



ATTACHMENTS

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

Oatlands Municipal Offices
71 High Street, Oatlands
Wednesday 24th April 2024
10.00 a.m.

Item 5.1	Draft Council Meeting Minutes (Open) – 24 th April 2024
Item 5.3.1	Woodsdale Community Memorial Hall Minutes – 10 th April 2024 Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary Management Committee Minutes – 16 th April 2024
Item 12.4.1	Bagdad Mangalore Structure Plan Draft
Item 15.7.1	Climate Change Adaption Plan 2023

SOUTHERN
MIDLANDS
COUNCIL



MINUTES

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday 27th March 2024
10.00 a.m.

Colebrook Hall
45 Richmond Street, Colebrook

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OPEN COUNCIL MINUTES

MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF THE SOUTHERN MIDLANDS COUNCIL HELD
ON WEDNESDAY 27TH MARCH 2024 AT THE COLEBROOK HALL
COMMENCING AT 10.00 A.M

1. PRAYERS

Reverend Dennis Cousens recited prayers.

2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Mayor E Batt recited Acknowledgement of Country.

3. ATTENDANCE

Mayor E Batt, Deputy Mayor K Dudgeon, Clr A Bisdee OAM, Clr D Blackwell, Clr B Campbell, Clr D Fish and Clr F Miller.

Mr T Kirkwood (General Manager), Mr A Benson (Deputy General Manager), Mr G Finn (Manager Development and Environmental Services), Ms L Brown (Senior Planning Officer), Mrs A Burbury (Finance Officer), Ms J Rowley (Community & Corporate Development Officer) and Mrs J Thomas (Executive Assistant).

4. APOLOGIES

Nil.

5. MINUTES

5.1 Ordinary Council Meeting

The Minutes (Open Council Minutes) of the previous meeting of Council held on the 27th February 2024, as circulated, are submitted for confirmation.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Minutes (Open Council Minutes) of the Council Meeting held 27th February 2024 be confirmed.

DECISION

Moved by Clr B Campbell, seconded by Clr A E Bisdee OAM

THAT the Minutes (Open Council Minutes) of the Council Meeting held 27th February 2024 be confirmed.

CARRIED

DECISION		
Councillor	Vote FOR	Vote AGAINST
Mayor E Batt	✓	
Deputy Mayor K Dudgeon	✓	
Clr A E Bisdee OAM	✓	
Clr D Blackwell	✓	
Clr B Campbell	✓	
Clr D Fish	✓	
Clr F Miller	✓	

5.3 Special Committees of Council Minutes

5.3.1 Special Committees of Council - Receipt of Minutes

The Minutes of the following Special Committee of Council, as circulated, are submitted for receipt:

- Lake Dulverton & Callington Park Management Committee Meeting Minutes – 18th March 2024

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the minutes of the above Special Committee of Council be received.

DECISION

Moved by Clr D Fish, seconded by Deputy Mayor K Dudgeon

THAT the minutes of the above Special Committee of Council be received.

CARRIED

DECISION		
Councillor	Vote FOR	Vote AGAINST
Mayor E Batt	✓	
Deputy Mayor K Dudgeon	✓	
Clr A E Bisdee OAM	✓	
Clr D Blackwell	✓	
Clr B Campbell	✓	
Clr D Fish	✓	
Clr F Miller	✓	

5.3.2 Special Committees of Council - Endorsement of Recommendations

The recommendations contained within the minutes of the following Special Committee of Council are submitted for endorsement:

- Lake Dulverton & Callington Park Management Committee Meeting Minutes – 18th March 2024

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the recommendations contained within the minutes of the above Special Committee of Council be endorsed.

DECISION

Moved by Clr D Fish, seconded by Deputy Mayor K Dudgeon

THAT the recommendations contained within the minutes of the above Special Committee of Council be endorsed.

CARRIED

DECISION		
Councillor	Vote FOR	Vote AGAINST
Mayor E Batt	✓	
Deputy Mayor K Dudgeon	✓	
Clr A E Bisdee OAM	✓	
Clr D Blackwell	✓	
Clr B Campbell	✓	
Clr D Fish	✓	
Clr F Miller	✓	

5.4 Joint Authorities (Established Under Division 4 Of The *Local Government Act 1993*)

5.4.1 Joint Authorities - Receipt of Minutes

The Minutes of the following Joint Authority Meeting, as circulated, are submitted for receipt:

- Southern Tasmanian Councils Authority – Minutes of the Meeting held 15th March 2024

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Minutes of the above Joint Authority be received.

DECISION

Moved by Clr D Blackwell, seconded by Deputy Mayor K Dudgeon

THAT the Minutes of the above Joint Authority be received.

CARRIED

DECISION		
Councillor	Vote FOR	Vote AGAINST
Mayor E Batt	✓	
Deputy Mayor K Dudgeon	✓	
Clr A E Bisdee OAM	✓	
Clr D Blackwell	✓	
Clr B Campbell	✓	
Clr D Fish	✓	
Clr F Miller	✓	

5.4.2 Joint Authorities - Receipt of Reports (Annual & Quarterly)

Nil.

6. NOTIFICATION OF COUNCIL WORKSHOPS

DECISION

Moved by Cllr D Blackwell, seconded by Cllr A E Bisdee OAM

THAT the information be received.

CARRIED

DECISION		
Councillor	Vote FOR	Vote AGAINST
Mayor E Batt	✓	
Deputy Mayor K Dudgeon	✓	
Cllr A E Bisdee OAM	✓	
Cllr D Blackwell	✓	
Cllr B Campbell	✓	
Cllr D Fish	✓	
Cllr F Miller	✓	

7. COUNCILLORS – QUESTION TIME

7.1 Questions (On Notice)

An opportunity is provided for Councillors to ask questions relating to Council business, previous Agenda items or issues of a general nature.

Clr B Campbell – Footpath - Richmond Street, Colebrook (between Hall and Shop) – consider upgrading surface and consider any safety issues with the ‘drop-off’ to the kerb.

To be considered as part of the budget process.

Clr F Miller – Colebrook Main Road – Illegal dumping in certain locations. Raised the possibility of installing a remote camera(s) to identify persons responsible.

To be investigated.

Clr F Miller - Campania Carpark – timing for any proposed works.

Upgrade proposal and scope of works to be considered as part of the budget process.

Clr A E Bisdie OAM – Article in the Southern Midlands News relating to the Woodsdale Recreation Ground and the Woodsdale Football Club. The article includes a number of statements provided by the Football Club which are inaccurate and consideration should be given to respond and clarify Council’s position.

Mayor and General Manager to assess and provide a response to clarify Council’s position if necessary.

Deputy Mayor K Dudgeon – Campbell Street, Oatlands – construction of footpath – when are the works proposed to be undertaken?

General Manager advised that the project is to commence immediately following trimming of the hedge by property owner in Campbell Street which is necessary for the alignment of the footpath.

Deputy Mayor K Dudgeon – East Bagdad Road – junction with the Midland Highway – trees (located in private property) are impairing the vision for motorists exiting East Bagdad Road and travelling north.

To be assessed to determine what actions (if any) Council could take to address the situation.

Deputy Mayor K Dudgeon – Oatlands Aquatic Centre – outstanding cladding works? When will the work be completed?

Deputy General Manager provided an update and the circumstances resulting in the delayed completion. Precise timeframe not available at present but anticipated in April 2024.

Mayor Batt – Melton Mowbray Park & Sandstone Trough – status of project?

It was confirmed that the plans are ready for lodgement to seek development approval.

Mayor Batt – Oatlands Aquatic Centre – Arts Installation – status of project?

Deputy General Manager advised that he has been communicating with Mr James McShane (Artist) and the installation is progressing. Proposed wording for the plaque needs to be finalised.

Mayor Batt – Kempton Roadside Stopover – reports of person exceeding the two night maximum limit. In particular there are a number of campers who are trespassing on private property to access the toilet facilities at the rear of the Kempton Hall. Issues also with the drain that runs along the rear of the Main Street properties – requires clearing.

To be investigated and the drainage works to be scheduled.

Mayor Batt – sought and update in relation to the Hotel Accommodation proposal.

General Manager provided a brief update based on recent communications with the preferred proponents THN Hospitality Pty Ltd.

Deputy Mayor K Dudgeon – Bagdad Community Barbecue Event – Chauncy Vale Sanctuary (held 24th March 2024) – how did the event go?

The Community development Officer (Jo Rowley) reported that there were approximately 45 people in attendance and it was a very community successful event.

8. DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

In accordance with the requirements of Part 2 Regulation 8 of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015*, the chairman of a meeting is to request Councillors to indicate whether they have, or are likely to have, a pecuniary interest in any item on the Agenda.

Accordingly, Councillors are requested to advise of a pecuniary interest they may have in respect to any matter on the agenda, or any supplementary item to the agenda, which Council has resolved to deal with, in accordance with Part 2 Regulation 8 (6) of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015*.

Nil.

9. CONSIDERATION OF SUPPLEMENTARY ITEMS TO THE AGENDA

In accordance with the requirements of Part 2 Regulation 8 (6) of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015*, the Council, by absolute majority may decide at an ordinary meeting to deal with a matter that is not on the agenda if the General Manager has reported –

- (a) the reason it was not possible to include the matter on the agenda; and
- (b) that the matter is urgent; and
- (c) that advice has been provided under section 65 of the Act.

1. Property Matter – Whitefoord (Closed Session)

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Council resolve by absolute majority to deal with any supplementary items not appearing on the agenda, as reported by the General Manager in accordance with the provisions of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015*.

DECISION

Moved by Clr A E Bisdee OAM, seconded by Clr B Campbell

THAT Council resolve by absolute majority to deal with the above supplementary item not appearing on the agenda, as reported by the General Manager in accordance with the provisions of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015*.

CARRIED

DECISION		
Councillor	Vote FOR	Vote AGAINST
Mayor E Batt	✓	
Deputy Mayor K Dudgeon	✓	
Clr A E Bisdee OAM	✓	
Clr D Blackwell	✓	
Clr B Campbell	✓	
Clr D Fish	✓	
Clr F Miller	✓	

10. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (SCHEDULED FOR 10.30 A.M.)

Councillors are advised that, at the time of issuing the Agenda, no Questions on Notice had been received from members of the Public.

Julia Jabour – Southern Midlands Regional News

Firstly, Julia clarified that the statements made in the article relating to the Woodsdale Recreation Ground were clearly shown as “quotes’ from the Football Club representatives and not editorial comment.

Julia Jabour – Southern Midlands Regional News

Relayed feedback from a member of the community at the previous Council Meeting held at Tunbridge regarding the lack of sight distance for vehicles existing Tunbridge and travelling north on the Midland Highway. Would it be possible to request the Department of State Growth to assess options (e.g. installation of a mirror or similar) to provide enhance the ability to see southbound traffic on the Midland Highway at this location.

Issue to be referred to the Department of State Growth as the responsible road authority.

Julia Jabour – Southern Midlands Regional News

Given the outcome of the recent State Election, does Council have any thoughts in relation to which way the local government reform agenda may proceed?

It was commented that given that local government reform was not a policy issue raised during the election process, it was anticipated that the Liberal Party’ s policy of no forced amalgamation will be maintained. It is unknown how the remainder of the reform proposal will be progressed.

Mr M Bendor – Renaming of Brodribbs Road, Campania

Mr Bendor expressed appreciation to Council for its support in having the name of Brodribbs Road changed to Brodribbs Danby Road which has subsequently been approved by Placenames Tasmania.

Mr L Smythe – Colebrook

Mr Smythe raised a number of issues, including:

- Linemarking of the Rhyndaston Road and Eldon Road junction – awaiting contractor to undertake the work.
- TasWater – installation of a filler station at Colebrook – this has been referred previously. TasWater has advised that this is not a priority location as it has a number of existing commitments associated with upgrading the existing stations to ensure compliance etc. Follow-up referral to be submitted.
- Colebrook Fire Station – building extension proposal – response to email regarding Council’s requirements to provide consent for the works. It was confirmed that a response will be provided as soon as practicable.
- Rhyndaston Road and Eldon Road (rural addressing) – sought an update on this issue.

General Manager advised that no action has been taken to date however the preferred option is to amend/update all mapping/GIS systems to provide for Eldon

Road commencing at the junction with Richmond Street, Colebrook (as opposed to Rhyndaston Road commencing at the junction).

DECISION

Moved by Deputy Mayor K Dudgeon, seconded by Clr D Blackwell

THAT the meeting be adjourned for morning tea at 11.02 a.m.

CARRIED

DECISION		
Councillor	Vote FOR	Vote AGAINST
Mayor E Batt	✓	
Deputy Mayor K Dudgeon	✓	
Clr A E Bisdee OAM	✓	
Clr D Blackwell	✓	
Clr B Campbell	✓	
Clr D Fish	✓	
Clr F Miller	✓	

DECISION

Moved by Clr B Campbell, seconded by Deputy Mayor K Dudgeon

THAT the meeting reconvene at 11.23 a.m.

CARRIED

DECISION		
Councillor	Vote FOR	Vote AGAINST
Mayor E Batt	✓	
Deputy Mayor K Dudgeon	✓	
Clr A E Bisdee OAM	✓	
Clr D Blackwell	✓	
Clr B Campbell	✓	
Clr D Fish	✓	
Clr F Miller	✓	

10.1 Permission to Address Council

Nil.

**11. MOTIONS OF WHICH NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN UNDER
REGULATION 16 (5) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MEETING
PROCEDURES) REGULATIONS 2015**

Nil.

12. COUNCIL ACTING AS A PLANNING AUTHORITY PURSUANT TO THE LAND USE PLANNING AND APPROVALS ACT 1993 AND COUNCIL'S STATUTORY LAND USE PLANNING SCHEME

Session of Council sitting as a Planning Authority pursuant to the Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993 and Council's statutory land use planning schemes.

12.1 Development Applications

12.1.1 Minor Amendment to Development Application DA1800090 (DA2018/90)

Minor Amendment to Development Application DA1800090 (DA2018/90) for a change in surface material (retrospective) at 99 High Street, Oatlands & 6 Mill Lane, Oatlands, owned by Lake Frederick Inn Pty Ltd & Crown (Parks & Wildlife Service)

DECISION

Moved by Clr A E Bisdee OAM, seconded by Clr D Blackwell

THAT, in accordance with the provisions of the Southern Midlands Interim Planning Scheme 2015 and section 56 of the Land Use Planning & Approvals Act 1993, Council REFUSE the Minor Amendment to Development Application DA 2018/90 for a change in surface material at 99 High Street, Oatlands & 6 Mill Lane, Oatlands, owned by Lake Frederick Inn Pty Ltd & Crown (Parks & Wildlife Service) on the following grounds:

Refusal grounds:

- 1. The proposal does not meet the Acceptable Solution or the Performance Criterion with respect to clause E13.7.2.P1(a) of the *Southern Midlands Interim Planning Scheme 2015*. The proposed concrete landscaping works will result in a loss of historic cultural heritage significance to the place through the use of incompatible and unsympathetic materials and their siting which will contrast with traditional materials evident in the setting of the heritage place.**
- 2. The proposal does not meet the Acceptable Solution or the P1 Performance Criterion with respect to clause E13.8.2 of the *Southern Midlands Interim Planning Scheme 2015*. The proposed concrete landscaping works will result in a loss of historic cultural heritage significance to the Precinct through the introduction of incompatible materials and their siting which contrast with traditional materials of construction evident in the Precinct setting, and will not respect Old Colonial Georgian style significant to the Precinct in terms of materials and colour.**

CARRIED

DECISION		
Councillor	Vote FOR	Vote AGAINST
Mayor E Batt	✓	
Deputy Mayor K Dudgeon	✓	
Clr A E Bisdee OAM	✓	
Clr D Blackwell	✓	
Clr B Campbell	✓	
Clr D Fish	✓	
Clr F Miller	✓	

12.2 Subdivisions

Nil.

12.3 Municipal Seal (Planning Authority)

Nil.

12.4 Planning (Other)

Nil.

**[THIS CONCLUDES THE SESSION OF COUNCIL
ACTING AS A PLANNING AUTHORITY]**

13. OPERATIONAL MATTERS ARISING (STRATEGIC THEME – INFRASTRUCTURE)

13.1 Roads

Strategic Plan Reference 1.1
Maintenance and improvement of the standard and safety of roads in the municipal area.

Nil.

13.2 Bridges

Strategic Plan Reference 1.2
Maintenance and improvement of the standard and safety of bridges in the municipality.

Nil.

13.3 Walkways, Cycle Ways and Trails

Strategic Plan Reference 1.3
Maintenance and improvement of the standard and safety of walkways, cycle ways and pedestrian areas to provide consistent accessibility.

Nil.

13.4 Lighting

Strategic Plan Reference 1.4
Ensure adequate lighting based on demonstrated need / Contestability of energy supply.

Nil.

13.5 Buildings

Strategic Plan Reference 1.5
Maintenance and improvement of the standard and safety of public buildings in the municipality.

Nil.

13.6 Sewers / Water

Strategic Plan Reference(s) 1.6
Increase the capacity of access to reticulated sewerage services / Increase the capacity and ability to access water to satisfy development and Community to have access to reticulated water.

Nil.

13.7 Drainage

Strategic Plan Reference 1.7
Maintenance and improvement of the town storm-water drainage systems.

Nil.

13.8 Waste

Strategic Plan Reference 1.8

Maintenance and improvement of the provision of waste management services to the Community.

Nil.

13.9 Information, Communication Technology

Strategic Plan Reference 1.9

Improve access to modern communications infrastructure.

Nil.

13.10 Officer Reports – Infrastructure & Works

13.10.1 Manager – Infrastructure & Works Report

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE TO MANAGER, INFRASTRUCTURE & WORKS

Clr A E Bisdee OAM – Tunbridge Bridge – has work commenced on the replacement of the Bridge.

It was advised that based on information available, no site works have commenced to date.

Clr B Campbell – Rhyndaston & Stonor Roads – maintenance required (reported potholes in the bitumen). Noted and to be assessed.

Clr B Campbell – Chatham Street, Oatlands – road verge above access to cemetery. Can the verge be cleared and levelled to provide overflow car parking for funerals. To be investigated knowing that there might be a possibility that this section of road is not a Council maintained road.

Deputy Mayor K Dudgeon – Eastwood Road, Lemont – requires maintenance grading. Council has graded other roads in that locality but has bypassed Eastwood Road.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Infrastructure & Works Report be received and the information noted.

DECISION

Moved by Clr B Campbell, seconded by Clr D Blackwell

THAT the Infrastructure & Works Report be received and the information noted.

CARRIED

DECISION		
Councillor	Vote FOR	Vote AGAINST
Mayor E Batt	✓	
Deputy Mayor K Dudgeon	✓	
Clr A E Bisdee OAM	✓	
Clr D Blackwell	✓	
Clr B Campbell	✓	
Clr D Fish	✓	
Clr F Miller	✓	

14. OPERATIONAL MATTERS ARISING (STRATEGIC THEME – GROWTH)

14.1 Residential

Strategic Plan Reference 2.1
Increase the resident, rate-paying population in the municipality.

Nil.

14.2 Tourism

Strategic Plan Reference 2.2
Increase the number of tourists visiting and spending money in the municipality.

Nil.

14.3 Business

Strategic Plan Reference 2.3
Increase the number and diversity of businesses in the Southern Midlands / Increase employment within the municipality / Increase Council revenue to facilitate business and development activities (social enterprise).

Nil.

14.4 Industry

Strategic Plan Reference 2.4
Retain and enhance the development of the rural sector as a key economic driver in the Southern Midlands / Increase access to irrigation water within the municipality.

Nil.

15. OPERATIONAL MATTERS ARISING (STRATEGIC THEME – LANDSCAPES)

15.1 Heritage

Strategic Plan Reference – Page 22

- 3.1.1 Maintenance and restoration of significant public heritage assets.
- 3.1.2 Act as an advocate for heritage and provide support to heritage property owners.
- 3.1.3 Investigate document, understand and promote the heritage values of the Southern Midlands.

15.1.1 Heritage Project Program Report

DECISION

Moved by Clr B Campbell, seconded by Clr A E Bisdee OAM

THAT the Heritage Projects Program Report be received and the information noted.

CARRIED

DECISION		
Councillor	Vote FOR	Vote AGAINST
Mayor E Batt	✓	
Deputy Mayor K Dudgeon	✓	
Clr A E Bisdee OAM	✓	
Clr D Blackwell	✓	
Clr B Campbell	✓	
Clr D Fish	✓	
Clr F Miller	✓	

15.2 Natural

Strategic Plan Reference – page 23/24

- 3.2.1 Identify and protect areas that are of high conservation value.
- 3.2.2 Encourage the adoption of best practice land care techniques.

15.2.1 NRM Unit – General Report

DECISION

Moved by Clr B Campbell, seconded by Deputy Mayor K Dudgeon

THAT the NRM Unit Report be received and the information noted.

CARRIED

DECISION		
Councillor	Vote FOR	Vote AGAINST
Mayor E Batt	✓	
Deputy Mayor K Dudgeon	✓	
Clr A E Bisdee OAM	✓	
Clr D Blackwell	✓	
Clr B Campbell	✓	
Clr D Fish	✓	
Clr F Miller	✓	

15.3 Cultural

Strategic Plan Reference 3.3

Ensure that the cultural diversity of the Southern Midlands is maximised.

Nil.

15.4 Regulatory (Development)

Strategic Plan Reference 3.4

A regulatory environment that is supportive of and enables appropriate development.

Nil.

15.5 Regulatory (Public Health)

Strategic Plan Reference 3.5

Monitor and maintain a safe and healthy public environment.

Nil.

15.6 Regulatory (Animals)

Strategic Plan Reference 3.6

Create an environment where animals are treated with respect and do not create a nuisance for the community

15.6.1 Animal Management Report

DECISION

Moved by Cllr A E Bisdee OAM, seconded by Cllr D Fish

THAT the Animal Management Report be received and the information noted.

CARRIED

DECISION		
Councillor	Vote FOR	Vote AGAINST
Mayor E Batt	✓	
Deputy Mayor K Dudgeon	✓	
Cllr A E Bisdee OAM	✓	
Cllr D Blackwell	✓	
Cllr B Campbell	✓	
Cllr D Fish	✓	
Cllr F Miller	✓	

15.7 Environmental Sustainability

Strategic Plan Reference 3.7

Implement strategies to address the issue of environmental sustainability in relation to its impact on Councils corporate functions and on the Community.

Nil.

16. OPERATIONAL MATTERS ARISING (STRATEGIC THEME – COMMUNITY)

16.1 Community Health and Wellbeing

Strategic Plan Reference 4.1

Support and improve the independence, health and wellbeing of the Community.

Nil.

16.2 Recreation

Strategic Plan Reference 4.2

Provide a range of recreational activities and services that meet the reasonable needs of the community.

16.2.1 Oatlands Aquatic Centre – Coordinators Report

DECISION

Moved by Clr D Fish, seconded by Clr A E Bisdee OAM

THAT the information be received and noted.

CARRIED

DECISION		
Councillor	Vote FOR	Vote AGAINST
Mayor E Batt	✓	
Deputy Mayor K Dudgeon	✓	
Clr A E Bisdee OAM	✓	
Clr D Blackwell	✓	
Clr B Campbell	✓	
Clr D Fish	✓	
Clr F Miller	✓	

16.3 Access

Strategic Plan Reference 4.3

Continue to explore transport options for the Southern Midlands community / Continue to meet the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act.

Nil.

16.4 Volunteers

Strategic Plan Reference 4.4

Encourage community members to volunteer.

Nil.

16.5 Families

Strategic Plan Reference 4.5

Ensure that appropriate childcare services as well as other family related services are facilitated within the community / Increase the retention of young people in the municipality / Improve the ability of seniors to stay in their communities.

Nil.

16.6 Education

Strategic Plan Reference 4.6

Increase the educational and employment opportunities available within the Southern Midlands

Nil.

16.7 Capacity & Sustainability

Strategic Plan Reference 4.7

Build, maintain and strengthen the capacity of the community to help itself whilst embracing social inclusion to achieve sustainability.

Nil.

16.8 Safety

Strategic Plan Reference 4.8

Increase the level of safety of the community and those visiting or passing through the municipality.

Nil.

16.9 Consultation & Communication

Strategic Plan Reference 4.8

Improve the effectiveness of consultation & communication with the community.

16.9.1 Development of the Southern Midlands Community Infrastructure Plan – Final Version for Adoption

With the consent of the meeting, the recommendation was considered in two parts.

DECISION

Moved by Clr A E Bisdee OAM, seconded by Clr D Blackwell

THAT:

1. Council receive and note the report;
2. Council acknowledge and endorse the processes undertaken in the development of the Southern Midlands Community Infrastructure Plan;
3. Council adopt the March 2024 version of the Southern Midlands Community Infrastructure Plan;
4. Council, in the first instance, initiate a process to negotiate the terms and conditions associated with the possible transfer of ownership of the Woodsdale Recreation (Certificate of Title 10138/1) to the Woodsdale Football Club (noting the requirement to adhere to the provisions relating to the sale of public land under the *Local Government Act 1993*);
5. Following confirmation by Council of the proposed terms and conditions associated with the transfer of ownership, then Council proceed to make a formal decision regarding its intent to dispose of the land and advertise accordingly; and

CARRIED

DECISION		
Councillor	Vote FOR	Vote AGAINST
Mayor E Batt	✓	
Deputy Mayor K Dudgeon	✓	
Clr A E Bisdee OAM	✓	
Clr D Blackwell	✓	
Clr B Campbell	✓	
Clr D Fish	✓	
Clr F Miller	✓	

DECISION

Moved by Clr A E Bisdee OAM, seconded by Clr D Blackwell

THAT:

1. Along with transferring ownership of the property to the Woodsdale Football Club, Council confirm its commitment to provide a ‘one-off’ non-refundable grant amount (in the vicinity of \$45,000) which is the indicative amount being sought by the Woodsdale Football Club from Council to achieve its objective of football being played at this facility.

Noting, that Council’s contribution will be contingent upon the Woodsdale Football Club providing confirmation that the external sources of funding have been secured to enable upgrade of the facility to a standard that is consistent with its expectations and achieves compliance with the Building Code of Australia and other applicable legislation.

CARRIED

DECISION		
Councillor	Vote FOR	Vote AGAINST
Mayor E Batt	✓	
Deputy Mayor K Dudgeon	✓	
Clr A E Bisdee OAM	✓	
Clr D Blackwell	✓	
Clr B Campbell	✓	
Clr D Fish	✓	
Clr F Miller		✓

17. OPERATIONAL MATTERS ARISING (STRATEGIC THEME – ORGANISATION)

17.1 Improvement

Strategic Plan Reference 5.1

Improve the level of responsiveness to Community & Developer needs / Improve communication within Council / Improve the accuracy, comprehensiveness and user friendliness of the Council asset management system / Increase the effectiveness, efficiency and use-ability of Council ICT systems / maintain the Business Process Improvement & Continuous Improvement framework

Nil.

17.2 Sustainability

Strategic Plan Reference 5.2

Retain corporate and operational knowledge within Council / Provide a safe and healthy working environment / Ensure that staff and elected members have the training and skills they need to undertake their roles / Increase the cost effectiveness of Council operations through resource sharing with other organisations / Continue to manage and improve the level of statutory compliance of Council operations / Ensure that suitably qualified and sufficient staff are available to meet the Communities need / Work co-operatively with State and Regional organisations / Minimise Councils exposure to risk / Ensure that exceptional customer service continues to be a hallmark of Southern Midlands Council

17.2.1 Tabling of Documents

Nil.

17.2.2 Elected Member Statements

An opportunity is provided for elected members to brief fellow Councillors on issues not requiring a decision.

Deputy Mayor K Dudgeon – Together with Mayor Batt attended the launch of the Tasmanian Football Club held at the Oatlands RSL. A fantastic evening with around 130 in attendance.

17.2.3 Development & Environmental Services – Fees Refund and Remission Policy

DECISION

Moved by Deputy Mayor K Dudgeon, seconded by Cllr B Campbell

THAT:

1. Receive and note the report;
2. Council repeal the existing '*Remission of Development and Environmental Services Fees for Charitable, Community and Sporting Bodies Policy*'; and Consider the updated '*Development & Environmental Services – Fees Refund and Remission Policy*' and subject to any amendments, be submitted for formal adoption at the next meeting.

CARRIED

DECISION		
Councillor	Vote FOR	Vote AGAINST
Mayor E Batt	✓	
Deputy Mayor K Dudgeon	✓	
Cllr A E Bisdee OAM	✓	
Cllr D Blackwell	✓	
Cllr B Campbell	✓	
Cllr D Fish	✓	
Cllr F Miller	✓	

17.3 Finances

Strategic Plan Reference 5.3

Community's finances will be managed responsibly to enhance the wellbeing of residents / Council will maintain community wealth to ensure that the wealth enjoyed by today's generation may also be enjoyed by tomorrow's generation / Council's financial position will be robust enough to recover from unanticipated events, and absorb the volatility inherent in revenues and expenses.

17.3.1 Monthly Financial Statement (Period ending 29 February 2024)

DECISION

Moved by Cllr A E Bisdee OAM, seconded by Deputy Mayor K Dudgeon

THAT the Financial Report be received and the information noted.

CARRIED

DECISION		
Councillor	Vote FOR	Vote AGAINST
Mayor E Batt	✓	
Deputy Mayor K Dudgeon	✓	
Cllr A E Bisdee OAM	✓	
Cllr D Blackwell	✓	
Cllr B Campbell	✓	
Cllr D Fish	✓	
Cllr F Miller	✓	

17.3.2 Request for Rate Remission – Oatlands District Historical Society – 107 High Street, Oatlands (PID 5842354)

DECISION

Moved by Clr D Fish, seconded by Clr B Campbell

THAT a decision be deferred and the Oatlands District Historical Society be requested to submit a recent financial report for the Association which will assist Council to determine its position.

CARRIED

DECISION		
Councillor	Vote FOR	Vote AGAINST
Mayor E Batt	✓	
Deputy Mayor K Dudgeon	✓	
Clr A E Bisdee OAM	✓	
Clr D Blackwell	✓	
Clr B Campbell	✓	
Clr D Fish	✓	
Clr F Miller	✓	

18. MUNICIPAL SEAL

Nil.

19. CONSIDERATION OF SUPPLEMENTARY ITEMS TO THE AGENDA

Nil.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT in accordance with Regulation 15 of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015*, the following items are to be dealt with in Closed Session.

DECISION

Moved by Deputy Mayor K Dudgeon, seconded by Clr B Campbell

THAT in accordance with Regulation 15 of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015*, the following items are to be dealt with in Closed Session.

Matter	Local Government (<i>Meeting Procedures</i>) Regulations 2015 Reference
<i>Closed Council Minutes - Confirmation</i>	15(2)
<i>Applications for Leave of Absence</i>	15(2)(h)
<i>Audit Panel Minutes</i>	15(2)(b)
<i>Property Matter - Oatlands</i>	15(2)(f)
<i>Property Matter - Whitefoord</i>	15(2)(g)

CARRIED

DECISION		
Councillor	Vote FOR	Vote AGAINST
Mayor E Batt	✓	
Deputy Mayor K Dudgeon	✓	
Clr A E Bisdee OAM	✓	
Clr D Blackwell	✓	
Clr B Campbell	✓	
Clr D Fish	✓	
Clr F Miller	✓	

RECOMMENDATION

THAT in accordance with Regulation 15(2) of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015*, Council move into Closed Session and the meeting be closed to members of the public.

DECISION

Moved by Clr B Campbell, seconded by Deputy Mayor K Dudgeon

THAT in accordance with Regulation 15(2) of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015*, Council move into Closed Session and the meeting be closed to members of the public.

CARRIED

DECISION(MUST BE BY ABSOLUTE MAJORITY)		
Councillor	Vote FOR	Vote AGAINST
Mayor E Batt	✓	
Deputy Mayor K Dudgeon	✓	
Clr A E Bisdee OAM	✓	
Clr D Blackwell	✓	
Clr B Campbell	✓	
Clr D Fish	✓	
Clr F Miller	✓	

CLOSED COUNCIL MINUTES

20. BUSINESS IN “CLOSED SESSION”

20.1 Closed Council Minutes - Confirmation

In accordance with the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015, the details of the decision in respect to this item are to be kept confidential and are not to be communicated, reproduced or published unless authorised by Council.

Item considered in Closed Session in accordance with Regulation 15(2) of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015.

20.2 Applications for Leave of Absence

In accordance with the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015, the details of the decision in respect to this item are to be kept confidential and are not to be communicated, reproduced or published unless authorised by Council.

Item considered in Closed Session in accordance with Regulation 15(2)(h) of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015.

20.3 Audit Panel Minutes

20.3.1 Audit Panel Receipt of Minutes

In accordance with the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015, the details of the decision in respect to this item are to be kept confidential and are not to be communicated, reproduced or published unless authorised by Council.

Item considered in Closed Session in accordance with Regulation 15(2)(b) of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015.

20.3.2 Endorsement of Recommendations

In accordance with the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015, the details of the decision in respect to this item are to be kept confidential and are not to be communicated, reproduced or published unless authorised by Council.

Item considered in Closed Session in accordance with Regulation 15(2)(b) of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015.

20.4 Property Matter – Oatlands

In accordance with the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015, the details of the decision in respect to this item are to be kept confidential and are not to be communicated, reproduced or published unless authorised by Council.

Item considered in Closed Session in accordance with Regulation 15(2)(f) of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015.

20.5 Property Matter – Whitefoord (Supplementary Item)

In accordance with the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015, the details of the decision in respect to this item are to be kept confidential and are not to be communicated, reproduced or published unless authorised by Council.

Item considered in Closed Session in accordance with Regulation 15(2)(g) of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council move out of “Closed Session”.

Moved by Deputy Mayor K Dudgeon, seconded by Cllr D Blackwell

THAT Council move out of “Closed Session”.

CARRIED

DECISION		
Councillor	Vote FOR	Vote AGAINST
Mayor E Batt	✓	
Deputy Mayor K Dudgeon	✓	
Cllr A E Bisdee OAM	✓	
Cllr D Blackwell	✓	
Cllr B Campbell	✓	
Cllr D Fish	✓	
Cllr F Miller	✓	

OPEN COUNCIL MINUTES

21. CLOSURE

The meeting closed at 12.43 p.m.

March Woodsdale Community Memorial Hall

Est. 1905

General Committee Meeting

Monday 10th April 2024

Woodsdale Hall

Welcome/Opening:

- The President welcomes members and declares the meeting open at 7.15pm

Attendance:

Mrs Kaye Rowlands, Mrs Marion Wiggins, Ms Alyson Scott, Mrs Ann Scott

Apologies:

Mrs Allison Scott, Ms Kate Bourne, Mrs Sally Stubs, Mrs Ann Wiggins, Mr Leon Scott, Mrs Karen Dudgeon

Moved: Mrs Ann Scott

Seconded: Ms Alyson Scott

Motion Carried

Confirmation of Minutes for the last meeting – October 9th , 2023

Moved: Ms Alyson Scott

Seconded: Mrs Ann Scott

Motion Carried

Treasurers Report - unavailable

Moved: Mrs Ann Scott

Seconded: Marion Wiggins

Motion Carried

General Business

- Dates for football club May 11 - at grounds -6.30 meal hot – casseroles and veggies
- June 15 – cracker night – 300+
- July 20 – Hall – Red and green ball
- 24th August – Hall – vote count
- Kristyn will do the defibrillator training night – Thursday night at football ground 7.00?

Will require a further meeting to organise food.

Meeting Closed at 7.32 pm

NEXT MEETING – 7.00 - Monday 29th April

CHAUNCY VALE WILDLIFE SANCTUARY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

SOUTHERN MIDLANDS COUNCIL

MINUTES

OF GENERAL MEETING HELD ON TUE 16TH APRIL 2024

AT CHAUNCY VALE RESERVE

Present:	Donna Blackwell	Chair (Councillor)
	Tony Bantick	Community
	Graham Green	SMC
	Jamie Ward	Community
	Victoria Needham	Community
	Ben Masterman	Chauncy Family
Absent:		
	Brian Campbell	PWS
	Vicky Bird	Bagdad Field & Game (BF&G)
	Bob Campbell	Proxy Chair (Councillor)
Apologies:		
	Elise Jeffery	TLC
	Heather Chauncy	Chauncy Family
	Erin and Brody	Caretakers

1. Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting held in December 2023 were accepted as a correct record: Moved – Jamie, seconded – Ben, carried

2. Matters arising from the minutes

None

3. Correspondence

- *Mark Whey* (Orienteering Tasmania) – request to hold an orienteering event at Chauncy Vale in 2025. A lot of lead time is required for map preparation and promotion. Request accepted.
- *Bec Johnson* – Bringing to our attention a potential Caretaker who wants to undertake maintenance work in exchange for accommodation.
- *Dave Peters* – Request to undertake a survey of mosses and liverworts in the reserve to repeat a study done by Tony Moscal 50 years ago. An opportunity to track any environmental changes that have occurred in this time. The request was accepted.

4. Financial report

The account balance as at 17/11/23 was \$17,535.

Recent expenses have largely been related to the Caretaker house – installation of Starlink and maintenance on the wood heater and heat pump.

Visitation to the reserve has been quieter than normal this year hence gate donations are down on previous years.

Financial report Moved – Jamie, seconded – Donna carried

5. Reserve Management update

Hazard management

Tony brought to our attention some hazardous large rocks at Eve's Bath that need to be addressed. The Committee agreed that this needs to be looked into as soon as possible. Graham to speak to the Works Managers next to get a plan of attack together.

There are two dead hazardous trees next to the track just past the rope bridge. These also need to be felled.

Thistle management

The thistles in the reserve are under control for this year. The extreme dry conditions have helped.

New Toilets

Graham met with Tim Kirkwood and MP Guy Barnett on site prior to the election. The Liberal party pledged \$80,000 to enable our new toilet and indigenous interpretations project to go ahead – should they be elected. Council pledged an additional \$20,000. We should find out soon whether the Liberals are true to their word, the only grey area being whether there was small print around them forming majority Government.

Andrew Evans

Andrew Evans recently enquired about the prospect of doing some more sculpture and animal etching work for the Wombat Woodland Walk. The Committee agreed to spend another \$2000 on Andrew. Details of the nature of the work and sites to be forthcoming after a scoping trip with Andrew.

Moved – Jamie, seconded – Vic carried

Ben suggested that perhaps a bit more of Andrew's work on the way to Guvy's Lagoon to entice walkers further afield. To be discussed more at a later date. It was suggested that we could commission some of Andrew's work in the Reserve on an annual basis.

Goats

There is no recent evidence of goats at the Caves where they have camped in the past. There is now no smell and no scats. We are hopeful that the goats have moved on, possibly in relation to the scarce water and food this year.

6. Tasmanian Land Conservancy Flat Rock Reserve update

First look at the cameras for the quoll study has not seen identification of any quolls as yet although first round processing of images is not yet complete. The SD cards on the two cameras on Chauncy Vale have been removed. This may be related to a news article about the quoll study that was published in the Southern Midlands ratepayer newsletter which may have provoked someone unhappy about cameras in the reserve, or the study of quolls, to find and disarm the cameras.

7. Other business

Seasonal burning

Ben asked the question about whether we have any plans for seasonal burning. The consensus was that it is too dry to do it now but conditions may change and become favourable by winter.

Graham retirement

Graham announced his plan to retire from Council in about August. There was some discussion about the need for Council to continue resourcing a role of reserve management, but that the role going forward would be different now that most of the infrastructure is up to scratch.

Graham offered to spend some time on the Management Committee as a community representative to assist with transition arrangements.

8. Next meeting July – To Be Advised

SOUTHERN
MIDLANDS
COUNCIL



PROJECT PLAN

BAGDAD-MANGALORE STRUCTURE PLAN

DRAFT: 12 APRIL 2024

1. SUMMARY:

The Southern Midlands Council intends to undertake a project to develop a new structure plan for the Bagdad-Mangalore valley, replacing the 2010 Bagdad-Mangalore Structure Plan.

2. PROJECT DETAILS:

Project details are set out in the Project Brief dated 12 April 2024. This document will be provided to potential consultants during the call for Expressions of Interest to undertake the work.

3. INDICATIVE PROJECT STAGES AND TIMELINE

April 2024	Project Steering Group appointed.
May 2024	Project Plan & Project Brief developed to draft stage.
June 2024	Project Plan & Project Brief finalised by Project Steering Group and endorsed by Council. Project budget confirmed.
July 2024	Request for Proposals advertised. Project Brief distributed to potential consultants.
August 2024	Deadline for submissions from potential consultants.
September 2024	Assessment of proposals by Project Steering Group.
September 2024	Interviews with potential consultants by the Project Steering Group.
October 2024	<u>Key decision point</u> : Appointment of consultant . Project Steering Group recommends, and Council confirms.
November 2024	Project inception meeting between Council and the consultant. Agreement reached on project details.
November 2024	Stage 1 commences.
December 2024	Fundamental Research : previous structure plan, residential demand & supply analysis (from regional project), demographic trends, physical infrastructure capacities and constraints, social infrastructure facilities & services and gaps, employment trends and needs, assets and initially identified opportunities, threats & constraints.

February 2025	<p>Community Consultation Round One: Project introduction and explanation. Raise awareness of the project within the community and advise of pending opportunities to participate and provide input.</p> <p>Government agencies and infrastructure providers – input.</p>
February 2025	Stage 1 completed.
March-April 2025	<p>Stage 2: Community Consultation Round Two: community workshop(s), submissions process for those not able to attend the workshop(s). Identification of an agreed ‘settlement vision’, growth priorities, growth areas, physical and social infrastructure needs, economic development opportunities, etc.</p>
April 2025	Stage 2 completed.
May-June 2025	Stage 3: Draft Structure Plan prepared by consultants.
July 2025	<p>Stage 3 completed. Consideration of Draft Structure Plan by Project Steering Group, and then full Council.</p> <p><u>Key decision point:</u> Draft Structure Plans recommended by Project Steering Group and endorsed by Council as suitable for community consultation.</p>
August 2025	Stage 4: Community Consultation Round Three: Draft Structure Plan subjected to final community consultation.
September 2025	<p>Assessment of community submissions by consultants. Consideration by Project Steering Group, and then full Council.</p> <p>Stage 4 completed.</p>
October 2025	Stage 5: Final Structure Plan prepared by consultants.
November 2025	Final Structure Plan considered by Project Steering Group.
December 2025	<p><u>Key decision point:</u> Final Structure Plan endorsed by Council.</p> <p>Stage 5 completed. End of project.</p>

4. GOVERNANCE & COMMUNICATIONS:

The Steering Group will guide the project and provide a sounding board for the Consultant.

Key decision points will be referred to full Council with the Steering Group's recommendation.

The Project Manager will report to the Steering Group.

The Consultant's primary point of contact will be the Project Manager.

The Consultant will, at times, be required to discuss the development of the plans with the Steering Group and possibly full Council at key decision points.

Communications with the media will be undertaken by the Mayor.

Day-to-day communications from the community or stakeholders will be filtered by the Project Manager.

Where appropriate, communications from the community or stakeholders will be directed to the Steering Group and/or the Consultant, as determine at the Project Inception Meeting.

5. KEY PROJECT OUTPUTS:

Recommendations generally should be cognisant of the three roles council may play in their implementation: undertake, facilitate or advocate. For example, in regard to recommended new community facilities, if within Council's purview such recommendations can inform Council's future works program and budgeting or support grant applications to State or Federal Government. Where such facilities are State-level responsibilities, then the recommendations will be used to form the basis of Council's lobbying efforts.

Specifically, project outputs will be:

- A new Structure Plan for the Bagdad-Mangalore valley that will:
 - Set out a local settlement strategy, including growth scenarios, key functions and relationships between of the localities through the valley.
 - Set out an agreed vision for the valley that will encapsulate the collective vision of members of the community, with the process of developing the structure plan fully involving local residents, ensuring that the recommendations reflect agreed visions, instilling a sense of shared community purpose and action.
 - Include an open space plan with recommendations pertaining to pedestrian/cycle ways, parks and recreation facilities, green corridors and wildlife corridors.

- Identify desirable zone changes and articulate the strategic planning rationale underpinning these changes.
- Provide recommendations that relate to community infrastructure and/or facilities that may be missing or inadequate and where there is a demonstrated need.
- Present relevant recommendations in a way that enables them to directly feed into the review of the Southern Tasmania Regional Land Use Strategy.

6. BUDGET

The cost of the project is estimated at \$80,000, over two financial years:

\$50,000 in FY2025 and \$30,000 in FY2026

7. EVALUATION CRITERIA

The successful Consultant will be selected on the basis of the following criterion:

- Ability to meet desired consultancy tasks and deliver project outcomes and outputs on time;
- Experience in public consultation and engagement experience, including face-to-face meetings, public meetings and group workshops;
- Project methodology;
- Relevant skills, qualifications & experience;
- Understanding and experience in strategic land use planning, economic development, planning public open spaces;
- Value for money.

8. PROJECT STEERING GROUP

Three Councillors will form the Project Steering Group (*To be determined by Council*)

Chair: Councillor ...

Member: Councillor

Member: Councillor

Others to attend meetings:

All Councillors to be able to attend meetings, should they wish.

The Project Manager (servicing the Working Group).

Relevant Council officers.

The Project Consultants to attend meetings when necessary.

Directions from the Project Steering Group will be implemented by the Project Manager.

Key decision point to be referred to full Council by the Project Steering Group for confirmation.

9. SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS

Proposals to undertake the project should be clearly marked '**Expression of Interest – Bagdad-Mangalore Structure Plan**' and addressed to:

The General Manager,
Southern Midlands Council,
PO Box 21,
Oatlands, 7120, Tasmania,

or by electronic email to mail@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au and will be received no later than 4:30pm on **Monday 12 August 2024.**

10. CONTACT DETAILS

The Project Manager will be the point of contact for potential consultants:

Damian Mackey
Special Projects Officer
Southern Midlands Council
Phone: 0499 782 584
Email: dmackey@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au



CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION PLAN 2023

SOUTHERN MIDLANDS COUNCIL
CLIMATE CHANGE RISK ASSESSMENT



SUMMARY

This climate change adaptation plan aims to improve the capability of Southern Midlands Council to manage the risks associated with climate change. Climate change adaptation is defined as *action taken to prepare for actual or expected changes in the climate in order to minimise harm and to cope with consequences*. Climate change is affecting council's service delivery and the infrastructure that the community depends upon by exacerbating the threats that existing extreme weather events pose.

Important drivers of adaptation planning are:

- recognition of the importance of identifying and managing emerging risks to council infrastructure and functions;
- meeting expectations of Council's insurers and ratepayers;
- managing financial risks; and
- managing legal liability in relation to development decisions and asset performance.

This adaptation plan addresses climate related risks to each council business area and overarching corporate considerations. The vulnerability of Council infrastructure and community assets in relation to heavy rainfall, flooding, heat and bushfire to developing climate hazards has been assessed utilising the on-ground expertise and knowledge of council staff. Future modelled climate data specific to the Southern Midlands municipal area was used to frame each risk statement.

Key climate change vulnerabilities identified include:

- Increasing likelihood of unprecedented flooding having implications for planning decision making and potential litigation risk if developments are approved in vulnerable locations.
- Increasing call on council resources for response to and recovery from heavy rainfall events.
- Detrimental impact on stormwater assets, and other assets, due to heavier rainfall events.
- More rapid degradation of road surfaces due to increasing hot days and heatwaves.
- Natural resource management (NRM) challenges due to changing conditions favouring invasive species to the detriment of local biodiversity.
- Inadequacy of some roads in areas vulnerable to bushfire, in terms of access, evacuation and ability to pass.
- Increasing bushfire danger having implications for residential developments in proximity to the bush, in relation to safety and council's role in compliance.
- Safe areas for community congregation.
- Changes to mean annual rainfall, longer dry spells and more severe droughts will result in impacts on street trees, ingress of roots into moist areas such as around foundations resulting in increased workload and costs.

An adaptation action was identified to address each of the identified risks together with responsibility, suggested timeframe and likely stakeholders. Examples of adaptation actions to address some of the highest rated risks are:

- *Installation of new pull-off areas to enable traffic management and access for fire engines in known high bushfire risk areas.*
- *Commission site specific flood modelling in areas considered to have inadequate flood information for decisions to be based upon, e.g. Bagdad Rivulet.*
- *Ensure there is water capacity/storage in areas of high bushfire risk - commencing with an audit of what is currently available in the municipality e.g. fast fill stations.*
- *Plan for infrastructure upgrades to cope with flood events in a prioritised manner based upon asset risk analysis and numbers of people likely to be effected e.g. road low points along the Jordan River.*
- *Adopt and advocate for road surface materials that can withstand greater exposure to heat.*

Particular corporate actions are suggested and cover:

- *Management of legal liability in relation to development decisions and asset management which includes:*
 - *keeping up to date on general climate change science and information, particularly in relation to potential risks from natural hazards;*
 - *developing clear and certain criteria for decision making to increase public confidence that decisions are made on the basis of the best available scientific evidence.*
- *Incorporation of climate change action into existing documents and processes such as the Risk Register, Annual Plan and Financial Plan.*
- *Emergency response plans should be reviewed, developed and implemented considering hazard changes under climate change projections. Up to date emergency response procedures can minimise consequences when extreme events occur.*
- *Replace trees at risk of creating issues with those that will withstand emerging conditions of heat and dry – refine street tree policy accordingly.*

The adaptation plan suggests a mechanism to implement regional adaptation actions where issues in common are identified across councils through both a regional adaptation strategy and ongoing involvement with the Regional Climate Change Initiative which is a forum for progressing actions collaboratively.

This climate change adaptation plan was developed under the Southern Councils Climate Collaboration Project (2021–24).

Authors: Graham Green and Katrina Graham

December 2023

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

This climate change adaptation plan (CCAP) aims to improve the capability of Southern Midlands Council to manage the risks associated with climate change. It is designed to:

- increase the capacity of council to protect and fortify assets/services;
- respond to increased and intensifying natural hazards;
- reduce exposure to potential liability in decision making;
- encourage council to build resilience in the community; and
- minimise financial risks.

Climate change adaptation is defined as action taken to prepare for actual or expected changes in the climate:

- in order to minimise harm; and
- to cope with the consequences in the aftermath of climate-driven extreme events.

Extreme weather events, once deemed a rare occurrence, are evolving into a 'new normal' and need to be managed. In fact, the majority of Australians (80%) have experienced some form of extreme weather event since 2019.¹

Recorded extreme weather events have increased worldwide by 90% over the past 20 years. Between 2019-2022, 11 natural catastrophes were declared in Australia and \$13 billion in insurance claims were paid.²

The cost of natural disasters in Australia is expected to rise from an average \$38 billion currently to closer to \$94 billion per year by 2060.³

**Southern Tasmanian storm, May 2018,
estimated cost – \$135 million**

Climate change is affecting how council delivers its critical services and maintains infrastructure that the community depends upon by exacerbating the threats that existing extreme weather events pose. Climate change risk statements and ratings, developed according to a standard risk management approach, form the basis of this plan.

Formulation of risk statements was based upon climate change modelling specific to the Southern Midlands municipal area and involved input from council staff representing all business areas.

The climate change adaptation plan includes an 'implementation plan', the first step of which is the identification of potential adaptation actions, responsibility, and timeframes. For some risks and actions, stakeholders are identified for situations where it provides greater efficiencies for councils to work collaboratively to manage climate change hazards.

'Investment' in adaptation actions can be based upon factors such as risk priority and a cost benefit analysis which weighs up factors such as the value of the asset, the importance of the asset to the community and the average annual cost of protecting and maintaining the asset.

Experience has demonstrated that adaptation investments exponentially decrease economic losses from climate impacts and bigger investments leads to lower losses. However, there will always be costs from residual climate change impacts that adaptation cannot alleviate.⁴ The World Resources Institute finds that every \$1 invested in adaptation yields net economic benefits ranging from \$2 to \$10.⁵

1 Climate Council (2023), Climate Trauma: The growing toll of climate change on the mental health of Australians. www.climatecouncil.org.au/resources

2 Insurance Council of Australia

3 Update to the economic costs of natural disasters in Australia – Australian Business Roundtable for Disaster Resilience & Safer Communities – Deloitte Access Economics

4 European Environment Agency 2023: assessing the costs and benefits of climate change adaptation.

5 World Resources Institute 2023: Adapt Now: A global call for leadership on climate resilience.

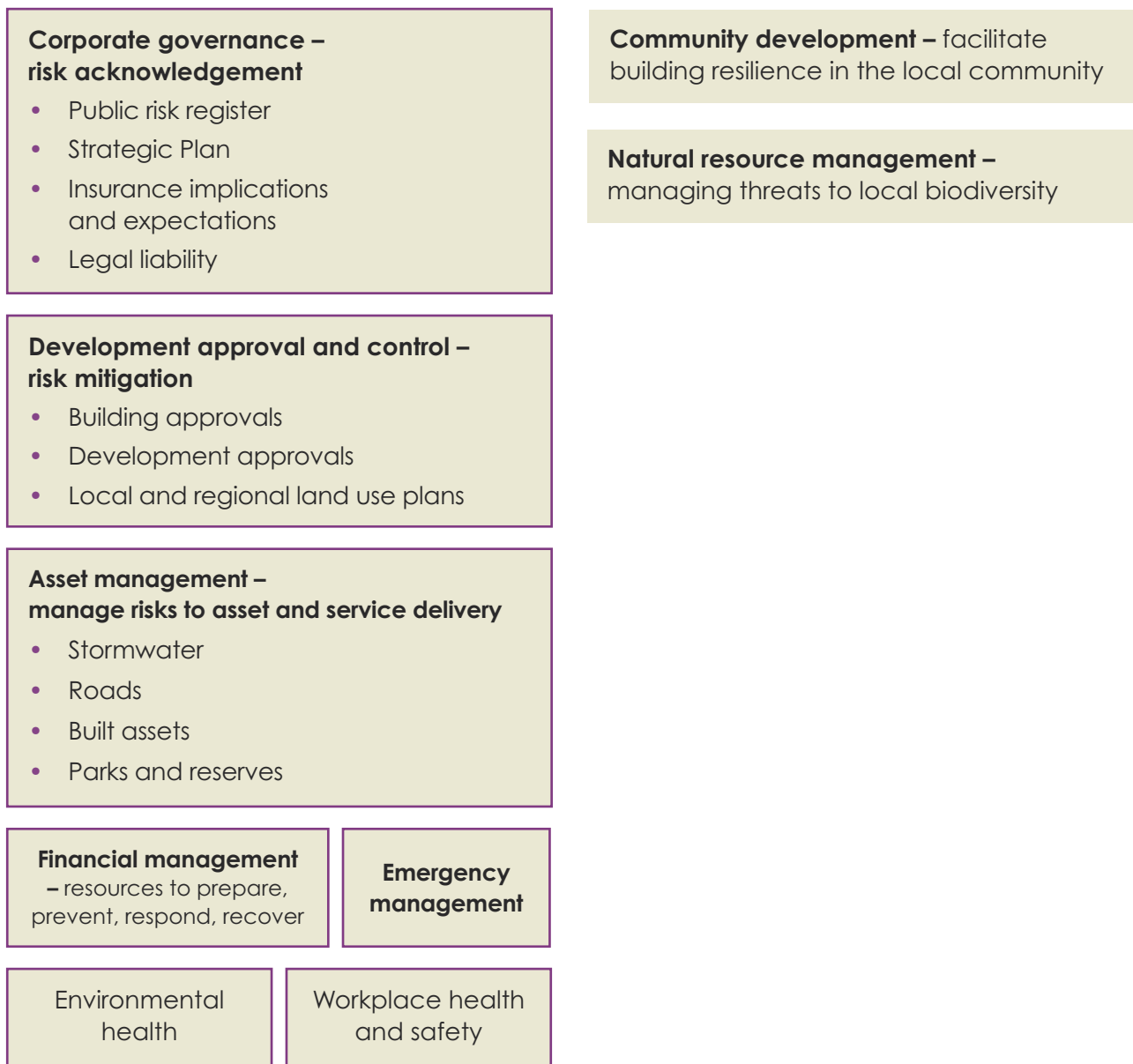
Climate change adaptation is relevant across all council business areas

Figure 1 depicts the core functions and services of Tasmanian councils – these are common to all councils. The boxes with red borders indicate the roles and responsibilities of councils for which they have statutory responsibility. To ensure good climate governance and mitigate their potential exposure to liability councils need to ensure that climate considerations, at a minimum, have been integrated into strategic and operational systems and processes represented in the red boxes.

Figure 1: Core functions and services of Tasmanian councils

Corporate

Community



This adaptation plan was developed under the Southern Councils Climate Collaboration Project (2021-24) and is a review of work undertaken under the Regional Climate Change Adaptation Project (RCCAP 2010-14).

1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

The STCA's climate program, The Regional Climate Change Initiative (RCCI) has, since 2010, developed a range of climate resources to support, and increase the capacity of council's climate change management including:

- **Mitigation** (reducing emissions and energy use)

Corporate:

- 'How to undertake a corporate council inventory guide'.
- Council Carbon Calculator and supporting fact sheets.

Community:

- Community (municipal) energy and greenhouse emissions profiles.

- **Adaptation** (responding to climate impacts and change)

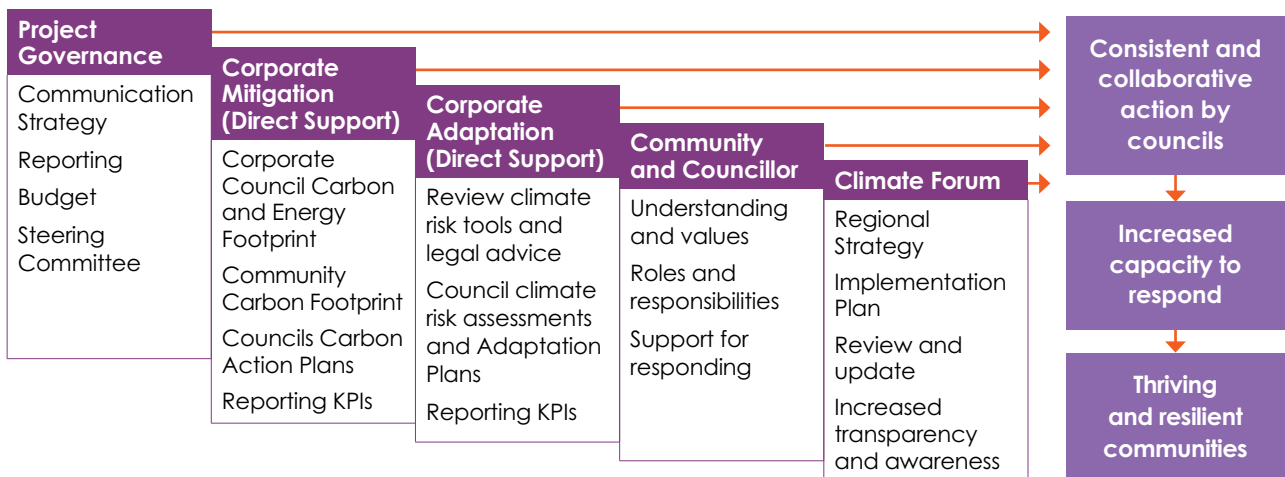
- Legal advice on councils' exposure to liability for climate change action.
- Principles and objectives for local government climate change action.
- Climate (municipal) profiles, based on UTAS Climate Futures program.
- Corporate Adaptation Planning Modules (climate risk assessment and adaptation options tool).
- Regional Strategy – adapting to a changing coastline in Tasmania.

The Project intends to develop a collaborative and consistent framework for all Tasmanian councils in addressing climate action. It aims to:

- Provide a clear set of principles to guide councils in responding to climate change adaptation and mitigation.
- Strengthen the resilience of councils to climate impacts locally and regionally, and contribute to managing the transition to low carbon economies.
- Review existing strategies and plans and identify necessary updates.
- Provide strategic direction for key council functions including: land use planning, infrastructure/assets management, natural resource management, recreational and cultural values.
- Build awareness of potential liability for decisions and actions associated with climate change impacts, risks and hazards.
- Direct awareness to what councils' key stakeholders are doing to adapt to climate change to encourage collaborative responses and resource sharing.

Figure 2: Core functions and services of Tasmanian councils

The Southern Councils Climate Collaboration 2022 – 2024 is the latest initiative of the RCCI and the project under which this adaptation plan was developed, is summarised as follows:



1.2 PROJECT CONTEXT

In Australia, “Local governments are on the frontline in dealing with the impacts of climate change. They have an essential role to play in ensuring that local circumstances are adequately considered in the overall adaptation response, and local communities are directly involved in adaptation efforts. Local governments are well positioned to inform State and Commonwealth governments about on-the-ground needs of local and regional communities, communicate directly with those communities, and respond to local challenges⁶.”

Specifically local governments are responsible for:

- Delivery of adaptation responses that align to State and Australian Government legislation.
- Provision of information about relevant climate change risks and contribution of appropriate resources to prepare, prevent, respond and recover from detrimental climatic impacts.
- Informing other levels of government about the on-the-ground needs of local and regional communities.
- Managing risks and impacts to council's public assets and to local government service delivery.⁷

Scope is also afforded to Tasmanian councils to address climate change under the *Local Government Act (Tas) 1993*, which describes the role of councils to provide for the health, safety and welfare of the community; as well as represent and promote the interests of the community; and provide for the peace, order and good government of its municipal area.⁸

Additionally, the Local Government (Content of Plans and Strategies) Order 2014 s.8. (2) (2) (b) (vii) requires councils to have in place an Asset Management Policy that includes the planning for climate change adaptation and mitigation.⁹

In managing and preparing for the impacts of climate change, Local Government is well positioned to work with communities due to its:

- core function to directly support and assist local communities;
- local knowledge and experience;
- understanding of community needs and vulnerabilities;
- key role in responding to emergencies;
- role in infrastructure design, construction and maintenance;
- role in review and update of planning schemes (in relation to identified local impacts and threats); and
- ability to effectively disseminate information and provide support to the community.

Local experience, in combination with relevant scientific data and technical expertise, provides the basis for undertaking a well-informed 'risk management' approach to climate change. Effective adaptation requires a portfolio of actions, ranging from fortifying infrastructure to advocacy and collaboration. There is also an appreciation that managing climate change risks has benefits, regardless of the magnitude of climate change that occurs. It is a 'no regrets' approach that can bolster infrastructure, reduce risk and liability, improve community well-being, and protect biodiversity.

⁶ National Climate Resilience and Adaptation Strategy 2021 to 2025 ([dcceew.gov.au](https://www.dcceew.gov.au))

⁷ Role and Responsibilities for Climate Change Adaptation in Australia, Council of Australian Governments Select Council on Climate Change 2012

⁸ *Local Government Act (Tas) 1993*. Section 20 Function and Powers.

⁹ <https://www.legislation.tas.gov.au/view/whole/html/inforce/current/sr-2014-035>

1.3 CLIMATE CHANGE SUMMARY DATA FOR SOUTHERN MIDLANDS COUNCIL

The development of this climate change adaptation plan was based upon council-specific, climate projection data provided by Climate Futures for Tasmania¹⁰. Modelled future climate is continually becoming a more exact science as real world data is fed back into models helping validate outcomes and improve forecasts.

The modelling equips us well to forecast future scenarios in relation to council's assets and functions. However, climate change is likely to deliver surprises and potentially unforeseen outcomes through intensifying and intersecting climate driven hazards.

The information below is a summary of Climate Futures data¹¹ relevant to the Southern Midlands municipal area.

The Forest Fire Danger Index (developed by CSIRO scientist, A. G. McArthur) **combines a measure of vegetation dryness with air temperature, wind speed and humidity**. If you add the daily FDI values over a year for a location, you get what is called the annual accumulated FDI.



Current climate and recent trends

- Southern Midlands Council has a temperate, maritime climate. Long-term average temperatures have risen in the decades since the 1950s, at a rate of up to 0.1 °C per decade.
- The average annual rainfall across the municipality is currently around 550 mm. Being a relatively large municipal area, the rainfall does vary a lot. For example, Tunbridge is one of the driest places in Tasmania with an average annual rainfall below 500 mm. There has been a decline in average annual rainfall since the 'baseline period' (1961-1990).
- Tasmania's southern region is influenced by large-scale climate drivers. For example, the extended dry spell of 1995-2009 coincided with an 'El Nino' pattern; the dry spell of 2018-20 coincided with an Indian Ocean Dipole event; and extended wetter spells, such as between 2020-2022, often coincide with dominance of a 'La Nina' climate driver. It is predicted that climate change will exacerbate the impact of these broader scale patterns, and particularly from east-coast lows which are expected to intensify with potential to deliver damaging flood events to eastern Tasmania.

Table 1: Southern Midlands future climate projection data – from Climate Futures Tasmania (average sub region data) 2019 RCP 8.5 (business as usual) scenario

	Baseline 1961-1990	Current	Mid-century 2040-2060	End of century 2080-2100
Average daily maximum temperature (°C)	15.5	16.2	17.2	18.6
Average annual hot days (above 30°C)	3	5	7	11
Average annual cumulative Forest Fire Danger Index	1710	1830	2037	2389
Average annual rainfall (mm)	581	555	549	557
Average annual evaporation (mm)	960	990	1060	1192
Extreme rainfall – 24hr AEP 1%	176 mm	181 mm	192 m	204 mm

*AEP = annual exceedance probability

¹⁰ <https://climatefutures.org.au/climate-futures-for-tasmania>

¹¹ Climate Change Information for Decision Making (2019): T. Remenyi, N. Earl, P. Love, D. Rollins, R. Harris; Climate Futures Programme, Discipline of Geography & Spatial Sciences, University of Tasmania.

1.3.1 Extreme events

The changes in climate that are most likely to impact upon council infrastructure, roads, the local community and the environment are an increase in intensity of extreme events and intersecting hazards. Intersecting hazards include the combined impact of, for example:

- heavy rain and gale force winds associated with storms which may cause road cuts due to both fallen trees and flash flooding;
- heatwave conditions associated with bushfire and smoke pollution; and
- compounding events that exhaust the economic and human resources of councils to manage and respond.
- compounding events that exhaust the economic and human resources of councils to manage and respond.
- Increased evaporation and longer dry periods coupled with more extreme temperatures is likely to enhance the

occurrence and intensity of bushfires, with more starts due to lightning strikes. Future fire danger. A guide to the increasing bushfire risk under climate change is: twice the danger, twice the area, twice as often.

- Heavier rainfall events than witnessed historically, particularly from east-coast lows, are expected to occur. High daily runoff events are likely to increase, including those that may lead to erosion, landslips or flooding.

More Information

Detailed information from the Climate Futures Programme on the modelled future climate for Tasmanian sub-regions may be found here: www.wineaustralia.com/climate-atlas

Figure 3. Threat multiplier – intersecting hazards

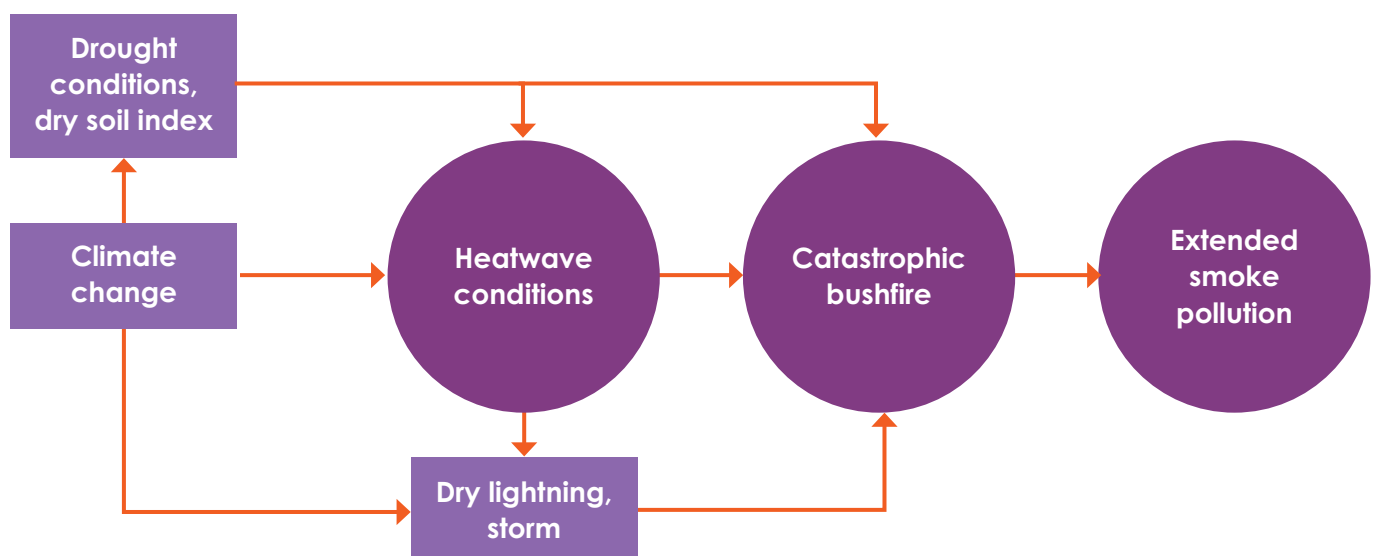


Image adapted from: *Tasmanian Disaster Risk Assessment (TASDRA) 2022*

2.0 OVERARCHING CORPORATE CONSIDERATIONS

Corporate climate change adaptation considerations fall across all Council strategic, operational and service areas. Engagement with these requires the development of understanding and governance by senior management who have overall responsibility for the setting and delivery of strategic and budgetary parameters. They are also increasingly expected to demonstrate leadership in the response to climate change.

Insurer Expectations

Local government insurer Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) is increasingly expecting council's to demonstrate responses to climate hazards, exposure and resultant risk. Lack of engagement and action could at a minimum result in insurance premiums rising and at worst litigation for negligence in failure to address risks appropriately. Councils with a solid framework in climate change adaptation procedures will minimise risk to council business and the community who relies on decision making that is well considered and based in up to date facts.

Legal Liability

The threat of climate change is now clearly established through legislation and national and state policy and international agreements. It is likely that a court will construe that the risks and impacts of climate change are now foreseeable.

With increasing vulnerability to climate change impacts councils need to provide solutions to adapt to and manage, identified risks associated with climate change. A key consideration of councils in the face of climate change is potential liability that they are exposed to in discharging their various statutory roles, powers and functions in times where exposure to natural hazards is increasing.

MAV Insurance,¹² has provided advice that councils have a duty of care in the context of climate change adaptation which may arise in the context of:

- Development approvals – where the risk of harm was foreseeable;
- The provision of protective standards in planning schemes e.g. regarding bushfire protection;
- Failure to maintain or build infrastructure e.g. stormwater systems; and
- The provision, or lack thereof, of information which is considered by a court to be negligent.

Baker and McKenzie, in a report to the Australian Local Government Association¹³ outlined actions that councils may follow to reduce liability. These include:

- keeping up to date on general climate change science and information, particularly in relation to potential risks from natural hazards;
- developing clear and certain criteria for decision making to increase public confidence that decisions are made on the basis of the best available scientific evidence;
- exercising reasonable care when making planning decisions, taking care to ensure relevant facts are known and understood, and reasons for decisions are clear, accurate and documented;
- increasing public consultation, as this may improve transparency around decision-making processes and limit administrative review; and
- facilitating the provision of up to date information to property owners on potential risks to property.

Useful information and case studies about legal risk and climate change adaptation can be accessed at: https://coastadapt.com.au/sites/default/files/information-manual/IM06_Legal_Risk.pdf

¹² MAV Insurance Fact Sheet: Liability Risk & Climate Change Adaptation

¹³ Local Councils Risk of Liability in the Face of Climate Change Resolving Uncertainties; a report for the Australian Local Government Association, Baker and McKenzie, 22 July 2011.

Emergency Management

As the closest level of government to the community, together with having a responsibility for the wellbeing of their community, councils have an important role in emergency management. Although councils are not a provider of emergency services, council are required to have in place Emergency Management Plans that cover functions including:

- provision of recovery centres and relief services during emergencies or disasters;
- provision of resources and information to emergency service teams such as Tasmania Fire Service and the SES;
- informing the community of the current situation, developments and ongoing prognosis during emergency events; and
- local emergency planning and development of mitigation options using risk analysis, prioritisation and treatment approaches.

As outlined earlier, extreme events and associated emergencies are likely to increase as a result of climate change, potentially resulting in resources for emergency management being required more frequently than in the past. Emergency management planning may be coordinated through a special council committee who have the role of preparing and reviewing a municipal emergency management plan. It is pertinent for this committee to be aware of, and discuss, possible scenarios for intensifying natural hazards and the implications for council's ability to respond appropriately.

Specific identified risks and actions in relation to council's emergency management role are presented in Sections 3 and 4.



Image: Katrina Graham

3.0 CLIMATE CHANGE IDENTIFIED RISKS AND ACTIONS

Risk is the outcome of the confluence of hazard, vulnerability and exposure. Hazards only become risks if there is exposure, and that there is vulnerability to their impacts.

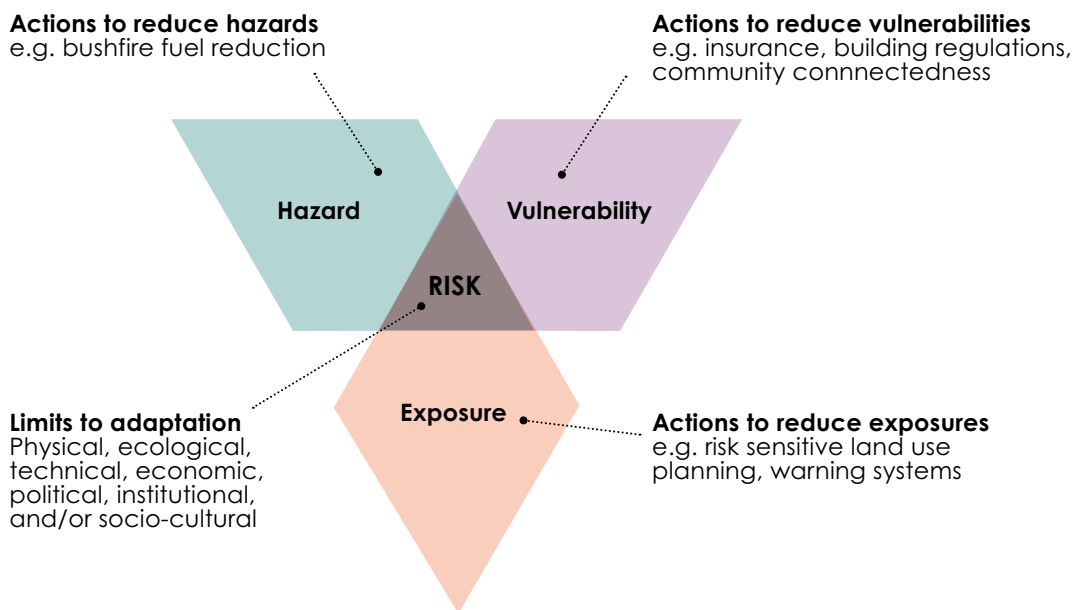


Image adapted from: *Tasmanian Disaster Risk Assessment (TASDRA) 2022*

Adaptation is about actively reducing exposure or building coping mechanisms for when hazards occur. Adaptation options that are feasible and effective today are likely to become constrained and less effective with increasing global warming. In other words, there are limits to adaptation, in some case moving away from the hazard may be the only option.

'Risk statements' are the key way that councils define hazards and their implications for council. Climate change requires the development of specific risk statements to cover intensifying climate hazards. Components of a meaningful risk statement are:

1. Climate change impact/hazard;
2. Consequence; and
3. Implication for council.

Example risk statement:

Increase in the frequency and intensity of extreme storms will result in heavier rainfall and unprecedented flooding (identify specific locations) leading to infrastructure damage or failure.

The risk management approach used in this adaptation plan was undertaken in accordance with the Risk Management Standard ISO 31 000.

3.1 RISKS AND ACTIONS ASSOCIATED WITH EXTREME EVENTS

3.1.1 Rainfall and Flooding

Heavier rainfall events, particularly from east-coast lows, are expected to create challenging hazards for council. Specific vulnerabilities are listed below:

VULNERABILITIES

Rainfall and Flooding

Increasing extreme rainfall events has the following implications:

- Exposure of infrastructure vulnerabilities – more frequent damage to assets.
- Finding resources to both repair damaged assets and upgrade assets to withstand future flood events.
- Absence of up to date modelling or hydrological studies to guide planning decision making. A recent study of Bagdad Rivulet has filled a knowledge gap but there are other vulnerable locations with no flood modelling data.
- Vulnerability to litigation if planning decisions are made that expose assets and people to escalating climate hazards.
- Exposure of shortcomings in the stormwater system – management of localised flooding associated with council infrastructure.
- Testing of emergency services capacity, e.g. managing road closures to keep people safe and to efficiently operate recovery centres.
- More resources required for dealing with the aftermath of more intense rainfall events – the clean-up effort can divert resources away from core council services and be a setback to budgets.

Identified risks, ratings and draft actions for rainfall and flooding are presented in Table 2.

Table 2: Identified risk statements, ratings and management for rainfall and flooding

Risk ID	Risk Statement	Primary business area impacted	Primary risk category	Secondary risk category	Risk rating in light of increasing climate change threats (primary risk category)			Existing Controls		Risk Treatment Options Proposed additional treatments – draft adaptation actions	Target risk level 2050	Responsibility	Timeframe	Key External Stakeholder
					Likelihood	Consequence	Risk rating	Controls and treatments (existing)	Control effectiveness for 2050 period					
RAINFALL AND FLOODING														
1	Increase in intensity of rainfall will result in unprecedented flooding events resulting in infrastructure damage or failure (e.g. road surfaces and bridges).	Infrastructure & Works	Financial	Service delivery	Likely	Moderate	High	Infrastructure improvements and upgrades	Partially effective	Plan for infrastructure upgrades to cope with flood events in a prioritised manner based upon asset risk analysis and numbers of people likely to be affected.	Medium	Manager Infrastructure & Works	Ongoing	
2	Increase in the frequency and magnitude of flood events leading to road inundation and risk to road users.	Emergency Management	Public safety		Almost certain	Moderate	High	Deploy signage on affected roads	Substantially effective	Greater vigilance and promptness in deploying signage will be required.	Medium	Emergency Management Committee	Immediate	SES
3	Increase in the intensity of rainfall will result in a greater likelihood that stormwater infrastructure will fail resulting in localised flooding.	Infrastructure & Works	Service delivery	Financial	Almost certain	Moderate	High	Retrospective upgrades and maintenance	Partially effective	Prioritise hot spot areas that are prone to flooding. Commission a new stormwater infrastructure plan if required.	Medium	Manager Infrastructure & Works	Immediate	
4	Increase in the intensity of rainfall resulting in exacerbated risk of localised landslips affecting council infrastructure, particularly roads.	Infrastructure & Works	Public safety	Financial	Likely	Minor	Medium	None		Monitor known high risk areas – ensure a geotech report is required for development application process in vulnerable areas.	Medium	Manager DES & Manager Infrastructure & Works		

Table 2: Identified risk statements, ratings and management for rainfall and flooding (continued)

Risk ID	Risk Statement	Primary business area impacted	Primary risk category	Secondary risk category	Risk rating in light of increasing climate change threats (primary risk category)			Existing Controls		Risk Treatment Options	Target risk level 2050	Responsibility	Timeframe	Key External Stakeholder
					Likelihood	Consequence	Risk rating	Controls and treatments (existing)	Control effectiveness for 2050 period					
5	Increase in the intensity of rainfall resulting in damage to property and more resources to attend to clean up.	Infrastructure & Works	Service delivery	Financial	Likely	Minor	Medium	Tree management programs	Largely ineffective	More funds allocated to culvert clearing. Tree management programs following hazardous tree analysis and assessment (heavy rainfall in storm events can result in increased tree damage or trees down).	Medium	Manager Infrastructure & Works	Immediate	
6	Changes to mean annual rainfall, longer dry spells and more severe droughts will result in impacts on street trees (loss of limbs), ingress of roots into moist areas such as around pipes and foundations resulting in increased workload and costs.	Infrastructure & Works	Financial	Public safety	Possible	Moderate	Medium	None	Largely ineffective	Replace trees at risk of creating issues with those that will withstand emerging conditions of heat and dry – refine street tree policy accordingly.	Low	Manager Infrastructure & Works	Ongoing	
7	Increase in intensity of rainfall will result in unprecedented flooding events resulting in the 'Flood Prone Areas Overlay' no longer being an accurate guide for managing inundation risk in new developments which could result in potential future litigation from planning decisions.	Development & Environmental Services	Financial	Public safety	Possible	Major	High	Use of legacy flood level information for framing decision making	Partially effective	Commission site specific flood modelling in areas considered to have inadequate flood information for decisions to be based upon, e.g. Bagdad Rivulet.	Low	Manager DES & Manager Infrastructure & Works	Immediate	Consultant

3.1.2 Bushfire

Twice the danger, twice the area, twice as often is a mantra that is now being used to summarise the increasing bushfire risk.

Rising average temperatures and more frequent extreme temperatures have the potential to contribute to a variety of impacts including: rapid drying of the landscape (flash droughts); longer bushfire seasons; enhanced wildfire intensity; and heatwave related illness and mortality (particularly in vulnerable demographics such as the elderly). Impacts may also be incurred on council's infrastructure and property, and on natural resources.

VULNERABILITIES

Bushfire

Changes to bushfire likelihood and behaviour may result in:

- **Emergency services response capacity challenges.**
- **An increase in repair or replacement costs of council and community infrastructure.**
- **Planning considerations in relation to development in locations with extreme bushfire hazard and exposure.**
- **Difficulty in accessing sufficient water resources when fire is associated with drought.**
- **Significant community disruption leading to a range of public health and safety issues, and delays to core council services.**
- **Exposure of shortcomings in the communications network i.e. mobile phone black-spots and/or damage to communications infrastructure.**
- **Pressure to upgrade roads in vulnerable areas to enable safe evacuation and access for emergency services.**
- **Pressure on natural resources not well adapted to fire.**

Identified risks, ratings and draft actions for bushfire are presented in Table 3. Emergency management is the function of council identified as being especially implicated in relation to the increasing bushfire hazard. An 'extreme' rated risk involves implications for Council's ability to ensure evacuations centres are fit for purpose and have the ability to function under a range of scenarios, including power outages, to ensure public safety.

Table 3: Identified risk statements, ratings and management for bushfire hazard

Risk ID	Risk Statement	Primary business area impacted	Primary risk category	Secondary risk category	Risk rating in light of increasing climate change threats (primary risk category)			Existing Controls		Risk Treatment Options Proposed additional treatments – draft adaptation actions	Target risk level 2050	Responsibility	Timeframe	Key External Stakeholder
					Likelihood	Consequence	Risk rating	Controls and treatments (existing)	Control effectiveness for 2050 period					
BUSHFIRE – twice the danger, twice the area, twice as often														
13	Increasing frequency and intensity of bushfires will result in more areas of the local government area that become unsuitable/dangerous for residential development having implications for the planning scheme and development approvals.	Development & Environmental Services	Community & lifestyle	Financial	Likely	Moderate	High	Increasing requirements for residents to comply with bushfire safety measures on their property	Partially effective	Continue current compliance measures and ensure building protection measures are implemented.	Medium	Development & Environmental Services	Immediate	Tas Fire Service
14	Increasing frequency and intensity of bushfires will result in increasing likelihood of damage to infrastructure and assets such as community halls that provide public services, having consequences for budgets and "insurability".	Infrastructure & Works	Financial	Community & lifestyle	Possible	Moderate	Medium	None	Largely ineffective	Ensure flammable vegetation is removed from the proximity of infrastructure and that mechanisms to minimise implications of ember attack are implemented (eg gutter guard). Roadside vegetation management.	Medium	Manager Infrastructure & Works	Immediate	Tas Fire Service
15	Increasing frequency and intensity of bushfires exacerbating the potential for evacuation and access issues on roads to vulnerable localities, e.g. Pelham, Huntingdon Tier Road.	Emergency Management	Public safety		Almost certain	Major	Extreme			Installation of new pull-off areas to enable traffic management and access for fire engines in known high bushfire risk areas.	High	Emergency Management Committee	Immediate	Tas Fire Service

Table 3: Identified risk statements, ratings and management for bushfire hazard (continued)

Risk ID	Risk Statement	Primary business area impacted	Primary risk category	Secondary risk category	Risk rating in light of increasing climate change threats (primary risk category)			Existing Controls		Risk Treatment Options	Target risk level 2050	Responsibility	Timeframe	Key External Stakeholder
					Likelihood	Consequence	Risk rating	Controls and treatments (existing)	Control effectiveness for 2050 period					
16	Increasing frequency and intensity of bushfires (also relates to floods) will result in increased demand on council buildings as a designated 'safer place' or evacuation centres.	Emergency Management	Public safety	Financial	Likely	Insignificant	Low	Regular updates to emergency management policies and procedures	Partially effective	Continued update and review of emergency management policies and procedures and the emergency management plan.	Low	Emergency Management Committee	On a needs basis	SES
17	Increasing frequency and intensity of bushfires will result in increased instances of energy and telecommunications network failure impacting business operations and activities.	Community & Corporate	Public safety	Service delivery	Possible	Minor	Medium	None	Largely ineffective	Lobby stakeholders to protect communications and energy transmission assets from bushfires	Medium	Community Development		

3.2 RISKS AND ACTIONS ASSOCIATED WITH INCREMENTAL CHANGE

3.2.1 Increasing Temperature

The modelled temperature rise for Southern Midlands from the baseline period to end of century is 3.1°C with a large increase in the number of hot days (above 30°C) (Table 1).

Although temperature related risks are identified and listed in Table 5, the implications of incremental increase in temperature are difficult to ascertain as a stand-alone hazard.

There are obvious synergies between increasing temperature, decreasing moisture in the landscape, and increasing likelihood of fire-starts. Increasing temperature, particularly resultant temperature extremes and heatwaves, is part of a range of climate-forced factors that often in combination produce an impact.



Table 5: Risk statements, ratings and management for temperature change

Risk ID	Risk Statement	Primary business area impacted	Primary risk category	Secondary risk category	Risk rating in light of increasing climate change threats (primary risk category)			Existing Controls		Risk Treatment Options	Target risk level 2050	Responsibility	Timeframe	Key External Stakeholder
					Likelihood	Consequence	Risk rating	Controls and treatments (existing)	Control effectiveness for 2050 period					
TEMPERATURE ↑														
8	Increasing 'heat days' and heatwaves will result in more heat stress experienced in the community resulting in an expectation to provide more sheltered or cool areas.	Community & Corporate	Community & lifestyle	Public safety	Unlikely	Minor	Low	Programs to increase tree plantings in urban areas	Partially effective	On a needs basis – Create dedicated cool spaces for community members and increase the planting of shade trees in line with Council's 'street tree policy'.	Low	Community Development	On a needs basis	
9	Higher temperatures and more heatwaves leading to impacts on street trees and streetscape plantings.	Infrastructure & Works	Community & lifestyle	Environmental	Possible	Minor	Medium	None		Select only species that are tolerant to heat and dry spells and ensure plantings are made at appropriate times with a follow-up watering program. Update street tree policy accordingly.	Low	Manager Infrastructure & Works	On a needs basis	
10	Changes to mean temperature and increasing 'heat days' and heatwaves will result in diminishing water resources during extended dry spells and hotter weather resulting in implications for water storages and local fire fighting capacity.	Emergency Management	Public safety	Service delivery	Likely	Moderate	High	Awareness of existing dams and water sources	Largely ineffective	Ensure there is water capacity/ storage in areas of high bushfire risk - commencing with an audit of what is currently available in the municipality e.g. fast fill stations. Upgrade the emergency management plan accordingly. Advocate to Taswater to install a fast fill outlet in Colebrook and Tunbridge.	Medium	Emergency Management Committee	Short term	Taswater

Table 5: Risk statements, ratings and management for temperature change (continued)

Risk ID	Risk Statement	Primary business area impacted	Primary risk category	Secondary risk category	Risk rating in light of increasing climate change threats (primary risk category)			Existing Controls		Risk Treatment Options	Target risk level 2050	Responsibility	Timeframe	Key External Stakeholder
					Likelihood	Consequence	Risk rating	Controls and treatments (existing)	Control effectiveness for 2050 period					
11	Changes to mean temperature and increasing 'heat days' and 'heatwaves' will result in local biodiversity loss and favour introduced weed species having implications for councils' NRM resources and priorities.	NRM	Environmental	Financial	Almost certain	Minor	Medium	Tree planting programs, biodiversity protection support initiatives and weed management program	Partially effective	Continue to resource, or seek grant funding for, biodiversity protection and restoration programs. Manage the impact of weeds on land that we control. Increase weed mapping and planning of control measures.	Medium	Landcare Unit	On a needs basis	State Govt
12	Changes to mean temperature and increasing 'heat days' and 'heatwaves' will result in greater instances of material degradation, particularly road surfaces (but also facades and structures) having consequences for budgets.	Infrastructure & Works	Financial	Service delivery	Likely	Moderate	High	None	Largely ineffective	Adopt and advocate for road surface materials that can withstand greater exposure to heat.	Medium	Manager Infrastructure & Works	Immediate	Contractors

3.3 RISKS AND ACTIONS ASSOCIATED WITH A RANGE OF HAZARDS

Some impacts on council services and infrastructure can be caused by more than one climate change driven hazard, for example, disruption to power supplies of communications may be caused by storm events, bushfire or even extreme heat.

Councils also have an important role in creating healthy vibrant communities, in fact most of council's roles and functions have a bearing on the wellbeing of residents. Climate change is now a well documented influencer of mental health and is beginning to regularly disrupt the fabric of communities. The majority of Australians (80%) have experienced some form of extreme weather disaster since 2019.¹⁴

Council may be required to invest increasing resources, not only in the way staff are managed to respond to extreme events, but also in community support to assist residents through tough times, particularly heatwaves and the increasing prevalence of extreme events.



Image: Graham Green

¹⁴ Climate Council (2023), Climate Trauma: The growing toll of climate change on the mental health of Australians. www.climatecouncil.org.au/resources

4.0 STRATEGIC ACTIONS AND SUMMARY ACTIONS FOR COUNCIL BUSINESS AREAS

4.1 CORPORATE SERVICES AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Council's Corporate Services section have a significant role to play in embedding the risks posed by climate change into council's core roles and responsibilities, as detailed previously in Section 2.0. Corporate Services needs to ensure climate driven hazards and risks are understood, grounded in credible science, and made a part of council's mainstream risk management process. Failure to do so can leave council open to litigation if decisions are made without clear understanding of emerging hazards and associated risks.

4.1.1 Strategic Action Priorities – incorporation into other documents and processes

Strategic priorities are broad level climate change adaptation actions that increase council's climate governance and cross numerous Council service areas. Having these in place enables and facilitates the inclusion of climate consideration across council's corporate strategic and operational functions increasing council's climate resilience and mitigating exposure to potential liability. Success of such actions is dependent on management support and financial resources. Implementation of strategic actions will provide Council with a solid framework in climate change adaptation and will build an internal culture that supports the implementation of adaptation options. Strategic action priorities are provided in Table 6.



Image: Graham Green

Table 6: Strategic corporate climate change adaptation actions

Strategic Priority Description	Reasoning
Integrate climate change risk management into existing Council wide risk assessment framework.	Climate change risks should be incorporated into Council's existing risk management processes. From a process point of view this will ensure that climate change risks continue to be properly addressed.
Consideration of climate change risks and impacts during the development of other Council strategies, policies and plans.	The climate change impacts and risk process outlined throughout this adaptation action plan should be considered in the development of future plans, policies and strategies to ensure that these issues are incorporated throughout all of Council's service areas. This will also ensure there are mechanisms for actions to be implemented.
Efficient coordination of corporate functions in relation to climate risks and associated financial contingency planning.	Corporate functions are currently split between two offices meaning that lack of communication can lead to inefficiencies in aligning priority risks with appropriate financial resourcing.
Assign a climate change officer to oversee implementation of this Plan.	A representative from Council is recommended to be assigned to oversee the implementation of actions outlined in the Plan.
Report on climate change adaptation progress into any future publicly available documents or reports.	Reporting on climate change adaptation progress will assist in engaging the community and informing other Councils on Council's progress.
Consider developing climate change related KPIs.	Climate change related Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) which would be reported on through Council's annual report will incentivise continuous improvement.

Legal advice to this Project contained options for councils to pursue with the State Government and in their own capacity to reduce their exposure and potential liability, **bearing in mind that these actions may be more appropriately pursued through a regional approach (Section 5.3).**

Potential corporate actions for Council (or regional RCCI group) to pursue in relation to legal liability

Amendment to <i>Local Government Act (Tas) 1996</i> , by the State Government, to insert an equivalent section to s733 <i>Local Government Act (NSW)</i> that exempts local governments for civil liability for the impacts of climate change where statutory powers, planning scheme provisions and assessment of development applications are done in good faith and in accordance with manual/s prepared by the State Government.
Formulation of State-wide codes to deal with climate change impacts to achieve a uniform set of provisions across the State that: contain specific development controls; removes decision making from planning authorities; does not require risk analysis; and sets prescribed levels for sea level rise in developed coastal regions throughout the State.

4.1.2 Financial management and communication

Corporate and Community also have an important role in framing the approach to implementing the highest priority climate change actions as part of its role in financial management (see Section 5.1).

Southern Midlands Council has an important role in economic development, particularly through encouraging investment and job growth, and enhancing liveability and environmental attributes which may influence individual's decisions to live in the municipal area. If the community is not prepared for the impacts of climate change then Council may be required to invest increasing resources in community support to assist residents through tough times and the increasing prevalence of extreme events. For rural councils, programs that Councils may consider referring local businesses and individuals to in challenging times are: Drought Ready Tasmania (www.droughtready.tas.gov.au) and Rural Alive and Well (www.rawtas.com.au).

There is an important 'communications' role for council in making available specific information to the community in relation to climate change. Up to date information will assist residents in preparing for changes that could be challenging, and also to ensure climate change decision making by council is understood and made clear, open and transparent.

4.1.3 Emergency Management Committee

Increasing frequency and magnitude of extreme events associated with climate change may result in resources for emergency management being stretched at times. Significant effort should be invested to ensure that relevant staff are well briefed to respond and that Emergency Management Plan and procedures are reviewed regularly (ideally bi-annual) so council's roles in emergency response run seamlessly.

Additional identified emergency management priority risks are listed in Table 8.

Table 7: Strategic emergency management adaptation actions

Strategic Priority Description	Reasoning
Ensure that the projected impacts of climate change are properly considered in Council's emergency management planning.	Emergency response plans should be investigated, developed and implemented considering the best available climate change projections. Up to date emergency response procedures can minimise consequences when extreme events occur.

Table 8: Emergency Management – summary actions and treatments for extreme and high rated risks

Risk ID	Risk statement	Business Area & Responsibility	Primary risk category	Likelihood	Consequence	Risk rating	Proposed Adaptation Action	Timeframe	Key External Stakeholder
15	Increasing frequency and intensity of bushfires exacerbating the potential for evacuation and access issues on roads to vulnerable localities, e.g. Pelham, Huntingdon Tier Road.	Emergency Management	Public safety	Almost certain	Major	Extreme	Installation of new pull-off areas to enable traffic management and access for fire engines in known high bushfire risk areas.	Immediate	Tas Fire Service
2	Increase in the frequency and magnitude of flood events leading to road inundation and risk to road users.	Emergency Management	Public safety	Almost certain	Moderate	High	Greater vigilance and promptness in deploying signage will be required.	Immediate	SES
10	Changes to mean temperature and increasing 'heat days' and heatwaves will result in diminishing water resources during extended dry spells and hotter weather resulting in implications for water storages and local fire fighting capacity.	Emergency Management	Public safety	Likely	Moderate	High	Ensure there is water capacity/storage in areas of high bushfire risk – commencing with an audit of what is currently available in the municipality e.g. fast fill stations.	Short term	Taswater

4.2 INFRASTRUCTURE AND WORKS

Council's Infrastructure and Works team is responsible for overseeing the construction, maintenance and replacement of property and infrastructure assets, including roads, drains and culverts, bridges, stormwater infrastructure, council owned buildings and recreational infrastructure such as walking tracks. For councils, effective asset management is about understanding the required level of service and delivering it in the most cost effective manner. Managing this objective is core business for local government and is key to ensuring council sustainability. The projected impacts of climate change threaten conventional asset management both in terms of financial modelling, as well as the level of service that is acceptable or even achievable.

Projected increases in the intensity and frequency of extreme events directly impact on council's asset base with significant and unpredictable financial and service delivery implications. Council's stormwater system for

example is designed for historical climate and with projected climate change, will possibly become under-capacity in places. Council will therefore need to consider the additional cost of managing stormwater at the current acceptable level of service and either fund that cost or accept that a greater frequency of inundation events is likely. This may result in public inconvenience, safety issues, and potentially legal liability for damage to property from poorly performing council infrastructure.

Further to the projected increases in extreme events, incremental changes to the climate such as increasing average temperatures or reduced average rainfall will also have implications to council's capacity to deliver its infrastructure based services. Such changes may result in accelerated structural fatigue in council's infrastructure. Design standards based upon past climate data and patterns may need to be reconsidered for new or replacement infrastructure to account for incremental climate change projections.



Table 9: Infrastructure and Works – summary of draft actions and treatments for high and medium rated risks

Risk ID	Risk statement	Business Area & Responsibility	Primary risk category	Likelihood	Consequence	Risk rating	Proposed Adaptation Action	Timeframe	Key External Stakeholder
1	Increase in intensity of rainfall will result in unprecedented flooding events resulting in infrastructure damage or failure (e.g. road surfaces and bridges).	Infrastructure & Works	Financial	Likely	Moderate	High	Plan for infrastructure upgrades to cope with flood events in a prioritised manner based upon asset risk analysis and numbers of people likely to be affected.	Ongoing	
3	Increase in the intensity of rainfall will result in a greater likelihood that stormwater infrastructure will fail resulting in localised flooding.	Infrastructure & Works	Service delivery	Almost certain	Moderate	High	Prioritise hot spot areas that are prone to flooding. Commission a new stormwater infrastructure plan if required.	Immediate	
12	Changes to mean temperature and increasing 'heat days' and heatwaves will result in greater instances of material degradation, particularly road surfaces (but also facades and structures) having consequences for budgets.	Infrastructure & Works	Financial	Likely	Moderate	High	Adopt and advocate for road surface materials that can withstand greater exposure to heat.	Immediate	Contractors
4	Increase in the intensity of rainfall resulting in exacerbated risk of localised landslips affecting council infrastructure, particularly roads.	Infrastructure & Works	Public safety	Likely	Minor	Medium	Monitor known high risk areas – ensure a geotech report is required for development application process in vulnerable areas.		
5	Increase in the intensity of rainfall resulting in damage to property and more resources to attend to clean up.	Infrastructure & Works	Service delivery	Likely	Minor	Medium	More funds allocated to culvert clearing. Tree management programs following hazardous tree analysis and assessment (heavy rainfall in storm events can result in increased tree damage or trees down).	Immediate	
6	Changes to mean annual rainfall, longer dry spells and more severe droughts will result in impacts on street trees (loss of limbs), ingress of roots into moist areas such as around pipes and foundations resulting in increased workload and costs.	Infrastructure & Works	Financial	Possible	Moderate	Medium	Replace trees at risk of creating issues with those that will withstand emerging conditions of heat and dry – refine street tree policy accordingly.	Ongoing	
9	Higher temperatures and more heatwaves leading to impacts on street trees and streetscape plantings.	Infrastructure & Works	Community & lifestyle	Possible	Minor	Medium	Select only species that are tolerant to heat and dry spells and ensure plantings are made at appropriate times with a follow-up watering program. Update street tree policy accordingly.	On a needs basis	
14	Increasing frequency and intensity of bushfires will result in increasing likelihood of damage to infrastructure and assets such as community halls that provide public services, having consequences for budgets and 'insurability'.	Infrastructure & Works	Financial	Possible	Moderate	Medium	Ensure flammable vegetation is removed from the proximity of infrastructure and that mechanisms to minimise implications of ember attack are implemented (e.g. gutter guard).	Immediate	Tas Fire Service

4.3 DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Climate change risks have implications for council's role in planning and development approval, particularly in relation to possible litigation if risk to property from climate change related disasters are not adequately identified, communicated or appropriately managed.

In relation to changes in flood and bushfire risk from a warming climate, planning scheme overlays should be updated where possible to incorporate modelling data to appropriately guide development, particularly in flood prone areas. Council is reliant upon grant funds or support from the State Government to supply this information as hydrological studies are beyond the means of small councils to fund.

With increasing bushfire likelihood it may be useful to have planning schemes informed by modelled fire data that could include: vegetation flammability; slope; ignition potential; and suppression capability.

The Bushfire-Prone Areas Code overlay covers the majority of the municipal area. It prompts thinking around appropriateness of developments in terms of location, access and water supply. For each development a detailed bushfire attack level (BAL) assessment is required as part of the planning approval process. This assessment informs detail around positioning of buildings, buffer areas, construction technique, and appropriate building materials to minimise bushfire impact and flammability.

In terms of flood risk, the Flood Prone Hazard Areas Code overlay, should as far as possible be based upon modelled flood inundation that incorporates projected rainfall change. There is currently no state-wide mapping of areas potentially susceptible to flooding risks, and no flood modelling specific to some potentially problematic inundation areas, particularly those susceptible to concurrent events (heavy rainfall/high tide/storm surge). This leaves council in a vulnerable situation, because according to climate change scenarios, previously unforeseen inundation events are likely to occur. Additionally, new information regarding potential inundation areas is likely to affect property values and future development potential.

Where council is unable to bear the cost of flood modelling, it may be pertinent in some locations to request a site-specific flood management plan as a condition of development approval. Or where the risk cannot be qualified, adopt the precautionary principle, exercise discretion and refuse accordingly. This will help raise awareness of exposure to inundation risk and ensure developments proceed in such a way that potential harm and potential litigation is minimised.

Identified Development Services actions are listed in Table 9.

Table 9: Development & Environmental Services – summary of actions and treatments for highest rated risks

Risk ID	Risk statement	Business Area & Responsibility	Primary risk category	Likelihood	Consequence	Risk rating	Proposed Adaptation Action	Timeframe	Key External Stakeholder
7	Increase in intensity of rainfall will result in unprecedented flooding events resulting in the 'Flood Prone Areas Overlay' no longer being an accurate guide for managing inundation risk in new developments which could result in potential future litigation from planning decisions.	Development & Environmental Services	Financial	Possible	Major	High	Commission site specific flood modelling in areas considered to have inadequate flood information for decisions to be based upon, e.g. Bagdad Rivulet.	Immediate	Consultant
13	Increasing frequency and intensity of bushfires will result in more areas of the local government area that become unsuitable/dangerous for residential development having implications for the planning scheme and development approvals.	Development & Environmental Services	Community & lifestyle	Likely	Moderate	High	Continue current compliance measures and ensure building protection measures are implemented.	Immediate	Tas Fire Service

Environmental Health

Councils have a statutory role for the provision of environmental health services across their communities. In addition to these formal roles other functions may include: aged care, child health, special needs care, supported accommodation and counselling and support services. Climate change has many implications for community health. Gradual shifts over time in temperature, humidity and rainfall patterns can create ideal conditions for disease vectors, such as mosquitos, in areas where there was no previous exposure. Direct impact of extreme

events such as bushfire and heatwaves can result in emergency services and community support services being stretched beyond their capacity. There is now an established link between extreme heatwaves and an increase in mortality in vulnerable sectors of the community.

Severe seasonal conditions such as drought lead to tough environmental and economic situations which can result in more widespread mental health challenges. Councils have an important community role in promoting and maintaining links to relevant support services in times of hardship.

4.4 NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Council's role in natural resource management (NRM) is focused on management of local reserves, protecting local biodiversity, managing threats such as weeds, and running community programs e.g. revegetation projects.

The natural environment is under pressure from climate change. The climate change we are now experiencing is occurring relatively rapidly. In natural vegetation communities this change is likely to favour some species and disadvantage others. A possible outcome is loss of vulnerable species and changes in structure, function and composition of vegetation communities. Additionally, exacerbated threat to vegetation communities may occur through proliferation

of weeds which may be favoured by changing temperature and rainfall conditions. Direct physical impacts on natural systems may also be exacerbated under climate change, for example, rivers and streams are likely to experience flood flows at levels not seen before, creating vulnerability to erosion in riparian areas.

There may be a need to refocus NRM activities in the future away from addressing issues in isolation to a strategic approach that is well informed about landscape-scale ecological processes. This approach will enable limited resources to be deployed wisely and in ways that address several issues, for example, revegetation in conjunction with landscape connectivity priorities.

Table 10: NRM – summary actions and treatments for highest rated risks

Risk ID	Risk statement	Business Area & Responsibility	Primary risk category	Likelihood	Consequence	Risk rating	Proposed Adaptation Action	Timeframe	Key External Stakeholder
11	Changes to mean temperature and increasing 'heat days' and heatwaves will result in local biodiversity loss and favour introduced weed species having implications for council's NRM resources and priorities.	NRM	Environmental	Almost certain	Minor	Medium	Continue to resource, or seek grant funding for, biodiversity protection and restoration programs. Manage the impact of weeds on land that we control.	On a needs basis	State Govt

5.0 ADAPTATION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION AND REVIEW

The implementation of this Plan requires a co-ordinated approach, both across council business, in partnership with other councils, and with external stakeholders. Key components of implementation include:

- a process for adaptation plan endorsement by council;
- a logical way for incorporation of key local risks and adaptation actions into council documents and processes such as risk registers, strategic plans, annual plans or asset management plans; and
- an appropriate mechanism to implement sub-regional and regional adaptation actions either through advocacy or collaboration.

It is important that management play a role in Plan implementation by assuming responsibility for implementing adaptation actions. Implementation of adaptation actions may provide Council with a buffer to the challenges posed by climate change.

5.1 FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS

Financial and resource availability are critical factors for enabling implementation of adaptation actions. The adaptation options identified in this Plan will come at varying degrees of cost and resource requirement. It is likely that Council will initially support implementation of those adaptation actions which are cost effective and align with current resource capacity and availability. As mentioned earlier in this document every dollar invested in adaptation typically yields net economic benefits ranging from \$2 to \$10,¹⁵ hence implementation of prioritised actions may be viewed as a 'no regrets' approach.

Prioritising 'investment' in adaptation actions can be based upon factors such as risk priority and a cost benefit analysis. Weighing up the value of the asset, the importance of the asset to the community, and the average annual

cost of protecting and maintaining the asset are important considerations in determining where to allocate resources. In some cases it may not be feasible to protect an asset and consideration of relocation may be the only option.

It is important to recognise that not all climate change action within Council will require its own funding, but will become embedded in the operational business of Council through appropriate governance arrangements, planning and policy. Notwithstanding this, some of the more complex adaptation options, such as road relocation or coastal fortification will require substantial financial support and resources. For these actions, pursuing grant funding and establishing partnerships for collaborative or common actions can be effective in reducing the overall cost of action for Council, enabling the full cost of action to be offset.

¹⁵ World Resources Institute 2023: Adapt Now: A global call for leadership on climate resilience.

5.2 STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT AND COLLABORATION

Climate change is likely to impact either directly or indirectly on all aspects of council function. Further to this, impacts are likely to be felt throughout the community affecting other organisations that council has involvement with. A collaborative adaptation response between all stakeholders is therefore essential for council to maintain its service level in a changing climate. It is important that:

- linkages between organisations and commonalities of hazards and risks are identified;
- there is a clear understanding of roles and responsibilities in relation to management of identified climate change risks;
- there is awareness of what stakeholders are doing to manage climate change;
- recognition of opportunities to develop or strengthen existing collaborations and share resources; and
- duplication of efforts is avoided wherever possible.



Image: Graham Green

5.3 REGIONAL STRATEGY

The former Regional Councils Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (2013-17) for southern Tasmania, provided a policy platform and the parameters for cohesive and effective regional and sub-regional action(s) and, importantly, to strengthen the role of councils in adapting to climate change. Its underlying principles were:

- Climate change is a global issue requiring local solutions.
- Climate change action is a shared responsibility between local, state and Commonwealth governments, communities and the private sector.
- Local governments have an important role in leadership and educating communities at both the municipal and regional level on climate change and adaptation.
- Councils must prepare for and manage the impacts of climate change on its assets and services.
- Early climate change adaptation action is more cost effective than late action.
- Collaboration and cooperation on climate change adaptation actions by local government provides more effective use of resources.

Implementation of the Strategy is ongoing through a regional working group (the Regional Climate Change Initiative) who develop and implement an action plan to progress shared risks and actions between councils through a 'regional register'. Regional actions relate to the following themes:

- education and awareness raising;
- advocacy to State/Australian Government/stakeholders;
- collaboration on regional strategy;
- collaboration on climate action;
- cost sharing on research, study and technical advice; and
- review of design standards.

Regional actions are prioritised by the RCCI in relation to considerations such as: level of urgency, resourcing requirements, staff availability, funding opportunities, strategic directions and policy settings.

Strategic Priority Description	Reasoning
<p>Where required, support the implementation of Regional Councils Climate Change Adaptation Strategies.</p>	<p>Administered through the STCA, the Regional Councils Climate Change Adaptation Strategy aims to drive adaptation in local government for the region and deliver on a number of common actions that are relevant to its member councils. The success of this strategy is dependent on a high level of buy in from each of the Councils across Southern Tasmania.</p>

5.4 EVALUATION AND REVIEW

Monitoring and evaluation of climate change adaptation is necessary to ensure a flexible response and effective allocation of resources. Despite increasing accuracy of modelling based upon the input of real-world data as time goes by, climate change is likely to deliver surprises and potentially unforeseen outcomes. This is because we are entering uncharted waters and it is often difficult to predict how infrastructure and the environment will respond to unprecedented, intensifying and intersecting climate driven hazards.

Monitoring and evaluation is important to evaluate the progress of adaptation actions; integrate new knowledge about climate change projections and potential impacts; keep abreast of legal implications and planning considerations; evaluate and incorporate new technology that can assist with defining hazards, exposure and risk.

Establishment of executive leadership and an appropriate staff team to conduct risk re-assessment involving staff from all operational areas is important. Staff who have local knowledge and influence over potential impacts, including ability to implement actions and allocate resources, must be involved in these assessments.

A component of the Southern Council's Climate Collaboration 2022-23 was a review of the risk tool and legal advice. The tool is a resource that enables comprehensive in-house review of the risk management process. Climate change adaptation tools that provide a guide to the whole process of adaptation planning are available at:

www.stca.tas.gov.au/rcci/our-projects/regional-council-climate-adaptation-project/

5.5 RELATED RESOURCES

Tasmanian Disaster Resilience Strategy 2020-2025
www.dpac.tas.gov.au/divisions/osem/tasmanian-disaster-resilience-strategy-2020-2025

Tasmanian Climate Change Action Plan 2023-25
<https://recfit.tas.gov.au/climate/climate-change-action-plan>

Of particular relevance to local government in the Action Plan:

- an undertaking to update the fine-scale climate projections for Tasmania;
- development of a state-wide Climate Change Risk Assessment;
- development of a consistent state-wide approach to managing the impacts of coastal hazards under a changing climate.

Detailed information from the Climate Futures Programme on the modelled future climate for Tasmanian sub-regions may be found here:
www.wineaustralia.com/climate-atlas



The Climate Change Adaptation Plan 2023 has been prepared under the auspices of the Southern Tasmanian Councils Authority, Regional Climate Change Initiative by the 12 Councils of southern Tasmania: Brighton, Clarence City, Central Highlands, Derwent Valley, Glamorgan Spring Bay, Glenorchy City, City of Hobart, Huon Valley, Kingborough, Sorell, Southern Midlands and Tasman.



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REGIONAL
CLIMATE CHANGE
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