contractors undertaking the tree removal at risk.**

*Response 4*

*The application meets the permitted standard at Cl 14.6.1 for excavation given the area to be disturbed to allow the tree removal is less than 250m<sup>2</sup>.*

**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 General Manager have no interests to declare in this matter.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. DA0276/2024 - 2 Invermay Road Invermay - Tree Removal - Planning Scheme Assessment [11.2.1 - 6 pages]
2. DA0276/2024 - 2 Invermay Road Invermay - Tree Removal - Plans and documents [11.2.2 - 183 pages]

## 12. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE MAYOR

### 12.1. Mayor's Announcements

FILE NO: SF2375

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#### Monday 12 August 2024 to Saturday 17 August 2024

- Adelaide Visit & Local Government Housing Summit Report attached

#### Saturday 24 August 2024

- Attended Hawthorn V North Melbourne Function and Game, UTAS Stadium
- Attended JCP Youth Beast Gala Dinner, Tailrace

#### Monday 26 August 2024

- Attended Mainly Music, Launceston Salvation Army

#### Tuesday 27 August 2024

- Interviewed by 3/4 Students, St Finn Barr's Primary School
- Attended Mercury Bush Summit, Tramsheds

#### Friday 30 August 2024

- Spoke to Launceston School for Seniors, High Street
- Attended 'Topping Out Ceremony', Colonial Hotel

#### Saturday 31 August 2024

- Attended City Park Radio Annual General Meeting, Launceston Boathouse

#### Sunday 1 September 2024

- Attended *Just Like Jack* We Go Swing celebration, Riverbend Park
- Attended NTJFA Grand Finals, UTAS Stadium

#### Monday 2 September 2024

- Participated in Industry Mentor Sessions for Smith Family, Lilydale District School

#### Tuesday 3 September 2024

- Presented to the 4<sup>th</sup> Tasmanian Major Projects Conference, Hobart

#### Wednesday 4 September 2024

- Attended LGAT Conference, Hobart
- 

#### ATTACHMENTS:

1. Meeting summary - Adelaide visit, 2024 [12.1 - 33 pages]
-

**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**

**14.1. Councillors' Questions on Notice**

*Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015 - Regulation 30*

*(A councillor, at least seven days before an ordinary Council Meeting or a Council Committee Meeting, may give written notice to the Chief Executive Officer of a question in respect of which the councillor seeks an answer at that Meeting. An answer to a Question on Notice will be provided in writing).*

**No Councillors' Questions on Notice have been identified as part of this Agenda**

**14.2. Councillors' Questions Without Notice**

*Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015 - Regulation 29*

*(Questions Without Notice, and any answers to those questions, are not required to be recorded in the Minutes of the Meeting).*

**15. NOTICES OF MOTION**

*Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015 - Regulation 16(5)*

**15.1. Notice of Motion - Tamar Valley Peace Festival Funding - Councillor D C Gibson**

**FILE NO:** SF5547

**AUTHOR:** Chelsea van Riet (General Manager Community and Place Network)

**APPROVER:** Sam Johnson OAM (Chief Executive Officer)

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**DECISION STATEMENT:**

To consider a Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor D C Gibson regarding funding of Tamar Community Peace Trust's 2024 Tamar Valley Peace Festival by way of \$10,000 from Council funds.

**RELEVANT LEGISLATION:**

*Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015 - Regulation 16(5)*

**PREVIOUS COUNCIL CONSIDERATION:**

Council – 25 July 2024 – Item 15.1 Notice of Motion - Tamar Valley Peace Festival Funding - Councillor D C Gibson

Workshop – 1 August 2024 - Item 1.4 Notice of Motion - Tamar Valley Peace Festival Funding - Councillor D C Gibson

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council supports the Tamar Community Peace Trust's 2024 Tamar Valley Peace Festival by way of \$10,000 from Council funds.

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**REPORT:**

**Background**

Key points:

1. The Tamar Community Peace Trust was formed in 2015 to promote peaceful conflict resolution.
  2. The Trust was inspired by former Tasmanian Governor Peter Underwood's 2014 Anzac Day address.
  3. The Trust aims to raise awareness of peace issues, promote peaceful conflict resolution strategies and encourage action towards peace.
  4. Council has actively supported the Peace Trust since 2015, including the creation of the Peter Underwood Peace Garden.
  5. The Annual Peace Festival has grown in scale and is planned for September 2024.
-

6. The Festival is a community-led, grass-roots event that will engage over 5,000 people from diverse backgrounds.
7. City of Launceston has been a sponsor and partner since the Festival's inception.

Analysis:

In 2015 a group of committed Launceston citizens formed the Tamar Community Peace Trust with the aim of promoting a more peaceful approach to conflict resolution – from community, social, environmental and global perspectives.

The concept of the Peace Trust was initiated by long-time peace activist Mrs Jean Hearn. Jean, at the time in her mid-nineties, was inspired by the late Tasmanian Governor Peter Underwood's 2014 Anzac Day address where he issued a challenge to all Tasmanians to "actively strive for peace on a daily basis and learn ways of resolving conflict without violence". He challenged us, in remembrance of all those who died or were damaged in war, to "do something, to learn how to create peace".

Peace, in this context, is not only about the conflict of wars: it is about our contribution and place in local communities and global societies. It relates to the conflict and violence in our homes, workplaces and on our streets and it is also about celebrating diversity.

The Trust, under the stewardship of five volunteer Trustees, including current Chair Donna Bain, aims to achieve the following objectives:

- To raise the awareness of peace issues through the arts, education and the media;
- To promote peaceful strategies for resolving conflict at all levels from personal, community, to international;
- To translate the desire for peace into action and offer people, especially young people, a course for hope and a motive for action;
- To build a world free from injustice, threats of war and violence.

Since 2015, Council has actively and financially supported the Peace Trust.

In 2016 the Trust, with support of land from Council, delivered the Peter Underwood Peace Garden in Launceston's King's Park.

After a year of fundraising and planning, the first stage of the Garden, opened on the 7th April 2016, providing a peaceful place for relaxation and reflection.

In addition, there has been an active increase in the scale and size of the Annual Peace Festival, which is again planned for September 2024, starting September 21 - the International Day of Peace.

This Notice of Motion recognises that the Peace Festival is a community-led and grass roots activation that achieves many community capacity building and place-based milestones and touch-points in making Launceston a unique place to call home.

Community events organisers have been the linchpin of the Festival for nine years. They have brought a wealth of creative, collaborative, thought-provoking and harmonious activations welcoming the public to try new things, consider new ideas and to create new bonds.

It is recognised that while not a true 'event' in every sense of the word, this 'umbrella Festival' provides the opportunity for so many workshops, presentations, open-days, activations and the like.

It is expected more than 5,000 people will be involved/attend/visit, including new arrivals, people of all faiths, all ages, all suburbs, students, members of service clubs etc., etc. City of Launceston has been involved as a sponsor and partner since the inception and this Notice of Motion seeks to show continued support of this very worthwhile initiative. It speaks to everything the City of Launceston is about and demonstrates a tangible commitment to building community capacity.

In seeking to show support for this community-led undertaking, it is important to understand that a *Funding Agreement* would need to be initiated and managed by Council's Liveable Communities Network; thus, ensuring Council receives Partner recognition and that a post-Festival analysis is provided to celebrate the success and impact.

**Attachments**

- 2023 Festival Photo Album
- 2023 Festival Media File

**OFFICER COMMENTS:**

City of Launceston's annual major events sponsorship program provides funding to major events held in the municipality where local, intrastate, interstate and international attendees are the main audience. Funding is allocated through two rounds each year. The total funds requested from Round 1 of the major event sponsorship program in 2024/2025 was \$174,400, which was more than double the available budget of \$74,000.

Due to the oversubscription five meritorious applications did not receive funding as per the Council report on 13 June 2024. The table below details the five events that did not receive funding:

<b>Event</b>	<b>Score</b>	<b>Funding assessed</b>
Effervescence Tasmania 2024	68%	\$12,500
Tamar Valley Peace Festival	66%	\$12,500
National Veteran Vehicle Tour	66%	\$8,000
ReFashion Competition and Show	60%	\$9,500
Sally's Ride	59%	\$12,500

Given there were five applications for sponsorship that missed out on funding due to the program oversubscription it would be the recommendation of officers that all five events receive funding, particularly given one event scored higher against the criteria than Tamar Valley Peace Festival.

**RISK IMPLICATIONS:**

Supporting an individual event outside our established events funding and community grants process does not align with program governance.

**ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT:**

The budget allocated is fully exhausted. Any funding allocated for this purpose will have to be removed from other programs.

**STRATEGIC DOCUMENT REFERENCE:**

*City of Launceston Corporate Strategic Plan 2014-2024*

Strategic Priority 3: We are a progressive leader that is accountable to our governance obligations and responsive to our community.

10-Year Goal: To ensure decisions are made in a transparent and accountable way, that effectively meet our statutory obligations, support quality services and underpin the long-term sustainability of our organisation.

Focus Areas:

2. To fairly and equitably discharge our statutory and governance obligations.

**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. Attachment 1 - 2023 Festival Photo Album - NOM - Tamar Valley Peace Festival - Councillor D C Gibson [15.1.1 - 26 pages]
2. Attachment 2 - 2023 Festival Media File - NOM - Tamar Valley Peace Festival - Councillor D C Gibson [15.1.2 - 10 pages]

**16. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**No Committee Reports have been identified as part of this Agenda**

**17. COMMUNITY AND PLACE NETWORK**

**17.1. Child Safe Organisation Statement of Commitment**

**FILE NO:** SF7601

**AUTHOR:** Colin James (Community Development Officer)

**APPROVER:** Chelsea van Riet (General Manager Community and Place Network)

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**DECISION STATEMENT:**

To consider the adoption of a Statement of Commitment to Becoming a Child and Youth Safe Organisation.

**RELEVANT LEGISLATION:**

*Child and Youth Safe Organisations Act, 2023*

**PREVIOUS COUNCIL CONSIDERATION:**

Council - Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2023 - Item 14.2 - Notice of Motion - Councillor A E Dawkins - Establishing a Leadership Role for City of Launceston in the Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse

Workshop - Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2024 - An update on the City of Launceston's approach to becoming a child and youth safe organisation.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council adopts two statements to express its commitment in a way that can be understood by both adults and children. The Children's version should be used when the primary audience is children and young people.

1. The Statement of Commitment to Becoming a Child and Youth Safe Organisation as below is drafted for an adult audience:

**Statement of Commitment to the Safety of Children and Young People**

*All children and young people have the right to feel and be safe.*

*Keeping children and young people safe is everyone's responsibility.*

*At the City of Launceston, we will continuously improve the way we engage with, and care for, children and young people. Children and young people want to be heard and to be believed. They have opinions and perspectives about their safety, which must be respected, and they must be empowered to voice them.*

*At the City of Launceston, we are responsible for the safety and wellbeing of children and young people that we engage with. We have a responsibility to recognise the*

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*signs of harm to children and young people and a legal and moral obligation to respond appropriately and in a timely manner.*

*We recognise that some children face additional risk of harm. Children and young people have the right to be respected, feel safe and be protected from harm, irrespective of their gender, race, sexual orientation, ability, or cultural, religious, economic, and family circumstances.*

*We will establish and maintain an administrative and governance framework which serves to promote the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people; to empower them and to prevent harm to them. Where harm has been caused by us, we will take responsibility for that harm and act to ensure that it does not continue and is not repeated.*

*We will create an environment where children and young people feel safe and are safe, have their voices heard and are involved in the decisions that affect their lives.*

*Signature Mayor & Councillors  
Signature CEO*

2. The Child-Friendly Statement of Commitment to becoming a Child and Youth Safe Organisation as drafted below (copied from the Human Rights Commission - Child Safe Organisations website) is to help children understand our commitment to them as a primary stakeholder:

### **Statement of Commitment to the Safety of Children and Young People**

*Our promises to you...*

*Respect...*

*We will treat everyone equally no matter where they are from or who they are. We will make sure everyone feels included and welcome.*

*Inform...*

*We will give you information about your physical, emotional and online safety, and what to do if you feel unsafe.*

*Give you a voice...*

*We will make sure there are lots of ways for you to have a say and be involved.*

*Help...*

*We will listen and act on what you tell us. We will help you with your hopes and dreams as well as your worries and fears.*

*Trust...*

*You can trust that we will care about your needs and feelings and will support you. We will continue to get better at what we do.*

*Safety...*

*We will make our place happy and comfortable for you.*

## REPORT:

### Background

The Australian Child Maltreatment Study (2023) is the first nationally representative study of the prevalence of child maltreatment and its associated health outcomes in Australia. It found, from a survey of 8500 Australians aged 16 – 65+, that:

- the overall prevalence of child sexual abuse in Australia is 28.5%
- Almost 1 in 4 experienced one or more types of contact child sexual abuse
- Almost 1 in 5 experienced non-contact child sexual abuse.

The *Child and Youth Safe Organisations Act 2023* (the Act) is the Tasmanian law that establishes standards for the safety and wellbeing of children and young people. The Act was established in response to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse (2012 – 2015) and the Commission of Enquiry into the Tasmanian Governments Responses to Child Sexual Abuse in Institutional Settings (2021 – 2023).

The Royal Commission found:

- many organisations failed to protect children in their care from abuse
- these failures were historical and contemporary, meaning they didn't only happen 'in the past'.
- the institutional cultures and practices that allowed abuse to happen and stopped people investigating it properly were still happening.

The Royal Commission made recommendations designed to put these things right, including:

- the development of a national set of child safe standards (which became the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations).
- that places in Australia that didn't already have a reportable conduct scheme in place should develop and implement one.

### Notice of Motion

At the 21 September 2023 Council Meeting, a Notice of Motion from Councillor Dawkins entitled 'Establishing a Leadership Role for City of Launceston in the Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse' was passed 11-1.

The recommendation, in part, called upon Council "To show local community leadership and responsiveness to the revelations of widespread historic and contemporary child sexual abuse in Launceston".

### The Framework

The Act establishes the Child and Youth Safe Organisations Framework (the Framework), which Councils are required to comply with from 1 January 2024. The Framework is made up of four key elements:

The Child and Youth Safe Standards and Universal Principle of Aboriginal Cultural Safety

- Ten principles organisations must put into practice to develop and maintain a culture with child safety and wellbeing at its centre
  - A universal principle which overlays all standards ensuring the cultural safety of Aboriginal people.
-

#### The Reportable Conduct Scheme

- A compulsory scheme that requires leaders of certain organisations to report and investigate concerns about conduct related to child abuse involving a worker to an independent regulator.

#### Office of the Independent Regulator (OIR)

- An independent regulatory body that will oversee the Framework to make sure organisations have the support, advice, and education they need to do the right thing.

#### Information Sharing Provisions

- Specific rules written into the law that mean people and organisations connected to the Framework can share personal information in certain circumstances.

### **Statement of Commitment to Becoming a Child Safe Organisation**

Advice from 'Child Safe Australia' – training provider to state and local government and subject experts in this context – is that Councils should prioritise three elements:

1. Release a Statement of Commitment to becoming a child safe organisation (The Statement).
2. Develop a Child Safe Organisation policy.
3. Undertake 'Code of Conduct' adjustments and establish a Reportable Conduct procedure.

With this in mind, officers have drafted the Statement of Commitment (Attachment 1) which was discussed at Council workshop on the 4 July 2024. In response to these discussions a child-friendly version of the statement has been added (Attachment 2).

### **Child and Youth Safe Organisation Policy**

Development of the Child and Youth Safe Organisation Policy will follow the adoption of the Statement. It is envisioned that this will involve a significant period of targeted consultation with key stakeholders in the Launceston community. Namely:

- Children and young people
- Victim/Survivors of child sexual abuse
- Organisations in the Launceston community with a child/youth focus.

Parallel to this work will be an internal process that identifies work processes and policies across the organisation, which will need to be added or changed to accommodate the Framework. This work will also inform the policy development.

### **Ongoing External Engagement**

A landing page on Council's website has been established that hosts the Statements and has links to information resources hosted by the Office of the Independent Regulator. Additionally, the page will host links to Council's reporting procedure, and track Council's progress towards becoming a Child and Youth Safe Organisation.

## **Consultation**

- Council Officers are engaged with an LGAT working group which was established in 2023. They have attended several forums on issues specific to the council context regarding elements of the Framework.
- Council Officers attended training regarding the operational implications of the Framework in an Emergency Evacuation Centre.
- Community Development officers attended 'Courageous Conversations' – a symposium with Tasmanian service providers, hosted by Laurel House and Hobarts Sexual Assault Support Service, discussing the latest research and responses to Child Sexual Abuse in Australia.
- The implementation plan above has been discussed with and in-principle approved by staff from Laurel House.

## **RISK IMPLICATIONS:**

Given the findings of the Royal Commission, there is a risk to the safety of children and young people in our care and in our community if systemic changes are not put in place to ensure their safety as a priority of all of Councils activities.

This work is Council's contribution to a cultural shift in organisations that is taking place across the state and the nation. Failure to respond to the Framework not only places the organisation at risk of non-compliance with the Act, but also of significant reputational damage - particularly given the commitment undertaken to play a leadership role in the prevention of child sexual abuse at the September 2023 Council meeting.

If - particularly in the absence of any progress towards becoming a child and youth safe organisation - an incident of child sexual abuse occurs by an employee of the organisation, there is likely to be significant financial implications through legal action against Council. Further to this, and most importantly, consequences related to the impact on the individual(s).

## **ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT:**

### **Social Impact**

Council's initiatives in response to the Royal Commission and the Tasmanian State Government Inquiry and legislation are part of a cultural shift in organisations that is taking place across the nation. Leading by example and through advocacy will play a significant role in ensuring the safety and well-being of children and young people in the Launceston community.

**STRATEGIC DOCUMENT REFERENCE:**

*City of Launceston Corporate Strategic Plan 2014 - 2024*

Strategic Priority 1: We connect with our community and our region through meaningful engagement, cooperation and representation.

10-Year Goal: To seek out and champion positive engagement and collaboration to capitalise on the major opportunities and address the future challenges facing our community and region.

Focus Areas:

1. To develop and consistently utilise contemporary and effective community engagement processes.

Strategic Priority 3: We are a progressive leader that is accountable to our governance obligations and responsive to our community.

10-Year Goal: To ensure decisions are made in a transparent and accountable way, that effectively meet our statutory obligations, support quality services and underpin the long-term sustainability of our organisation.

Focus Areas:

1. To provide for the health, safety and welfare of the community.

Strategic Priority 5: We serve and care for our community by providing equitable and efficient services that reflect the needs and expectations of our community.

10-Year Goal: To offer access to services and spaces for all community members and to work in partnership with stakeholders to address the needs of vulnerable communities.

Focus Areas:

2. To define and communicate our role in promoting social inclusion and equity.

**BUDGET AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

Our compliance with the Child and Youth Safe Organisations Framework is currently unbudgeted. Expenses will be managed as a budget over-run for the current financial year, to inform budgeting in future financial years.

**DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:**

The Author and General Manager have no interests to declare in this matter.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Attachment 1 Statement of Commitment to the Safety of Children and Young People [17.1.1 - 1 page]
2. Attachment 2 Statement of Commitment to the Safety of Children and Young People [17.1.2 - 1 page]

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**17.2. Special Event Sponsorship 2024/2025**

**FILE NO:** SF5892

**AUTHOR:** Kate Schindler (Grants and Sponsorship Officer)

**APPROVER:** Chelsea van Riet (General Manager Community and Place Network)

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**DECISION STATEMENT:**

To consider Special Event Sponsorship for the Cold Climate Classic.

**RELEVANT LEGISLATION:**

*Local Government Act 1993 (Tas)*

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council approves the following Special Event to receive the recommended sponsorship amount from the 2024/2025 Special Event Sponsorship Budget.

Organisation	Event	Score	\$Request	\$Assess	\$Recom
Touch Football Australia	Cold Climate Classic	78%	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$15,000

*\* Mayor Garwood abstained from the assessment of this event.*

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**REPORT:**

The Cold Climate Classic is a social, mixed gender Touch Football tournament combining the Tasmanian Club Championships and a sports tourism event, showcasing the best Tasmanian produce and attractions. With stay and play packages built in, the Cold Climate Classic offers participants the opportunity to experience local attractions alongside their participation in the tournament.

The full application was considered by the Event Sponsorship Assessment Panel. The Panel assessed the application against the assessment criteria (detailed below).

**Assessment:**

Based on the 2024/2025 budget, the available funds for Special Event sponsorship is \$70,000 per annum.

Assessment process

The following steps form the assessment process for applications:

1. The Grants and Sponsorship Officer receives applications through Smarty Grants (an online portal).
2. All applications are reviewed by the Grants and Sponsorship Officer to confirm eligibility and to ensure all relevant information has been provided. Applicants may be asked to provide additional information.
3. The Events Sponsorship Assessment Panel assesses and pre-scores eligible applications based on their merit against the criteria. The panel then convenes a meeting for score moderation.
4. The assessment score informs the panel's recommendation to Council for funding and these recommendations are subject to the budget available.
5. All funding decisions for assessed applications are made by the full Council via a report to a Council Meeting.

Assessment criteria

<b>Participation</b>	Enables social connections to take place within the community, including volunteering and participation opportunities.
<b>Creativity and Innovation</b>	Encourages and supports creativity, innovation and local talent.
<b>Community Spirit</b>	Building community spirit, pride and a sense of place
<b>Economic</b>	Demonstrates positive economic benefits through visitor spend, employment and/or investment
<b>Tourism and profile</b>	Demonstrates positive tourism benefits, through the promotion of Launceston, building our profile and reputation
<b>Asset Usage</b>	Utilises and activates community assets including cultural, entertainment, sport and recreation venues, including City of Launceston owned and operated assets.

Aggregated scores of assessment criteria:

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

**Cold Climate Classic**

<b>Assessment</b>	<b>Weight</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Total possible score</b>
<b>Participation</b> - Enables social connections to take place within the community, including volunteering and participation opportunities.	3	57	75
<b>Creativity and Innovation</b> - Encourages and supports creativity, innovation and local talent.	2	32	50
<b>Community Spirit</b> - Building community spirit, pride and a sense of place	3	57	75
<b>Economic</b> - Demonstrates positive economic benefits through visitor spend, employment and/or investment	5	105	125
<b>Tourism and profile</b> - Demonstrates positive tourism benefits, through the promotion of Launceston, building our profile and reputation	4	76	100
<b>Asset Usage</b> - Utilises and activates community assets including cultural, entertainment, sport and recreation venues, including City of Launceston owned and operated assets	3	63	75
<b>Total</b>		<b>390</b>	<b>500</b>
<b>Number of panel members</b>		<b>5</b>	
<b>% Score</b>		<b>78.00</b>	<b>%</b>

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

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

The Cold Climate Classic application assessment resulted in a score of 78%.

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

**RISK IMPLICATIONS:**

Not considered relevant to this report.

## **ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT:**

Approval of the recommended event sponsorship will:

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

## **STRATEGIC DOCUMENT REFERENCE:**

*City of Launceston Corporate Strategic Plan 2014 - 2024*

Strategic Priority 2: We facilitate prosperity by seeking out and responding to opportunities for growth and renewal of our regional economy.

10-Year Goal: To have realised opportunities that grow and sustain our economy and foster creative and innovative people and industries.

Focus Areas:

1. To actively market the City and region and pursue investment.
2. To facilitate direct investment in the local economy to support its growth.
3. To provide an environment that is supportive to business and development within the municipality.
4. To promote tourism and the development of a quality tourism offering for Launceston.

Strategic Priority 4: We value our City's unique identity by celebrating our special heritage and culture and building on our competitive advantages to be a place where people choose to live, work and visit.

10-Year Goal: To sustain and promote Launceston as a unique place to live, work, learn and play.

Focus Areas:

2. To continue to offer an attractive network of parks, open spaces and facilities throughout Launceston.
3. To promote and attract national and international events and support the sector to ensure a diverse annual events calendar.
4. To support the central business district (CBD) and commercial areas as activity places during day and night.
5. To support sustainable population growth in the Northern Region.

Strategic Priority 5: We serve and care for our community by providing equitable and efficient services that reflects needs and expectations of our community.

10-Year Goal: To offer access to services and spaces for all community members and to work in partnership with stakeholders to address the needs of vulnerable communities.

Focus Areas:

3. To work in partnership with community organisations and other levels of government to maximise participation opportunities for vulnerable and diverse members of the community.
4. To support the delivery of programs and events for people to connect with each other through participation in community activities and civic life.
5. To promote and support active and healthy lifestyles of our community.

**BUDGET AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

The 2024/2025 Special Event Sponsorship Budget:

<b>Event</b>	<b>\$Available funds 2024/2025</b>	<b>\$Recommended sponsorship</b>	<b>Balance</b>
Cold Climate Classic	\$70,000	\$15,000	<b>\$55,000</b>

The uncommitted budget for 2024/2025 Special Event Sponsorship is \$70,000. Should the recommendation for \$15,000 for the Cold Climate Classic event be approved and the funding pre-committed, there would be \$55,000 remaining in the 2024/2025 budget for Special Events Sponsorship.

The budget adjustment consideration of this item has been approved by the General Manager Community and Place Network.

**DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:**

The Author and General Manager have no interests to declare in this matter.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Confidential Redacted Application - Cold Climate Classic [17.2.1 - 17 pages]

**17.3. Major Event Sponsorship Round 2 2024/2025**

**FILE NO:** SF7570

**AUTHOR:** Kate Schindler (Grants and Sponsorship Officer)

**APPROVER:** Chelsea van Riet (General Manager Community and Place Network)

**DECISION STATEMENT:**

To consider committing to event sponsorship support for major events (Round 2) in 2024/2025.

**RELEVANT LEGISLATION:**

*Local Government Act 1993 (Tas)*

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council:

1. Approves the following major event sponsorship applications to receive the recommended sponsorship amount, from the 2024/2025 major event sponsorship budget.

Organisation	Event	Score *	\$Request	\$Assess	\$Recom
Tennis Australia (Tennis Tasmania)	Launceston International Tennis - (Level 2)	78%	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$15,000
Jacqueline Anifandis	Launceston Ukulele Jamboree (Level 1)	78%	\$12,500	\$12,500	\$9,375
Tennis Australia (Tennis Tasmania)	Launceston Junior ITF - Tennis (Level 2)**	78%	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$15,000
Tasmanian Turf Club Inc.	Ladbrokes Launceston Cup (Level 2)	76%	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$15,000
Launceston Competitions Association	Launceston Competitions (Level 1)**	75%	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$7,500
Golf Australia	2025 Men's & Women's Tasmanian Open & Inclusive Championships (Level 2)	73%	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$15,000
IO Performance	Launceston Summer Series (Level 1)	72%	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$7,500
Fungi the Festival	Fungi the Festival (Level 2)	71%	\$17,000	\$17,000	\$12,750

Social Social Pty Ltd	Alleyways - (Level 2)**	70%	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$15,000
Multicultural Council of Tasmania	Celebrating Harmony (Level 1)	68%	\$7,830	\$7,830	\$5,873
Assembly 197	BEACON (Level 1)	66%	\$12,500	\$12,500	\$9,375
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$169,830</b>		<b>\$127,373</b>
<b>2024-2025 Major Event Sponsorship Budget - Round 2</b>					<b>\$111,000</b>
<b>Balance</b>					<b>-\$16,373</b>

Note - there are two levels in this category.

Level 1 events receive funding between \$5,001 - \$12,500.

Level 2 events receive funding between \$12,500 - \$20,000.

\*Some scores have been rounded

\*\* Mayor Garwood abstained from the assessment of the Launceston Junior ITF, the Launceston Competitions and Alleyways.

## REPORT:

### Sponsorship program structure and funding

The annual major events sponsorship program provides funding to major events held in the Launceston municipality where local, intrastate, interstate and international attendees are the main audience.

The major event sponsorship program has an annual total funding pool in 2024/2025 of \$185,000. Funding is allocated through two rounds covering two distinct periods each year. The *Event Sponsorship Policy (05-PI-012)* states that Round 2 of the major event sponsorship program covers a seven-month period (1 January - 31 July) and will be allocated 60% for the annual budget. The available funds for Round 2 of the 2024/2025 major event sponsorship program are \$111,000.

Two levels of funding are available under the major event sponsorship program:

1. **Level 1** - up to \$12,500 for an event held in the Launceston municipality attracting audiences from local and intrastate areas.
2. **Level 2** - up to \$20,000 for an event held in the Launceston municipality attracting larger audiences from local, intrastate, interstate and/or from overseas.

Round 2 for the 2024/2025 program was oversubscribed with funding requests totalling \$169,830 and the available budget is \$111,000.

Based on the assessment panel's scoring, the total recommended funding is \$127,373. As this amount exceeds the available budget for Round 2 of the Major Event Sponsorship Program by \$16,373, it is proposed that the shortfall be addressed by reallocating funds from the surplus in the 2024/2025 Small Event Sponsorship Program.

### Program governance

The Event Sponsorship Assessment Panel is a Special Committee of Council, established under section 24 of the Local Government Act (TAS) 1993. The panel consists of three

Councillors, who are nominated by the council, in addition to external stakeholder representatives. The current panel members are:

- Mayor Councillor Matthew Garwood
- Councillor Lindi McMahon (Chair)
- Councillor Andrew Palmer
- Tracey Mallett, Visit Northern Tasmania Chief Executive Officer
- Alina Bain, Launceston Chamber of Commerce Chief Executive Officer
- Amanda McEvoy, Launceston Central Executive Officer.

The role of the panel is to consider, review and assess each application within the sponsorship levels and against the assessment criteria (detailed below) and provide recommendations. The Chair has the additional responsibility of managing the conflicts of interest of panel members.

The following conflicts of interest have been declared by panel members, which relate to any sponsorship application they may be involved in assessing:

<b>Panel Member</b>	<b>Conflict of Interest</b>
Mayor Councillor Garwood	Launceston Competitions
Councillor McMahon	
Councillor Palmer	
Tracey Mallett	
Alina Bain	
Amanda McEvoy	

Council officers support the process but do not make recommendations about any of the applications. Prior to the assessment panel convening and undertaking assessments officers review received applications for eligibility. Applications are ineligible if they:

- are not received on time;
- are not submitted correctly;
- are missing information; or
- do not align with the criteria.

Additionally, the assessment panel has the authority to deem an application ineligible based on the criteria

#### Assessment process

The following steps form the assessment process for applications:

1. The Grants and Sponsorship Officer receives applications through Smarty Grants (an online portal)
2. All applications are reviewed by the Grants and Sponsorship Officer to confirm eligibility and to ensure all relevant information has been provided. Applicants may be asked to provide additional information.
3. The Events Sponsorship Assessment Panel assesses and pre-scores eligible applications based on their merit against the criteria. The panel then convenes a meeting for score moderation.
4. The assessment score informs the panel's recommendation to Council for funding and these recommendations are subject to the budget available.

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

Assessment criteria

The panel assesses each application against the assessment criteria:

<b>Participation</b>	Enables social connections to take place within the community, including volunteering and participation opportunities.
<b>Creativity and innovation</b>	Encourages and supports creativity, innovation and local talent.
<b>Community Spirit</b>	Builds community spirit, fosters pride and a sense of place.
<b>Economic</b>	Demonstrates positive economic benefits through visitor spend, employment and/or investment.
<b>Tourism and profile</b>	Demonstrates positive tourism benefits, through the promotion of Launceston and the region, building our profile and reputation.
<b>Asset usage</b>	Utilisation and activation of community facilities including cultural, entertainment, sport and recreation venues, including Council owned and managed facilities.
<b>*New events</b>	Demonstrate strategies for sustainability and a vision for growth. <i>*Note: To encourage new events (events that have not been held in the City of Launceston municipality previously) there is an additional question in the application. Answers to the additional question enable bonus points to be awarded to applications proposing new events.</i>

Distribution of funding

The level of funding recommended for events relates to the score an event receives based on the assessment criteria. The typical distribution of funds based on the score is as follows:

<b>Score</b>	<b>Funding amount</b>
81-100%	100% of requested funds
61-80%	75% of requested funds
50-60%	50% of requested funds
<50%	No funding provided

Aggregated scores of assessment criteria:

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

**Launceston International Tennis - (Level 2)**

<b>Assessment</b>	<b>Weight</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Total possible score</b>
<b>Participation</b> - Enables social connections to take place within the community, including volunteering and participation opportunities.	3	69	90
<b>Creativity and Innovation</b> - Encourages and supports creativity, innovation and local talent.	3	63	90
<b>Community Spirit</b> - Building community spirit, pride and a sense of place	3	69	90
<b>Economic</b> - Demonstrates positive economic benefits through visitor spend, employment and/or investment	4	104	120
<b>Tourism and profile</b> - Demonstrates positive tourism benefits, through the promotion of Launceston, building our profile and reputation	4	100	120
<b>Asset Usage</b> - Utilises and activates community assets including cultural, entertainment, sport and recreation venues, including City of Launceston owned and operated assets	3	60	90
<b>Total</b>		<b>465</b>	<b>630</b>
<b>Panel Members</b>		<b>6</b>	

**% Score**

77.50%

**Launceston Ukulele Jamboree (Level 1)**

<b>Assessment</b>	<b>Weight</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Total possible score</b>
<b>Participation</b> - Enables social connections to take place within the community, including volunteering and participation opportunities.	3	72	90
<b>Creativity and Innovation</b> - Encourages and supports creativity, innovation and local talent.	3	75	90
<b>Community Spirit</b> - Building community spirit, pride and a sense of place	4	92	120
<b>Economic</b> - Demonstrates positive economic benefits through visitor spend, employment and/or investment	4	88	120
<b>Tourism and profile</b> - Demonstrates positive tourism benefits, through the promotion of Launceston, building our profile and reputation	3	66	90
<b>Asset Usage</b> - Utilises and activates community assets including cultural, entertainment, sport and recreation venues, including City of Launceston owned and operated assets	3	75	90
<b>Total</b>		<b>465</b>	<b>600</b>
<b>Panel Members</b>		<b>6</b>	

**% Score**

78.00%

**Launceston Junior ITF - Tennis (Level 2)**

<b>Assessment</b>	<b>Weight</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Total possible score</b>
<b>Participation</b> - Enables social connections to take place within the community, including volunteering and participation opportunities.	3	57	75
<b>Creativity and Innovation</b> - Encourages and supports creativity, innovation and local talent.	3	45	75
<b>Community Spirit</b> - Building community spirit, pride and a sense of place	3	57	75
<b>Economic</b> - Demonstrates positive economic benefits through visitor spend, employment and/or investment	4	80	100
<b>Tourism and profile</b> - Demonstrates positive tourism benefits, through the promotion of Launceston, building our profile and reputation	4	76	100
<b>Asset Usage</b> - Utilises and activates community assets including cultural, entertainment, sport and recreation venues, including City of Launceston owned and operated assets	3	54	75
<b>New Event</b> - Demonstrate strategies for sustainability and a vision for growth.	1	20	25
<b>Total</b>		<b>389</b>	<b>525</b>
<b>Panel Members</b>		<b>5</b>	
<b>% Score</b>		<u><u>77.80%</u></u>	

**Ladbrokes Launceston Cup (Level 2)**

<b>Assessment</b>	<b>Weight</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Total possible score</b>
<b>Participation</b> - Enables social connections to take place within the community, including volunteering and participation opportunities.	3	78	90
<b>Creativity and Innovation</b> - Encourages and supports creativity, innovation and local talent.	3	51	90
<b>Community Spirit</b> - Building community spirit, pride and a sense of place	3	66	90
<b>Economic</b> - Demonstrates positive economic benefits through visitor spend, employment and/or investment	4	104	120
<b>Tourism and profile</b> - Demonstrates positive tourism benefits, through the promotion of Launceston, building our profile and reputation	4	104	120
<b>Asset Usage</b> - Utilises and activates community assets including cultural, entertainment, sport and recreation venues, including City of Launceston owned and operated assets	3	54	90
<b>Total</b>		<b>457</b>	<b>600</b>
<b>Panel Members</b>		<b>6</b>	
<b>% Score</b>		<u><u>76.17%</u></u>	

**Launceston Competitions (Level 1 )**

<b>Assessment</b>	<b>Weight</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Total possible score</b>
<b>Participation</b> - Enables social connections to take place within the community, including volunteering and participation opportunities.	3	69	75
<b>Creativity and Innovation</b> - Encourages and supports creativity, innovation and local talent.	3	66	75
<b>Community Spirit</b> - Building community spirit, pride and a sense of place	4	80	100
<b>Economic</b> - Demonstrates positive economic benefits through visitor spend, employment and/or investment	4	72	100
<b>Tourism and profile</b> - Demonstrates positive tourism benefits, through the promotion of Launceston, building our profile and reputation	3	36	75
<b>Asset Usage</b> - Utilises and activates community assets including cultural, entertainment, sport and recreation venues, including City of Launceston owned and operated assets	3	51	75
<b>Total</b>		<b>374</b>	<b>500</b>
<b>Panel Members</b>		<b>5</b>	

**% Score**

75%

**2025 Men's & Women's Tasmanian Open & Inclusive Championships (Level 2)**

<b>Assessment</b>	<b>Weight</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Total possible score</b>
<b>Participation</b> - Enables social connections to take place within the community, including volunteering and participation opportunities.	3	66	90
<b>Creativity and Innovation</b> - Encourages and supports creativity, innovation and local talent.	3	60	90
<b>Community Spirit</b> - Building community spirit, pride and a sense of place	3	66	90
<b>Economic</b> - Demonstrates positive economic benefits through visitor spend, employment and/or investment	4	100	120
<b>Tourism and profile</b> - Demonstrates positive tourism benefits, through the promotion of Launceston, building our profile and reputation	4	96	120
<b>Asset Usage</b> - Utilises and activates community assets including cultural, entertainment, sport and recreation venues, including City of Launceston owned and operated assets	3	51	90
<b>Total</b>		<b>439</b>	<b>600</b>
<b>Panel Members</b>		<b>6</b>	

**% Score**

73.17%

**Launceston Summer Series (Level 1)**

<b>Assessment</b>	<b>Weight</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Total possible score</b>
<b>Participation</b> - Enables social connections to take place within the community, including volunteering and participation opportunities.	3	63	90
<b>Creativity and Innovation</b> - Encourages and supports creativity, innovation and local talent.	3	63	90
<b>Community Spirit</b> - Building community spirit, pride and a sense of place	4	88	120
<b>Economic</b> - Demonstrates positive economic benefits through visitor spend, employment and/or investment	4	88	120
<b>Tourism and profile</b> - Demonstrates positive tourism benefits, through the promotion of Launceston, building our profile and reputation	3	63	90
<b>Asset Usage</b> - Utilises and activates community assets including cultural, entertainment, sport and recreation venues, including City of Launceston owned and operated assets	3	66	90
<b>Total</b>		<b>431</b>	<b>600</b>
<b>Panel Members</b>		<b>6</b>	

**% Score**

71.83%

**Fungi the Festival (Level 2)**

<b>Assessment</b>	<b>Weight</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Total possible score</b>
<b>Participation</b> - Enables social connections to take place within the community, including volunteering and participation opportunities.	3	66	90
<b>Creativity and Innovation</b> - Encourages and supports creativity, innovation and local talent.	3	75	90
<b>Community Spirit</b> - Building community spirit, pride and a sense of place	3	60	90
<b>Economic</b> - Demonstrates positive economic benefits through visitor spend, employment and/or investment	4	84	120
<b>Tourism and profile</b> - Demonstrates positive tourism benefits, through the promotion of Launceston, building our profile and reputation	4	88	120
<b>Asset Usage</b> - Utilises and activates community assets including cultural, entertainment, sport and recreation venues, including City of Launceston owned and operated assets	3	54	90
<b>Total</b>		<b>427</b>	<b>600</b>
<b>Panel Members</b>		<b>6</b>	

**% Score**

71.17%

**Alleyways - (Level 2)**

<b>Assessment</b>	<b>Weight</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Total possible score</b>
<b>Participation</b> - Enables social connections to take place within the community, including volunteering and participation opportunities.	3	48	75
<b>Creativity and Innovation</b> - Encourages and supports creativity, innovation and local talent.	3	60	75
<b>Community Spirit</b> - Building community spirit, pride and a sense of place	3	57	75
<b>Economic</b> - Demonstrates positive economic benefits through visitor spend, employment and/or investment	4	60	100
<b>Tourism and profile</b> - Demonstrates positive tourism benefits, through the promotion of Launceston, building our profile and reputation	4	56	100
<b>Asset Usage</b> - Utilises and activates community assets including cultural, entertainment, sport and recreation venues, including City of Launceston owned and operated assets	3	51	75
<b>New Event</b> - Demonstrate strategies for sustainability and a vision for growth.	1	16	25
<b>Total</b>		<b>348</b>	<b>525</b>
<b>Panel Members</b>		<b>5</b>	
<b>% Score</b>		<b><u>69.60%</u></b>	

**Celebrating Harmony - (Level 1)**

<b>Assessment</b>	<b>Weight</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Total possible score</b>
<b>Participation</b> - Enables social connections to take place within the community, including volunteering and participation opportunities.	3	72	90
<b>Creativity and Innovation</b> - Encourages and supports creativity, innovation and local talent.	3	60	90
<b>Community Spirit</b> - Building community spirit, pride and a sense of place	4	92	120
<b>Economic</b> - Demonstrates positive economic benefits through visitor spend, employment and/or investment	4	76	120
<b>Tourism and profile</b> - Demonstrates positive tourism benefits, through the promotion of Launceston, building our profile and reputation	3	42	90
<b>Asset Usage</b> - Utilises and activates community assets including cultural, entertainment, sport and recreation venues, including City of Launceston owned and operated assets	3	63	90
<b>Total</b>		<b>405</b>	<b>600</b>
<b>Panel Members</b>		<b>6</b>	
<b>% Score</b>		<b><u>67.50%</u></b>	

**BEACON (Level 1)**

<b>Assessment</b>	<b>Weight</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Total possible score</b>
<b>Participation</b> - Enables social connections to take place within the community, including volunteering and participation opportunities.	3	57	90
<b>Creativity and Innovation</b> - Encourages and supports creativity, innovation and local talent.	3	69	90
<b>Community Spirit</b> - Building community spirit, pride and a sense of place	4	84	120
<b>Economic</b> - Demonstrates positive economic benefits through visitor spend, employment and/or investment	4	64	120
<b>Tourism and profile</b> - Demonstrates positive tourism benefits, through the promotion of Launceston, building our profile and reputation	3	54	90
<b>Asset Usage</b> - Utilises and activates community assets including cultural, entertainment, sport and recreation venues, including City of Launceston owned and operated assets	3	51	90
<b>New Event</b> - Demonstrate strategies for sustainability and a vision for growth.	1	14	30
<b>Total</b>		<b>393</b>	<b>630</b>
<b>Panel Members</b>		<b>6</b>	
<b>% Score</b>		<b><u>65.50%</u></b>	

**RISK IMPLICATIONS:**

Not considered relevant to this report.

**ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT:**

Approval of the recommended event sponsorship will:

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

**STRATEGIC DOCUMENT REFERENCE:**

*City of Launceston Corporate Strategic Plan 2014 - 2024*

Strategic Priority 2: We facilitate prosperity by seeking out and responding to opportunities for growth and renewal of our regional economy.

10-Year Goal: To have realised opportunities that grow and sustain our economy and foster creative and innovative people and industries.

Focus Areas:

1. To actively market the City and region and pursue investment.
2. To facilitate direct investment in the local economy to support its growth.
3. To provide an environment that is supportive to business and development within the municipality.
4. To promote tourism and the development of a quality tourism offering for Launceston.

Strategic Priority 4: We value our City's unique identity by celebrating our special heritage and culture and building on our competitive advantages to be a place where people choose to live, work and visit.

10-Year Goal: To sustain and promote Launceston as a unique place to live, work, learn and play.

Focus Areas:

2. To continue to offer an attractive network of parks, open spaces and facilities throughout Launceston.
3. To promote and attract national and international events and support the sector to ensure a diverse annual events calendar.
4. To support the central business district (CBD) and commercial areas as activity places during day and night.
5. To support sustainable population growth in the Northern Region.

Strategic Priority 5: We serve and care for our community by providing equitable and efficient services that reflects needs and expectations of our community.

10-Year Goal: To offer access to services and spaces for all community members and to work in partnership with stakeholders to address the needs of vulnerable communities.

Focus Areas:

3. To work in partnership with community organisations and other levels of government to maximise participation opportunities for vulnerable and diverse members of the community.
4. To support the delivery of programs and events for people to connect with each other through participation in community activities and civic life.
5. To promote and support active and healthy lifestyles of our community.

**BUDGET AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

The proposed budget for Round 2 of the 2024/2025 major events sponsorship program is as follows:

<b>Event</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Pre-committed</b>	<b>Recommendation for Round 2</b>	<b>Balance for Round 2</b>
2024/2025 major event sponsorship budget - Round 2	\$111,000	\$0	\$127,373	-\$16,373

The 2024/2025 small event sponsorship budget has a surplus of \$18,000 if the panel’s recommendation is approved as per the council report. There are no additional funding rounds planned for this financial year for small event sponsorship so these funds will remain unspent. On that basis, it is recommended to transfer \$16,373 of these surplus funds in the small event sponsorship budget to the 2024/2025 major event sponsorship budget to fund its shortfall.

<b>2024/2025 Major Event Sponsorship Budget **</b>	<b>\$0</b>
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*\*\*assumes the transfer of \$16,373 from the 2024/2025 small event sponsorship budget.*

The budget consideration of this item has been approved by the General Manager Community and Place Network.

**DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:**

The Author and General Manager have no interests to declare in this matter.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Confidential Redacted Applications - Major Events - Round 2 - 2024-2025 [17.3.1 - 252 pages]

**17.4. Small Event Sponsorship Round 2 2024/2025**

**FILE NO:** SF7571

**AUTHOR:** Kate Schindler (Grants and Sponsorship Officer)

**APPROVER:** Chelsea van Riet (General Manager Community and Place Network)

**DECISION STATEMENT:**

To consider committing to event sponsorship support for small events (Round 2) in 2024/2025.

**RELEVANT LEGISLATION:**

*Local Government Act 1993 (Tas)*

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council

1. Approves the following small event sponsorship applications to receive the recommended sponsorship amount from the 2024/2025 small event sponsorship budget.

Organisation	Event	Score*	\$Request	\$Assess	\$Recom
Lilydale District Progress Association	Lilydale Winter Solstice Lantern Walk	89%	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
**Social Social Pty Ltd	World Street Eats	88%	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
Tasmanian Brick Enthusiasts Inc.	Brixhibition Launceston 2025	86%	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
Social Social Pty Ltd	Friday Night Eats	85%	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
Launceston Lions Sport Club Incorporated.	Sri Lankan New Year Festival 2025	83%	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
**Cancer Council Tasmania	Relay for Life Launceston	81%	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
Northern Tasmanian Croquet Centre Inc.	Northern Tasmanian Croquet Easter Tournament	77%	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$750
RSPCA Tasmania	Million Paws Walk	77%	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$3,750
Community of St Patricks River District (Tas) Inc.	St Patricks River District Day	75%	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$3,750

Croquet Tasmania	2025 Golf Croquet World Team Championship	72%	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$3,000
Dobson Guitar Services	Riverbend Blues 2025	66%	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$3,750
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$47,000</b>	<b>\$47,000</b>	<b>\$42,000</b>

*\*Some scores have been rounded*

*\*\*Mayor Garwood abstained from the assessment of Relay for Life and World Street Eats.*

## **REPORT:**

### **Sponsorship program structure and funding**

The annual small event sponsorship program provides funding to small events held in the Launceston municipality where the local community is the main audience.

The small event sponsorship program has an annual total value of \$100,000. Funding is allocated through two rounds covering two distinct periods each year. The *Event Sponsorship Policy (05-PI-012)* states that Round 2 of the small event sponsorship program covers a seven-month period (1 January - 31 July) and will be allocated 60% of the annual budget. The available funds for Round 2 of the 2024/2025 small event sponsorship program are \$60,000.

Round 2 for the 2024/2025 small event sponsorship program received funding requests totalling \$47,000. The panel has recommended allocating \$42,000 of sponsorship in line with the *Event Sponsorship Policy* Round 2 budget. The recommendation of which events to sponsor was made based on the scoring against the assessment criteria. (Recommendation 1).

### **Program governance**

The Event Sponsorship Assessment Panel is a Special Committee of Council, established under section 24 of the Local Government Act (TAS) 1993. The panel consists of three Councillors, who are nominated by the council, in addition to external stakeholder representatives. The current panel members are:

- Mayor Councillor Matthew Garwood
- Councillor Lindi McMahon (Chair)
- Councillor Andrew Palmer
- Tracey Mallett, Visit Northern Tasmania Chief Executive Officer
- Alina Bain, Launceston Chamber of Commerce Chief Executive Officer
- Amanda McEvoy, Launceston Central Executive Officer.

The role of the panel is to consider, review and assess each application within the sponsorship levels and against the assessment criteria (detailed below) and provide recommendations. The Chair is also responsible for managing the conflicts of interest of panel members.

Panel Members have declared no conflicts of interest concerning any sponsorship applications they are involved in assessing for Round 2 of the 2024/2025 small event sponsorship program.

Council officers support the process but do not make recommendations about any of the applications. Prior to the assessment panel convening and undertaking assessments officers review received applications for eligibility. Applications are ineligible if they:

- are not received on time;
- are not submitted correctly;
- are missing information; or
- do not align with the criteria.

Additionally, the assessment panel has the authority to deem an application ineligible based on the criteria.

**Assessment:**

Assessment process

The following steps form the assessment process for applications:

1. The Grants and Sponsorship Officer receives applications through Smarty Grants (an online grants application portal)
2. All applications are reviewed by the Grants and Sponsorship Officer to confirm eligibility and to ensure all relevant information has been provided. Applicants may be asked to provide additional information.
3. The Events Sponsorship Assessment Panel assesses and pre-scores eligible applications based on their merit against the criteria. The panel then convenes a meeting for score moderation.
4. The assessment score informs the panel's recommendation to Council for funding and these recommendations are subject to the budget available.
5. All funding decisions for assessed applications are made by the full Council via a report to a Council Meeting.

Assessment criteria

The panel assesses each application against the assessment criteria as outlined in the Small Events Sponsorship Guidelines (05-Rfx-018):

<b>Participation</b>	Enables social connections to take place within the community, including volunteering and participation opportunities.
<b>Creativity and innovation</b>	Encourages and supports creativity, innovation and local talent.
<b>Community Spirit</b>	Builds community spirit, fosters pride and a sense of place.
<b>Inclusiveness</b>	Inclusive and accessible to residents within our community.
<b>Asset usage</b>	Utilisation and activation of community facilities including cultural, entertainment, sport and recreation venues, including Council owned and managed facilities.
<b>*New events</b>	Demonstrate strategies for sustainability and a vision for growth. <i>*Note: To encourage new events (events that have not been held in the City of Launceston municipality previously) there is an additional question in the application. Answers to the additional question enable bonus points to be awarded to applications proposing new events.</i>

Distribution of funding

The level of funding recommended for events relates to the score an event receives based on the assessment criteria. The typical distribution of funds based on the score is as follows:

<b>Score</b>	<b>Funding amount</b>
81-100%	100% of requested funds
61-80%	75% of requested funds
50-60%	50% of requested funds
<50%	No funding provided

Aggregated scores of assessment criteria:

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

**Lilydale Winter Solstice Lantern Walk**

<b>Assessment</b>	<b>Weight</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Total possible score</b>
<b>Participation</b> - Enables social connections to take place within the community, including volunteering and participation opportunities.	5	135	150
<b>Creativity and Innovation</b> - Encourages and supports creativity, innovation and local talent.	4	96	120
<b>Community Spirit</b> - Fosters pride and positivity in our city, building community spirit	5	145	150
<b>Inclusiveness</b> - Inclusive and accessible to residents within our community	4	108	120
<b>Asset Usage</b> - Utilisation and activation of community assets	2	48	60
<b>Total</b>		<b>532</b>	<b>600</b>
<b>Panel Members</b>		<b>6</b>	
<b>% Score</b>		<b><u>88.67%</u></b>	

**World Street Eats**

<b>Assessment</b>	<b>Weight</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Total possible score</b>
<b>Participation</b> - Enables social connections to take place within the community, including volunteering and participation opportunities.	4	92	125
<b>Creativity and Innovation</b> - Encourages and supports creativity, innovation and local talent.	4	88	100
<b>Community Spirit</b> - Fosters pride and positivity in our city, building community spirit	5	120	125
<b>Inclusiveness</b> - Inclusive and accessible to residents within our community	4	96	100
<b>Asset Usage</b> - Utilisation and activation of community assets	2	46	50
<b>Total</b>		<b>442</b>	<b>500</b>
<b>Panel Members</b>		<b>5</b>	
<b>% Score</b>		<b><u>88.40%</u></b>	

**Brixhibition Launceston 2025**

<b>Assessment</b>	<b>Weight</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Total possible score</b>
<b>Participation</b> - Enables social connections to take place within the community, including volunteering and participation opportunities.	5	135	150
<b>Creativity and Innovation</b> - Encourages and supports creativity, innovation and local talent.	4	108	120
<b>Community Spirit</b> - Fosters pride and positivity in our city, building community spirit	5	130	150
<b>Inclusiveness</b> - Inclusive and accessible to residents within our community	4	108	120
<b>Asset Usage</b> - Utilisation and activation of community assets	2	36	60
<b>Total</b>		<b>517</b>	<b>600</b>
<b>Panel Members</b>		<b>6</b>	
<b>% Score</b>		<b><u>86.17%</u></b>	

**Friday Night Eats**

<b>Assessment</b>	<b>Weight</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Total possible score</b>
<b>Participation</b> - Enables social connections to take place within the community, including volunteering and participation opportunities.	5	115	150
<b>Creativity and Innovation</b> - Encourages and supports creativity, innovation and local talent.	4	88	120
<b>Community Spirit</b> - Fosters pride and positivity in our city, building community spirit	5	130	150
<b>Inclusiveness</b> - Inclusive and accessible to residents within our community	4	104	120
<b>Asset Usage</b> - Utilisation and activation of community assets	2	48	60
<b>New Event</b> - Demonstrate strategies for sustainability and a vision for growth.	1	25	30
<b>Total</b>		<b>510</b>	<b>630</b>
<b>Panel Members</b>		<b>6</b>	
<b>% Score</b>		<b><u>85.00%</u></b>	

**Sri Lankan New Year Festival 2025**

<b>Assessment</b>	<b>Weight</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Total possible score</b>
<b>Participation</b> - Enables social connections to take place within the community, including volunteering and participation opportunities.	5	120	150
<b>Creativity and Innovation</b> - Encourages and supports creativity, innovation and local talent.	4	92	120
<b>Community Spirit</b> - Fosters pride and positivity in our city, building community spirit	5	135	150
<b>Inclusiveness</b> - Inclusive and accessible to residents within our community	4	104	120
<b>Asset Usage</b> - Utilisation and activation of community assets	2	44	60
<b>Total</b>		<b>495</b>	<b>600</b>
<b>Panel Members</b>		<b>6</b>	
<b>% Score</b>		<b><u>82.50%</u></b>	

**Relay for Life Launceston**

<b>Assessment</b>	<b>Weight</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Total possible score</b>
<b>Participation</b> - Enables social connections to take place within the community, including volunteering and participation opportunities.	5	105	125
<b>Creativity and Innovation</b> - Encourages and supports creativity, innovation and local talent.	4	76	100
<b>Community Spirit</b> - Fosters pride and positivity in our city, building community spirit	5	100	125
<b>Inclusiveness</b> - Inclusive and accessible to residents within our community	4	84	100
<b>Asset Usage</b> - Utilisation and activation of community assets	2	38	50
<b>Total</b>		<b>403</b>	<b>500</b>
<b>Panel Members</b>		<b>5</b>	
<b>% Score</b>		<b><u>80.60%</u></b>	

**Northern Tasmanian Croquet Easter Tournament**

<b>Assessment</b>	<b>Weight</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Total possible score</b>
<b>Participation</b> - Enables social connections to take place within the community, including volunteering and participation opportunities.	5	120	150
<b>Creativity and Innovation</b> - Encourages and supports creativity, innovation and local talent.	4	84	120
<b>Community Spirit</b> - Fosters pride and positivity in our city, building community spirit	5	120	150
<b>Inclusiveness</b> - Inclusive and accessible to residents within our community	4	92	120
<b>Asset Usage</b> - Utilisation and activation of community assets	2	44	60
<b>Total</b>		<b>460</b>	<b>600</b>
<b>Panel Members</b>		<b>6</b>	
<b>% Score</b>		<b><u>76.67%</u></b>	

**Million Paws Walk**

<b>Assessment</b>	<b>Weight</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Total possible score</b>
<b>Participation</b> - Enables social connections to take place within the community, including volunteering and participation opportunities.	5	125	150
<b>Creativity and Innovation</b> - Encourages and supports creativity, innovation and local talent.	4	76	120
<b>Community Spirit</b> - Fosters pride and positivity in our city, building community spirit	5	125	150
<b>Inclusiveness</b> - Inclusive and accessible to residents within our community	4	92	120
<b>Asset Usage</b> - Utilisation and activation of community assets	2	46	60
<b>Total</b>		<b>464</b>	<b>600</b>
<b>Panel Members</b>		<b>6</b>	
<b>% Score</b>		<b><u>77.33%</u></b>	

**St Patricks River District Day**

<b>Assessment</b>	<b>Weight</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Total possible score</b>
<b>Participation</b> - Enables social connections to take place within the community, including volunteering and participation opportunities.	5	120	150
<b>Creativity and Innovation</b> - Encourages and supports creativity, innovation and local talent.	4	84	120
<b>Community Spirit</b> - Fosters pride and positivity in our city, building community spirit	5	125	150
<b>Inclusiveness</b> - Inclusive and accessible to residents within our community	4	84	120
<b>Asset Usage</b> - Utilisation and activation of community assets	2	38	60
<b>Total</b>		<b>451</b>	<b>600</b>
<b>Panel Members</b>		<b>6</b>	
<b>% Score</b>		<b><u>75.17%</u></b>	

**2025 Golf Croquet World Team Championship**

<b>Assessment</b>	<b>Weight</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Total possible score</b>
<b>Participation</b> - Enables social connections to take place within the community, including volunteering and participation opportunities.	5	105	150
<b>Creativity and Innovation</b> - Encourages and supports creativity, innovation and local talent.	4	76	120
<b>Community Spirit</b> - Fosters pride and positivity in our city, building community spirit	5	110	150
<b>Inclusiveness</b> - Inclusive and accessible to residents within our community	4	80	120
<b>Asset Usage</b> - Utilisation and activation of community assets	2	44	60
<b>New Event</b> - Demonstrate strategies for sustainability and a vision for growth.	1	17	30
<b>Total</b>		<b>432</b>	<b>630</b>
<b>Panel Members</b>		<b>6</b>	
<b>% Score</b>		<b><u>72.00%</u></b>	

**Riverbend Blues 2025**

<b>Assessment</b>	<b>Weight</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Total possible score</b>
<b>Participation</b> - Enables social connections to take place within the community, including volunteering and participation opportunities.	5	100	150
<b>Creativity and Innovation</b> - Encourages and supports creativity, innovation and local talent.	4	80	120
<b>Community Spirit</b> - Fosters pride and positivity in our city, building community spirit	5	105	150
<b>Inclusiveness</b> - Inclusive and accessible to residents within our community	4	80	120
<b>Asset Usage</b> - Utilisation and activation of community assets	2	32	60
<b>Total</b>		<b>397</b>	<b>600</b>
<b>Panel Members</b>		<b>6</b>	
<b>% Score</b>		<b><u>66.17%</u></b>	

**RISK IMPLICATIONS:**

Not considered relevant to this report.

**ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT:**

Approval of the recommended event sponsorship will:

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

**STRATEGIC DOCUMENT REFERENCE:**

*City of Launceston Corporate Strategic Plan 2014 - 2024*

Strategic Priority 2: We facilitate prosperity by seeking out and responding to opportunities for growth and renewal of our regional economy.

10-Year Goal: To have realised opportunities that grow and sustain our economy and foster creative and innovative people and industries.

Focus Areas:

1. To actively market the City and region and pursue investment.
2. To facilitate direct investment in the local economy to support its growth.
3. To provide an environment that is supportive to business and development within the municipality.
4. To promote tourism and the development of a quality tourism offering for Launceston.

Strategic Priority 4: We value our City's unique identity by celebrating our special heritage and culture and building on our competitive advantages to be a place where people choose to live, work and visit.

10-Year Goal: To sustain and promote Launceston as a unique place to live, work, learn and play.

Focus Areas:

2. To continue to offer an attractive network of parks, open spaces and facilities throughout Launceston.
3. To promote and attract national and international events and support the sector to ensure a diverse annual events calendar.
4. To support the central business district (CBD) and commercial areas as activity places during day and night.
5. To support sustainable population growth in the Northern Region.

Strategic Priority 5: We serve and care for our community by providing equitable and efficient services that reflects needs and expectations of our community.

10-Year Goal: To offer access to services and spaces for all community members and to work in partnership with stakeholders to address the needs of vulnerable communities.

Focus Areas:

3. To work in partnership with community organisations and other levels of government to maximise participation opportunities for vulnerable and diverse members of the community.

4. To support the delivery of programs and events for people to connect with each other through participation in community activities and civic life.
5. To promote and support active and healthy lifestyles of our community.

**BUDGET AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Pre-committed</b>	<b>Recommendations for Round 2</b>	<b>Balance for Round 2</b>
2024/2025 small event sponsorship budget – Round 2	\$60,000	\$0	\$42,000	\$18,000

The proposed budget for 2024/2025 Round 2 small event sponsorship is \$60,000. Should the recommendation of \$42,000 be approved, there will be \$18,000 remaining in the small event sponsorship budget.

The budget consideration of this item has been approved by the General Manager Community and Place Network.

**DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:**

The Author and General Manager have no interests to declare in this matter.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Confidential Redacted Applications - Small Events - Round 2 - 2024-2025 [17.4.1 - 194 pages]

**18. CREATIVE ARTS AND CULTURAL SERVICES NETWORK**

**No items have been identified as part of this Agenda**

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**19. INFRASTRUCTURE AND ASSETS NETWORK**

**19.1. Princess Theatre and Earl Arts Centre**

**FILE NO:** SF0371

**AUTHOR:** Shane Eberhardt (General Manager Infrastructure and Assets Network)

**APPROVER:** Shane Eberhardt (General Manager Infrastructure and Assets Network)

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**DECISION STATEMENT:**

To consider continued support for the refurbishment of the Princess Theatre and Earl Arts Centre.

**RELEVANT LEGISLATION:**

*Local Government Act 1993 (Tas)*

**PREVIOUS COUNCIL CONSIDERATION:**

Council – 25 July 2024 – Item 19.1 - Princess Theatre Conservation Management Plan – Endorsement

Workshop – 18 July 2024 – Item 2.4 - Princess Theatre Project Update and DA Preview

Council – 19 September 2019 – Item 17.1 - Lease of Princess theatre and Earl Arts Centre

Council – 8 August 2019 – Item 17.1 - Lease of Princess Theatre and Earl Arts Centre

Council – 30 October 2017 – Item 17.2 - Princess Theatre Lease Renewal

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council:

1. Approves the refurbishment of the Princess Theatre and Earl Art Centre for an estimated present value construction cost of up to \$30m to be undertaken from January 2026 for a period of approximately 18-24 months.
  2. Advocate for Federal and State Government funding to support Councils contribution.
  3. Include the projected value of the works in the Long-term Financial Plan.
  4. Request the Chief Executive Officer to prepare a detailed project management plan for presentation to Council by December 2024. The plan is to include as a minimum:
    - a. Detailed scope of works
    - b. Program scheduling
    - c. Financing and procurement strategy
    - d. Stakeholder management plan
    - e. Risk management plan
  5. Work with Theatre North and community users of the facility to determine what support is required to ensure sustainability of the cultural sector during extended closure periods.
-

**REPORT:**

*Background*

The redevelopment of the Princess Theatre is being undertaken to address several critical challenges that currently affect the safety, compliance, and accessibility of this historic venue. The project aims to modernise the theatre while preserving its cultural significance, ensuring it meets contemporary standards.

The existing structure of the Princess Theatre presents several compliance and safety concerns that require attention. Access to the Level 2 offices does not meet current Building Code of Australia (BCA) standards, posing significant safety risks. Manual handling requirements for theatre lighting adjustments, the orchestra pit, and general accessibility issues further highlight the need for improved safety measures. Additionally, the emergency egress system needs reviewing to ensure it provides safe and efficient evacuation routes for all users. The current loading dock, which is directly accessed from a public street, also presents a significant safety concern during the delivery and transportation of stage equipment.

Equitable access within the Princess Theatre is currently limited, failing to meet modern accessibility standards. At present, all *Disability Discrimination Act 1998* (DDA) compliant seating is located in a single area at the front of the theatre, which restricts the viewing experience for patrons with disabilities. The theatre lacks a DDA compliant toilet for patrons, and there is no DDA access to the stage, dressing rooms, or amenities for performers. The absence of DDA access to the Level 1 foyer and Level 2 offices further compounds these accessibility challenges. These issues significantly limit the inclusivity of the venue and highlight the need for comprehensive accessibility upgrades.

Beyond safety and accessibility, there is a pressing need for functional improvements to enhance the user experience at the Princess Theatre. The backstage and back-of-house areas require additional storage and updated dressing room configurations, as large productions often struggle with the current setup. The current stage loading process is cumbersome and limits the size of props that can be brought in, which hinders the flexibility of productions. A general freshening up of fixtures and finishes is also required, along with a facelift for the theatre's façade to improve its overall appearance.

The redevelopment of the Princess Theatre is essential to eliminate immediate safety and compliance issues, address significant accessibility shortcomings, and enhance the overall functionality of this important cultural venue. This project is a proactive step toward preserving the theatre's historic value while ensuring it remains inclusive and safe for all users.

The proposed redevelopment of the Earl Arts Centre is driven by the need to address several critical challenges that currently impact the functionality, safety, and user experience of this important cultural venue. The project aims to modernise the Earl Arts Centre, ensuring it meets contemporary standards and better serves the community. One of the primary objectives of the redevelopment is to eliminate immediate safety and compliance issues within the Earl Arts Centre.

The current foyer and access area of the Earl Arts Centre do not create an inviting or functional entrance for patrons. This lack of an appropriate entry space undermines the user experience from the moment patrons arrive. The Centre's existing seating is described as "cheap feeling" and uncomfortable, which negatively impacts on the overall experience for patrons. Improving these aspects of the Earl Arts Centre is essential to create a more welcoming and user-friendly environment.

The Earl Arts Centre currently lacks adequate backstage facilities, which are crucial for the smooth operation of any performance space. The dressing rooms are small and not functional, often necessitating the hiring of additional space from other venues. The current seating capacity of the Earl Arts Centre is limited, which, while functional, may not fully meet the demands of larger productions and audiences. Consideration has been given to increasing the seating capacity to enhance the venue's usability and appeal. The increase in capacity would provide significant benefits to users, making the Centre a more versatile and attractive option for a wider range of events.

The redevelopment of the Earl Arts Centre is essential to address significant safety, compliance, and accessibility issues while also enhancing the overall functionality and user experience. By redeveloping the Earl Arts Centre and improving key areas such as the foyer, backstage facilities, and seating, the EAC can better serve the needs of patrons, performers, and staff, ensuring its continued relevance and value to the community.

#### *Progress to date*

The project continues to make progress with a total expenditure to date of \$741,000. Key achievements so far include:

- Completed concept design and commenced schematic design
- Stakeholder group presentation and implementation of feedback
- Received Quantity Surveyor budget
- Presented development application (DA) plans to broader stakeholder group
- Implemented feedback from preview presentations
- Communicated project to adjacent businesses
- Finalised functional concept plans
- Developed aesthetic design
- Engaged design team

Over the coming months we expect to see:

- Finalisation and submission of DA documentation
- Design team to continue detailed documentation while DA is being assessed
- Undertake ECI construction procurement

Conceptual drawings are provided as **Attachment 1**.

*Impact during construction*

The planned redevelopment of the Princess Theatre and Earl Arts Centre is a critical investment in the cultural infrastructure of Launceston, ensuring these iconic venues remain fit-for-purpose for decades to come. However, the closure of the Princess Theatre and Earl Arts Centre during the redevelopment period, scheduled from January 2026 through 2027, poses significant challenges for Theatre North as the long-term tenant and manager of these venues.

Theatre North is a cornerstone of Northern Tasmania's cultural landscape, managing the Princess Theatre and Earl Arts Centre with a high level of professionalism and commitment to both commercial and community use. With 62 staff (14 FTE), Theatre North is one of the region's largest cultural employers and a nationally recognised leader in the \$1.2 billion regional touring circuit. The organisation plays a pivotal role in the social, cultural, and educational fabric of the region, drawing approximately 90,000 patrons annually to a diverse range of performances, from community productions to national and international artists.

The redevelopment project, while essential for ensuring the venues meet modern accessibility, safety, and operational standards, will require the closure of both the Princess Theatre and Earl Arts Centre for up to 24 months. During this period, Theatre North's ability to generate income will be significantly impacted, putting the organisation's financial viability at risk. Without substantial financial support, there is a real concern that the closure period could undermine Theatre North's ability to continue operating and retain its specialised staff.

To mitigate the impact of the closures, Theatre North will assume management of the Albert Hall on an interim basis. This arrangement is expected to accommodate up to 50% of the current content hosted by the Princess Theatre & Earl Arts Centre. While this provides a temporary solution, it is clear that the scope and capacity of the Albert Hall will not fully compensate for the loss of the Princess Theatre and Earl Arts Centre during the redevelopment. Funding will be essential to ensure that Theatre North can continue to operate effectively and fulfill its role as a cultural leader in the region during and after the redevelopment.

Supporting Theatre North during this period is not only a matter of ensuring the organisation's financial survival but also of preserving the cultural vibrancy of Launceston. The Princess Theatre and Earl Arts Centre are more than just venues; they are the heart of the city's cultural life. The works being undertaken are essential to future-proof these venues, ensuring they remain accessible, safe, and welcoming for all users. The success of this redevelopment project is intrinsically linked to the continued success of Theatre North, making Council's support during this transition period vital.

Support for Theatre North will help ensure that it can weather the disruption, continue to serve the community, and emerge from the closure period ready to lead these revitalised venues into a new era.

Until this time cost estimates have been very rough estimates with no underlying clarity of the works to be undertaken. Based on the conceptual drawings included in this item the present day value of the project is presented below.

**Table 1 – Cost Estimate**

<b>Princess Theatre</b>	
Lift to stage	\$ 150,000
Basement Toilets	\$ 1,450,000
Ground Floor Re-model	\$ 1,330,000
First Floor Re-model	\$ 980,000
Second Floor re-model	\$ 835,000
New roof area-mechanical plant	\$ 362,000
DDA access to Dress Circle	\$ 200,000
Sub-total	\$ 5,157,000
<b>Princess stage / Back of House / Loading / Earl Arts</b>	
Orchestra pit	\$ 500,000
Under stage refurbishment	\$ 1,168,000
Under Stage Level extension (dressing rooms)	\$ 1,450,000
Stage Level Extension (ground Floor)	\$ 715,000
Additional storage requiring excavation	\$ 930,000
Loading dock / Earls Arts level 1	\$ 5,600,000
Level 2 Earl Arts	\$ 3,700,000
Sub-total	\$ 14,063,000
Relocation of Tas Networks substation	\$ 1,200,000
Allowance for hazardous materials	\$ 626,000
Statutory charges	\$ 479,000
Consultant fees	\$ 2,231,000
Allowance for AV & ICT	\$ 1,500,000
Allowance for furniture & fit out	\$ 300,000
Allowance for financial support during closure	\$ 1,500,000
Project contingency	\$ 3,000,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 30,056,000</b>

**RISK IMPLICATIONS:**

The project management plan will consider the risks in detail, however there are three key critical risks:

1. The construction works are scheduled to commence in January 2026 and continue for 18 to 24 months. This closure will significantly impact the theatre community and our aspiring youth. It will be critical to minimise the period of closure and be available once a commitment is made as bookings will be taken for shortly after completion of works. The key mitigation strategies are making Albert Hall available, developing a support package for Theatre North and potentially the broader theatre community, clear communication with key stakeholders and contract mechanisms to encourage early completion or penalise any overrun.

2. The construction costs for this renewal are significant with total project costs potentially up to \$30m. It is usually at the start of a project for there to be a lot of unknowns and therefore contingencies and conservatism in preparing estimates can be high. As a project progresses through its lifecycle the knowns become better understood which results in more accurate pricing as the project gets to detailed design and then further refined once a constructor is engaged. There are two main mechanisms to mitigate escalation of costs which are undertaking a value management process as part of detailed design and early engagement of a contractor to enable their practical knowledge to contribute to design. The cost is further discussed in the *Budget and Financial Implications* section. We also have a well-defined project scope to price against which we have not had up until now.
3. Theatre North are a key stakeholder for the delivery of the refurbishment project and the re-opening and operation of the Albert Hall over the next few years. We need to be mindful that they are a small group, with this project significantly impacting their capacity, and we need them to be successful at both tasks. We will continue an open dialogue with Theatre North and explore as part of this item's recommendation with the management and Board to understand and develop a support package.

At this stage the following are excluded from the cost estimates:

- While the project is investigating solutions to the currently seating issues at the Theatre the project budget does not include replacement of seats. Replacement of seats is expected to be in the order of \$600,000 to \$900,000.
- Street refurbishments in Earl Street or Brisbane Street required to support the project will be considered through the Launceston City Heart Project.

### **ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT:**

The Princess Theatre and Earl Arts Centre have a significantly positive economic and social impact to both the CBD of Launceston and the municipality more broadly. This is by way of attracting performers from outside of Launceston to both facilities, and also in supporting local community users and groups in their endeavours. The flow on economic and social effects extend to surrounding business and hospitality providers.

### **STRATEGIC DOCUMENT REFERENCE:**

*City of Launceston Corporate Strategic Plan 2014 - 2024*

Strategic Priority 1: We connect with our community and our region through meaningful engagement, cooperation and representation.

10-Year Goal: To seek out and champion positive engagement and collaboration to capitalise on the major opportunities and address the future challenges facing our community and region.

Focus Areas:

- 3 To advocate and collaborate to enhance regionally significant services and infrastructure for the benefit of our communities.

**BUDGET AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

Council has already allocated a capital budget of \$2.645m, since 2022/2023, to this project for the purposes of; creation of the masterplan, architectural design works, a conservation management plan and project management costs. Actual costs of \$738,605 have been incurred with further \$1,311,679 of commitments in place.

Funding options and analysis are ongoing into this project currently estimated at a cost of up to \$30m. Council will seek funding from other tiers of Government to partner with throughout the project. Should Council not be successful in obtaining external support to fund the project, it is likely that Council will need to obtain a loan in order to fund. Council has \$6m of loans (interest subsidised) due for repayment in 2024/25 and has the capacity to afford loan repayments as they fall due.

Council continues to work with Theatre North on the financial and non-financial support that can be provided during the period of closure during the redevelopment works, so that Theatre North can return to the running the operations of the Princess Theatre and Earl Arts Centre once the redevelopment is completed without any unnecessary financial stress.

Council will incur a loss on disposal of assets (non-cash expense) as part of the redevelopment.

**DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:**

The Author and General Manager have no interests to declare in this matter.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. ATTACHMENT 1 - Princess Theatre - Councillor Presentation 18.07.24 - DA Preview [19.1.1 - 32 pages]

**20. ORGANISATIONAL SERVICES NETWORK**

**20.1. Progress against 2023/2024 Annual Plan Actions for period ending 30 June 2024**

**FILE NO:** SF6937

**AUTHOR:** Emily Lewis (Business Improvement Officer)

**APPROVER:** Louise Foster (General Manager Organisational Services Network)

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**DECISION STATEMENT:**

To consider the progress against Council's 2023/2024 Annual Plan Actions for the period ending 30 June 2024.

**PREVIOUS COUNCIL CONSIDERATION:**

Council – 16 May 2024 – Agenda Item 15.2 City of Launceston Annual Plan 2023/2024 - Progress Against Annual Plan Actions for Period Ending 31 March 2024

Council – 21 March 2024 – Agenda Item 14.1 - City of Launceston Annual Plan 2023/2024 - Progress Against Annual Plan Actions for Period Ending 31 December 2023

Council - 16 November 2023 - Agenda Item 15.3 - City of Launceston Annual Plan 2023/2024 - Progress Against Annual Plan Actions for Period Ending 30 September 2023

Council – 29 June 2023 – Agenda Item 16.6 - City of Launceston Annual Plan 2023/2024

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council notes progress against 2023/2024 Annual Plan Actions for the period ending 30 June 2024:

**Strategic Priority 1:** We *connect with our Community and our Region* through meaningful engagement, cooperation and representation.

Our interactions with our community are authentic, timely, accurate and open. We want to build strong and productive relationships with our community and regional partners.

**10-Year Goal:** To seek out and champion positive engagement and collaboration to capitalise on the major opportunities, and address the future challenges facing our community and region.

<b>Focus Area:</b>		
To advocate and collaborate to enhance regionally significant services and infrastructure for the benefit of our communities.		
<b>Action</b>	<b>Network</b>	<b>% Complete</b>
Develop a City of Launceston Regional Sports Facility four-year implementation program and where possible, commence addressing identified areas of need.	Infrastructure and Assets	100%
<b>Comment</b>		
The Regional Sports Facility Management Plan was completed in August 2023. Recreation and Parks officers have developed an implementation action plan and are working through the identified actions. Prioritised actions include progressing the Northern Tasmania Cricket Association (NTCA) masterplan, commencing the St Leonards Sports Complex masterplan, resurfacing netball courts at the Hoblers Bridge Netball Centre and creating opportunities to use local parks such as West Launceston Community Park as informal training grounds to ease pressure on other venues.		
<b>Focus Area</b>		
To develop and consistently utilise contemporary and effective community engagement processes.		
<b>Action</b>	<b>Network</b>	<b>% Complete</b>
Continue to engage with our community on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aboriginal Partnership Plan</li> <li>Tomorrow Together themes</li> <li>Key infrastructure projects</li> <li>Key projects and initiatives of community impact</li> </ul>	Organisational Services	100%
<b>Comment</b>		
The City of Launceston continues to engage with its community on topics that may impact its residents/ratepayers (community) in a way that affects their lifestyle and amenity. The following engagement initiatives have taken place during the fourth quarter:		
<b>Aboriginal Partnership Plan (APP):</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aboriginal cultural awareness training program (action item 10) prepared and the first training delivered to Council and the Executive Leadership Team in May 2024. The program will continue to be rolled out across the organisation.</li> <li>Invited to join the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre's holiday program held at the Punchbowl Reserve to seek input into the playground upgrade and how Aboriginal culture can be recognised with the play spaces/parks.</li> </ul>		
<b>Tomorrow Together theme:</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>A Resilient City</i> included seven topics; Trails and Networks, Dog Management, Community Emissions Reduction, Emergency Preparedness, Events, Future Planning for Carr Villa, Waste Management. The engagement period spanned 21 February to 3 April 2024 and resulted in 723 responses. The engagement overview is published and available online via our Tomorrow Together website.</li> <li>The data and insights captured is being reviewed and analysed. A summary highlighting what we have heard will be available to the community and stakeholders in August 2024.</li> </ul>		

**Project specific engagement** included the *Urban Greening Implementation* and *Low Carbon Launceston: Engage for Change* program.

**Key infrastructure projects:**

- *Urban Greening Implementation* - as a part of the Urban Greening Strategy, precinct plans are being developed for priority suburbs and Mayfield has been selected as the first of the precinct plans. During April and May 2024, the Mayfield community were invited to share their ideas during a number of engagement activities, these included the Youth Festival held in Torrens Street Park, drop-in information session held at the Muylatina Child and Family Learning Centre, sessions with the East Tamar Primary School and online. Each engagement provided an opportunity for the Mayfield community to have their say on the future of street trees and planting within their neighbourhood.

**Key projects and initiatives of community impact:**

*Low Carbon Launceston: Engage for Change* - following the initial engagement using surveys, three focus group sessions were held in late April/early May 2024 with interested community members to review the survey findings and assist in developing a set of guiding principles for decision making and prioritising potential initiatives, projects and programs to reduce community carbon emissions. The findings from all engagement activities are being analysed and a report summarising the findings will be available in late quarter one 2024.

**Strategic Priority 2: We *Facilitate Prosperity*** by seeking out and responding to opportunities for growth and renewal of our regional economy.

We use our influence and resources to deliver the foundations for ongoing economic development. We want Launceston to be the heart of a thriving regional economy.

**10-Year Goal:** To have realised opportunities that grow and sustain our economy, and foster creative and innovative people and industries.

<b>Focus Area</b>		
To promote tourism, and the development of a quality tourism offering for Launceston.		
<b>Action</b>	<b>Network</b>	<b>% Complete</b>
Partner with the State Government's International Engagement Program where there are clear benefits to the City of Launceston which are aligned with our Sister City relationships.	Chief Executive Officer	100%
<b>Comment</b>		
There have been no opportunities identified in this quarter to partner with the State Government's International Engagement Program. Council Officers will continue to engage with the relevant Government Departments to identify opportunities.		
In terms of our Sister City relationships it was fantastic for the Mayor to meet tourists (Carol and Derek) from Napa California who personally know Napa City Mayor Scott Sedgley.		
In the lead up to them arriving, Mayor Sedgley advised City of Launceston that two of his constituents were coming to Town Hall to visit.		

The City of Launceston arranged a visit through Town Hall to showcase the gifts shared between the cities and a meeting with Mayor Garwood.

Launceston Locals have requested advice on what and when events will be entertained in Launceston and in Ikeda in regard to the Sister City Ikeda and the relationship anniversary of 60 years in 2025.

Wayne the Wombat, a Guinness World Record holder, has created its own media which again comes back to the Sister Cities and our warm relationship we have with Ikeda.

Arrangements were made to support a local Launceston family to visit Ikeda City Hall and meet with their own Civic Affairs officer to have lunch and a meet and greet.

In 2025 a Launceston College language teacher is taking his Japanese class to Japan in and we have provided contact details in Ikeda.

Civic Affairs are having a student/teacher visit Launceston in July 2024 from Ikeda and an Ikeda teacher will also be visiting Launceston Schools in August 2024.

**Focus Area**

To facilitate direct investment in the local economy to support its growth.

**Action**

Implement Economic Development Strategy including Business Friendly Council and night-time economy initiatives

**Network**

Organisational Services

**% Complete**

100%

**Comment**

We achieved a significant milestone by securing a major food court investment by coordinating and assisting an interstate investor. This not only injected substantial investment into our local economy but also promises to enhance our night-time scene with exciting new activities. Our collaboration with Launceston Central has been crucial in improving our economic development initiatives. Together, we're getting ready for an upcoming business workshop aimed at empowering local businesses. Furthermore, our joint work to enhance the Business Activity Survey provides detailed insights into vacancy rates, sector-specific trends like retail and hospitality, and overall night-time economy trends. This tool is proving crucial for guiding investment decisions and urban planning efforts in City. Additionally, our partnership with Future Isles successfully ended with a well-attended job fair. This event highlights our commitment to supporting workforce development in Launceston, working with other organisations and candidates from Workforce Australia to improve job opportunities and community involvement.

<b>Focus Area</b>		
To actively market the City and Region and pursue investment.		
<b>Action</b>	<b>Network</b>	<b>% Complete</b>
Finalise and progress Smart Cities Strategy.	Organisational Services	100%
<b>Comment</b>		
<p>The City Innovation Strategy was developed in place of a Smart City Strategy, encompassing Smart City themes yet also allowing scope for projects that are not necessarily technology focused. Taking a people first approach was identified throughout community engagement rather than a ‘tech for the sake of tech’ approach.</p> <p>The Strategy was completed in 2023 and endorsed by Council with a 5 year life span. It is publicly available via the City of Launceston webpage. The implementation plan is also nearing completion and is expected to be reviewed and endorsed by the Executive Leadership Team by the end of June. The implementation plan will include an action plan, a framework for measuring success and a decision making framework to assess the desirability, viability and feasibility of potential projects.</p> <p>Council officers continue to engage in identification and implementation of projects that align with the opportunities detailed in the City Innovation Strategy. Extension of the Council public Wi-Fi network, enhancing the flood intelligence system and assessing the future direction of Council’s electric vehicle charger network are all current examples.</p>		
<b>Focus Area</b>		
To promote tourism, and the development of a quality tourism offering for Launceston.		
<b>Action</b>	<b>Network</b>	<b>% Complete</b>
Update Launceston Strategic Tourism Plan.	Community and Place	70%
<b>Comment</b>		
<p>Now referred to as the Visitor Strategy, this continues to be developed by the Tourism and Events team. A presentation is scheduled for council workshop in July 2024 before being released for consultation. The Strategy has a strong focus on visitation and data gathering to help the council make strategic and informed decisions about how to increase visitation to Launceston. The Strategy will be underpinned by the Launceston Place Brand to help market the city with the aim of enhancing the economic benefit of visitation to Launceston.</p> <p>To support the strategy's development the team has completed a strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats analysis and will present this to Councillors in July, along with a new vision and focus areas for improving visitation to Launceston.</p> <p>Progress against this action will be reported on under the Annual Plan 2024/25 against the Action Item ID 2.2.</p>		

<b>Focus Area</b>		
To provide an environment that is supportive to business and development within the municipality.		
<b>Action</b>	<b>Network</b>	<b>% Complete</b>
Work with Stadiums Tasmania to finalise the transfer of UTAS Stadium and to embed key agreements with respect to content and events.	Chief Executive Officer	100%
<b>Comment</b>		
<p>In December 2022 Council made a decision to commence a process to transfer UTAS Stadium to the newly formed State Government owned Stadiums Tasmania. This process consists of these key components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Stadium is on what is defined as public land, under the <i>Local Government Act 1993</i> for Council to transfer the Stadium it needs to go through a public process to allow the community to identify their concerns prior to Council making a decision. The public call for comments occurred in November and December 2023 with 3 objections received. The objections were considered and Council made a decision to transfer the land as required by the <i>Local Government Act 1993</i>. The transition is still dependent on the successful completion of the following two points: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Stadium requires a subdivision to create an individual title to transfer to Stadiums Tasmania.</li> <li>A contract for the transfer is required to document transitional and ongoing support arrangements, Council expectations of Stadiums Tasmania and the detail mechanisms of the transfer. This has commenced and expected to be considered by Council in the last quarter of 2023/2024.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>The Council and Tasmanian State Government have signed a Memorandum of Understanding which documents the future commitments and expectations of AFL content at the Stadium with the establishment of a Tasmania's AFL men's and women's team. The minimum requirement is to maintain the current content of 4 roster games and one pre-season game.</p> <p>The Federal and Tasmanian State Government have made a \$130m investment in the future of the Stadium to improve accessibility and improve user experiences. This will be delivered by Infrastructure Tasmania with oversight from Stadiums Tasmania.</p> <p>Councillors and Council Officers are working with Stadiums Tasmania and the State to progress the transition by December 2024.</p> <p>The key decisions required by Council to complete the transition are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide consent to the Transfer Notice as required by the Stadiums Tasmania Act 2022.</li> <li>Consideration of the detailed survey plan for the land to be transferred.</li> <li>Engagement in an agreement which specifies the details of the transition to Stadiums Tasmania and any support arrangements.</li> </ol>		

<b>Focus Area</b>		
To provide an environment that is supportive to business and development within the municipality.		
<b>Action</b>	<b>Network</b>	<b>% Complete</b>
Work with Northern Tasmania Development Corporation (NTDC) to implement the Northern Economic Development Strategy.	Chief Executive Officer	100%
<b>Comment</b>		
<p>NTDC operate with three key focusses - economic development, regional collaborations and organisation strength. The key tasks the NTDC and the City of Launceston have worked in partnership on are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Residential Demand and Supply Study completed</li> <li>2. Advocating for funding a pilot for freight aggregation</li> <li>3. Review of the Greater Launceston Plan</li> <li>4. Facilitation of the Regional Sports facility Plan</li> <li>5. Advocacy on State budget, Federal Immigration Policy and State Sustainability Strategy</li> <li>6. Identification of regional priority projects through the Regional Collaboration Framework</li> </ol> <p>It is expected a review of the Population Strategy will be commenced in the third quarter by NTDC as well as finalisation of the Greater Launceston Plan Review and alignment of regional priorities. NTDC will provide an update to Councillors at Workshop on their program of work in May 2024. Councillors received a presentation on the supply and demand for housing in the region.</p>		

**Strategic Priority 3:** We are a *Progressive Leader* that is accountable to our governance obligations and responsive to our community.

Our decision-making and actions are evidence-based, strategic, transparent and considered. We are ethical, fair and impartial in complying with and enforcing the law.

**10-Year Goal:** To ensure decisions are made in a transparent and accountable way, that effectively meet our statutory obligations, support quality services and underpin the long-term sustainability of our organisation.

<b>Focus Area</b>		
To maintain a financially sustainable organisation.		
<b>Action</b>	<b>Network</b>	<b>% Complete</b>
Implement recommendations of the QVMAG Futures Plan.	Chief Executive Officer	100%
<b>Comment</b>		
Key deliverables identified for the reporting period were met. The development, endorsement and implementation of the QVMAG Strategic Plan and supporting operational frameworks which combined encompass the Organisational Strategic Development Program reached 100% completion. Key Directions 3 and 4 are ongoing annual recommendations and were successfully delivered to 100% completion in this period.		

<b>Focus Area</b>		
To provide for the health, safety and welfare of the community.		
<b>Action</b>	<b>Network</b>	<b>% Complete</b>
Develop and implement a flood resilient community program.	Community and Place	100%
<b>Comment</b>		
<p>The development of a flood resilience community program is now at a stage where the City of Launceston is able to introduce a number of initiatives publicly.</p> <p>The City of Launceston 'CoL Emergency Management Hub' was launched in late December 2023. The hub provides a single location where the public can access all information in regard to emergency management including flood, fire and storm. There is no other website in Tasmania that currently provides this function. The Hub was promoted through a media campaign in March 2024 via the Examiner and was supported by the newly developed <i>City of Launceston Guide to Emergency Preparedness</i> brochure. The Hub also has a physical presence in the Customer Service area for those members of the public wanting physical resources. Further promotion of the Hub will continue.</p> <p>In June 2024, the City of Launceston, in conjunction with the Resilience Canopy, ran Resilience Canopy Practitioner Training. This aims at providing community leaders with the tools to help guide their community develop resilience. This will be the second program run in Tasmania since its inception and the first for the north of the state. There were 22 participants in the workshop in June.</p> <p>Work continues on Councils Recovery Planning. This Council led initiative in conjunction with Resilience and Recovery Tasmania (DPAC), aims to support the community by comprehensively outlining recovery actions prior to a large flood event. The objectives of the project are to ensure a planned, coordinated and adaptable recovery approach between recovery partners and cohesion between recovery partners including all levels of Government, business and industry, and the community. Recruitment for a Project Officer is in its final stages.</p> <p>Council officers are on the advisory committee for the Person Centre Emergency Preparedness project being run by TFS and SES. This project works with people with disabilities to make a preparedness plan for emergencies. The council is in the initial stages of engaging community around this project.</p>		
<b>Focus Area</b>		
To ensure decisions are made on the basis of accurate and relevant information.		
<b>Action</b>	<b>Network</b>	<b>% Complete</b>
Continue the level of service project.	Organisational Services	20%
<b>Comment</b>		
<p>Another phase of the trial was completed in late 2023 with internal stakeholders and a draft Framework was developed. Trials have now been completed with our Geographic Information System (GIS) team and with the Visitor Information Centre.</p> <p>Recruitment for the vacant Level of Service Officer role has now been successful after a considerable delay. The successful applicant has commenced and is building</p>		

understanding of trials conducted to date and data sets available. Officers will continue to look at the opportunities presented through our Corporate Applications Replacement Program for better data around of levels of services.

The level of service project will be considered as a component of Council's business as usual work from 2024/2025 and will no longer be represented as an annual plan action.

**Focus Area**

To continually improve our service delivery via a continuous improvement mindset, pursuing efficiency gains and adopting technological and other process innovations.

Action	Network	% Complete
Update the Cultural Roadmap based on findings and insights from our Organisation Cultural Inventory Survey.	Organisational Services	85%

**Comment**

Culture Survey Action Planning has been completed by Team Managers. A process is in place to check in on progress of the Team Action Plans and outcomes being achieved will be shared via leadership meetings, on Viva Engage and in Chatter and Frontline Newsletters.

The Cultural Roadmap has been cross-referenced with the action plans and is being updated with a Briefing Paper to the Executive Leadership Team following consultation with the Values Champions, Senior Leadership Team, the Joint Consultative Committee (JCC), and the People and Culture Team.

Work continues on implementing our Employee Development Program with the leadership team and employees.

The Values Champions have prepared their 2024 Plan and Our Value of “Our People Matter” is their current focus across the organisation.

Progress against this action will be reported on under the Annual Plan 2024/25 against the Action Item ID 3.4.

**Focus Area**

To fairly and equitably discharge our statutory and governance obligations.

Action	Network	% Complete
Commence a review of the Corporate Strategic Plan.	Organisational Services	50%

**Comment**

The project team presented to Councillors at workshop on 3 April 2024 and outlined the approach to the development of the Plan. Resourcing challenges were experienced in the latter part of the quarter resulting in some delays. These resourcing issues have been addressed and resolved, enabling the project team to get back on track to progressing the works, including a review of the current timeline.

The project to review our current Corporate Strategic Plan 2014-2024 and revision of the new Strategic Plan for the 2025-2034 period will continue as planned into the new

2024/2025 financial year with an action item allocated in the new Annual Plan (Action Item ID 3.6).		
<b>Focus Area</b>		
To continually improve our service delivery via a continuous improvement mindset, pursuing efficiency gains and adopting technological and other process innovations.		
<b>Action</b>	<b>Network</b>	<b>% Complete</b>
Undertake the Corporate Application Replacement Program.	Organisational Services	80%
<b>Comment</b>		
The Corporate Application Replacement Program (CARP) project has progressed with 80% of Phase 1 of the project now complete. Three critical-path risks have been identified that impact the successful delivery of the project. This includes <i>payroll integrations, reporting and assets/finance module integrations</i> . To address these delays additional resources have been provided by the vendor and the Council to finalise integrations and to reload data to resolve issues identified during User Acceptance Testing.		
Progress against this action will continue through to the Annual Plan 2024/25 under Action Item ID 3.5.		

**Strategic Priority 4:** We value our City's *Unique Identity* by celebrating our special heritage and culture and building on our competitive advantages to be a place where people choose to live, work and visit.

We facilitate our community's sense of place by enhancing local identity. We want people to be proud to say that Launceston is "my city".

**10-Year Goal:** To sustain and promote Launceston as a unique place to live, work, learn and play.

<b>Focus Area</b>		
To support the central business district (CBD) and commercial areas as activity places during day and night.		
<b>Action</b>	<b>Network</b>	<b>% Complete</b>
Develop and commence implementation of Stage 2 Launceston City Heart Project which includes the following key areas of investment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Greening of our City</li> <li>Improved public transport infrastructure</li> <li>Creating greater opportunities for pedestrianisation of the CBD</li> </ul>	Community and Place	100%
<b>Comment</b>		
The first phase of City Heart included a refresh of key civic spaces in the Central Business District (CBD) including the Brisbane Street Mall, The Quadrant, Civic Square, and improvements in community amenities including wayfinding and public Wi-Fi. These projects were successfully completed in the 2018 financial year.		

The original focus of City Heart 2 was to renew streetscapes in selected areas of the CBD including removal of buses from St. John Street, turning one-way traffic into two-way on Paterson Street, greening and realigning footpaths. The initiation of phase 2 of the project relied upon the availability of a new location for buses and the availability of Tasmanian and Australian Government funding. These preconditions have met with some challenges including availability of a suitable location for the bus depot and changes in Australian Government funding sources.

Staff have been working with WSP Australia on a revised approach to the implementation of City Heart 2 that includes the development of:

1. An urban design manual that will establish key guidelines for streetscapes and civic spaces that will apply not only in the CBD but to the broader urban footprint; and
2. A pilot Place Plan for the City Heart activity centre. The Place Plan will include approximately six character management areas that identify the unique features of the area and identify those elements that should be protected and those that should be changed. The Place Plan will include an action plan to support implementation as funding is available.

The planning process incorporates feedback from the extensive community engagement activities that have occurred to date, a review of all previous planning documents and evaluation of new information since the previous planning was undertaken.

In the past quarter, WSP Australia has finalised input from planning workshops in the six character management areas including identification of opportunities to leverage existing investments (i.e. refurbishment of the Princess Theatre), identification of physical constraints (i.e. underground infrastructure), and availability of resources to support implementation. An initial draft of the City Heart Place Plan has been prepared and circulated for technical review within the Council. The aim is to have a final draft available for a workshop with Councillors in September with final Place Plan adoption in October 2024.

Concurrent with the final phase of planning, Council staff are completing some preliminary investigations on early stage implementation options so on-ground works can begin quickly.

Target completion of the place planning project is October 2024, with on ground implementation beginning as early as mid-Financial Year 2024/25.

<b>Focus Area</b>		
To promote and enhance Launceston's rich heritage, culture and natural environment.		
<b>Action</b>	<b>Network</b>	<b>% Complete</b>
Launceston Heritage List Review and Precincts - continue the review of the City of Launceston's local heritage list.	Community and Place	80%
<b>Comment</b>		
Council is due to consider initiating an Amendment PSA-LLP0012 to the Launceston Local Provisions Schedule of the Tasmanian Planning Scheme. This amendment seeks to add 38 new properties to council's local heritage listings as well as supply new information to support new and existing listings. Progress continues in the new Annual Plan with reporting for 2024/25 under Action Item ID 4.3. This is a long term project that will take multiple reporting periods to complete.		
<b>Focus Area</b>		
To promote and enhance Launceston's rich heritage, culture and natural environment.		
<b>Action</b>	<b>Network</b>	<b>% Complete</b>
Implement the first year of the four year action plan from the Cultural Strategy.	Community and Place	100%
<b>Comment</b>		
The Cultural Advisory Committee resumed meeting in June and provided strategic advice to the council about upcoming public art opportunities, including the Northern Gateway, murals in Criterion Place and the establishment of a creative hub.		
The recruitment for the Cultural Development Officer was ultimately unsuccessful with the position to be re-advertised in the new financial year.		
Work has commenced on providing interpretation for public art in the city, with this project to be rolled out in more detail in the 2024/2025 financial year.		
<b>Focus Area</b>		
To promote and attract national and international events and support the sector to ensure a diverse annual events calendar.		
<b>Action</b>	<b>Network</b>	<b>%Complete</b>
Undertake a review of the City of Launceston Events Strategy.	Community and Place	80%
<b>Comment</b>		
Councillors were presented to twice on the outline and intent of the new Events Strategy The draft strategy includes three pillars - economic, social and brand. These pillars align with the Tasmania Government's Events Strategy 2023-2027. Further work is being done on the economic benefit of events to Launceston post-COVID.		
Actions that support the activations in the Events Strategy will be reported on under Action Item ID 2.2 from the Annual Plan 2024/25.		

<b>Focus Area</b>		
To promote and enhance Launceston's rich heritage, culture and natural environment.		
<b>Action</b>	<b>Network</b>	<b>% Complete</b>
Implement the Public Art Strategy.	Community and Place	100%
<b>Comment</b>		
<p>Criterion Lane toilet block mural artists have been selected and the public art project will commence in July. The artists were selected with guidance and advice from the council's Cultural Advisory Committee. Following the success of the Paterson St murals, a private business in the Criterion Place laneway has agreed to install an additional mural in proximity to the toilet block to contribute to the transformation of the often graffitied space.</p> <p>The final sculpture of artist Dan Kershaw has been installed in Civic Square. It is located on the garden bed wall facing Charles St adjacent to the former Macquarie House fountain.</p>		
<b>Focus Area</b>		
To continue to offer an attractive network of parks, open spaces and facilities throughout Launceston.		
<b>Action</b>	<b>Network</b>	<b>% Complete</b>
Undertake a review of the City of Launceston Open Space Strategy.	Infrastructure and Assets	100%
<b>Comment</b>		
<p>Population growth coupled with urban expansion, increased urban densities, changing demographics, community needs, and outdated Open Space and Play Space strategies, are some of the triggers for the City of Launceston's review and update of the Recreation and Open Space Strategy (ROSS). The ROSS will provide a 20-year vision and a list of initiatives that can be implemented by the City.</p> <p>Stages 3-5 of the project were completed during Quarter 4. The project team engaged with the Councillors on the Strategy to provide an overview and update on the project. The draft ROSS is nearing completion; it is anticipated to be delivered in July 2024.</p> <p>All activities planned for 2023/24 are complete. The project is on track to be completed by the end of 2024.</p>		
<b>Focus Area</b>		
To continue to offer an attractive network of parks, open spaces and facilities throughout Launceston.		
<b>Action</b>	<b>Network</b>	<b>% Complete</b>
Develop and commence staged implementation of an improvement plan for the Princess Theatre and Earl Arts Centre upgrade.	Infrastructure and Assets	100%

<b>Comment</b>
<p>A Project Working Group has been established to guide the multi-year project to refresh the Princess Theatre and Earl Arts Centre to improve accessibility, building compliance and user experience. The Group comprises of Theatre North and City of Launceston officers and receives expert advice as required. The Group has overseen:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The appointment of architects Lovell Chen to undertake design.</li> <li>2. Review of recent upgrades to the Regent Theatre to better understand the challenges and opportunities of working in heritage theatres.</li> <li>3. Working with key stakeholders on the conceptual design.</li> <li>4. To improve access to seating in the Earl Arts Centre a hand rail has been installed.</li> </ol> <p>To improve accessibility to the theatre, stage works have commenced in preparation for installation of a lift.</p> <p>Engagement with Councillors and key stakeholders was undertaken in May. Part of the engagement was showing a project timeline and draft concept plans.</p> <p>Council will be shown conceptual plans for the Princess Theatre and Earl Arts Centre, with the intent to submit a Development Application in August 2024.</p>

**Strategic Priority 5:** We ***Serve and Care*** for our Community by providing equitable and efficient services that reflects needs and expectations of our community.

We are invested in our community's long term health, well-being, safety and resilience. We want to be trusted and respected by our community.

**10-Year Goal:** To offer access to services and spaces for all community members, and to work in partnership with stakeholders to address the needs of vulnerable communities.

<b>Focus Area</b>		
To plan for and provide services and facilities that recognise the changing demographics and needs of our community.		
<b>Action</b>	<b>Network</b>	<b>% Complete</b>
Implement Council commitments from the My Place My Future Plan, and support State and Federal Governments on implementation of their actions.	Community and Place	100%

<b>Comment</b>		
<p>Programs and Events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A 10-week Multicultural Start-up Program took place with three participants from the Afghan community completing the program.</li> <li>• City of Launceston and Beacon Foundation held a Career Day in City Park for 20 Lilydale Year 10 students.</li> <li>• The Refugee Week launch took place at Town Hall together with an art exhibition and digital storytelling at the library (partners included Libraries Tasmania, Migrant Resource Centre North and Migrant Resource Centre Tasmania).</li> <li>• A Road Safety workshop was held for the community in the northern suburbs, followed by a workshop with stakeholders, service providers and government agencies, with a further meeting to follow to put solutions into action.</li> <li>• Digital Inclusion meeting with Department of Premier and Cabinet, showcasing learnings and successes from My Place My Future Digital Inclusion Wi-Fi Project.</li> </ul> <p>Network of Community Action Groups: Community action groups in Rocherlea and Newnham/Mowbray continue with monthly meetings. Waverley/Ravenswood group started in April with approximately 15 participants and was also attended by parliamentarians Bridget Archer and Nick Duigan.</p> <p>Food Security in the northern suburbs: The Food and Resilience Movement (FaRM) lease has been signed by the Northern Suburbs Community Centre. New funding has been sourced which will enable the project to progress fencing and water connections. The FaRM will also consult with the council's planning team to discuss their plans and requirements.</p>		
<b>Focus Area</b>		
To work in partnership with community organisations and other levels of government to maximise participation opportunities for vulnerable and diverse members of the community.		
<b>Action</b>	<b>Network</b>	<b>% Complete</b>
Implement the action plan for the Access Framework.	Community and Place	60%
<b>Comment</b>		
<p>The Access widget used by the council is being investigated to see whether additional languages can be added. The Access widget will also be reviewed at contract renewal as we currently do not have affordable and cost effective options available for five of the top ten additional languages spoken in Launceston.</p> <p>Across May and June we conducted two community consultation sessions in the northern suburbs regarding access to safe and accessible transport and roads. A report on the outcomes of these sessions is being drafted by City of Launceston and Project North (City Mission).</p> <p>We have established a collaborative relationship with Northern Occupational Support Services (NOSS) who will be key co-designers in the equity and inclusion framework and the youth framework.</p> <p>We have commenced attending regular participant sessions to hear the challenges and opportunities for people living with disabilities in Launceston.</p>		

The notice of motion presented by Cr Dawkins in June regarding establishing an Inclusion Action Plan and Community Consultation was endorsed by council. The Access framework, which was due for review in 2024/25, will now be considered in a broader sense as an equity and inclusion strategy. This action will continue in the Annual Plan 2024/25 Action Item ID 5.2.

**Focus Area**

To work in partnership with community organisations and other levels of government to maximise participation opportunities for vulnerable and diverse members of the community.

<b>Action</b>	<b>Network</b>	<b>% Complete</b>
Continue to roll out the ABCDE Learning Sites community development program, including the conclusion of the Invermay Learning Site in December 2023.	Community and Place	100%

**Comment**

The social impact research project is underway and the consultant has visited Launceston to interview participants. Interview summaries of findings for testing and sense making will occur in July 2024. The Community Connector is leading the strategic review and has undertaken the internal business analysis review and the community partnerships review. Recommendations are now in draft stage to be presented to leadership for endorsement before being presented to council in late 2024.

**Focus Area**

To work in partnership with community organisations and other levels of government to maximise participation opportunities for vulnerable and diverse members of the community.

<b>Action</b>	<b>Network</b>	<b>% Complete</b>
Develop and implement the Homelessness Action Plan through collaboration with the Homelessness Advisory Committee.	Community and Place	100%

**Comment**

The Homelessness: Statement of Commitment (HSoC) was adopted formally by council in June 2024. The HSoC outlines the approach the council will take to address and respond to homelessness, including advocacy, community education and linking those experiencing homelessness to outreach workers.

Over the last quarter, City of Launceston officers have successfully worked with service providers to find a transition home for one of our homeless community. Officers have also worked with the council's cleansing crews to undertake regular cleaning of areas where homeless people camp, including at the Silos and at the Roundhouse. The Council also continues to provide portable toilets in certain locations in the city where a lack of facilities has been identified.

Council signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with St Vincent De Paul to operate the former YMCA site in Kings Meadows. This will see the availability of the showers for homeless people continue in addition to provision of other services.

<b>Focus Area</b>		
To plan for and provide services and facilities that recognise the changing demographics and needs of our community.		
<b>Action</b>	<b>Network</b>	<b>% Complete</b>
Finalise and commence implementing a master plan for Northern Tasmanian Cricket Association (NTCA) precinct and associated action plan.	Infrastructure and Assets	100%
<b>Comment</b>		
<p>The NTCA Concept Masterplan was released to clubs for broader consultation, and constructive feedback received. Club feedback has been collated to inform the next stage of design. In the coming year, the masterplan will be reviewed and progress to detailed design, staging and costing.</p> <p>The State Government has committed funding to completing some stages of the masterplan centered on the Elphin Sport Centre, including improved access and parking, three additional basketball courts, shared function centre between Elphin Sport Centre and Launceston Tennis Centre and improved change facilities. Discussions have progressed with the State regarding this project.</p>		

**Strategic Priority 6: We *Protect our Environment*** by caring for our unique natural assets and amenity and sensitively managing future development opportunities. We strive to minimise the impact of our actions on the environment, while planning for, adapting to and managing the impact of climate change. We want to protect the special character and values of our city for future generations.

**10-Year Goal:** To enhance the unique natural character, values, and amenity of our City by minimising the impacts of our organisation’s and our community’s activities in the environment.

<b>Focus Area</b>		
To contribute to air and river quality improvements in Launceston.		
<b>Action</b>	<b>Network</b>	<b>% Complete</b>
Support the Tamar Estuary Management Taskforce including supporting the implementation of the 10-year vision for the kanamaluka/Tamar Estuary.	Chief Executive Officer	100%
<b>Comment</b>		
<p>In August 2023, the Tasmanian Government adopted the Vision and Implementation Plan for the kanamaluka/Tamar Estuary as recommended by the Tamar Estuary Management Taskforce. The Taskforce is made up of the five northern councils in the catchment, state government (Infrastructure Tasmania and the Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania), Hydro Tasmania, TasWater, Launceston Chamber of Commerce and NRM North.</p> <p>The Vision is designed to reframe Launceston’s relationship to the estuary, recognising and embracing its transformation from an industrial landscape to a focal point for community events and recreation. Based on feedback from the community, the vision is underpinned by three values which help to guide the future direction of the kanamaluka/Tamar Estuary:</p>		

1. Creating community spaces to bring people together
2. Enhancing recreational connections around the estuary
3. Preserving natural values for future generations.

The vision focuses on two priorities to develop the estuary as a focal point for community events and recreation, while supporting its natural ecology to better manage sediment and water quality.

- Priority 1 focuses on creating a cultural and recreational precinct.
- Priority 2 focuses on the long-term sustainable management of sediment.

In August 2023, the Tasmanian State Government adopted a four-year Implementation Plan (2023-2027) and has committed seed funding of \$2.4m to scope immediate priority actions including:

1. Improving connectivity and amenity of the foreshore through:
  - a. development of a masterplan to connect people with the estuary - including infrastructure and revegetation plans;
  - b. identifying priorities and implement improvements; and
  - c. clean-up of disused infrastructure, weeds, and rubbish
2. Trial wetland and water's edge vegetation restoration projects on the North Esk River.

City of Launceston representatives are collaborating with other members of the Tamar Estuary Management Taskforce (TEMT) on initial planning of the priority actions.

In the first half of this financial year, Council staff participated in the scoping of a project, and preparation of tender documents, to secure a qualified consultant to prepare a masterplan for both sides of the estuary from the Tailrace/Ti Tree Bend to the Charles Street Bridge. The aim of the masterplan is to revitalise the waterfront and activate the space by bringing people to the water's edge, creating new and enhance existing cultural and recreational precincts, connecting key areas of the city, educating users and visitors about the environmental importance of the estuary, and enhancing visual amenity by restoring natural values to the foreshore.

TEMT staff sent the tender documents for advertising in the first half of July.

In the October - December quarter, the Tasmanian State Government established a project Steering Committee and a project Working Group, including representatives from the City of Launceston, to plan and oversee the trial wetland and water's edge vegetation restoration projects on the North Esk River. The project aims to restore wetlands in the North Esk River to reduce sediment in the kanamaluka/Tamar Estuary and improve water quality and aquatic habitat to benefit native species and provide community access to nature and urban green space. Activities will increase community access to the estuary by increasing the tidal prism and in turn, decrease the extent of sediment/mudflats.

The Tasmanian State Government is finalising procurement of services to:

- conduct site surveying of the trial wetland to develop baseline ecosystem inventory, biological and water monitoring, soil sampling and conducting LiDAR and aerial surveying; and

- prepare a plan for trial revegetation work between the Charles Street and Tamar Street bridges and conduct a vegetation assessment for the foreshore of the upper estuary.

Representatives from the City of Launceston participated in TEMT project planning and engagement planning workshops in the recent quarter.

The next phase of work will include mapping, communications and public engagement activities, revegetation trial planning and permitting, and the preparation of a project management plan and budget for works.

The Tasmanian State Government has negotiated with the Australian Government on a Federation Funding Agreement securing \$8m from the Urban Rivers and Catchments Program to progress the wetland restoration priority project.

No Tamar Estuary Management Taskforce meetings were held in the last quarter.

**Focus Area**

To contribute to air and river quality improvements in Launceston.

<b>Action</b>	<b>Network</b>	<b>% Complete</b>
Support TasWater and NRM North with the implementation of the \$129.2M River Health Action Plan to improve catchment management and reduce overflows from the combined system.	Infrastructure and Assets	100%

**Comment**

The City of Launceston continues to support TasWater to deliver their component of the River Health Action Plan. This project is to improve the operation of Launceston's combined system which manages the flow of both sewage and stormwater. The projects will help to divert sewage and stormwater flows away from kanamaluka/Tamar estuary, reducing the frequency and volume of overflow events. There are three main components:

- Upgrades of existing and construction of new pump stations to increase pumping capacities,
- Constructing new network storages to reduce overflows, and
- Building additional pipelines to transfer greater flow volumes.

Project updates:

- Successful completion of the second river crossing between Margaret Street and West Tamar Silt Ponds - 1.1 km of the new pipeline was pulled through the drilled tunnel, depth of up to 45 m. The Kings Park reinstatement works will be undertaken following completion of construction in this area.
- Substantial completion of the trenched (West Tamar) pipeline section.
- Continued installation of electrical switchboards, electrical cabling and pipework at Margaret Street Pump Station. Commencement of installation of screens at this pump station.
- Continued ground improvement earthworks at Ti Tree Bend in preparation for the Storage Tank construction. Installation of site storage undertaken during May to replace infrastructure removed to enable the storage tank construction.

<b>Focus Area</b>		
To contribute to air and river quality improvements in Launceston.		
<b>Action</b>	<b>Network</b>	<b>% Complete</b>
Develop a Clean Air Strategy and a supporting implementation plan.	Community and Place	30%
<b>Comment</b>		
The opportunity for a Clean Air Strategy has been discussed with relevant State Government agencies. Resourcing for development of the Strategy and implementation plan needs to be identified prior to any substantial commencement of this project. This action will continue in the Annual Plan 2024/25 - Action Item ID 6.5.		
<b>Focus Area</b>		
To reduce our and the community's impact on the natural environment.		
<b>Action</b>	<b>Network</b>	<b>% Complete</b>
Implement Urban Waterway Health Management Program.	Infrastructure and Assets	100%
<b>Comment</b>		
The Urban Waterway Health Management Program was finalised in March 2023. The program was written to document threats to waterways from urbanisation, highlight the natural values of urban waterways and identify strategies around implementation actions. Implementation of this program is an ongoing action.		
Key activities undertaken over the past few months include:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completion of rehabilitation and revegetation work on urban waterways for Financial Year 2023/24, sites completed include Newnham Creek at the University and a small tributary to Jinglers Creek within the Jinglers Drive Reserve.</li> <li>• Ongoing weed management works, including willow removal.</li> <li>• Identification of revegetation works to be completed during Financial Year 2024/25, including some preliminary weed management works at these locations.</li> </ul>		
<b>Focus Area</b>		
To manage the risks of climate-related events, particularly in the area of stormwater management and riverine flooding.		
<b>Action</b>	<b>Network</b>	<b>% Complete</b>
Review Stormwater System Management Plan.	Infrastructure and Assets	50%
<b>Comment</b>		
The Stormwater System Management Plan is the overarching document for management of the stormwater system within the urban areas of Launceston. The focus for this year has been to update the hydraulic modelling that underpins the Stormwater System Management Plan. This update was required due to significant changes in industry standards and will incorporate climate change predictions that were previously not considered within the Stormwater System Management Plan.		
The update to the hydraulic modelling is now complete and will be incorporated into the reviewed document.		
Progress against this action will continue through to the Annual Plan 2024/25 under Action Item ID 6.8.		

<b>Focus Area</b>		
To manage the risks of climate-related events, particularly in the area of stormwater management and riverine flooding.		
<b>Action</b>	<b>Network</b>	<b>% Complete</b>
Integrate development policy and assessment to facilitate best practice stormwater management, including consideration of water quality.	Infrastructure and Assets	50%
<b>Comment</b>		
<p>The policy has been drafted. Resourcing constraints delayed the development of the implementation plan however this work has recommenced and will be actioned in 2024/2025.</p> <p>Progress against this action will continue through to the Annual Plan 2024/25 under Action Item ID 6.8.</p>		
<b>Focus Area</b>		
To reduce our and the community's impact on the natural environment.		
<b>Action</b>	<b>Network</b>	<b>% Complete</b>
Implement the City of Launceston Urban Greening Action Plan.	Infrastructure and Assets	100%
<b>Comment</b>		
<p>The Urban Greening Action Plan has been translated into a four-year delivery plan, and implementation has commenced. The first of the tree order for 2024 has arrived at the City of Launceston's nursery, ready to be prepared for planting in the coming years. Council officers have participated in community engagement activities, including a week of focused engagement in Mayfield, and a wrap for The Examiner newspaper. The city's first Precinct Plan, for the suburb of Mowbray, is complete, and will form the template for other suburbs. This has been translated to a planting plan, and implementation commenced in June 2024. Work has progressed on the development of a Significant Tree Register for the City, focussed on Council-owned trees. Significant trees may be of outstanding aesthetic significance, very large or very old (venerable), commemorative, a significant component within the landscape, a variety that is rare or of horticultural or genetic value, and/or important to the ecological community.</p> <p>Quantitative risk assessments have been completed for the trees within Royal Park.</p> <p>Council officers have worked through design options for Central Business District planters and urban micro greening options. Urban greening elements will also be delivered through the Launceston City Heart Project. Refurbished planter boxes with the Launceston Place Brand began rolling out in the CBD in June.</p> <p>City of Launceston officers participated in an organisational capacity assessment to set a framework for improved delivery and management of Launceston's urban forest to achieve the canopy cover targets within the Strategy.</p>		

<b>Focus Area</b>		
To reduce our and the community's impact on the natural environment.		
<b>Action</b>	<b>Network</b>	<b>% Complete</b>
Continue to implement the City of Launceston Sustainability Action Plan.	Infrastructure and Assets	100%
<b>Comment</b>		
<p>The Sustainability team continue to deliver ongoing and new projects outlined in the Sustainability Action Plan 2022-2030 (SAP). The recent biennial review of the SAP provides a snapshot of progress towards the 139 actions identified in the plan. To date, 43 actions have been achieved, 60 are in progress, 35 are yet to commence and one has been discontinued. Key actions completed include increased gas capture capacity from the landfill, expansion of kerbside FOGO to cover the entire municipality, completion of the Urban Greening Strategy and a water audit across Council assets. Targets achieved include 25% of community organic waste diverted from landfill and disaster guidance for high climate risks has been developed and made available to the public.</p> <p>Highlights for this financial year include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emissions profile completed.</li> <li>• Major methane gas capture infrastructure installed at the Launceston landfill site at Cavalry Road which has doubled landfill gas capture capacity.</li> <li>• Landfill diversion facility audit and feasibility report has commenced with draft report received for review.</li> <li>• Water efficiency project implemented with significant leaks detected leading to water and financial savings.</li> <li>• The reusable nappy and sanitary products rebate project has commenced.</li> <li>• Launceston's first repair cafe commenced in April. The initiative will continue monthly for six months and then its future will be assessed.</li> <li>• Low Carbon Launceston presentation series has delivered community engagement workshops targeting business, youth and general community.</li> <li>• Low Carbon Launceston presentation series delivered six weekly presentations. Presentations ranged from electric vehicles, resource recovery, low carbon investing, circular economy and health implications of climate change. The sessions were well attended and all were professionally filmed so that the information can continue to be shared with the community.</li> </ul>		

**Strategic Priority 7:** We are a *City Planning for our Future* by ensuring our approach to strategic land-use, development and infrastructure investment is coordinated, progressive, and sustainable.

We play a leading role in balancing the enviable amenity of our municipality with the needs of future development and growth. We want to influence the delivery of the right investment for our City and Region.

**10-Year Goal:** To facilitate appropriate development via integrated land-use planning, infrastructure investment, and transport solutions within our municipality and region.

<b>Focus Area</b>		
To ensure our suite of strategic planning initiatives are coordinated and representative of our community's needs and aspirations.		
<b>Action</b>	<b>Network</b>	<b>% Complete</b>
City Deal Agreement: Continue to work with the Commonwealth and State Governments to successfully implement commitments and projects under the City Deal program that deliver a range of economic and social benefits to the City.	Chief Executive Officer	100%
<b>Comment</b>		
<p>Work on existing Launceston City Deal commitments is continuing in collaboration with the Commonwealth and State Governments.</p> <p>The UTAS library at Inveresk was named the winner of the academic library category at The Australian Library and Information Association Library Design Awards in Adelaide during May. The award acknowledged the new UTAS library's contribution as an academic library for the community.</p> <p>The Shed (Willis Street) is progressing. Levee wall maintenance work continued on a small section of walkway alongside Boland Street, impacting footpath access. Work commenced Monday 3 June and is expected to conclude Friday 19 July 2024.</p> <p>Progress on the \$43.6 million Northern Suburbs Community Recreation Hub continues. The tender for the Main Works Package Stage 2 was awarded and works commenced in June 2024. It is envisaged the Main Works Package Stage 2 will support 230 local jobs, including up to 10 apprenticeships, with the use of local goods and services to be prioritised.</p> <p>The entire project is expected to be completed in late 2025. More information is available on the Infrastructure Tasmania website under the Northern Suburbs Community Recreation Hub (the Hub).</p> <p>The Albert Hall redevelopment is continuing to progress well. All footing and blockwork to the underside of the northern foyer slab is nearing completion. The site electrical mains relocation and rectification has now been completed. Commercial Project Delivery have the need for some discussions with the contractor regarding the contingency and budget scope.</p> <p>Detailing of the facade cladding system is progressing well with the final design details being worked through ready to commence show drawings. The project heritage consultant and Heritage Tas are both supportive of the final design outcome and a Planning minor amendment will be submitted if required by the Town Planning Department.</p>		

<b>Focus Area</b>		
To ensure our suite of strategic planning initiatives are coordinated and representative of our community's needs and aspirations.		
<b>Action</b>	<b>Network</b>	<b>% Complete</b>
Implementation Review: A review of each City Deal is scheduled every three years. Plan and deliver the Review from Council's perspective.	Chief Executive Officer	Not Progressing
<b>Comment</b>		
The Australian Government advised that following the three year review of the Launceston City Deal, published in November 2021, there will be no further implementation reviews.		
<b>Focus Area</b>		
To take a strategic approach to development sites and infrastructure investment within the municipality to maximise public benefit and encourage development and investment.		
<b>Action</b>	<b>Network</b>	<b>% Complete</b>
Continue work on St Leonards Residential Growth Strategy and Masterplan.	Chief Executive Officer Community and Place	15%
<b>Comment</b>		
<p>After being put on hold due to resourcing constraints, project planning has recommenced with the intent of delivering this project over the coming two years.</p> <p>The Council successfully applied for Federal Government funding under the Housing Support Program.</p> <p>St Leonards is identified in Local and State Planning Policy as a location for growth, with up to 3,500 new homes proposed. The project is required to ensure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Launceston can address its critical land supply shortage.</li> <li>• The growth is coordinated and contributes high amenity neighbourhoods for Launceston.</li> <li>• Infrastructure funding and delivery is considered from the outset of the project.</li> </ul> <p>The project will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare a structure plan for the St Leonards growth corridor; and</li> <li>• Prepare an infrastructure funding framework.</li> </ul> <p>The project will be led by a consultant and involve internal collaboration and engagement with stakeholders and the community. The Executive Leadership Team and Council workshops will be scheduled throughout the project.</p> <p>Progress will continue in the Annual Plan 2024/25 under Action Item ID 7.2.</p>		

<b>Focus Area</b>		
To take a strategic approach to development sites and infrastructure investment within the municipality to maximise public benefit and encourage development and investment.		
<b>Action</b>	<b>Network</b>	<b>% Complete</b>
Continue work on "South Prospect" Residential Growth Strategy and Masterplan and initiate planning scheme amendments to facilitate development with the South Prospect Growth Corridor.	Community and Place	100%
<b>Comment</b>		
<p>Land south of Prospect, located between the Midlands Highway and the Bass Highway, adjacent to the Kate Reed Nature Recreation Area was included in the Greater Launceston Plan and the Northern Tasmania Regional Land Use Strategy as a priority investigation area to determine suitability for residential and non-residential development.</p> <p>Between 2017 and mid-2024, the Chief Executive Officer and council officers worked with landowners, key infrastructure and service providers, consultants, and several agencies of the Tasmanian State Government on feasibility studies with the aim of preparing a Framework Plan and narrative for land south of Prospect. The purpose of the Framework Plan and narrative (including feasibility studies) was to provide the strategic justification to support potential rezoning of the land to accommodate housing and neighbourhood serving non-residential uses. The total private land area is approximately 335 hectares, with approximately 200 hectares of development potential.</p> <p>In late 2023, the private landholders advised Council they would like to pursue rezoning applications on their own land.</p> <p>In late February 2024 council officers sought direction from Council on next steps for the project and subsequently paused work on the draft joint framework plan.</p> <p>The project returned to the Community and Place Network in June 2024 when Council received an application for a Planning Scheme Amendment from one landowner. The application is for a rezoning only, with any development and subdivision subject to a future development application if the rezoning is approved. The application will be assessed under the statutory process required by the <i>Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993</i>.</p>		
<b>Focus Area</b>		
To ensure that our application of the land use planning system at a local and regional level is effective and efficient.		
<b>Action</b>	<b>Network</b>	<b>% Complete</b>
Participate in the Northern Regional Land Use Strategy Review.	Community and Place	100%

<b>Comment</b>		
<p>The Northern Regional Land Use Strategy review process is ongoing and the council continues to participate as required. A key outcome this year was the completion of the Residential Land Demand and Supply study by REMPLAN which was presented to council at Workshop in April. Participation of council officers will be ongoing beyond this year as the process remains underway.</p>		
<b>Focus Area</b>		
<p>To take a strategic approach to development sites and infrastructure investment within the municipality to maximise public benefit and encourage development and investment.</p>		
<b>Action</b>	<b>Network</b>	<b>% Complete</b>
Finalise Building Bulk and Massing Report (Building Heights).	Community and Place	30%
<b>Comment</b>		
<p>A request for quotation was released in January 2024. Urbis was successful and the project was awarded in May 2024. The project commenced in June 2024 with the lead consultant commencing the background analysis phase of the project.</p> <p>A project reference group has been established, comprised of individuals across the City of Launceston Networks. Executive Leadership Team and Council workshops are scheduled over the coming months. Stakeholder and community engagement is forecast for Quarter two of the 2024/25 financial year.</p> <p>This project seeks to consider previous work undertaken and finalise the project based on contemporary best practice urban design built form. The planning provisions developed as part of the project deliverables will be implemented into the planning scheme through a planning scheme amendment process.</p> <p>Progress will continue in the Annual Plan 2024/25 under Action Item ID 7.4.</p>		
<b>Focus Area</b>		
<p>To improve and maintain accessibility, transport options and infrastructure within the Launceston area, including its rural areas.</p>		
<b>Action</b>	<b>Network</b>	<b>% Complete</b>
Action the 2022-2025 Launceston Transport Strategy Implementation Plan.	Infrastructure and Assets	100%
<b>Comment</b>		
<p>The Launceston Transport Strategy Implementation Plan was developed to achieve progress towards Launceston's transport vision; <i>Our community will have access to diverse transport choices that connect them to places. Our focus on partnerships and innovation will promote our community's wellbeing and improve Launceston's livability.</i></p> <p>Several of the initiatives identified within the Launceston Transport Strategy have been achieved, including the micro-mobility trial, the review and implementation of Central Business District speed limits and the development of the network operating plan. Significant initiatives within the transport strategy are linked to the work being undertaken within the City Heart Stage 2 Project, reported on elsewhere in the annual plan. Progress against focus areas for the past months included:</p>		

- Delivery of bicycle infrastructure along Forster Street (Kings Wharf to Invermay Road) - the tender for this project has closed and is currently under evaluation.
- Design of Traffic Signals at Invermay Road / Lindsay Street is ongoing.
- The updated Residential Parking Policy has been drafted and booked for Council Workshop. The On-Street Dining Policy is in the final stages of drafting and internal review prior to presentation to Council Workshop.

**REPORT:**

Progress against the 2023/2024 Annual Plan Actions for the period ending 30 June 2024 is summarised by the following table:

<b>Action Status</b>	<b>No. of Actions</b>	<b>%</b>
Not Progressing	1	2%
Not Started	0	0%
In Progress	13	32%
Complete	27	66%
Recommended for deferral	0	0%
<b>Total Number of Actions</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>100%</b>

Incomplete actions from the 2023/2024 Annual Plan:

Upon conclusion of the 2023/2024 financial year, 13 actions from the 2023/2024 Annual Plan have been identified as incomplete (in progress). As referenced in the action item comments throughout the progress report above, each of these items will be carried through to the 2024/2025 financial year.

Please note that the Annual Plan Action titled '*Continue the level of service project*' will be considered as a component of Council's business as usual work from 2024/2025 and will no longer be represented as an annual plan action.

The Annual Plan Action item titled '*Implementation Review: A review of each City Deal is scheduled every three years. Plan and deliver the Review from Council's perspective*' will no longer be progressing as the Australian Government advised that following the three year review of the Launceston City Deal, published in November 2021, there will be no further implementation reviews.

**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 Corporate Strategic Plan 2014 - 2024*

**BUDGET AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

Not considered relevant to this report.

**DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:**

The Author and General Manager have no interests to declare in this matter.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Nil

**20.2. Proposed amendments to Sealed Plan 164783 - 62 Parklands Parade, Newnham**

**FILE NO:** SF7610

**AUTHOR:** Duncan Campbell (Team Leader Legal Services)

**APPROVER:** Louise Foster (General Manager Organisational Services Network)

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**DECISION STATEMENT:**

To consider initiating the notification process to allow consideration of the amendment of Sealed Plan 164783

**RELEVANT LEGISLATION:**

*Local Government (Building and Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1993 (Tas)*

*Local Government Act 1993 (Tas)*

**PREVIOUS COUNCIL CONSIDERATION:**

Workshop - 9 May 2024 – Proposed Removal of Restrictive Covenants at 62 Parklands Parade, Newnham

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council

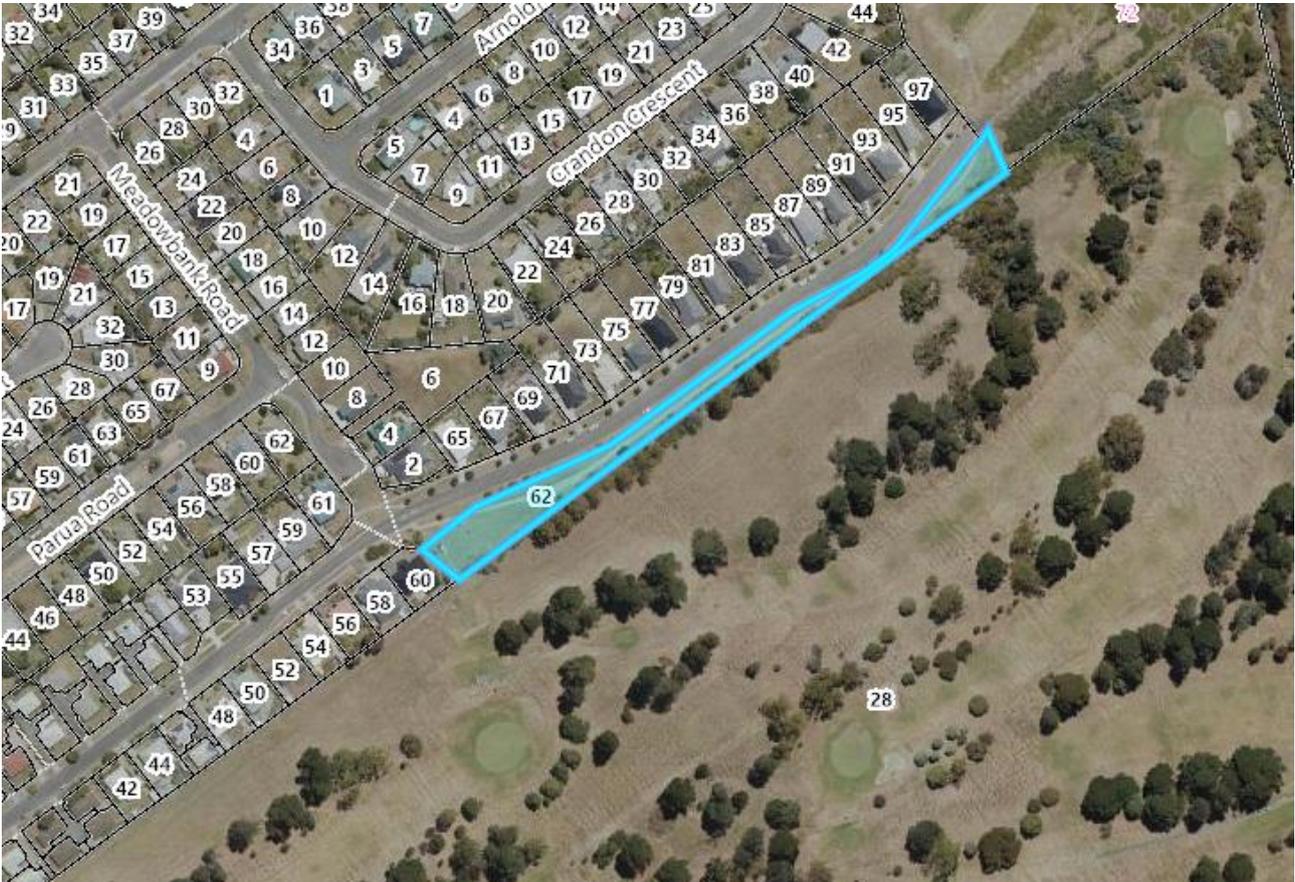
1. Pursuant to section 103(1)(a) of the *Local Government (Building and Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1993 (Tas)*, proposes to amend Sealed Plan 164783 by excepting Lot 902 from the restrictions contained within paragraph 2.4 of the relevant Schedule of Easements, so that the paragraph 2.4 would then read (without italics):

*2.4 The owner of each Lot on the Plan (except for Lots 902 and 903) covenants with the subdivider, The Grange (Launceston) Limited ACN 117 923 565 and the owner for the time being of every other Lot shown on the Plan (with the exception of Lots 902 and 903) to the intent that the burden of this covenant may run with and bind the covenantor's Lot and every part thereof and that the benefit thereof shall be annexed to and devolve with each and every part of every other Lot shown on the Plan to observe the following stipulations:*

2. Requests the Chief Executive Officer to give notice of the proposed amendment to all relevant people, as required by section 103(2) of the *Local Government (Building and Miscellaneous Provisions Act) 1993 (Tas)*.
  3. Notes, for the avoidance of doubt, Chief Executive Officer is a term of reference for the General Manager as appointed by Council pursuant to section 61 of the *Local Government Act 1993 (Tas)*.
-

**REPORT:**

62 Parklands Parade, Newnham is a Council owned public park to the south-east of Parklands Parade itself, and is listed as Lot 903 on Sealed Plan 164783 (Sealed Plan).



The Council has been approached by developers associated with the Mowbray Golf Club, with a request that the Council removes a restrictive covenant from 62 Parklands Parade.

In the event that the covenant is removed, the developer would then be in a position to approach the Council to request the creation of a public road over part of the land, an indicative location of which is set out as Lot 2 below. The applicable processes of subdivision and public highway dedication each require separate decisions of Council.



### Summary of the Recommendations under consideration

The item under consideration relates only to commencing the process of amending the Sealed Plan by Council on its own motion to remove the covenant. Any decision to remove the covenant will require a subsequent decision of Council.

### The nature of the restrictive covenants

Each of the Lots on the Sealed Plan, other than Lot 902, are subject to restrictive covenants set out in the applicable Schedule of Easements, including the restrictions described at paragraph 2.4. The covenants apply to all Lots, including Lot 901 which is the road lot known as Parklands Parade. The Schedule of Easements are provided at Attachment 1.

Most relevantly, paragraph 2.4(b) prevents subdivision. The creation of a new public highway (road) typically occurs by way of subdivision, whereby a new road lot is created as part of the subdivision process. That road lot is issued with its own certificate of title, and delineates between what is road and what is land for other uses.

As it stands, the Council is unable to create a new road lot by way of subdivision.

Other restrictions set out at paragraph 2.4 relate to restrictions on the construction of buildings, fences and other structures, advertising and the creation of nuisance from businesses, and the storage and use of vehicles. Many of those uses and activities are otherwise regulated by legislation, and in any event have little, if any, application to a publicly owned park.

Compliance with restrictive covenants is a private legal matter for the owners of Lots on the Sealed Plan, distinct from any regulatory and planning powers vested in the Council.

#### History of the covenants

The Sealed Plan was created as a result of DA0630/2009.

The Council has a limited ability to restrict the imposition of covenants through the subdivision process, and any such decision to do so must be considered on a case by case basis.

The imposition of restrictive covenants is therefore primarily a matter for the landowner. In this instance, the Council allowed the restrictive covenants in question.

A review of the Council's electronic management system does not establish the specific intent behind the imposition of the restrictive covenants in question. However, broadly speaking, they regulate the way in which the land is to be developed and subsequently used.

At the time of the sealing of the plan, the Council was not the owner of Lot 903. It therefore lacked the ability as landowner to resist the imposition of restrictive covenants. In retrospect, the Council could have sought to insist that Lot 903 was provided to it unencumbered, given the nature of the covenants imposed were such that they were clearly designed to restrict use on residential developments rather than Public Open Space. However, that did not occur.

Council officer will attempt to contact the developer associated with the creation of the Sealed Plan, in order to invite them to speak to this item when it is considered by Council. The developer may choose to provide further detail on the intent of the covenants at their time of creation.

#### Applicable legislation - commencement

The *Local Government (Building and Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1993* (Tas) (the Act) sets out the applicable law in relation to amending a sealed plan.

Section 103(1)(a)(i) of the Act provides that the Council can amend a sealed plan of its own motion. It may do so to bring a sealed plan into conformity with changes in the rights and duties of land owners made under a statutory power (e.g. where a public highway dedication is made over land), or for a broader purpose: section 103(1)(a)(i) and 103(3) of the Act.

In this instance, reliance is placed upon the broad power of the Council as an owner of a Lot on the Sealed Plan. The decision to seek to amend the plan is discretionary.

#### Applicable legislation - notifications and objections

Notification of the proposed amendment will be provided to relevant parties as required by section 103(2) of the Act. Relevant parties have been identified as the owners of each Lot on the Plan (excepting Lot 902), together with applicable mortgagees.

Relevant parties will be provided with 28 days in which to object to the proposal. Objectors are entitled to make submissions as part of the objection process.

The objection process is only available to those relevant parties with an estate or interest at law affected by the proposed amendment: section 103(4) of the Act. The objection process does not give nearby neighbours a right to object, even if they feel they may be affected by virtue of proximity, unless they own a Lot on the Sealed Plan. Contrasting with notification requirements under the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993* (Tas), there is not a general public right to make a representation or object.

#### Consultation with objectors

As part of the notification process, objectors will be able to obtain further information from the Council.

There is no legislative requirement for the Council to connect objectors with the developer.

The future plans of the developer, and any information they may provide to an objector, do not and cannot require Council to approve the amendments after the relevant notification process. The developer is not an agent of, and does not otherwise represent or speak for, the Council.

#### Decision making

If no person asks to be heard in opposition to the proposal, Council is entitled to cause the amendments to be made. The matter would be put back before Council for a decision to proceed with the proposed amendment, or to abandon it.

If a person asks to be heard, a hearing is required: section 104(2) of the Act. If all objectors withdraw their objections, the matter can proceed as if no objection was received.

#### Hearing

In the event that a hearing is required, the Council will give notice of that hearing to affected parties and provide an opportunity for them to make written submissions. Written submissions will be distributed to the parties to the hearing.

At the hearing itself, objectors will be provided with an opportunity to provide verbal submissions. The Council will consider the preferences of the objectors, and relevant privacy and confidentiality considerations, in determining whether the hearing will occur in Open or Closed Session.

At or following the conclusion of the hearing, Council will make a decision on whether the amendment will be made.

Limitations of any decision to proceed with notification

It is important to highlight that the initiation of notice of the proposed amendment does not influence Council's obligations in respect of future decision making.

This includes the actual decision whether to cause the amendments to be made. It also includes any further decisions that could be required to facilitate the construction of a road over the land at a future date. Each of those decisions must be considered on their merits.

Any decisions of Council as Planning Authority are similarly separate processes, to be considered following receipt of relevant applications under the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993* (Tas).

Other important considerations

Amendments to sealed plans are typically the result of a petition from a private owner of land in the municipality. The present case presents a unique set of circumstances, in that if the Recommendations are supported, Council will be both instigating the notice process and also determining whether the amendment itself will be made.

The Council must ensure that procedural fairness is maintained throughout the process. This includes the need to ensure that affected parties are aware of, and have ability to respond to, all relevant evidence upon which Council is to rely in its decision making process.

Given the potential for conflict between the role of community advocate, and the role of impartial decision maker, Councilors are urged to refer enquiries and concerns to the Council's staff for further explanation and assistance.

Costs

The developer is not being asked to cover the Council's costs in respect of the process of amending the Sealed Plan.

Given the novel nature of the request from the developer, the Council does not have an established fee for the work involved. Whilst section 205 of the *Local Government Act 1993* (Tas) does provide Council with the power to set fees in respect of such work, it could give rise to a perception of bias. Such a perception should be avoided.

In the event that the Council is subsequently approached to purchase or develop the land for the purpose of a road, it would be open to the Council to put further consideration to recovering costs it has incurred in removing the relevant covenants.

**RISK IMPLICATIONS:**

Risks relevant to this item are discussed in the report above.

**ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT:**

Not considered relevant to this report.

**STRATEGIC DOCUMENT REFERENCE:**

*City of Launceston Corporate Strategic Plan 2014 - 2024*

Strategic Priority 3: We are a progressive leader that is accountable to our governance obligations and responsive to our community.

10-Year Goal: To ensure decisions are made in a transparent and accountable way, that effectively meet our statutory obligations, support quality services and underpin the long-term sustainability of our organisation.

Focus Areas:

2. To fairly and equitably discharge our statutory and governance obligations.
3. To ensure decisions are made on the basis of accurate and relevant information.

**BUDGET AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

The budget adjustment consideration of this item has been approved by the General Manager Organisational Services Network.

**DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:**

The Author and General Manager have no interests to declare in this matter.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Schedule Of Easements-164783-903 [20.2.1 - 6 pages]

**21. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER NETWORK**

**21.1. Appointment - Acting Chief Executive Officer**

**FILE NO:** SF5695

**AUTHOR:** Lorraine Wyatt (Council and Committees Officer)

**APPROVER:** Mayor, Councillor M K Garwood

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**DECISION STATEMENT:**

To confirm the appointment of Chelsea van Riet as Acting Chief Executive Officer for the period 7 October 2024 to 18 October 2024 (inclusive).

**RELEVANT LEGISLATION:**

*Local Government Act 1993 (Tas) s.61B*

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council, appoints Chelsea van Riet as the Acting General Manager for the period 7 October 2024 to 18 October 2024 (inclusive).

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**REPORT:**

For the purpose of this report, the term 'general manager' should be taken to mean Chief Executive Officer in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993 (Tas)*.

The Chief Executive Officer is appointed by, and accountable to, the elected members. Sam Johnson, Chief Executive Officer, will be absent for the period 7 October 2024 to 18 October 2024 (inclusive). In accordance with S.62 of the *Local Government Act 1993 (Tas)*, the everyday running of council is the responsibility of the general manager including the implementation of policies, plans and programs of the council and to manage the resources and assets of City of Launceston.

A key challenge for elected members is not becoming involved in the day-to-day operations of the council which is the role of the Chief Executive Officer and as such, the appointment of an Acting Chief Executive Officer during periods of leave, demonstrates good governance and ensures continuity for the operations of City of Launceston.

Section 61B of the *Local Government Act 1993 (Tas)* enables Council to appoint an Acting general manager during periods of leave as follows:

**61B. Acting general managers**

- (1) For the purposes of this section, a general manager is absent if –
  - a) he or she is absent from duty for any reason; or
  - b) he or she is otherwise unavailable or unable to perform the functions of the office of general manager; or
  - c) the position of general manager is vacant.
- (2) The mayor may appoint a person to act in the office of general manager if –
  - a) the general manager is absent and no person holds an appointment under [subsection \(4\)](#) ; or
  - b) the general manager is absent and the person appointed under [subsection \(4\)](#) is absent from duty or otherwise unavailable or unable to act in the office of general manager.
- (3) An appointment under [subsection \(2\)](#) ends when the first of the following occurs:
  - a) the general manager returns to duty;
  - b) the term of the appointment expires;
  - c) the mayor or the council revokes the appointment;
  - d) a person is appointed as general manager under [section 61](#)
- (4) The council may appoint a person to act in the office of general manager during every absence of the general manager.
- (5) An appointment under [subsection \(4\)](#) is for the term, not exceeding 5 years, specified in the appointment and ends when the first of the following occurs:
  - a) the term of the appointment expires;
  - b) the council revokes the appointment;
  - c) if the appointment is to the holder of an office, the person ceases to hold that office.
- (6) While a person appointed to act in the office of general manager is acting as general manager, that person is taken to be the general manager.

**RISK IMPLICATIONS:**

The functions of the Chief Executive Officer include the responsibility for the day-to-day operations and affairs of City of Launceston including the implementation of policies, plans and programs of the council and to manage the resources and assets.

Leaving this role vacant gives rise to the potential for ineffective leadership and lack of engagement to execute the strategy or business of Council resulting in negative impact on performance and reputational risk.

**ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT:**

Not considered relevant to this report.

**STRATEGIC DOCUMENT REFERENCE:**

*City of Launceston Corporate Strategic Plan 2014 - 2024*

Strategic Priority 3: We are a progressive leader that is accountable to our governance obligations and responsive to our community.

10-Year Goal: To ensure decisions are made in a transparent and accountable way, that effectively meet our statutory obligations, support quality services and underpin the long-term sustainability of our organisation.

Focus Areas:

2. To fairly and equitably discharge our statutory and governance obligations.
3. To ensure decisions are made on the basis of accurate and relevant information.

**BUDGET AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

The appointment of an Acting Chief Executive Officer during periods of leave is managed within the approved operational budget for the year.

**DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:**

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

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Nil

**22. LATE ITEMS**

No late items have been identified as part of this Agenda

**23. CLOSED COUNCIL**

*This decision requires an absolute majority of Council*

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council moves into Closed Session to consider the following matters:

**23.1. Confirmation of the Minutes**

**REASON FOR CLOSED COUNCIL:**

Regulation 35(6) of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015 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. Councillors' Leave of Absence**

**REASON FOR CLOSED COUNCIL:**

This item is **CONFIDENTIAL** in accordance with regulation 15(2)(h) of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015*, which permits the meeting to be closed to the public for business relating to the following:

(h) applications by councillors for a leave of absence.

**24. MEETING CLOSURE**

**25. NEXT COUNCIL MEETING DATE**

**The next Ordinary Meeting of Council will be held at 1.00pm on 19 September 2024 at the Council Chambers, Town Hall, 18-28 St John Street, Launceston.**