

SOUTHERN
MIDLANDS
COUNCIL



MINUTES

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, 27th February 2024
10.00 a.m.

Tunbridge Community Hall
99 Main Road, Tunbridge.

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OPEN COUNCIL MINUTES

MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF THE SOUTHERN MIDLANDS COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 27TH FEBRUARY 2024 AT THE TUNBRIDGE COMMUNITY HALL COMMENCING AT 10.01 A.M

1. PRAYERS

Deputy Mayor K Dudgeon 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 and Clr F Miller.

Mr T Kirkwood (General Manager), Mr G Finn (Manager Development and Environmental Services), Ms W Young (Manager Community & Corporate Development), Mrs A Burbury (Finance Officer) and Mrs J Crosswell (Executive Assistant).

4. APOLOGIES

Clr D Fish, Mr A Benson (Deputy General Manager)

5. MINUTES

5.1 Ordinary Council Meeting

The Minutes (Open Council Minutes) of the previous meeting of Council held on the 24th January 2024, as circulated, are submitted for confirmation.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Minutes (Open Council Minutes) of the Council Meeting held 24th January 2024 be confirmed.

DECISION

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

THAT the Minutes (Open Council Minutes) of the Council Meeting held 24th January 2024 be confirmed subject to amending Item 17.2.4 – Moved by Clr D Fish as opposed to Clr B Campbell.

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 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 Minutes – 19th February 2024

RECOMMENDATION

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

DECISION

Moved by Clr D Blackwell, 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 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 Minutes – 19th February 2024

RECOMMENDATION

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

DECISION

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

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 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 20th November 2023

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Minutes of the above Joint Authority be received.

DECISION

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

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 F Miller	✓	

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

Nil.

6. NOTIFICATION OF COUNCIL WORKSHOPS

In accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015*, the Agenda is to include details of any Council workshop held since the last meeting.

Two workshops have been held since the last Ordinary Meeting.

A workshop was held on the 13th February 2024 at the Council Chambers, Oatlands commencing at 9.30 a.m.

Attendance: Mayor E Batt, Deputy Mayor K Dudgeon, Clrs A E Bisdee OAM, D Blackwell, D Fish, and F Miller (remotely).

Also in Attendance: T Kirkwood, A Benson, W Young, J Rowley and J Crosswell.

Apologies: Clr B Campbell.

1. Southern Midlands Community Infrastructure Plan – draft Report

The Consultants from Inspiring Place attended the workshop to present a preliminary draft of the report. The main purpose of the session was to consider the draft in the context of the scope of works specified in the consultancy.

The aim is to submit the report to the February Council Meeting prior to release for public review and feedback.

The workshop concluded at approximately 12.45 p.m.

A workshop was held on the 16th February 2024 at the Council Chambers, Oatlands commencing at 9.30 a.m.

Attendance: Mayor E Batt, Deputy Mayor K Dudgeon, Clrs D Blackwell, B Campbell, D Fish, and F Miller (remotely).

Also in Attendance: T Kirkwood, A Benson, W Young and J Crosswell.

Apologies: Clr A E Bsidee OAM.

The Workshop focussed on the following items for consideration and discussion:

1. Bagdad - Mangalore Hydraulic Assessment Study (Max Moller)

Consultant Max Moller, Principal Hydraulic Engineer from Flussig Engineers, attended the Workshop to present a draft of his report relating to the study of the Bagdad / Mangalore drainage flooding issues, along with his recommendations.

2. Property Matter - Bagdad

Preliminary discussion.

3. Regional Tech Hub – National Farmers Federation (Peter Buzza) – 11.00 a.m.

Peter Buzza, who is employed by the National Farmers Federation, is the new Tasmanian based liaison officer for various federally funded tech initiatives. A key initiative is called The

Regional Tech Hub and is a free and independent service to help anyone in rural, regional, and remote Tasmania with Digital connectivity and literacy. The Regional Tech Hub also runs a new information and education service in relation to federal grants for the On-Farm Connectivity program. This is aimed at the internet of things for farms by way of rebates to assist in moving to tech savvy solutions.

Peter presented information to the workshop relating to his role and the above initiative.

4. Review of the Strategic Plan

Initial session to commence the review of the Strategic Plan. The process is to include community consultation sessions to be conducted over coming weeks.

The workshop concluded at approximately 1.00 p.m.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the information be received.

DECISION

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

THAT the information 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 F Miller	✓	

7. COUNCILLORS – QUESTION TIME

7.1 Questions (On Notice)

Regulation 30 of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015* relates to Questions on notice. It states:

- (1) *A councillor, at least 7 days before an ordinary council meeting or a council committee meeting, may give written notice to the general manager of a question in respect of which the councillor seeks an answer at that meeting.*
- (2) *An answer to a question on notice must be in writing.*

Nil.

7.2 Questions Without Notice

Section 29 of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015* relates to Questions without notice.

It states:

“29. Questions without notice

- (1) *A councillor at a meeting may ask a question without notice –
 - (a) of the chairperson; or
 - (b) through the chairperson, of –
 - (i) another councillor; or
 - (ii) the general manager.*
- (2) *In putting a question without notice at a meeting, a councillor must not –
 - (a) offer an argument or opinion; or
 - (b) draw any inferences or make any imputations – except so far as may be necessary to explain the question.*
- (3) *The chairperson of a meeting must not permit any debate of a question without notice or its answer.*
- (4) *The chairperson, councillor or general manager who is asked a question without notice at a meeting may decline to answer the question.*
- (5) *The chairperson of a meeting may refuse to accept a question without notice if it does not relate to the activities of the council.*
- (6) *Questions without notice, and any answers to those questions, are not required to be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.*
- (7) *The chairperson of a meeting may require a councillor to put a question without notice in writing.*

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

Clr F Miller – Campania Carpark – level of dissatisfactions still exists with blocking of the entry point. Are works scheduled to address this issue?

To be advised.

Clr F Miller – illegal dumping of semi-commercial / industrial type waste on Brown Mountain Road and Colebrook Main Road – evidence that this is a significant issue that warrants further consideration in terms of measures to discourage such activity.

Clr B Campbell – acknowledged the planned actions to be undertaken in relation to fishing at Lake Dulverton (e.g. clearing of vegetation)

Clr B Campbell – Woodsdale Road (vicinity of Dean property) – concerns expressed about this location following a reported ‘near-miss’. Vehicles are still speeding.

General Manager advised that line marking has been arranged for the crest of the rise and it would be appropriate to install ‘concealed entrance’ sign (or similar) at this location.

Clr B Campbell – Mount Seymour Hall – indicated that there was some level of community interest in using this Hall. No information is available in terms of who has control or management responsibility for this Community Hall.

Mayor Batt – Exercise classes are being conducted at the Kempton Hall under the umbral of Rec Link. It was advised that Rec Link has lost its funding to support this activity however the Green Ponds Progress Association (GPPA) is willing to sponsor and finance delivery of the program. Can Council receive the donation from the GPPA and then pay the service provider?

The General Manager confirmed that this was possible.

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. Employees Code of Conduct Policy (Final Adoption)

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 Cllr B Campbell, seconded by Deputy Mayor K Dudgeon

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*.

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 F Miller	✓	

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

In accordance with the requirements of Part 2 Regulation 8 of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015*, the agenda is to make provision for public question time.

In particular, Regulation 31 of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015* states:

- (1) *Members of the public may give written notice to the General Manager 7 days before an ordinary meeting of Council of a question to be asked at the meeting.*
- (2) *The chairperson may –*
 - (a) *address questions on notice submitted by members of the public; and*
 - (b) *invite any member of the public present at an ordinary meeting to ask questions relating to the activities of the Council.*
- (3) *The chairperson at an ordinary meeting of a council must ensure that, if required, at least 15 minutes of that meeting is made available for questions by members of the public.*
- (4) *A question by any member of the public under this regulation and an answer to that question are not to be debated.*
- (5) *The chairperson may –*
 - (a) *refuse to accept a question; or*
 - (b) *require a question to be put on notice and in writing to be answered at a later meeting.*
- (6) *If the chairperson refuses to accept a question, the chairperson is to give reasons for doing so.*

Councillors are advised that, at the time of issuing the Agenda, one Question on Notice had been received from a member of the Public.

Mr John Brose – Email received Wednesday 21st February 2024

The following question was received from Mr John Brose:

I am requesting an update on the investigation into the blockage of the public access road to Craighourne Dam. Have the police given an update as to their investigation and has the council finalised their investigation and if they have what actions are being taken.

RESPONSE – GENERAL MANAGER

It is advised that no further update has been received from Tasmania Police in respect to this matter. At this point of time, no further information or evidence has been forthcoming and from a Council perspective, the placement of the boulders was undertaken by unknown person(s).

Mayor E Batt to invite questions from members of the public in attendance.

Mrs C Bransden – Sutton Street, Tunbridge - enquired about the availability of a 'FOGO' waste service.

The General Manager advised that the community has not sought or identified the need for this type of service at this stage. Hence there were no plans to progress with the introduction of this type of service unless there was general support across the municipal area. It would involve an additional charge to recover the cost of the collection contract.

Mr P Worlton – Scott Street, Tunbridge raised a number of issues, including:

- Scott Street, Tunbridge – requires maintenances – seal has 'broken-up';
- Culvert across Main Road / Allison Street - road has sunk and requires bitumen
- Rates & Charges issue – this was resolved at the meeting.
- Barking Dog Complaint
- Scott Street, Tunbridge – rocks have been thrown onto the road verge from the adjoining property – to be investigated and appropriate action taken.

Julia Jabour – Southern Midlands Regional News

Should Mayor E Batt be elected to State Parliament, what will the process to appoint a replacement?

It was confirmed that a by-election will be required which would be undertaken by the State Electoral Commission.

Mr G Lodge – Main Road, Tunbridge raised a number of issues, including:

- Scott Street, Tunbridge – drainage pipe installed with no barrier at the inlet/ outlet – to be investigated
- MacLanachan Street, Tunbridge – front of his property – lack of gravel to enable the garbage contractor to turn etc,
- Tunnack Rad – Baden through to Tunnack – condition of road extremely poor and requires significant maintenance. It was confirmed that this matter has been raised with the Department of State Growth as the responsible road authority.

10.1 Permission to Address Council

Nil.

DECISION

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

THAT the meeting be adjourned for morning tea at 10.57 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 F Miller	✓	

DECISION

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

THAT the meeting reconvene at 11.24 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 F Miller	✓	

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

Nil,

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.

13.1.1 Consideration of Request to Rename Brodribbs Road, Campania

Author: MANAGER HERITAGE PROJECTS (BRAD WILLIAMS)

Date: 23 FEBRUARY 2024

Attachment(s):

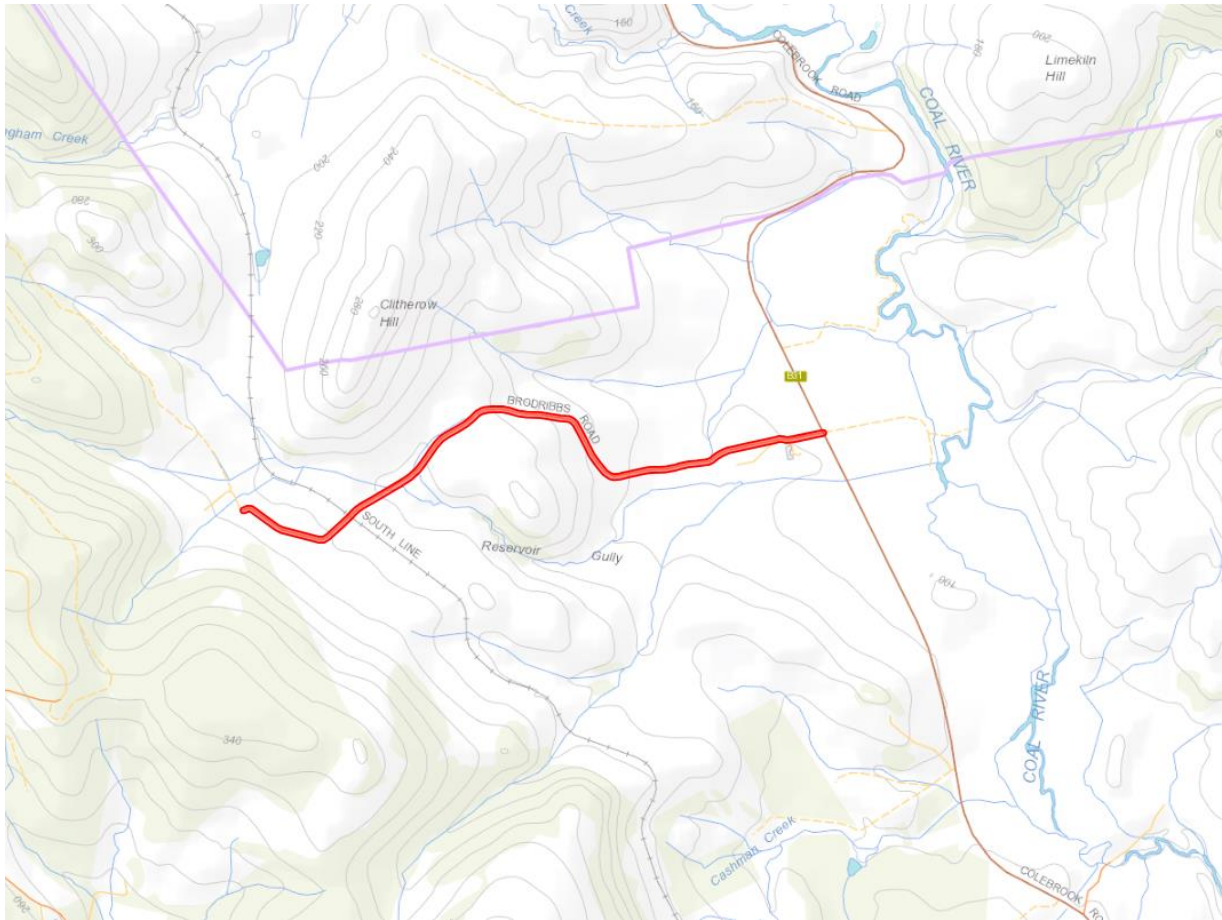
Evidence of consultation provided by Mr. M. Bendor

ISSUE

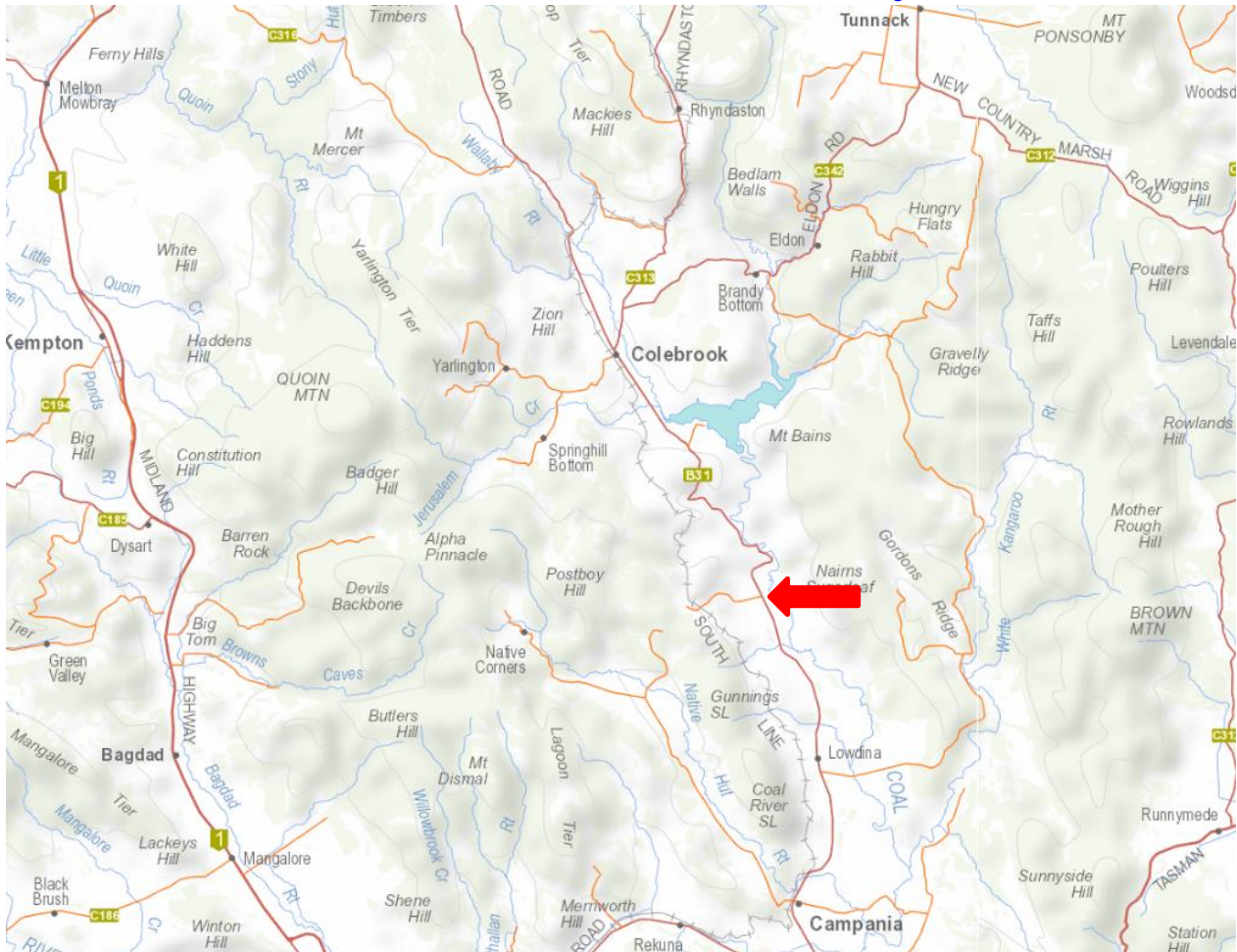
Council to consider providing support for a request to rename Brodribbs Road, Campania, to Brodribbs Danby Road and to facilitate a submission to Placenames Tasmania for the change.

BACKGROUND

In October 2023, Mr. Mick Bendor approached Council with the proposal to rename Brodribbs Road, Campania, to Brodribbs Danby Road.



The location of Brodribbs Road. From www.theliest.tas.gov.au



Locality map. Brodribbs Road designated by red arrow. From www.theliest.tas.gov.au

The proposal was discussed at Council's workshop of November 13th 2023, with the following outcome:

Brad Williams addressed Council regarding the ratepayer request (Mr. M. Bendor) to rename Brodribbs Road (Campania) "Brodribbs Danby Road". Brad provided some context from the Place Names Act 2020 and associated guidelines.

Alan Townsend provided a historical overview of the area and nomenclature, summarised as:

- *It is proposed by local knowledge that the road was traditionally known as Danby Road.*
- *The earliest historical record of that name was from 1949, when local farmers sought a railway siding. A 1955 railway plan depicts the 'Danby Siding' adjacent to the road.*
- *It is alleged that the Richmond Council put up a sign saying Brodribbs Road around 1985. The Brodribb family owned land around that road from the 1890s to the mid-c20th [note that Mr. Bendor has since clarified that the name was gazetted in 1985, and the sign was not erected until 1995].*

It is noted that from the Place Names Act 2020 guidelines that an application to the Placenames Tasmania for naming/changing names of roads must be made by Council, and can be done by request of any individual. Council's support of the application is therefore necessary.

An application must include (amongst other matters):

- *Evidence of community support for the proposed name including any public consultation that has been undertaken.*
- *Evidence that the proposed name conforms to these guidelines.*

Whilst Mr Bendor has provided a substantial amount of historical information supporting the name change, he has not provided evidence of support from other property owners on the road, who the re-naming would affect - namely several titles of the Stockdale Estate (note that he provided a letter of support from the former owner, but not the current owner). It is Council's view that it is not Council's responsibility to undertake that consultation when the proposal has been made by an individual.

It was agreed that it is the proponent's (i.e. Mr Bendor's) responsibility to provide evidence of required affected landowner consultation prior to Council's consideration of whether to initiate the process of name change.

Section 3.3 of the guidelines (Altering a name) states:

Place names are intended to be enduring and the changing of an established name merely to correct or re-establish historical usage is not to be considered in itself a reason to change a name, unless it is deemed to be in the public interest or for safety reasons. Consideration needs to be given to the effects upon the wider community, including emergency services, of the consequences of altering a name.

It is therefore not clear that the proposal would conform to the guidelines.

Brad Williams is to follow-up with Mr. Bendor seeking that information, for a future report to Council, which would consider consistency with the guidelines.

DETAIL

Mr. Bendor has provided a great deal of historical background which supports both the names 'Brodribbs' and 'Danby' (that information is not reproduced here but may be made available to Councilors upon request) – each name undoubtedly being important in the history of the area. Brodribb was the name of an early family, and the family who sold (at a nominal fee) the land for part of the road (to the west of the railway line). Danby is well documented particularly in relation to the railway siding – commonly referred to in mid-c20th documentation as 'Danby Siding' or 'Danby Station'. The derivation of the name Danby is claimed anecdotally to date from the late 1890s when Arthur Brodribb purchased a 250-acre block from the 'Stockdale' estate. Given the historical research provided by Mr. Bendor, it is concluded that both the names 'Brodribbs' and 'Danby' have adequate historical standing for use in local nomenclature and that Mr. Bendor's research is reliable.

No information has been provided as to whether there are any descendants/current associations with the Brodribb name in the area (noting that it is not intended to *replace* the name, but to add to it).

Mr. Bendor has provided a signed consensus of residents of Brodribbs Road in support of the name change. In effect, the addresses served by Brodribbs Road are limited to Mr. Bendor's (and his wife, Mrs. Delia Thompson)'s property, and two of the thirteen titles of the 'Stockdale' Property. Note that 'Stockdale' itself has a Colebrook Road address, however there two titles which, if were ever developed, would require a Brodribbs Road address. Tasrail, who own the site of the former Danby Siding, has provide in-principle support (included in Attachment A).

Mr. Bendor has provided evidence of attempts to gain written support from the owner of 'Stockdale' but has not been successful in a reply – he has however provided evidence of support from the 'Stockdale' farm manager and another resident of that estate. These are

provided here as Attachment A. Note that the *Tasmanian Place Naming Guidelines* state that: *If no response has been received from an authority after one month has elapsed it can be assumed that the proposal is supported. Evidence of this attempt at consultation can be submitted along with the proposal.* Whether the property owner is defined as an ‘authority’ is unclear.

Any individual can propose to change a place name. Council is a ‘Naming Authority’ for streets and roads under the *Place Names Act 2020*. The *Tasmanian Place Naming Guidelines* require the following steps:

- *The proponent in the first instance should contact the relevant authority for undertaking the appropriate community consultation and for developing a formal naming proposal. Proposals for new or alterations to existing road and street names or extents must be directed to the council of the municipal area.*
- *For altering a road name, locality name, approving a new locality name, or major changes to a locality boundary, it is critical that extensive community consultation is undertaken, including ensuring affected residents are made aware of the proposal. This can be done by public notices, advertising in local government publications or letters to residents.*

Council is required to submit the proposal for the re-naming of streets/roads to Placenames Tasmania, however must be satisfied that all relevant consultation/information is provided.

The following table provides commentary on the information assembled by Mr. Bendor in-line with the information required:

Section 3.3 of the <i>Tasmanian Place Naming Guidelines</i> (Altering of a Name).	Comment
<p><i>Place names are intended to be enduring and the changing of an established name merely to correct or re-establish historical usage is not to be considered in itself a reason to change a name, unless it is deemed to be in the public interest or for safety reasons. Consideration needs to be given to the effects upon the wider community, including emergency services, of the consequences of altering a name.</i></p> <p><i>Any proposals to alter a name must demonstrate a compelling reason for doing so, and must provide evidence of strong community consultation and support for such a change. For features that impact upon residents, such as road names, the majority of</i></p>	<p>This proposal intends to re-establish a traditional name of a feature on Brodribbs Road. According to the guidelines this is insufficient reason in itself to change a name, unless it is deemed to be in the public interest.</p> <p>Given the few affected individuals by this name change, and that there is considered to be heritage benefit in perpetuating a traditional name, it is not considered to be detrimental that the name Danby be given recognition.</p> <p>All affected residents are in support of the change, however a response from the owner of two affected titles (part of ‘Stockdale’) has not responded to requests for comment.</p>

<i>affected residents must be supportive of the change.</i>	
Section 4.10 of the guidelines (Hyphens).	Comment
<i>A hyphen to connect the parts of names should not be used.</i>	It is not proposed that the name be hyphenated.
Section 7.13 of the guidelines (Altering a Road or Street Name).	Comment
<p><i>A road or street name is intended to be enduring and should not be altered unless there are sound reasons to do so. These include, but are not limited to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>redesign of the road</i> • <i>changed traffic flow</i> • <i>addressing issues or changes</i> • <i>misspelling of a name</i> • <i>avoidance of duplication</i> • <i>non conformity to these guidelines</i> <p><i>A road or street extent is sometimes broken into two or more segments by road redesign or redevelopment so that it is no longer continuous. In these cases parts of the resulting segments must be renamed.</i></p>	<p>The proposal does not align with any of these reasons, however noting that these reasons are not exhaustive.</p> <p>It is considered that the recognition and perpetuation of a historically proven, but decreasingly recognised name is a reason worth proposing to Placenames Tasmania.</p>

Section 2.3 of the Tasmanian Place Naming Guidelines require the following information (at a minimum):

Information	Comment
Contact details of the proponent(s) including name, organisation, address, phone and email.	In this case the proponent will be Mr. Bendor, via Southern Midlands Council.
Proposed name and feature type (eg bay, hill, stream, mountain etc).	Re-name Brodribbs Road to Brodribbs Danby Road.
Reason for proposing a name for the feature and why this name may be appropriate.	Mr. Bendor has compiled a substantial array of historical information to support the proposal.
Evidence that the proposed name conforms to these guidelines.	Refer to the discussion above. Although the proposal does not strictly comply with these guidelines, it is considered appropriate that the case be put to Placenames Tasmania.

Background, historical or other supporting information, including images.	Mr. Bendor has compiled a substantial array of historical information to support the proposal.
Map (LISTmap PDF file marked up with LISTmap drawing tools) and/or spatial representation through Placenames Tasmania indicating the location and extent of the feature proposed to be named.	The spatial extent of Brodribbs Road is easily obtainable via LIST (see image above).
Evidence of community support for the proposed name including any public consultation that has been undertaken.	Refer to Attachment A compiled by Mr. Bendor.
Written support from the relevant local government council(s).	The purpose of this report is to seek Council's support.
The views of any other individuals, interest groups or organisations that have an interest or management responsibility in the land, such as Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service, Sustainable Timber Tasmania, Crown Land Services, walking clubs etc.	Refer to Attachment A. Note that the process by Placenames Tasmania may involve further consultation with such individuals, groups etc.
The views of any other individuals, interest groups or organisations that have an interest or management responsibility in the land, such as Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service, Sustainable Timber Tasmania, Crown Land Services, walking clubs etc.	Not applicable in this instance.

Should Placenames Tasmania indicate that the name change is not acceptable, a compromise position might be that the portion Brodribbs Road between Colebrook Road and the Danby Siding be renamed Danby Road, and the portion of the road from the Danby Siding Westward (i.e. the land provided by Andrew Brodribb) be retained as Brodribbs Road. Mr. Bendor has indicated that this would be an acceptable outcome if the first preference of re-naming was not accepted.

Human Resources & Financial Implications –

As per the discussion at the Council workshop, whilst Council must be the one who proposes the name change, the onus of providing the required information for the submission is to be with the proponent. It is noted that Mr. Bendor has done a substantial amount of work in support of the proposal and is aware of the format and content required for submission. The input of council officer time is expected to be minimal. There would be a cost in re-signing the new name if approved.

Community Consultation & Public Relations Implications – Mr. Bendor has consulted with tenants affected by a name change and received their support. He has made an attempt to contact the owner of those titles but has received no response (See Attachment A). Placenames Tasmania will ultimately decide if this consultation is deemed sufficient.

Policy Implications – Council does not have any policy relevant to naming/re-naming of streets/roads. It is expected that the Tasmanian Place Naming Guidelines would provide that policy framework as Placenames Tasmania (and their relevant committees) are the ultimate decision maker.

Priority - Implementation Time Frame – Should Council support the recommendation, the timeframe for submission will be the responsibility of the proponent in providing Council with the required documentation for submission to Placenames Tasmania.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council provide in-principle support for the change of the name of Brodribbs Road, to Brodribbs Danby Road.
2. That Council submit the documentation to Placenames Tasmania once Mr. Bendor has provided the required documentation.
3. That in the event that Placenames Tasmania are of the view that the name Brodribbs Danby Road is not appropriate, that Council officers seek an alternative proposal to retain the name Brodribbs Road to the west of the railway line and rename the section from Colebrook Road to the siding Danby Road.

DECISION

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

1. That Council provide in-principle support for the change of the name of Brodribbs Road, to Brodribbs Danby Road.
2. That Council submit the documentation to Placenames Tasmania once Mr. Bendor has provided the required documentation to Council.
3. That in the event that Placenames Tasmania are of the view that the name Brodribbs Danby Road is not appropriate, that Council officers seek an alternative proposal to retain the name Brodribbs Road to the west of the railway line and rename the section from Colebrook Road to the siding Danby Road.

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 F Miller	✓	

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

Author: ACTING / MANAGER INFRASTRUCTURE & WORKS (CRAIG WHATLEY)

Date: 21 FEBRUARY 2024

Roads Program

Road maintenance works are continuing in Woodsdale and Campania areas - minor re sheeting, grading and drainage as weather permits.

Road side slashing is almost completed with a couple of roads in the Colebrook area still to be slashed.

Current Capital Works.

Road stabilisation works have been completed, site visit on Monday 26/2/24 to sign off on works.

Interlaken Road upgrade is progressing well with a lot of the bulk earthworks and drainage well underway.

Annual resealing works have been held up due to weather conditions completion expected early March.

Parks and Reserves

Maintenance of recreation grounds and parks and playgrounds ongoing as required.

Bridge Works

Minor works on some bridges to be scheduled as time permits.

Building Services Unit

An extensive renovation job is almost completed for a private client in the Midlands area. To be signed off in the coming weeks.

Work has begun on 9 Barrack Street Oatlands (removing fences and concrete slabs etc.).

Construction of 2 accommodation units in Oatlands has commenced, slabs and framing are completed roofs on ready for brickwork.

Planned Works

The following capital works are planned for the coming period:

- Drainage and pavement repairs various roads;
- Undertake various bridge maintenance repairs;
- Continue construction of accommodation units Oatlands;
- Complete annual road-reseal works on various roads;
- Continue Interlaken Road upgrade works;
- Install play equipment Runnymede recreation ground. (February programmed - waiting on delivery).

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE TO MANAGER, INFRASTRUCTURE & WORKS

Deputy Mayor K Dudgeon – 84 High Street, Oatlands – TasWater has recently undertaken some repair work and the reinstatement work has left a trip hazard.
To be inspected and actioned accordingly.

Deputy Mayor K Dudgeon - Buckland Road – currently maintenance grading in that area. There are corrugation's in the area of Tin Pot Marsh Road that require remedial works.

Clr F Miller – Campania Carpark – ongoing concerns regarding the restricted parking associated with the upgraded entry point. Questioned what other works are scheduled?
Advice to be provided.

Clr F Miller – sought an update in relation to the recruitment of a replacement for the position of Manager Infrastructure & Works. Advised that this is still work in progress.

Clr B Campbell – Stonehenge Road – made reference to Stonehenge Road but he will inspect to confirm what the issue(s) of concern may be.

RECOMMENDATION

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

DECISION

Moved by Clr D Blackwell, seconded by Clr B Campbell

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 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

Author: MANAGER HERITAGE PROJECTS (BRAD WILLIAMS)

Date: 27 FEBRUARY 2024

ISSUE

Report from the Manager, Heritage Projects on various Southern Midlands Heritage Projects.

DETAIL

During the past month, Southern Midlands Council Heritage Projects have included:

- The development application for demolition of the old Oatlands Pool has been approved.
- The January artist in Residence was Nicole Black, from Adelaide, who works full time as an Artist dividing her time between fine art practices, mural work and teaching appointments. Nicole has a particular passion for the details of the Australian landscape, seeking to abstract these elements to imbue mystery. Nicole was inspired by a trip to Tasmania in 2022 to apply for the residency as she fell in love with the scenery & intended to spend a concentrated time gathering inspiration for an upcoming solo exhibition in July 2024. Nicole approaches canvas work with both acrylic and oils but spends a lot of her practice building up studies in an art journal using mixed media. Nicole was only able to stay a few weeks but was able to donate a piece to our collection, a mixed media study made from a photograph taken on the way to Interlaken.
- Our February Artist is Camie Lyons, from Sydney, who works across a variety of mediums including sculpture, painting & drawing. Camie is most famous for her large bronze commissions in commercial buildings. Camie regularly exhibits and has had many solo exhibitions both here in Australia and overseas in Hong Kong, Singapore & Sweden. Camie has produced a mass of work since her arrival as she has been so inspired by Oatlands. She has been great at engaging the community & been open at Airspace most days of the week.
- Public consultation commenced and costings being finalised for Melton Mowbray Park.
- Deborah Baldwin has attended a 5-day metals conservation workshop in Launceston.
- Work to the 9 Barrack Street house has commenced, in preparation for tenant and opening the space in front of the gaol.
- Higher than usual number of development applications with heritage assessments required.

- New security and fire detection system installed in the Oatlands Council Offices and Town Hall.
- Building surveyor, engineer and designers have been engaged for Oatlands Council Offices and Town Hall upgrade, including scoping for lift, new entry arrangements and toilet upgrade.
- See separate report re – Brodribbs Road.

RECOMMENDATION

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

DECISION

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

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 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

Author: NRM PROGRAMS MANAGER (MARIA WEEDING)

Date: 19 FEBRUARY 2024

ISSUE: Southern Midlands NRM Unit Monthly Report.

DETAIL

- Maria continues to work on the proposed toilet block at Callington Park. Since the last report TasWater have responded with their assessment of the hydraulic plan that had been submitted. A few minor changes were requested, which have been dealt with by the Hydraulic Engineer. The plan is back with TasWater, with an expected turn around time to be fairly soon in receiving a reply.
- Helen and Mary have spent quite a lot of time removing cumbungi from Lake Dulverton.
- Time was spent on Lake Dulverton matters, with a committee meeting having been held on 19th Feb. See Minutes – this agenda.
- Helen attended the first meeting of the Regional Drought Resilience Plan Project Advisory Group. This was the first meeting of the group, which is to formulate strategies on how the community can become more resilient to drought. The plan is to be finished by June 2024.
- Helen attended a meeting on the development of a litter strategy – which was hosted by the Southern Tasmanian Regional Waste Authority.
- Maria will be taking a lot of Annual Leave as of January 15th due to an accumulation of leave hours. Maria plans to be at work for short times, mainly to progress some key projects. Helen continues to act on my behalf for many matters in the meantime.

The Weeds Officer report for 15th January 2024 – 19th February 2024 is as follows:

Enquiries/feedback

3 (horehound, ragwort and Californian thistle)

Site visits

Total = 13

Four sessions controlling cumbungi on Lake Dulverton (with Helen Geard). All plants have been de-seeded and sprayed, and clusters mapped. It is interesting to note that many of the clusters we dealt with were sprayed last year, died off, but have re-sprouted this year bigger and better than ever. This was probably due to the higher water levels last year (cumbungi leaves need to be two-thirds out of the water for effective control). Unfortunately, cumbungi continues to spread virtually unchecked around the district in farm dams and waterways.

Whilst following up on previous sprays of St John's wort on Antil Ponds Road, a new infestation was discovered along a driveway just off Sorell Springs Road (first right as you turn off the Midland Highway). This was duly mapped and sprayed.

Received a report of possible ragwort on Interlaken Road. Checked out the plants (which were actually just over the border into Central Highlands Council) and they turned out to be Fireweed groundsel (a native). I did find a small infestation of ragwort in a driveway just inside SMC boundary. Flowering plants were removed and seedlings sprayed. Driving back to Oatlands, a small patch of roadside Shasta daisy was also sprayed.

Communication

Liassing with Councillor Karen regarding upcoming Spanish heath control at Woodsdale Cemetery.

Liassing with Adam Muyt (Invasive Grasses officer, Biosecurity Tasmania) and Tim McShane regarding getting a spring 2024 serrated tussock survey of selected areas of Stockman Stud lands beyond the current infestation.

Contacted a Tunbridge resident about some Cotton thistle on his land.

Submitted an article on Ragwort for the Southern Midlands Regional Newsletter.

Contacted Karen Stewart (Policy and Planning Officer, Invasive Species Branch, Biosecurity Tasmania) regarding the very high number of Stemless thistle plants we have dealt with so far this season, and the possibility of further funding to continue the eradication efforts. I am cautiously optimistic that we may be able to source some funds mid-year to continue this project.

Related and extra-curricular activities

Submitted a response to the request for feedback on the discussion paper "Developing a new threatened species strategy for Tasmania".

Attended the 3-day "Wild Grasses of Tasmania" course on January 23-25. See separate report.

Weeds Action Fund – Stemless thistle

The second spray has occurred and a gob-smacking total of 3257 plants were eradicated by the contractor. This was considerably more than expected. A site visit on 14.2.24 to survey the area east of the main infestation found 40 small seedlings (all dug out as they were found). Germination in the main area was still occurring and I will be conducting a follow-up spray in mid-March. This thistle is proving remarkably dogged: I have found plants germinating in every month from August through to February (so far). Unfortunately, the lessee found a small cluster of stemless thistle in an area well away from the main infestation (and not downwind). He sprayed these on 15th February.

Roadside weeds

Small isolated infestations of agapanthus, hemlock, St John's wort and evening primrose have been dealt with in my travels.

Weed of the Week

Agapanthus, ragwort, fennel and yarrow displayed at Oatlands front office this month.

Wild grasses of Southeastern Australia course attendance

This was conducted by Dr Graeme Lorimer (Biosphere Pty Ltd) on 23rd, 24th and 25th January 2024 at UTAS biological sciences laboratory, Sandy Bay, between 9am and 5pm.

Dr Lorimer's main expertise is Victorian grasses (he lives in Victoria) but he has close ties to the Tasmanian Herbarium and comes to Tasmania regularly to research grasses.

Participants in the course ranged from weeds officers (from four local government areas), students, contractors, interested individuals, nursery workers, and folks from the Understorey Network and Tasmanian Land Conservancy.

Pre-course:

All participants had to fill out a pre-course survey so Dr Lorimer could tailor the some of the material to suit.

There were a few documents to print out and peruse before the course started:

- Course notes
- Key grass species of Victoria
- A key to wild grasses in Victoria
- Wallaby grasses (+ an updated version)
- A key to Stipoid grasses in Victoria and Tasmania (stipoid grasses are a large family of 28 genera, and include native spear grasses and exotic needle grasses).

There were also a couple of videos to watch:

- Introduction to the course
- Ecology and management of vegetation.

We were asked to bring in a few samples of various named common grasses, as well as a couple of grasses for Dr Lorimer to identify – I took in a clumping grass with fascicles (African lovegrass as I thought) and an unknown grass, which turned out to be a Fescue.

We were also given a list of materials to bring, and suppliers to source them if required (eg. Forceps, steel ruler, hand lens, collection bags etc.).

Each day consisted of half in the field, half in the laboratory.

Day 1.

We kicked off the first day with an introduction to laboratory protocols, chief of which was OH&S (including no eating or drinking within the lab).

The course proper material started with a look at grasses in general, and some grass-like families, resources available for grass enthusiasts, global perspectives, best habitats, and the importance of grasses.

Next was a look at the structure of a grass plant: roots, leaves, stems, flowering parts, and seeds. We ran through grass nomenclature (glumes, blades, auricles, sheaths, nodes, ligules, racemes, panicles, lemmas, paleas, florets, rachillas, spikelets and so on). Grasses are wind pollinated plants so have not developed the prominent flowers and variable leaves of flowering plants so this makes them tricky at times to tell apart. Grazing animals and grasses have co-evolved. Grasses are:

- Opportunistic
- Bare-ground colonisers
- Short-lived
- Producers of mobile seeds.

The vast majority of annual grasses in Australia are weeds as there are very few native annual grasses. In Victoria (and I daresay it would be a similar situation in Tasmania) there are approximately 250 species of native grasses, and 180 species of introduced grasses.

After lunch, we headed off on a walk uphill from the laboratory building, looking and learning as we went. It was interesting to discover on our first outing around the UTAS campus, that there was an undescribed species of wallaby grass in the grounds!

Day 2:

We started the day at the UTAS Mt Nelson sports complex, off Olinda Grove. There were so many grasses to see that we barely walked 50m along the road, looking closely at various native plants in the bush along the entrance road. We then headed over the road to a patch of scrub where we found more grasses and a few sedges and rushes as well. We made good use of our hand lenses, getting down on hands and knees to look more closely at the plants and seeds.

Once we were back in the lab, we got a crash course in microscope usage (I personally have not used a microscope in years) and we ran through a dichotomous key with Dr Lorimer. He made it look so easy! When it was our turn, we each had to see if we could identify a wallaby grass picked earlier in the day. About half the class managed to get the identification incorrect (myself included) and it is interesting to note that Dr Lorimer has actually updated his key since the class.

We also dived deeper into the various types of inflorescences in grasses, the ripening process, the major grass families, taxonomy and preservation of specimens.

Day 3:

Again, due to the warm weather forecast, we started in the field, this time at the Peter Murrell Conservation Area off Scarborough Avenue, Kingborough. We managed about 100m along the fire trail before we had to back track to a nearby drain to look at some sedges and rushes.

Back in the lab, we looked at some grasses brought in by students (including serrated tussock and Chilean needle grass). I asked about how to tell when grass seed is mature (for example, Chilean needle grass, which is spread mainly by machinery so timing of slashing is critical). Dr Lorimer posited that the amount of milky paste inside a seed, plus the ease of bending the seed would be a couple of pointers, but more research is needed. He suggested I do a PhD on the topic! Amazingly, I learnt that there seems to be very little overlap between the botanists studying grasses, and horticulturalists, contractors, and other on-ground workers who deal with grasses in a different context.

We looked at ecological variability amongst grasses, native grasses in horticulture, provenance, seed collection, lawns, and revegetation projects. We ran out of time to go over the final pages of the course notes (covering the management of grassy native vegetation) but Dr Lorimer stressed that he would be available for questions via email if required.

We also worked through some more keys and used the microscopes again. Dr Lorimer mentioned lucid keys, weed ID apps and various other ways of keying out grasses. I personally found it very useful to have small diagrams present at the edges of the keys we used (eg. the hairs of the lemma of a wallaby grass) and I was concerned that there is no key with photographic aids of real grass seeds. For a visual learner like myself, I find this much more useful than the most detailed written description. Another opportunity for further scholarship perhaps?!

After the course was finished, most of us headed up to the Cascade Brewery gardens for drinks and a chat.

In conclusion:

I recall having strife with dichotomous keys in my undergraduate years, and not much has changed since! However, that was the only dampener on a thoroughly enjoyable course. It was excellent to meet new people and hear about their experiences, renew acquaintances and meet folks who I had only spoken to on the phone. I also loved being on campus at the

university once again. I am now taking even more notice of the grasses I see every day and it is very gratifying to be able to identify more local grasses (eg. Blown grass (*Lachnagrostis filiformis*) around Lake Dulverton). Also, if a mature grass is easy to pull out, it's most likely an annual and therefore an exotic.

Many thanks for the opportunity to attend.

RECOMMENDATION

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

DECISION

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

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 F Miller	✓	

15.2.2 Tunbridge Township Lagoon Nature Reserve (Information Item)

Author: GRAHAM GREEN (SPECIAL PROJECTS)

Date: 21 FEBRUARY 2024

Enclosure(s):

ISSUE

Township Lagoon Nature Reserve – New fencing, access and site management intentions
– Community information from Parks and Wildlife Service

BACKGROUND

The Township Lagoon Nature Reserve is one of Tasmania's most important sites for nature conservation. It is a remnant of Tasmania's original native grasslands – a vegetation community that has been reduced to less than 1% of its original extent. The site is recognised as a biodiversity hotspot and has 30 listed threatened species present including critically endangered orchids. There are also features of significant geomorphological and cultural heritage significance at the site, notably the salt lake and its resident threatened fauna.

For many years it has been the intention of Parks and Wildlife to complete fencing at the reserve on the north-eastern corner and eastern boundary. By doing so, vehicular tracks that currently pass through the reserve will be diverted into the reserve road land parcels around the boundary of the reserve enabling the natural values of the site to be protected from further vehicle impact whilst providing alternative access around the site for farmers.

DETAIL

District Ranger Brian Campbell and the Landscape Conservation Foundation have secured resources for the construction of the proposed fence. The fencing upgrade plan also involves provision of a pedestrian access gate into the reserve, a more well-defined parking area that avoids natural and Aboriginal cultural heritage values, and an interpretations panel providing information about the site values to visitors.

The plan for the site upgrade has been formulated by interested parties from the land management sector and highly respected ecologists Jamie Kirkpatrick and Louise Gilfedder.

All farmers affected by the changes have been included in discussions about the impending changes ensuring that the upgrades will not impact their farm access.

Restricted vehicle access to the Nature Reserve for periodic weed management and cultural burning will still be made possible under the fencing plan.

Human Resources & Financial Implications

Council's current involvement with the site is annual slashing of the old tip site which is a NRE (Crown Land Parcel) adjacent to the Reserve. This role is essentially undertaken as Council's contribution to fire management around the Tunbridge Township.

There has been an expression of interest at The Township Lagoon management meetings of incorporation of the old tip site into the Reserve. This is because some of the threatened species from the Reserve have migrated into the old tip site and that weeds from the tip site are spreading into the reserve. A change in status of the site will have implications for Council's ongoing involvement but this is subject to further discussions between all interested parties.

Community Consultation & Public Relations Implications

Parks and Wildlife have been working closely with the Reserve's neighbouring landholders to ensure they are happy with the planned changes and can continue to have access to their farmland around the Reserve.

This report serves as advice to the broader community on the planned changes. Any questions or concerns from the community may be forwarded to Southern Midlands Council for discussion at upcoming Nature Reserve working group meetings.

There is an active lease between the old tip site landowner (NRE) and a third party. The third party is not Southern Midlands Council as far as we can ascertain. It needs to be determined by NRE who the lease is with and what it entails so that there can be clarity moving forward as to any changes in management over the site.

Priority - Implementation Time Frame – Immediate.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT:

- a) The information be received; and**
- b) Any questions or concerns about the proposal from the Tunbridge community be addressed to council (specifically Graham Green) so that they can be forwarded for tabling in future project planning meetings.**

DECISION

Moved by Clr D Blackwell, seconded by Clr B Campbell

THAT the information 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 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

Author: ANIMAL MANAGEMENT OFFICER (RACHEL COLLIS)

Date: 19 FEBRUARY 2024

Enclosure:

Animal Management Statement 2024

ISSUE

Consideration of the Animal Management/Compliance Officer's report for February 2024

The purpose of the report is twofold:

1. To inform Council and the Community of infringements issued by Council Officers in relation to Animal Management for the period February; *and*
2. Provide a brief summary of actions and duties undertaken by Council Officers in relation to animal management.

This in turn informs the community of the requirements and expectations of the Council to uphold and enforce the relevant legislation. This reminds Council and the community of the importance of responsible ownership of animals.

The infringements detailed in this report were all issued under the *Dog Control Act 2000*.

Resource Sharing

Southern Midlands Council currently provide Animal Management services to the Central Highlands Council through resource sharing arrangements. Jobs of note are itemised in the enclosed statement.

INFRINGEMENT DETAILS:

30/1/24 – Dog at large, Bagdad area

RECOMMENDATION:

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

DECISION

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

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	✓	
Clr A E Bisdee OAM	✓	
Clr D Blackwell	✓	
Clr B Campbell	✓	
Clr F Miller	✓	

ENCLOSURE
Agenda Item 15.6.1

**YTD ANIMAL MANAGEMENT STATEMENT
 2024**

DOG IMPOUNDS	RECLAIMED	ADOPTED/DOGS HOME	EUTHANISED	OTHER IMPOUNDS
3	2	1		

**JOBS ATTENDED
 February 2024**

DOGS AT LARGE	DOG ATTACKS	DOG BARKING	DOG GENERAL
1		1	10
NEW KENNEL LICENCES	WELFARE	STOCK	Central Highlands
		5	1

REGISTERED DOGS: 1751
KENNEL LICENCES: 62
INFRINGEMENTS ISSUED: 1

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

Author: OATLANDS AQUATIC CENTRE COORDINATOR (ADAM BRIGGS)

Date: 20 FEBRUARY 2024

Oatlands Aquatic Centre – Coordinator’s Report for the month January 2024.

BACKGROUND

The Oatlands Aquatic Centre opened to the public on Monday 14th November 2022.

DETAIL

The purpose of the report is twofold:

1. To report on the financial performance of the Centre compared to budget for the relevant month ending; and
2. To provide details regarding usage of the facility.

Financial Reporting:

OATLANDS AQUATIC CENTRE - OPERATING BUDGET

INCOME		Annual Budget 2023/24	Jan 2024	Jan 2023	2023-24 YTD to 31.01.24	% of Budget 2023-24
Pool – Admission Fees	Casual Fees	\$37,360	\$12,339	\$11,127	\$25,148	67.3%
	Memberships & Season Passes	\$157,426	\$4,060	\$2,815	\$22,078	14.0%
	Group Bookings & Learn to Swim	\$81,714	\$786	\$627	\$41,525	50.8%
	Sale of Goods	\$9,500	\$2,012	\$1,411	\$5,952	62.7%
Local Gov't Loan Subsidy (3 of 3)		\$45,107	\$0	\$0	\$22,840	50.6%
Charging Station Energy Use Reimbursement			\$3,272	\$0	\$6,550	
Splash in Good Fun' Grant			\$0	\$0	\$0	
Get Active Program Grant	"Lets get moving"				\$800	
CBA Community Donation					\$500	
Sub-Total		\$331,107	\$22,469	\$15,980	\$125,393	37.9%

EXPENDITURE		Annual Budget 2023/24	Jan 2024	Jan 2023	2023-24 YTD to 31.01.24	% of Budget 2023-24
Salaries (incl. On-Costs)		\$504,561	\$56,503	\$64,518	\$305,509	60.5%
Operating Costs - Other		\$245,072	\$24,618	\$3,547	\$172,085	70.2%
Loan Interest		\$45,107	\$0	\$0	\$22,840	50.6%
Total Expenditure		\$794,740	\$81,121	\$68,065	\$500,434	63.0%

Note - includes expenses relating to operating grant income

Budgeted Deficit		-\$463,633	-\$58,652	-\$52,085	-\$375,041	80.9%
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Group Bookings & Programs – December (16/1/24 - 14/2/24):

Event / Booking	School / Group	Participation Numbers
Public Visits	Reclink Community Program	61 participants
Physio Rehab Sessions	Annabel Butler – Physiotherapist	4 individual bookings
Lane Hire	Midlands Swimming Club	2 individual bookings
Public Visit	Ouse Social Club	6 participants

**USAGE FOR THE PERIOD 15/1/2024 – 14/2/2024
PAID UPFRONT**

Type	Units
Gym & Fitness	
Gym & Fitness Class Passes/10 Sessions	2
Gym & Fitness Class Passes/5 Sessions	0
Gym & Fitness Class Session (17 years) PAYG	15
Gym & Fitness Class Session (Concession) PAYG	10
PAYG Class Pass (16 years)	0
Gym	
PAYG Gym (17 years)	22
PAYG Gym (Concession)	1
Personal Training	
Personal Training – 30 Mins	6
Personal Training – 1 Hr	1
Learn to Swim (Total Numbers)	
Term 1, 2024 Program Enrolments (Currently)	116
Adult Learn to Swim	0
Pool	
Pool Passes 10 Sessions (Child)	4
Pool Pass 10 Session (17 years)	1
Upfront 6 Months Pool Membership (17 +)	0
Upfront 6 Months Pool Membership (concession)	0
Upfront 6 Months Pool Membership (Family)	0
PAYG – Pool (4 years and under)	148
PAYG - Pool (5-16)	588
PAYG - Pool (17)	392
PAYG - Pool (Concession)	313
PAYG - (Family)	55
Pool/Gym Combo PAYG	10
GYM/Pool Pass 10 Session (17 years)	0

DIRECT DEBITS – Current Numbers

Type	Units
DD Pool/Gym	8
DD Class/Pool	30
DD Pool/Gym/Class	2
DD Gym	5
DD Class/Gym	4
DD 6 Months Pool – 17 years +	3
DD 6 Months Pool – Child/Concession	3
DD 6 Months Pool – Family	2

Grant Applications

See below an update on the current Grant Application:

- **Tasmanian Government - Premier's Fund for Children & Young People:** We applied for \$50,000.00 to put towards programs at Oatlands Aquatic Centre, which we have been successful in receiving. This funding has already been used to purchase large Learn to Swim Equipment, Term 1, 2024 will be the conclusion of this funding.
- **Australian Sports Commission – Play Well Participation Grant Program:** As of this week we have placed a Grant Application applying for funds to conduct a Health & Wellbeing Event/Day at the Oatlands Aquatic Centre promoting our current GYM classes on offer while also introducing new programs the community can utilise to help improve overall Health & Wellbeing. Once the funding has been released I will report back.

Human Resources & Financial Implications – Refer above detail.

Community Consultation & Public Relations Implications – Not applicable.

Policy Implications – N/A

Priority - Implementation Time Frame – Not applicable.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the information be received and noted.

DECISION

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

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 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 – Draft for Consideration

Author: DEPUTY GENERAL MANAGER (ANDREW BENSON)

Date: 20 FEBRUARY 2024

Attachment(s):

Draft – SM Community Infrastructure Plan

ISSUE

Council to:

- a) consider the draft Southern Midlands Community Infrastructure Plan developed by Consultants, *Inspiring Place*; and
- b) authorise its release for the final tranche of community consultation, before the formal adoption of the document.

BACKGROUND

At its August 2023 Council meeting the following decision was taken as a response to a range of recreational and open space needs that were then before Council.

“THAT:

- a) *Council prepare a consultants brief and obtain ‘Expressions of Interest’ from potential consultants to undertake a review of the Southern Midlands Recreation Plan (prepared by Inspiring Place dated April 2006);*
- b) *The consultants brief is to specifically include a requirement to focus on the recreational needs of the Woodsdale (and surrounding) community;*
- c) *Pending the completion of the Plan review process, and subsequent consideration of its recommendations, then Council (at this stage) not be prepared to commit any level of investment to the upgrade of the Woodsdale Recreation Ground property;*
- d) *In the interim, Council confirm that the Kempton Recreation Ground will continue to be allocated to the Woodsdale Football Club on Thursday nights for training and Saturday for Home Games; and*
- e) *Council re-affirm its direction that the existing change rooms are not to be used or accessed for safety reasons.”*

At the September 2023 Council Workshop, *Item a)* from the previous Council meeting minutes, consideration of the *Southern Midlands Council – Community Infrastructure Plan – Request for Quotation (Draft Consultants Brief)* was discussed.

The amended draft [Request for Quotation] to be reported through the Facilities & Recreation Committee for subsequent endorsement by Council.

At the Facilities & Recreation Committee meeting in September 2023 the following item was discussed;

16.1. Southern Midlands Community Infrastructure Plan - RFQ

The Committee were reminded that the Request for Quotation (RFQ) was discussed at the recent Council Workshop and modifications were asked to be included within the draft RFQ. Version 2 of the RFQ was tabled and the Committee worked through the document.

Following some in-depth discussion about the outcomes of the of the Southern Midlands Infrastructure Plan, which will be a product of the successful Consultant's work, the Committee were comfortable in recommending that the Objectives, as well as the Deliverables will provide a valuable strategic document for the Committee and Council in determining Community Infrastructure investment into the future. Therefore draft version 2 of the RFQ be endorsed as the final document and that the RFQ be released on the 30th September 2023.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT draft version 2 of the RFQ be endorsed as the final document and that the RFQ be released on the 30th September 2023.

DECISION / COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL

Moved by Deputy Mayor K Dudgeon, seconded by Mayor E Batt

THAT draft version 2 of the RFQ be endorsed as the final document and that the RFQ be released on the 30th September 2023 (following endorsement by Council).

CARRIED

The above recommendation was subsequently endorsed by Council at its meeting held 27th September 2023.

Following the Council meeting approving the Request for Quotation, it was released and advertised in the Mercury and the Examiner.

At the October 2023 Council meeting the Council were asked to consider the respondents to the Request for Quotation

[EXTRACT]

The Steering Committee for the Southern Midlands Community Infrastructure Plan development project have been tasked to undertake the assessment of submissions by Consultants against the requirements of a Request for Quotation (RFQ) for this project. This Report details the assessment process and makes a recommendation for Council's consideration.

Based on the assessment of the submissions and the report by the Project Steering Committee of the RFQ for the SM Community Infrastructure Plan Development Project received via the SMC Illion/Tenderlink portal:

- 1. The RFQ process was conducted in accordance with the SMC Code of Tenders & Contracts;*
- 2. The best value for money submission is the conforming submission received from Inspiring Place for the sum of excl. GST; and*
- 3. The recommendation from the Assessment Panel to Council is that the submission from Inspiring Place for the sum of excl. GST be accepted and that a contract be entered into with Inspiring Place to undertake the project.*

[END OF EXTRACT]

DETAIL

The *Southern Midlands Community Infrastructure Plan 2024* replaces the 2006 Recreation Plan to address the evolving needs of the Southern Midlands local government area. The objectives of the Plan include understanding population changes, current infrastructure, and the needs of users to make recommendations.

The plan integrates findings from a field audit, community engagement, and reviews of contemporary recreation trends. The community engagement involved four community forums, a month-long public survey, and targeted outreach to peak bodies and state government departments.

The Plan supports ongoing improvement in the Southern Midlands through sustainable and efficient management that adapts to trends and supports lifelong community participation.

The Plan outlines relevant issues, community expectations, identifies infrastructure gaps, recommends actions, and five yearly reviews.

The structure of the Plan categorises facilities into five segments;

- Regional Assets,
- Community Parks,
- Community Halls,
- Sports Venues, and
- Linkways.

It provides recommendations for each category that include actions, rationale, responsibilities and priorities.

In summary, the Consultants have developed the draft *Southern Midlands Community Infrastructure Plan 2024* as a roadmap that takes into account advice from peak sporting bodies, the state government, community feedback, and the strategic vision of the Southern Midlands Council. It prioritises sustainability, inclusivity, and strategic investments to meet community needs for a resilient and thriving local government area over the next decades.

The Steering Committee confirms that the draft Plan meets the requirements detailed in the Request for Quotation.

The next tranche of the public consultation following the release of the document, will comprise it being placed on the Southern Midlands Council website, where members of the community and other interested parties can access and read the document. A feedback form will also be included on the website to be completed and returned before the close of the public consultation period, at 5.00pm on Sunday 17th March 2024.

Notification of the draft Plan's availability will be actioned through the Council website and Facebook page and also communicated to Southern Midlands Regional News, Mid FM Community Radio, as well as to Community Facebook administrators in the Southern Midlands. It is noted, that at the four Community meetings, attendees were advised that the Plan would be available for review on the Council website following the February Council meeting.

A report will be provided to the March 2024 Council meeting, summarising the feedback on the Plan, for Council's consideration, prior to the formal adoption of the Plan.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council:

1. Receive and note the Report; and
2. Approve the draft *Southern Midlands Community Infrastructure Plan* for release for the public consultation period from the 29th February 2024 to the 17th March 2024 (closing at 5.00pm) on the Council web site

DECISION

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

THAT:

1. Council receive and note the report;
2. Council approve the draft *Southern Midlands Community Infrastructure Plan* for release for the public consultation period from the 29th February 2024 to the 17th March 2024 (closing time at 5.00 pm) on the Council Web Site; and
3. In relation to the Woodsdale Recreation Ground, and for the purpose of seeking public feedback, the consultants be requested to include an additional option for that property, being:

“as an alternative to the proposed sale of property (noting the requirement to adhere to the provisions relating to the sale of public land under the *Local Government Act 1993*), Council consider the option of transferring ownership of the property to the Woodsdale Football Club together with 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.

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.

Terms and conditions associated with any transfer of ownership would be negotiated at the time of transfer (e.g. what would happen to the property should the Woodsdale Football Club be wound-up)”.

CARRIED

Reasoning for alternative Motion:

There is clearly a substantial variance in the amount of funding required to upgrade the Woodsdale Recreation Ground to enable football to be played at this ground (i.e. Council’s cost estimate and the Woodsdale Football Club’s estimate).

The Woodsdale Football Club continues to indicate that an amount of only \$45,000 is being sought from Council to upgrade the facility to a standard that is consistent with its expectations. This level of financial commitment by Council will assist the Football Club

secure external funds to undertake the necessary upgrades to achieve compliance with the Building Code of Australia and other applicable legislation.

From a Council perspective, there are safety issues and major risk exposure associated with this facility in its present condition.

Whilst Council will still have regulatory responsibilities to ensure that all work is consistent (and complies) with the relevant standards, the transfer of ownership and management of the property will mitigate this risk from a Council perspective.

Inclusion of this option in the report at this stage provides an opportunity for the broader community to provide comment.

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 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 Local Government Association of Tasmania – General Meeting (To be held 14th March 2024)

Author: GENERAL MANAGER (TIM KIRKWOOD)

Date: 19 FEBRUARY 2024

Enclosure(s):

Local Government Association of Tasmania – General Meeting Motions - Submission of Motion(s)

ISSUE

Council to consider Motions which have been submitted for consideration at the Local Government Association of Tasmania's General Meeting scheduled for 14th March 2024.

BACKGROUND

These Motions have been included on the Agenda to allow for discussion prior to the General Meeting and to provide voting direction for Mayor Batt as Council's delegate to the Association.

DETAIL

The LGAT has received five motions to date.

1. Clarence City Council – Partnership Agreement on Communication and Consultation

Refer attached extract from the Minutes of the Clarence City Council Meeting held 30th October 2023.

Motion:

The intent of the Motion is as contained in the above extract.

SMC Comments:

The explanatory notes provided by Mayor Blomely and the Clarence City Council's CEO are fully supported.

2. Burnie City Council – Amendment to the Tasmanian Pension Remission Guidelines

Motion:

“Seek the State Government to amend its guidelines to benefit pensioners who receive an eligible card within a financial year, post the 1st July.”

To be eligible for a pension remission, the pensioner’s card must be dated on or before 1st July of the financial year. As an example, this means that a pensioner who receives their eligible card 14 days after the commencement of the financial year (i.e. 14 July) is not entitled to a remission for that financial year.

SMC Comments:

The 30% pension remission be a significant amount and it is agreed that this is an inequitable system. Whilst there may need to be a cut-off date, this could be at a later date in the financial year.

3. Huon Valley Council – Integrated Transport Study

Motion:

- a) LGAT lobby the Tasmanian State Government to urgently progress a costed integrated Transport Plan for Tasmania, including timeframes and responsibility for implementation.**
- b) LGAT coordinates a Local Government response on behalf of southern region Councils to the Department of State Growth’s draft plan for Greater Hobart’s transport future.**
- c) LGAT advocate for future transport planning outputs that prioritise:
 - a. Reducing greenhouse gas emissions**
 - b. Equitable access to transport**
 - c. Regional coverage**
 - d. Road safety**
 - e. Improved health and liveability outcomes.****

Refer supporting paper submitted by Huon Valley Council (it is on LGAT letterhead)

SMC Comments:

Motion is self-explanatory. Recommend support for this Motion.

4. Northern Midlands Council – Flood Mapping

Motion:

THAT LGAT lobby the Tasmanian State Government to:

- a) Provide an accessible online user interface for purchasers, residents and developers to all available flood mapping in populated areas in Tasmania;**

- b) assist Tasmanian councils to flood map low lying land, inclusive of climate change impact, so the effect flooding could have on property, including future developments, renovations and subdivisions is known statewide; and**
- c) require all councils to include flood mapping in the issuance of any Form 337 and any other such forms as appropriate.**

Refer supporting paper (enclosed) submitted by Northern Midlands Council.

SMC Comments:

Council is supportive of the NMC motion as the absence of accurate data poses a risk for council in their assessment and determination of applications and the provision of qualified advice.

In the issuance of a Form 337 Certificate it is imperative that Council is able to advise if there is a significant risk from natural hazards inclusive of climate change impact.

5. Northern Midlands Council – Electricity Generation and Storage Plant and Equipment

Motion:

THAT LGAT lobby the Tasmanian State Government to:

- a) To amend legislation to include electricity generation and storage plant and equipment in capital valuation (as occurs in Victoria) and to allow energy sector developments to make appropriate payments in lieu of rates under a regulated formula subject to indexation consisting of a fixed payment per site and a variable payment based on installed capacity.**
- b) That applicable developments subject to the rating policy amendments will include all current electricity generation and storage developments under existing technologies, as well as future generation and storage developments under existing and new technologies.**
- c) Consider the means by which Councils located within reasonable proximity of energy sector developments in unincorporated areas that impact infrastructure and service provision are appropriately compensated via similar payment arrangement to ensure ratepayers are not financially impacted by these developments.**

Refer supporting paper (enclosed) submitted by Northern Midlands Council.

SMC Comments:

Recommend support for this Motion.

Human Resources & Financial Implications – Not applicable.

Community Consultation & Public Relations Implications – Issues to be considered.

Priority - Implementation Time Frame – LGAT General Meeting scheduled for 14th March 2024.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council consider its position in relation to each of the Motions submitted to the Local Government Association of Tasmania for consideration at its General Meeting to be held 14th March 2024.

DECISION

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

THAT Council support each of the Motions submitted to the Local Government Association of Tasmania General Meeting to be held 14th March 2024.

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 F Miller	✓	

ENCLOSURE
Agenda Item 17.2.1

CLARENCE CITY COUNCIL – 30 OCT 2023

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9. MOTIONS ON NOTICE

**9.1 NOTICE OF MOTION – MAYOR BLOMELEY
STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION PROTOCOLS**

In accordance with Notice given, Mayor Blomeley intends to move the following Motion:

“That Council authorises the Chief Executive Officer to write to the Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT) and request that a motion be placed on the agenda for the next LGAT General Meeting seeking:

- a) Support from Tasmanian Councils for the renegotiation of the Partnership Agreement on Communication and Consultation 2003 (Partnership Agreement), between the Tasmanian Government and Councils;
- b) That LGAT seek agreement in principle from the Tasmanian Government to renew the Partnership Agreement, subject to the negotiation of new terms; and
- c) That, in pursuit of a new Partnership Agreement, LGAT establish a working group comprising council representatives to develop the key terms of a new Partnership Agreement.”

EXPLANATORY NOTES

1. The Tasmanian Government has recently undertaken “consultations” with Tasmanian Councils and the wider community in relation to proposed legislative change. There appears to be no “standardised” approach to consultation by the Tasmanian Government, which has resulted in significant concerns related to the proposed regulatory changes.
2. Circa 2003, the Tasmanian Government and LGAT entered into a Partnership Agreement on Communication and Consultation. This agreement provided a basis for communication and consultation between government and the local government sector. The Partnership Agreement was discontinued following a Premier’s Local Government Council meeting a few years ago. Since that time critical issues with the Tasmanian Government’s approach to consultation have emerged.
3. The Tasmanian Government’s approach to communication and consultation with Tasmanian Councils does not reflect good practice, varies from issue to issue, and in several instances appears to treat councils with a level of disrespect.

4. Renegotiation of the Partnership Agreement will assist to re-establish a best practice framework between the Tasmanian Government and councils. Once agreed, it will provide all parties with certainty and ensure that regulatory changes can be developed in partnership, be well understood, consulted and feedback properly considered before those regulatory changes are submitted to parliament for debate and vote. A new Partnership Agreement will re-establish confidence and trust within the regulatory development process.

Mayor B A Blomeley

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S COMMENT

The Tasmanian Government's legislative program can result in councils being requested to provide feedback on legislation without reasonable forewarning and within critically short consultation timeframes. Consultation timeframes of five or six weeks often don't allow sufficient time for councils to properly assess the impacts of proposed legislation, conduct workshops with councillors and provide reports for consideration at council meetings. This impacts upon a council's ability to properly represent its community when responding to proposed regulatory change. This raises the risk that consultation is seen as superficial or not genuine.

Different departments within the Tasmanian Government appear to adopt different development and consultation practices when considering legislative change or reform. In some instances, local government is engaged and consulted at the scoping and initial drafting stage, while in other cases there is no involvement until formal community consultation commences.

As a matter of best practice, a regulatory development and consultation protocol that describes the key steps of the regulatory review process, timeframes, and points of engagement with local government, would significantly improve the process and make legislative reforms more robust, well-considered and understood.

Huon Valley Council



Details of Motion

Motion Title **Integrated Transport Study**

Decision Sought

- a) **LGAT lobby the Tasmanian State Government to urgently progress a costed integrated Transport Plan for Tasmania, including timeframes and responsibility for implementation.**
- b) **LGAT coordinates a Local Government response on behalf of southern region Councils to the Department of State Growth's draft plan for Greater Hobart's transport future.**
- c) **LGAT advocate for future transport planning outputs that prioritise:**
 - i. **Reducing greenhouse gas emissions**
 - ii. **Equitable access to transport**
 - iii. **Regional coverage**
 - iv. **Road safety**
 - v. **Improved health and liveability outcomes.**

Background Comment

While up until now renewable energy and changes in land use have enabled Tasmania to report zero net emissions, our underlying GHG emissions are rising, with transport being a major factor. The solution is not simply to electrify all private cars, but to greatly reduce our dependence on private cars. This dependency is a great source of inequality, congestion, noise, and particulate emissions. It requires continual expenditure on road infrastructure and parking facilities. An integrated public transport system that makes use of a much improved and regular fixed route service, along with extensive active transport options, professional car-pooling and on-demand services for home to node, would tick boxes in health, climate, opportunities in health education and the workplace and lead to more liveable townships and a healthier and more prosperous population. It is difficult for local councils on their own to solve these problems, hence this proposed approach through LGAT.

Strategic alignment (Tasmanian State Govt)

An integrated transport system is fully aligned with the aims and objectives of the following documents:

- Southern Integrated Transport Plan 2010
[https://www.stategrowth.tas.gov.au/Transport and Infrastructure/infrastructure_tasmania/freight/planning/regionalplans/southern](https://www.stategrowth.tas.gov.au/Transport%20and%20Infrastructure/infrastructure_tasmania/freight/planning/regionalplans/southern)
- Tasmanian Walking and Cycling for Active Transport Strategy 2010
https://www.stategrowth.tas.gov.au/policies_and_strategies/framework/walking-cycling

- Our Infrastructure Future 2019
([https://www.stategrowth.tas.gov.au/Transport and Infrastructure/infrastructure tasmania/tasmanias strategic infrastructure framework](https://www.stategrowth.tas.gov.au/Transport%20and%20Infrastructure/infrastructure%20tasmania/tasmanias%20strategic%20infrastructure%20framework))
- The Hobart City Deal
([https://www.hobartcitydeal.com.au/projects/accordions/key focus area 3 greater hobart transport vision](https://www.hobartcitydeal.com.au/projects/accordions/key%20focus%20area%203%20greater%20hobart%20transport%20vision))
- Transport Access Strategy 2014
([https://www.stategrowth.tas.gov.au/policies and strategies/transport access strategy](https://www.stategrowth.tas.gov.au/policies%20and%20strategies/transport%20access%20strategy))
- Tasmania's Climate Change Action Plan 2023-2025
([https://recfit.tas.gov.au/_ data/assets/pdf file/0011/439634/Tasmanias Climate Change Action Plan 2023-25 Accessible.pdf](https://recfit.tas.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0011/439634/Tasmanias%20Climate%20Change%20Action%20Plan%202023-25%20Accessible.pdf))

Need

- Currently, Tasmanians mainly get around in private cars, which are often single-occupancy. Population and car use is growing fast, creating more congestion and less-liveable townships.
- Running a car is expensive, with RACT estimating people in Hobart are spending almost 20% of their income on transport and running cars.
- Public transport routes are restricted, the service is sometimes infrequent and finishes early (particularly in regional areas)
- Those on low incomes, the disabled, and the young and old, are worse affected by mobility restrictions and the cost of running a private car. The majority of bus travellers are students or holders of low income cards: [Transport Access Strategy 2014](#)
- Lack of mobility restricts opportunities to travel for work, social occasions and healthcare. Congestion also adds costs to freight transport and puts additional pressure on road networks.
- Transport is responsible for 30% of greenhouse gas emissions in Southern Tasmania. The recently issued draft Technical Policy Paper entitled '*Driving Net-Zero: A roadmap for reducing Tasmania's transport emissions*' by the UTAS Tasmanian Policy Exchange, sees transport as low-hanging fruit to enable Tasmania to retain its net-zero carbon status.
- Many \$millions are being spend on new roads and new road improvements, despite there being little evidence that these reduce congestion: <https://www.wired.com/2014/06/wuwt-traffic-induced-demand/>

Solution

- An integrated transport system (ITS) is one which incorporates many different modes of getting around including fixed route buses, on-demand passenger vehicles, professional car pooling/ sharing, ferries, self-hire vehicles and active transport (walking and cycling).
- Timetables are integrated and connected, route-planning is facilitated, and ticketing works across all transport platforms. This integrated system is called Mobility as a Service (MaaS).
- An ITS must be convenient, affordable and accessible. It should be supported by all levels of government and preceded by advertising, promotion and incentivisation to encourage behaviour change: <https://philch.medium.com/what-does-transport-integration-really-mean-bd83a15a50b8>
- The approach is supported by multiple state government policy documents including the [Southern Integrated Transport Plan 2010](#), [Tasmanian Walking and Cycling for Active Transport Strategy 2010](#), [Our Infrastructure Future 2019](#) and latterly, the Tasmanian government's media piece regarding getting people to and from a proposed new stadium at Macquarie Point and Tasmania's new Climate Change Action Plan 2023-25.

Benefits

Research by the Sydney-based Tourism and Transport Forum, consistently shows a high return on investment for improved mobility solutions. They state '*economic benefits include:*

- *effective connection of wealth and labour to the marketplace;*

- *removal of productivity bottlenecks; and*
- *maximising opportunities for individuals, business and government to increase income and asset value.'*

These findings are reflected by research across the globe. The International Association of Public Transport identifies some of the benefits of public transport over individual transport modes, arguing it:

'costs less to the community;

- *needs less urban space;*
- *is less energy-intensive;*
- *pollutes less;*
- *is the safest mode;*
- *improves accessibility to jobs; and*
- *offers mobility for all.'*

It also creates transport and mobility corridors along which land can be freed up for housing and other development and creates opportunities for activating town centres as social and business centres.

Examples

- A demand-responsive service in Lincolnshire, UK, a large regional area with a dispersed population, close to other urban centres: <https://www.justgonorthlincs.co.uk/> which is now being repeated in East Yorkshire (a similar region) and the West Midlands (more urban).
- <https://www.liftango.com/resources> - multiple examples.
- <https://ridewithvia.com/resources/case-studies/> - multiple examples.
- Suburbs in NSW, SA and WA are all successfully running on-demand minibuses: <https://www.keolisdowner.com.au/keoride-on-demand-transport-celebrates-its-four-year-anniversary-and-introduces-new-fully-accessible-vehicles-in-the-northern-beaches/>
- Victoria has an Integrated Transport Act (2010) and the people of Greater Bendigo rejected new roads in favour of the development of an Integrated Transport and Land Use Strategy, which sets out the steps for ensuring greater connectiveness and equality of mobility across the city.
- Griffith in NSW is currently developing an Integrated Transport Plan and Sydney already operates an integrated ferry, bus and train service, with the more recent addition of on-demand buses serving the Northern Beaches.
- Tasmania is working on new legislation for the regulation of on-demand vehicles in recognition of their importance in mobility and WA has recently ended its levy on on-demand operators, having finished paying for its buy-back of taxi plates.
- Multiple examples in Europe.

More resources

- <https://its-australia.com.au/about-us> - Intelligent Transport Systems, peak body for Australia transport data analytics and mobility companies (30 year heritage).
- [Southern Integrated Transport Plan 2010](#) (Tasmania)
- [Tasmanian Walking and Cycling for Active Transport Strategy 2010](#) (Tasmania)
- [Our Infrastructure Future 2019](#) (Tasmania)
- [Transport Access Strategy 2014](#) (Tasmania)
- <https://www.wired.com/2014/06/wuwt-traffic-induced-demand/>
- <https://philch.medium.com/what-does-transport-integration-really-mean-bd83a15a50b8>
- [Integrated Transport and Land Use Strategy](#) (Bendigo)
- [Liftango Demand-Responsive Transport Guide](#)
- [Kingborough Integrated Transport Strategy](#)
- [Huon Valley Council Health and Wellbeing Strategy](#)

- [Huon Valley Council Walking Track Strategy](#)
- [Huon Valley Council Recreation Plan](#)
- [Kingborough Cycling Strategy](#)
- [Kingborough Track and Trails Strategic Action Plan](#)
- [City of Hobart Transport Strategy](#)

Northern Midlands Council

Motion:

That LGAT lobby the State Government to:

- (a) provide an accessible online user interface for purchasers, residents and developers to all available flood mapping in populated areas in Tasmania;
- (b) assist Tasmanian councils to flood map low lying land, inclusive of climate change impact, so the effect flooding could have on property, including future developments, renovations and subdivisions is known statewide; and
- (c) require all councils to include flood mapping in the issuance of any Form 337 and any other such forms as appropriate.

Background

1. The increasing effects of climate change have made it imperative for councils to have a comprehensive understanding of potential flood risks in our state.
2. While there are already some sources of flood mapping information available, such as the Tasmania State Emergency Services/ListMAP, the Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania, the Australian Flood Risk Information Portal (AFRIP), and further flood maps as maintained by each municipality, critically, there is no statutory or regulatory obligation at present incumbent upon Tasmanian councils to provide this information to purchasers, residents, or developers.
3. If or when a planning or building application is lodged, a council may request for the Flood-Prone Areas Hazard Code in the Tasmanian Planning Scheme – State Planning Provisions to be addressed; this ensures prospective flood risks are considered and developments are appropriate. There is, however, currently no ability for a council to directly inform prospective purchasers that a property is located within a predicted flood area. Although councils may maintain their own flood maps, these are not always readily available to prospective purchasers, and it is not apparent that they themselves should undertake their own due diligence to ensure that the flood risks on the relevant property are acceptable. If flood mapping were to be provided under the Section 337 *Local Government Act 1993* process (Council Certificate of Land Information), then these risks would be known to purchasers before they commit to this significant financial decision.
4. The initiative contemplated in this motion will not only help purchasers, residents, and developers make informed decisions but also assist councils in planning and managing low-lying lands. By considering the impact of climate change, we can ensure that our state is prepared for future challenges and that our communities are built to be resilient and are provided the tools and the information to manage prospective and recurrent flood risks.
5. This motion seeks to address these issues by advocating for a statewide, accessible online interface for flood mapping and requiring the inclusion by the relevant council of flood mapping in the issuance of Form 337 and any other such forms as appropriate.

References

The following sources of information were considered in the preparation of this motion:

- Tasmania State Emergency Services - <https://www.ses.tas.gov.au/about/risk-management/flood-risk-management/tasmanian-flood-mapping-project-reports/>
- Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania - <https://nre.tas.gov.au/water/water-monitoring-and-assessment/hydrological-assessment/floods/floodplain-mapping>
- Australian Flood Risk Information Portal (AFRIP) - <https://www.community-safety.qa.gov.au/data-and-products/afrip>
- ListMAP - <https://maps.thelist.tas.gov.au/listmap/app/list/map>

Northern Midlands Council

Motion:

That LGAT lobby the State Government:

- To amend legislation to include electricity generation and storage plant and equipment in capital valuation (as occurs in Victoria) and to allow energy sector developments to make appropriate payments in lieu of rates under a regulated formula subject to indexation consisting of a fixed payment per site and a variable payment based on installed capacity.
- That applicable developments subject to the rating policy amendments will include all current electricity generation and storage developments under existing technologies, as well as future generation and storage developments under existing and new technologies.
- Consider the means by which Councils located within reasonable proximity of energy sector developments in unincorporated areas that impact infrastructure and service provision are appropriately compensated via similar payment arrangement to ensure ratepayers are not financially impacted by these developments.

Background Information:

It is suggested that there is an increase in the flexibility for Tasmanian Councils in the categorisation of land uses for rating purposes to better reflect intensity of use, and to allow councils to recover payments in lieu of rates directly from electricity generators under a regulated formula (as exists in Victoria).

In 2016 MAV (Municipal Association of Victoria) provided a submission to the Victorian Community Renewable Energy Projects Consultation, the following information is extracted from the submission (the Community renewable energy projects PiLoR and planning issues discussion paper is attached):

The 'community renewable energy projects' discussion paper focuses on three key issues:

- *the definition of community renewable energy projects*
- *the possibility of an alternative payment-in-lieu-of-rates (PiLoR) methodology for community renewable energy projects; and*
- *planning arrangements for community wind farms*

...

The MAV and councils support a transition away from non-renewable energy sources and the State's setting of ambitious renewable energy targets. It is our hope and expectation that the State will engage constructively with local government to ensure a smooth transition.

...

(ii) Payment in lieu of rates (PiLoR) methodology

The current methodology for the rates in lieu of rates was established following a comprehensive review in 2004. This review extensively consulted with generator owners, councils and other interested parties. This process effectively argued that the capital intensity of electricity generators would lead to excessive rates under a normal capital improved value (CIV) rating methodology and therefore discounts to these ratepayers is appropriate. It is worth noting that the MAV believes that the PiLoR methodology is the only example of rates or rates in lieu being paid expressly on the output capacity of a property rather than its value.

As a matter of principle, the MAV believes that the rates provisions within the Local Government Act 1989 provide sufficient powers and flexibility for a council to equitably impose rates on electricity generators, including small scale renewable facilities. That is, the MAV, at the time of the review in 2004 and currently, does not believe that the rates in lieu provisions of the Electricity Industry Act are required. Councils can apply differential rates to various types of properties and there is no barrier for a differential rate to be applied to a small-scale electricity generation facility. In considering rating decisions, the framework must achieve vertical and horizontal equity - that is, the rates paid must be equitable against those properties that are similar (in this example, are a similar value or provide a similar purpose) and must also be equitable in relation to both higher and lower valued properties. For example, the review must consider why a generation facility that has a community ownership should be given preferential treatment to other properties that provide a community benefit. There is no evidence that these broader issues have been considered in the paper.

Notwithstanding the MAV's long standing position, the discussion paper suggests that the current approach is inappropriate for small-scale renewable energy facilities because of the high fixed cost incorporated in the 'base' PiLoR methodology. The MAV makes the following observations:

- *The provisions in the Electricity Industry Act are only triggered in the event that either the council or generator*

owner seeks a payment in lieu of rates; otherwise the normal rating methodology would apply and as discussed above, a council has extensive tools to construct an equitable rating strategy.

- The legislative framework allows councils and the community-owned renewable energy facilities to negotiate a rates in lieu structure that is not based on the PiloR methodology, but rather one that reflects the benefit of that generator. It is contended that where a small scale community owned facility provides a benefit to the community, it is unlikely that a council would not support the development of that facility through a rates in lieu structure that would not disadvantage that facility.
- There are no examples provided of a small facility that pays rates at the 'commercial' generator PiloR level or of any proposed renewable facilities that did not proceed because of the rates in lieu methodology.
- There has been no comprehensive process to review these provisions, unlike in previous examples of amending the rating provisions around electricity generators.

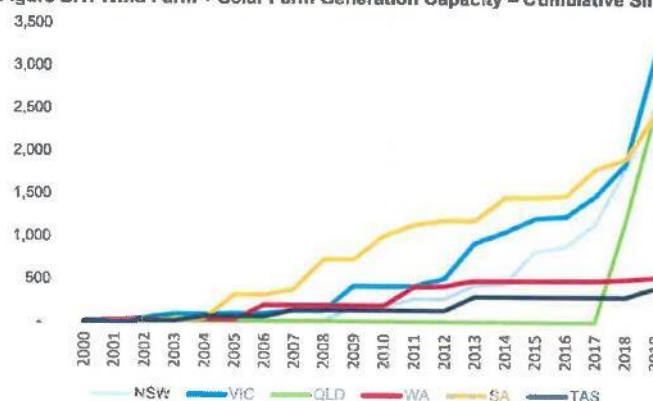
The MAV has undertaken consultation with its members which has indicated there is some support for the removal of the fixed cost component of the PiloR methodology. As indicated above, the MAV's current position is that all energy generators - renewables or otherwise - should be rated under the Local Government Act 1989. We believe that in the event the State wishes to amend these provisions that it must adopt an appropriate review structure that more deeply considers the rating issues. The current paper does not demonstrate the existence of an issue that requires a policy response and nor does it show sufficient understanding of the rating system and its complexities to provide a suitable response even in the event there is a genuine need to review the current framework.

The following extracts from the February 2020 LEGATUS Group report, *The Rating Equity in SA and the Financial Impacts on Local Government's Ability to Support Growth* provides background to the motion.

Industry & Council/Community Impact Assessment

Figure E.1 shows a comparison of the cumulative energy generation capacity from wind and solar farms by state since 2000. The assessment highlights considerable growth in renewable energy capacity across Australia, with SA being an early adopter and capacity growing most rapidly in NSW, VIC and QLD in recent years. The substantial growth in renewable energy capacity in VIC and QLD relative to SA in recent years has occurred despite their respective State Governments enabling Councils to levy appropriate and equitable rates on (or receive payments made in lieu of rates from) energy sector developments which are considerably higher than the rates able to be levied by SA Councils.

Figure E.1: Wind Farm + Solar Farm Generation Capacity – Cumulative Since 2000



Source: AEC, AEMO (2019), assorted online sources.

The analysis suggests that the introduction by SA Councils of similar rating practices to VIC will not impact the commercial viability of energy sector projects, and therefore will not influence location decisions for investments in these projects. Presently, SA Council rates account for less than 0.1% of infrastructure lifecycle costs excluding financing for wind and solar farms, compared with 1% in VIC – these contributions halve when financial costs are included. Location decisions are primarily made with reference to electricity generation efficiencies and the ease with which connection can be made to the national grid. Further, no flow-on effects on electricity prices are anticipated from higher SA rates on energy sector projects given prices are determined in a national market where other generators are already levied higher Council rates. Under current SA Government valuation and rating policy, the estimated annual revenue foregone by SA regional Councils when compared to VIC Government rating policy is estimated at \$4.8 million (as shown in Table E.1), which equates to \$120.9 million over 25 years (equal to the asset life for the majority of renewable energy sector developments). It should be noted here that the actual revenue loss for SA Councils is much greater when compared to the rates payable under the full capital valuation approach (as exists as the base position in VIC), with the estimated annual loss being around \$26 million or \$650 million over 25 years. Allowing the regions to access this revenue has the potential to facilitate ongoing permanent employment of

up to 43 jobs assuming the VIC regulated formula approach is adopted – maintaining current rating policy will prevent these additional regional employment opportunities from occurring. These Council and community impacts are expected to grow significantly in the short to medium term given the significant number of renewable energy projects currently under financial close and approved in SA regional areas.

Table E.1: Estimated Foregone Revenue from Energy Sector Developments for Regional SA Councils

Council	Current Contribution	Potential Contribution	Foregone Revenue
EYRE PENINSULA			
Lower Eyre Peninsula	\$ 4,288	\$ 138,801	\$ 134,513
Port Lincoln	\$ 3,215	\$ 148,228	\$ 145,011
Franklin Harbour	\$ 12,382	\$ 143,828	\$ 131,448
LEGATUS			
Barossa	\$ 4,672	\$ 118,893	\$ 114,020
Clare & Gilbert Valleys	\$ 29,441	\$ 389,201	\$ 359,760
Goyder	\$ 16,141	\$ 741,064	\$ 724,823
Northern Areas	\$ 70,600	\$ 934,842	\$ 864,242
Peterborough	\$ 2,000	\$ 62,893	\$ 60,893
Port Pirie	\$ 6,975	\$ 189,252	\$ 182,277
Wakefield	\$ 26,050	\$ 519,595	\$ 493,545
Yorke Peninsula	\$ 15,515	\$ 263,463	\$ 247,948
LIMESTONE COAST			
Wattle Range	\$ 26,067	\$ 898,225	\$ 872,158
SOUTHERN & HILLS			
Yankalilla	\$ 20,804	\$ 99,213	\$ 78,408
UPPER SPENCER GULF			
Port Augusta	\$ 1,737	\$ 194,098	\$ 182,360
MURRAYLANDS & RIVERLANDS			
Coorong	\$ 2,000	\$ 175,246	\$ 173,246
Murray Bridge	\$ 2,000	\$ 62,139	\$ 60,139
TOTAL	\$ 243,888	\$ 5,078,778	\$ 4,834,891

Source: AEC, selected SA Councils.

Overall, this report shows that:

- The competitiveness of SA regions in attracting renewable energy developments will not be impacted by the proposed rating policy amendments particularly if rates levied are comparable with VIC. As such, there would be no negative impact on investment and employment opportunities in SA regions as a result of the proposed rating policy amendments.
- There is an opportunity to provide a financial, economic and social boost to SA regions through the proposed rating policy amendments, as the additional rate payments retained within local economies and communities is estimated to provide sufficient stimulus to sustainably create up to an additional 43 permanent full-time equivalent jobs in SA regions.

An in-depth industry assessment found that no negative economic or employment effects would be felt by SA regions as a result of the above recommendations. In fact, adoption of the above recommendations may result in additional employment in SA regions of up to 43 full-time equivalent jobs from developments to date, with the extent of this benefit likely to increase with the addition of more developments in the future.

The above information has been compiled from the following sources:

- https://www.mav.asn.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0007/5758/Submission-to-community-renewable-energy-projects-discussion-paper-Nov-2016.pdf
- https://www.portaugusta.sa.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0026/919106/FINAL-REPORT-Rating-Equity-in-SA-and-the-Financial-Impacts-on-Local-Governments-Ability--Legatus-Group-February-2020.pdf

See the following references for further information:

- <https://www.energy.vic.gov.au/renewable-energy/payment-in-lieu-of-rates-for-electricity-generators>
- https://www.energy.vic.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0031/594616/PILoR-fact-sheet.pdf
- <https://apo.org.au/sites/default/files/resource-files/2016-09/apo-nid70565.pdf>

17.2.2 Tabling of Documents

Nil.

17.2.3 Elected Member Statements

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

Mayor E Batt – Kempton Festival – a very successful and well organised event with around 7000 people in attendance. Funds generated from the event to be distributed throughout the Kempton district by the Green Ponds Progress Association.

Clr A E Bisdee OAM – provided an update relating to TasWater’s activities and plans following attendance at an Owners Representative Meeting.

Deputy Mayor K Dudgeon – Southcentral Workforce Network (SWN)

Comment in relation to the successful business networking event held at Shene Distillery on Monday 25th February 2024. The event was well attended and the venue and catering was excellent.

Clr D Blackwell – Broadmarsh Community Hall

Provided a verbal update in relation to the development of the Broadmarsh Community Hall, including the following advice:

- Asbestos removed;
- Doorframes installed; blockwork for new elevator completed; upstairs framing has commenced; plastering commenced; and window(s) being replaced;
- Additional water storage for emergency purposes has been installed
- Planned completion date of 12th April 2024
- Additional funding being sought from other government sources to complete all planned works.

Clr Miller departed the meeting at 12.45pm

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 31 January 2024)

Author: FINANCE OFFICER (MANDY BURBURY)

Date: 19 FEBRUARY 2024

ISSUE

Provide the Financial Report for the period ending 31st January 2024.

BACKGROUND

The Operating Expenditure Report includes a Year to Date (YTD) Budget Column, with variations (and percentage) based on YTD Budgets.

Note: Depreciation is calculated on an annual basis at the end of the financial year. The budget and expense for depreciation are included in the June period.

DETAIL

The enclosed Report incorporates the following: -

- Statement of Comprehensive Income – 1 Jul 2023 to 31 Jan 2024.
- Operating Expenditure Report – 1 Jul 2023 to 31 Jan 2024.
- Capital Expenditure Report – 1 Jul 2023 to 31 Jan 2024.
- Cash Flow Statement – 1 Jul 2023 to 31 Jan 2024.

OPERATING EXPENDITURE (OPERATING BUDGET)

Overall operating expenditure to end of January was \$5,895,316, representing 97.9% of the Year to Date Budget.

Whilst there are some variations within the individual Program Budgets (refer following comments), expenditure is consistent with the Budget.

Strategic Theme - Infrastructure

Sub-Program – Walkways - expenditure to date (\$186,001 – 118.01%). Following an analysis of expenditure relating to internal plant hire it was found that the internal hire rate on some plant were excessively high and those rates have been reduced for future expenditure. Expenditure on wages and on-costs has also been higher than anticipated due to an increase in maintenance required on walkways.

Strategic Theme – Growth

Sub-Program – Business - expenditure to date (\$349,087 – 151.92%). Additional expenditure relates largely to a higher than anticipated value of private works (offset by an increase in private works income). Current year expenditure also includes expenses totalling \$15,808 relating to the Southern Tasmanian Councils Authority Climate Change Project, facilitated by Graham Green, invoiced and paid in advance in 2021/22 (Total Project - \$30,000).

Strategic Theme – Landscapes

Sub-Program – Regulatory (Animals) - expenditure (\$86,832 – 130.65%). Additional expenditure is due to an increase in resources required to address non-compliance issues.

Strategic Theme – Community

Sub-Program – Capacity & Sustainability - expenditure (\$39,568 – 111.53%). Increased expenditure relates to costs incurred in running the Heritage and Bullock Festival.

Strategic Theme – Organisation

Nil.

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE PROGRAM

Capital expenditure projects are colour coded to signify the grant program and show the completion deadlines. A legend of the colour coding is as below:

Legend – Source and completion deadlines for grant funded projects

Roads to Recovery	It is the Government's intention that the full allocation is budgeted and spent in the year allocated
Local Road and Community Infrastructure (LRCI)	Phase 3 - 30 June 2024 / Phase 4 – 30 June 2025 (use or lose)
Other Specific Purpose Grants	Completion date as per grant deed or approved extension date

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Financial Report be received and the information noted.

DECISION

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

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	✓	

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
for the period 1 July 2023 to 31 January 2024

	Annual Budget \$	Year to Date (31 December) \$	%	Comments
Income				
General rates	6,971,704	6,932,996	99.4%	Includes Interest & Penalties on rates
User Fees (refer Note 1)	1,332,917	884,786	66.4%	Includes Private Works
Interest	435,000	444,969	102.3%	
Government Subsidies	56,807	22,840	40.2%	Heavy Vehicle Licence Fees & Interest Subsidy
Other (refer Note 2)	232,400	371,987	160.1%	Includes TasWater Distributions
Sub-Total	9,028,828	8,657,577	95.9%	
Grants - Operating	3,990,758	214,411	5.4%	
Total Income	13,019,586	8,871,988	68.1%	
Expenses				
Employee benefits	-5,534,107	-2,870,707	51.9%	Less Roads - Resheeting (Capitalised)
Materials and contracts	-3,707,133	-2,835,406	76.5%	Less Roads - Resheeting (Capitalised), Includes Land Tax & Private Works
Depreciation and amortisation	-3,723,000	-2,193,000	58.9%	Percentage Calculation (based on year-to-date)
Finance costs	-52,997	-29,151	55.0%	Interest
Contributions	-272,238	-136,119	50.0%	Fire Service Levies
Other	-169,955	-105,161	61.9%	Audit Fees and Councillor Allowances
Total expenses	-13,459,430	-8,169,543	60.7%	
Surplus (deficit) from operations	-439,844	702,445	-159.7%	
Grants - Capital (refer Note 3)	3,200,746	2,722,037	85.0%	
Sale Proceeds (Plant & Machinery)	0	213,364		
Sale Proceeds (Land & Buildings)	0	0		
Sale Proceeds (Other Assets)	0	873		
Sale Proceeds (Blackman Water Scheme - 45 shares)	0	45,000		
Net gain / (loss on disposal of non-current assets)	0	0		
Surplus / (Deficit)	2,760,902	3,683,719	133.4%	

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
for the period 1 July 2023 to 31 January 2024

NOTES	Annual Budget \$	Year to Date (31 December) \$	%	Comments
1. Income - User Fees				
- All other Programs	883,333	547,076	61.9%	
- Private Works	449,584	337,710	75.1%	
	<u>1,332,917</u>	<u>884,786</u>	66.4%	
2. Income - Other				
- Tas Water Distributions	182,400	76,000	41.67%	
- Public Open Space Contributions	50,000	106,500	213.00%	
- Blue Gum Rovers Donations	0	495		
- Kidbiz Contribution to Bagdad Child Care Centre Fencing	0	3,502		
- Womensport & Recreation Get Active Program	0	800		Outlands Aquatic Centre 50's & Over Get Active Program
- Co-contribution to Campania Cricket Pitch Project	0	2,000		
- CBA Donation to Outlands Aquatic Centre	0	500		
- AFL Donation to Mt Pleasant Change Room Upgrade	0	34,365		
- Contribution to Kempton Depot Boundary Fence	0	3,200		
- Transfer from HBS	0	30,000		
- Workers Comp - Premium adjustments/recoveries	0	14,625		
- MMPHC Auxilliary Contribution to GP Units	0	100,000		
	<u>232,400</u>	<u>371,987</u>	160.1%	
3. Grants - Capital				
- Roads To Recovery	665,531	665,531	100.00%	
- Rural & Remote Roads Program	1,603,854	1,069,236	66.67%	Interlaken Road Project
- Safer Rural Roads	205,000	102,500	50.00%	
- LRCL - Phase 4	665,531	419,770	63.07%	
- Natural Disaster Risk Reduction Grant	60,830	0	0.00%	
- Aust Govt - BS Bushfire Recovery Grant - The Haven	0	465,000		Broadmarsh/Elderslie Progress Association Inc Grant
	<u>3,200,746</u>	<u>2,722,037</u>	85.04%	
4. Grants - Operating				
- FAGS 2023/24	3,990,758	206,076	5.16%	
- Navigate Family Services (School Holiday Program)	0	5,177		
- NRM Grant - Eradication of Stemless Thistle	0	2,440		
- Tas Govt. (DPAC) - Australia Day Awards Grant	0	718		
	<u>3,990,758</u>	<u>214,411</u>	5.4%	

**SOUTHERN MIDLANDS COUNCIL : OPERATING EXPENDITURE 2023/24
SUMMARY SHEET**

PROGRAM	YTD ACTUAL (as at 31 Jan 24)	YTD BUDGET (as at 31 Jan 24)	YTD VARIANCE	YTD %	FULL YEAR BUDGET - REVISED INC. GRANTS & OTHER
INFRASTRUCTURE					
Roads	896,649	850,611	-46,038	105.41%	3,695,184
Bridges	12,620	57,806	45,186	21.83%	459,620
Walkways	186,001	157,618	-28,383	118.01%	243,503
Lighting	44,216	49,461	5,244	89.40%	84,790
Public Toilets	60,658	55,893	-4,765	108.52%	96,102
Sewer/Water	-	-	-	-	-
Stormwater	5,449	19,646	14,197	27.74%	85,679
Waste	744,810	785,311	40,501	94.84%	1,373,747
Information, Communication	259	11,667	11,407	-	20,000
INFRASTRUCTURE TOTAL:	1,950,662	1,988,011	37,349	98.12%	6,058,625
GROWTH					
Residential	-	-	-	-	-
Tourism	32,945	35,885	2,939	91.81%	47,718
Business	349,087	229,785	-119,302	151.92%	391,418
Industry	-	-	-	-	-
GROWTH TOTAL:	382,032	265,670	-116,363	143.80%	439,136
LANDSCAPES					
Heritage	232,032	278,838	46,807	83.21%	467,532
Natural	115,639	133,269	17,631	86.77%	206,318
Cultural	700	14,583	13,883	4.80%	25,000
Regulatory - Development	528,030	613,017	84,987	86.14%	1,050,886
Regulatory - Public Health	9,579	11,795	2,216	81.21%	20,220
Regulatory - Animals	86,832	66,463	-20,370	130.65%	115,108
Environmental Sustainability	-	2,917	2,917	0.00%	5,000
LANDSCAPES TOTAL:	972,812	1,120,882	148,070	86.79%	1,890,064
COMMUNITY					
Community Health & Wellbeing	164,004	184,525	20,521	88.88%	313,472
Recreation	728,411	714,782	-13,629	101.91%	1,212,694
Access	-	-	-	-	-
Volunteers	19,055	42,250	23,195	45.10%	51,000
Families	320	5,833	5,513	5.49%	10,000
Education	-	-	-	-	-
Capacity & Sustainability	39,568	35,478	-4,090	111.53%	49,605
Safety	7,037	19,804	12,767	35.54%	33,950
Consultation & Communication	5,978	21,358	15,380	27.99%	37,300
LIFESTYLE TOTAL:	964,374	1,024,031	59,656	94.17%	1,708,021
ORGANISATION					
Improvement	-	46,835	46,835	0.00%	80,289
Sustainability	1,425,320	1,376,927	-48,393	103.51%	2,928,058
Finances	200,116	199,952	-163	100.08%	355,238
ORGANISATION TOTAL:	1,625,436	1,623,715	-1,721	100.11%	3,363,585
TOTALS	\$5,895,316	\$6,022,309	\$126,993	97.9%	\$13,459,430

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE PROGRAM 2023-24
As at 31 January 2024

			BUDGET	EXPENDITURE	BALANCE	COMMENTS	COMPLETION
			\$	\$	\$		DEADLINE
INFRASTRUCTURE							
ROAD ASSETS							
Resheeting Program	Various	Roads Resheeting	500,000	336,730	163,270		
	C1020053	Elderslie - Bluff Road Resheeting (2.0 km)	30,000	22,152	7,848	WIP \$21,096	
	C1020089	Stonor - Stonor Road Resheeting	30,000	26,756	3,244	WIP \$22,452	
	C1020092	Rhyndaston - Rhyndaston Road Resheeting	42,272	42,272	0	WIP \$33,280	
Reseal Program		Roads Reseal Program (as below)	450,000	0	429,776		
	C1010073	Woodsdale Road Reseal Patches	0	16,624			
	C1020093	Campania - Hall Street (800m ²)	0	0			
	C1010125	Campania - Lee Street (120m)	0	0			
	C1010126	Campania - Union Street (300m)	0	0			
	C1010127	Dysart - Dysart Drive (1.1 km)	0	3,600			
	C1010128	Dysart - Ely Street (400m)	0	0			
	C1010129	Oatlands - Barrack Street (300m)	0	0			
	C1010003	Oatlands - High Street (700m)	0	0			
	C1010130	Oatlands - Inglewood Road (600m + 670m + additional 7700m ²)	0	0			
	C1010065	Oatlands - Marlborough Street/Esplanade (Stanley St to Wellington St)	0	0			
Reconstruct & Seal							
	C1010123	Campania - Climie Street (200 metres from Reeve Street to Water Lane)	60,000	0	60,000		
	C1010131	Campania - Climie Street Reconstruct & Seal (including crossover)	20,000	0	20,000	LRCI P3 \$17,837 (previously Bartwick St)	
	C1010124	Colebrook - Arthur Street (500 metres)	90,000	38,370	51,630	LRCI P4	30 June 2025
	C1010062	Dysart - Church Lane & Ely Street (approx. 500 metres combined)	100,000	38,880	61,120		
	C1010116	Elderslie - Pelham Road (1.0 km)	180,000	119,890	60,110	RTR \$170K	30 June 2024
	C1010122	Mangalore - Blackbrush Road (1.0 km from Midland Hwy to M/Ford Dr)	180,000	0	180,000	RTR \$170K	30 June 2024
	C1010016	Oatlands - York Plains Road in two sections (1.00 km)	180,000	126,953	53,047		
	C1010028	Woodsdale - Woodsdale Road in two sections (2.0 kims)	360,000	78,783	281,217	RTR \$325,531	30 June 2024
	Various	Drainage (Reset Drains - various Roads)	250,000	237,087	12,913		
Construct & Seal (Unsealed Roads) Minor Seals (New)							
	C1020055	Colebrook - Yarlington Road (1.0 km)	180,000	15,514	164,486	LRCI P4	30 June 2025
	C1020091	Oatlands - Interlaken Road (full length) - 23/24 Allocation	2,873,090	190,999	2,682,091	Budget c/f \$1,169,236 WIP \$151,104	30 June 2026
	C1020095	Oatlands - Bartwick Street	20,000	0	20,000	Budget c/f \$20,000 (LRCI renominated)	30 June 2024
Junction / Road Realignment Other							
	C1020094	Tin Pot Marsh Road Dust Suppressant	40,000	4,640	35,360	Budget c/f 2022/23 Commitment	
	C1010121	Bagdad - Green Valley Road - Guard Rail / Line mark. & Sign.	110,000	97,654	12,346	Safer Rural Roads	
	C1020078	Campania - Estate Road (vicinity Mallow property)	49,000	14,974	34,026	Budget c/f WIP \$13,544	
	C1020093	Campania - Hall Street (Seal and stormwater upgrade)	70,000	70,528	-528	C/f WIP \$60501.71	
	C1010105	Campania - Reeve St Junction/footpath/kerb & channel	200,000	274,989	-74,989	WIP \$45,691 Vulnerable Road Users	
		Campania - Structure Plan - Town gateway and Streetscape	40,000	0	40,000		
	C1010117	Colebrook - Junction Craigbourne Road and Colebrook Road	24,000	15,756	8,244	Budget c/f	
	C1010098	Elderslie - Elderslie Road Widening Investigation & Trial (Slh Blackbrush Rd)	40,000	14,570	25,430	Budget c/f WIP \$6,777	
	C1020070	Elderslie - Bluff Road Intersection Upgrade	1,530	1,530	0	Budget c/f Black Spot project expenses	
	C1040039	Kempton - Old Huntingground Road (Footpath / School Crossing etc.)	80,000	81,483	-1,483	Budget c/f WIP \$81,483	
	C1010119	Mt Seymour - Junction Blackgate Road and Tunnack Road	24,000	32,145	-8,145		
	C1020032	Oatlands - Hastling Street Junction	15,000	959	14,041	Budget c/f WIP \$959	
	C1010103	Oatlands - South Parade (including Kerb, Channel and Footpath)	170,000	246,675	-76,675	C/f WIP \$246,675.02	
	C1020004	Tea Tree - Grices Road (Tree removal, set-back of embankment, drainage)	15,000	0	15,000	Budget c/f	
	C1040022	Tunbridge - Main Street (Kerb & Gutter Renewal)	40,000	0	40,000		
	C1020086	Tunnack - Link Road Landslip	25,000	107	24,893	Budget c/f WIP \$107	
	C1010120	Woodsdale Road - Guard Rail	100,000	0	100,000	Safer Rural Roads	
			6,588,892	2,150,619	4,438,273		

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE PROGRAM 2023-24
As at 31 January 2024

			BUDGET	EXPENDITURE	BALANCE	COMMENTS	COMPLETION
			\$	\$	\$		DEADLINE
BRIDGE ASSETS	C1030052	Jones Road Broadmarsh (Jordan River - Bridge 5083) - Flood Damage	130,000	3,302	126,699	Cf WIP \$3,302	
			130,000	3,302	126,699		
WALKWAYS		Footpaths - General Streetscapes	40,000	0	40,000		
	C1040036	Bagdad - Midland Highway Walking / Riding Path Upgrade	515,480	4,160	511,320	22/23 Budget \$95,840 c/f WIP \$4,160	30 June 2025
	C1040041	Bagdad - Midland Highway Walking Path Footbridge Repairs	130,000	0	130,000		
	C1040005	Campania - Reeve Street - Footpath through to Hall	30,000	432	29,568	Budget c/f	
	C1040045	Campania - Climie Street - Footpath Railway Crossing	0	0	0	Engineering prep for grant application	
	C1040017	Kempton - Grange Road (Retaining Wall)	30,000	0	30,000		
	C1040037	Kempton - Streetscape Plan - Footpath Renewal Southern End	60,000	50,345	9,655	LRCI P3 c/f WIP \$47,028	30 June 2024
	C1040042	Kempton - Streetscape Plan - Footpath Renewal	60,000	38,439	21,561		
	C1040031	Kempton - Midlands Highway/Mood Food	147,565	561	147,004	\$147,565 Budget c/f	
	C1040040	Oallands - Campbell Street (scope of works expanded to include kerb/gutter)	85,000	0	85,000	22/23 Budget \$45,000 c/f	30 June 2025
	C1040026	Oallands - Church Street (Stn Parade to William St - north side - Footpath - 130 m)	30,000	0	30,000		
	C1040044	Oallands - Stanley Street (High Street to Nelson - 280 metres - kerb & footpath)	75,000	221	74,779	LRCI P4	30 June 2025
	C1040034	Oallands - Stanley Street (Footpath-120 metre link)	25,000	35,240	-10,240		
			1,228,045	129,398	1,098,647		
PUBLIC TOILETS	C1110002	Campania - Flour Mill Park - Concrete Pathways/drainage/remove pavers	15,000	0	15,000	Budget c/f	
	C1110001	Colebrook - History Room Toilets (Tiling etc.)	10,000	468	9,532		
	C4070055	Oallands - Callington Park	158,000	11,670	146,330	22/23 Budget \$140,000 c/f WIP \$5,070	
		General Public Toilets - Upgrade Program	20,000	0	20,000	Budget c/f	
			203,000	12,138	190,862		
DRAINAGE	C5030002	Bagdad / Mangalore - Hydraulic Assessment (Flood Mapping)	161,660	108,604	53,056	Grant Funding \$80,830 WIP \$40,144	31 December 2023
	C1090004	Kempton - Erskine Street - Stormwater Upgrade & Kerb	60,000	82,534	-22,534		
	C1090036	Oallands - Callington Park (Well - piped overflow system)	20,000	0	20,000		
	C1090037	Oallands - Glenelg Street (stormwater Upgrade)	0	5,500	-5,500	Partially offset by developer contributions	
			241,660	196,638	45,022		
WASTE		Wheelie Bins and Crates	12,500	6,553	5,947		
		WTS Safety & Operational Improvements	25,000	0	25,000		
			37,500	6,553	30,947		
GROWTH							
TOURISM	C2020009	Kempton - Heritage Interpretation Panel renewal	1,800	1,768	32		
	G2020006	Oallands Accommodation Facility	0	42,283	-42,283	WIP \$42,283 (Offset by Barrack Street Property)	
			1,800	44,051	-42,251		

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE PROGRAM 2023-24
As at 31 January 2024

LANDSCAPES

HERITAGE

C3010013	Heritage Collections Store
C9990001	Heritage Collections - Furniture & Equipment
C2020007	Jericho - Memorial Avenue - Plaques
C3040002	Kempton Council Chambers - Clock Restoration Works
C2020008	Kempton - Memorial Avenue Park - Interps
G2020002	Mellon Mowbray - Streetscape Works (Trough / Shelter etc)
C3010003	Oatlands - Callington Mill - Structural Repair & External painting)
C6020007	Oatlands - Council Chambers - Internal Toilets & Access Upgrade
C3010004	Oatlands Court House (Wall Stabilisation)
C3010002	Oatlands Gaolers Residence (Ceiling Reinstatement)
C3010002	Oatlands Gaolers Residence (Wingwall)
C3010015	Oatlands - Heritage Buildings (Security Upgrades)
C3010011	Oatlands - Roche Hall Forecourt (Interps - Planning Condition of Approval)
C3010006	Parattah - Railway Station - Shed for Gangers Trolley

	BUDGET	EXPENDITURE	BALANCE	COMMENTS	COMPLETION
	\$	\$	\$		DEADLINE
	10,000	3,700	6,300	Budget c/f WIP \$3,700	
	4,177	4,177	0	Budget transferred from Operating	
	20,000	4,300	15,700	Budget c/f WIP \$4,300	
	10,672	3,546	7,126	Budget c/f WIP \$1,384	
	19,545	155	19,390	Budget c/f WIP \$155	
	30,000	14,855	15,145	Budget c/f WIP \$5,318	
	20,000	24,507	-4,507		
	100,000	9,357	90,643	Budget c/f WIP \$9,357	
	15,000	1,187	13,813	WIP \$1,187	
	5,000	8,149	-3,149		
	23,000	0	23,000	Budget \$15K c/f	
	10,000	0	10,000		
	40,000	7,820	32,180	Budget c/f WIP \$7,820	
	2,000	0	2,000	Budget c/f	
	309,394	81,753	227,641		
NATURAL					
C3020019	Chauncy Vale - Day Dawn Cottage Improvements	12,000	8,557	3,443	WIP \$7,700
C3020017	Chauncy Vale - Wombat Walk	39,250	42,513	-3,263	Includes \$29,250 grant WIP \$31,350
C5020003	Campania - Bush Reserve / Cemetery	300,000	92,101	207,899	WIP \$72,489
	351,250	143,171	208,079		
CULTURAL					
C3030002	Oatlands - Aquatic Centre (Forecourt - Art Installation)	20,000	465	19,535	
	20,000	465	19,535		
REGULATORY - DEVELOPMENT					
C5020007	Master / Structure Plans (Bagdad / Mangalore / Campania)	50,000	0	50,000	
C5020004	Oatlands - Stanley Street Master Plan	20,000	172	19,828	Budget c/f WIP \$172
C5020002	Oatlands - Structure Plan	25,000	34,155	-9,155	\$25K Budget c/f WIP \$34,155
C6020014	Oatlands - MMPC Church Street Sub-Division	0	4,988	-4,988	WIP \$4,988 Offset by sale of property
	95,000	39,315	55,685		
REGULATORY - PUBLIC HEALTH					
C4060003	Oatlands - GP Accommodation Units	600,000	114,976	485,024	Council Commitment \$100K (grant funded)
	600,000	114,976	485,024		

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE PROGRAM 2023-24
As at 31 January 2024

		BUDGET	EXPENDITURE	BALANCE	COMMENTS	COMPLETION	
		\$	\$	\$		DEADLINE	
COMMUNITY FAMILIES	C4030001	Bagdad - Child Care Centre Building	237,314	313,617	-76,303	Council Commitment (\$100K grant funded)	30 June 2025
			237,314	313,617	-76,303		
RECREATION		Facilities & Recreation Committee	52,000	0	52,000		
	C4070060	Community Infrastructure Plan	44,600	18,262	26,338		
	C4070062	Bagdad - Iden Road Park Development	75,000	0	75,000		
	C4070046	Bagdad - Bagdad Community Club (Precinct Plan)	25,000	23,817	1,183	Budget c/f WIP \$17,417	
	C4070058	Broadmarsh - Broadmarsh Hall "The Haven"	446,995	446,995	0	Administration of Progress Assoc. Grant	
	C4070061	Campania - Justitia Court POS - Shelter Hut	16,000	425	15,575		30 June 2025
	C4070004	Campania - Public Open Space dev (Justitia Park)	6,375	0	6,375	Budget c/f	
	C4070008	Campania - Hall (LED Lighting)(alternate quote \$1582)	4,250	4,250	0		
	C4070028	Campania - Recreation Ground (Centre Pitch/Wicket & Nets)	12,004	12,734	-730		
	C4070019	Kempton - Recreation Ground (Site Dev and Play Equipment)	24,250	0	24,250	Budget c/f	
	C4070063	Kempton - Recreation /Skate Park/ Dog Park	31,000	28,369	2,641		
	C4070049	Kempton - Off-lead Dog Park	60,331	72,093	-11,761.73	LRCI Phase 2 \$43,125 WIP \$72,093	30 June 2024
	C4070057	Kempton - Recreation Ground (Irrigation)	60,000	1,637	58,363	WIP \$1,637	
	C4070039	Mt Pleasant Rec Ground - Building Improvements	279,000	279,625	-625	Dept of Communities Grant WIP \$278,156	
		Oatlands - Aquatic Centre (Construction)	410,501	410,501	0	WIP 2022/23	
	C4070034	Oatlands - Aquatic Centre (Construction)	482,114	32,521	449,593	Balance of construction phase budget c/f	
	C9990002	Oatlands - Aquatic Centre (CO2 Gas Monitoring)	7,649	7,649	0		
	C4070054	Oatlands - Aquatic Centre (Gymnasium (Mirror & Equipment))	4,400	6,232	-1,832		
	C4070009	Oatlands - Community Hall (Maintenance Program)	51,300	38,477	12,823	Budget c/f WIP \$38,477	
	C4070009	Oatlands - Gay Street, Hall (Air Lock)	10,000	38,727	-28,727		
	C4070013	Oatlands - Midlands Community Centre (External Painting - Front of Building)	5,000	0	5,000		
	C4070006	Oatlands Swimming Pool (Staged demolition)	200,000	19,124	180,876	WIP \$15,756	
	C4070042	Runnymede Recreation Ground - Play Equipment	20,000	10,295	9,705	LRCI PA4	30 June 2025
	C4060002	Water Bottle Refill Stations	7,960	0	7,960	Budget c/f	
			2,335,749	1,451,722	884,027		
ACCESS	C4050001	Tunbridge Community Club - Accessible Toilets	115,000	200	114,800	22/23 Budget \$20,000 c/f WIP \$200	
			115,000	200	114,800		
CAPACITY & SUSTAINABILITY	C3010014	Property Purchase - 9 Barrack Street, Oatlands (Police Residence)	73,248	377	72,871	Budget \$519,490 less \$446K spent in 22/23	
	C5020006	Kempton - Carriage Shed - Toilets	15,000	11,144	3,856	WIP \$10,419	
			88,248	11,521	76,726		

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE PROGRAM 2023-24
As at 31 January 2024

ORGANISATION
SUSTAINABILITY

		BUDGET	EXPENDITURE	BALANCE	COMMENTS	COMPLETION
		\$	\$	\$		DEADLINE
	Kempton Council Chambers - Office Furniture & Equipment	5,000	0	5,000		
C6020011	Kempton Depot - Fencing/Kitchen	0	16,755	-16,755		
C6020001	Oatlands Depot - Wash Bay	0	8,909	-8,909		
	Oatlands - Town Hall (General - Incl. Office Equip/Furniture)	5,000	1,925	3,075		
C6020007	Oatlands Council Chambers - Fire Detection & Security System	18,000	0	18,000		
C6020007	Oatlands - Council Chambers - Internal Toilets Upgrade	100,000	0	100,000		
C6020007	Oatlands - Council Chambers - Damp Issues & Stonemasonry	15,000	0	15,000	Budget off	
C6020007	Oatlands - Council Chambers - Works Office (floor coverings/refurbishing)	5,000	16,303	-11,303	Budget off	
C6020010	Municipal Revaluation - Final 10%	0	16,100	-16,100		
				0		
C6020003	Computer Monitor(s)	8,000	7,453	547		
	PC's; Keyboards & UPS's	14,000	0	14,000		
	Council Website - Upgrade	20,000	0	20,000		
	Ipads (2) (Animal & Building Control)	4,000	0	4,000		
		194,000	67,444	126,556		

WORKS

C999002	Minor Plant Purchases	9,500	12,413	-2,913		
C999002	Quickspray Unit (c/w Pump etc)	12,670	14,978	-2,308		
C6020008	Radio System	50,000	1,220	48,780		
	Plant Replacement Program					
	Heavy Vehicles - Refer separate Schedule (Trade Allowance - \$334)	678,867	481,369	197,498		
	Light Vehicles (Net Changeover) (Trade Allowance - \$132)	249,639	143,498	106,141		
		1,000,676	653,478	347,198		
	GRAND TOTALS	13,777,528	5,420,362	8,357,166		

Southern Midlands Council
Minutes – 27th February 2024

CASH FLOW 2023/2024	INFLOWS (OUTFLOWS) July 2023 \$	INFLOWS (OUTFLOWS) Aug 2023 \$	INFLOWS (OUTFLOWS) Sep 2023 \$	INFLOWS (OUTFLOWS) Oct 2023 \$	INFLOWS (OUTFLOWS) Nov 2023 \$	INFLOWS (OUTFLOWS) Dec 2023 \$	INFLOWS (OUTFLOWS) Jan 2024 \$	INFLOWS (OUTFLOWS) (Year to Date) \$
Cash flows from operating activities								
Payments								
Employee costs	(369,019)	(578,131)	(416,390)	(420,834)	(373,508)	(406,392)	(471,180)	(3,035,454)
Materials and contracts	(865,696)	(514,063)	(383,016)	(348,088)	(389,169)	(378,240)	(501,013)	(3,379,284)
Interest	(2,917)	0	0	0	(645)	(22,840)	(2,749)	(29,151)
Other	(20,710)	(59,400)	(97,533)	(168,081)	(45,872)	(90,007)	(139,441)	(621,044)
	<u>(1,258,343)</u>	<u>(1,151,593)</u>	<u>(896,939)</u>	<u>(937,003)</u>	<u>(809,194)</u>	<u>(897,478)</u>	<u>(1,114,382)</u>	<u>(7,064,933)</u>
Receipts								
Rates	393,738	710,319	2,117,560	547,800	703,244	371,567	639,004	5,483,232
User charges	228,018	120,782	117,009	31,823	662,843	215,801	73,499	1,449,776
Interest received	44,460	51,157	63,218	76,056	62,791	73,370	73,917	444,969
Subsidies	0	0	0	0	0	22,840	0	22,840
Other revenue grants	0	103,038	2,983	2,440	105,232	718	0	214,411
GST Refunds from ATO	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	65,230	245,462	12,054	161,652	(228,807)	246,136	46,159	547,885
	<u>731,446</u>	<u>1,230,759</u>	<u>2,312,823</u>	<u>819,770</u>	<u>1,305,303</u>	<u>930,432</u>	<u>832,579</u>	<u>8,163,113</u>
Net cash from operating activities	<u>(526,897)</u>	<u>79,165</u>	<u>1,415,885</u>	<u>(117,233)</u>	<u>496,109</u>	<u>32,954</u>	<u>(281,803)</u>	<u>1,098,180</u>
Cash flows from investing activities								
Payments for property, plant & equipment	(111,762)	(321,353)	(470,999)	(283,748)	(631,756)	(685,513)	(287,523)	(2,792,654)
Proceeds from sale of property, plant & equipment	17,818	58,095	0	28,077	133,309	0	21,936	259,236
Proceeds from Capital grants	102,500	1,534,236	0	0	1,085,301	0	0	2,722,037
Proceeds from Investments	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Payment for Investments	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Net cash used in investing activities	<u>8,556</u>	<u>1,270,979</u>	<u>(470,999)</u>	<u>(255,671)</u>	<u>586,854</u>	<u>(685,513)</u>	<u>(265,587)</u>	<u>188,619</u>
Cash flows from financing activities								
Repayment of borrowings	(8,291)	0	0	0	(16,899)	(99,627)	(8,460)	(133,277)
Proceeds from borrowings	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Net cash from (used in) financing activities	<u>(8,291)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(16,899)</u>	<u>(99,627)</u>	<u>(8,460)</u>	<u>(133,277)</u>
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held	(526,632)	1,350,144	944,886	(372,904)	1,066,064	(752,187)	(555,849)	1,153,522
Cash at beginning of reporting month	17,408,041	16,881,409	18,231,553	19,176,438	18,803,535	19,869,599	19,117,412	17,408,041
Cash at end of reporting period	16,881,409	18,231,553	19,176,438	18,803,535	19,869,599	19,117,412	18,561,563	18,561,563

18. MUNICIPAL SEAL

Nil.

19. CONSIDERATION OF SUPPLEMENTARY ITEMS TO THE AGENDA

19.1 Code of Conduct – Workers Policy

Author: MANAGER COMMUNITY & CORPORATE DEVELOPMENT (WENDY YOUNG)

Date: 24 FEBRUARY 2024

Enclosure:

Code of Conduct Workers

ISSUE

The *Child & Youth Safe Organisation Act 2023* was enacted in June 2023. This Act establishes standards for the safety and wellbeing of children and youth and provides responsibilities of certain entities in relation to those standards and establishes a reportable conduct scheme. Under Schedule 2 of the Act – Councils are an entity that are specifically covered and must comply from the 1 January 2024.

BACKGROUND

The objective of the changes to the policy is to ensure that Council meets their obligations under the Act.

DETAIL

This is the second reading of the policy and be submitted for formal adoption.

The substantive change to the policy was changing employee/other workers to workers and adding specific reference to the new Act.

Under the Act the definition of a worker is;-

A worker, of an entity, is a person who has attained the age of 18 years who –

- is employed by the entity, whether or not the person is employed in connection with any work or activity of the entity that relates to children; or
- is engaged by the entity to provide services, including as a volunteer, contractor, subcontractor, consultant, director, member of a management committee, office holder or officer, whether or not the person is engaged in connection with any work or activity of the entity that relates to children; or
- is elected to a role in respect of an entity, such as an alderman, councillor or member of Parliament, whether or not the person provides services to children in that elected role; or
- is engaged in training or work experience with the entity, whether or not the person is engaged in connection with any work or activity of the entity that relates to children;

Including a paragraph on being a child & youth safe organisation and the responsibility on workers to comply with the standards.

Workers must prioritise, promote and protect the safety and wellbeing and prevent abuse and harm of children and young people. Provide an environment that ensures that the right to cultural safety of children who identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander is respected. It is the responsibility of all workers of the Southern Midlands Council to note and comply with the following standards:

- (a) *Care about children and young people’s safety and wellbeing.*
- (b) *Children and young people are informed about their rights, participate in decisions affecting them and are taken seriously.*
- (c) *Families and communities are informed and involved in promoting child safety and wellbeing.*
- (d) *Equality is upheld and diversity needs respected.*
- (e) *People working with children and young people are suitable and supported to reflect child safety and wellbeing.*
- (f) *Processes to respond to complaints and concerns are child-focused.*
- (g) *Workers are equipped with knowledge, skills and awareness to keep children and young people safe through ongoing education and training.*
- (h) *Physical and online environments promote safety and wellbeing while minimising the opportunity for children and young people to be harmed.*

The new Act will require amendments to other policies and these will be amended and presented to Council over the coming months.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council formally adopt the ‘Code of Conduct Worker Policy’.

DECISION

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

THAT Council formally adopt the ‘Code of Conduct Worker Policy’.

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	✓	

ENCLOSURE
Agenda Item 19.1



Council Policy
CODE OF CONDUCT FOR WORKERS

Approved by: Council
Approved date: February 2024
Review date: February 2027

1. PURPOSE

The Code of Conduct for Workers Policy specifies how Southern Midlands Council's Workers should conduct the business of Council

2. OBJECTIVE

The aims of this Policy are to:

- (a) Ensure that Workers understand their obligations and do not engage in Infringing Workplace Behaviour;
- (b) Provide a framework for Workers to make decisions and engage in behaviours that are ethical and appropriate for Council and the workplace;
- (c) To create and maintain a child and youth safe organisation where workers prioritise, promote and protect the safety and wellbeing and prevent abuse and harm of children and young people in the Southern Midlands. By ensuring that their rights are respected and workers identify and report unsafe behaviour.
- (d) Reflect Council's commitment to the highest standards of honesty and integrity in meeting the needs of Council and the community we serve;
- (e) Outline the standards of conduct or behaviour expected at all times relevant to work and responsibilities;
- (f) Operate with the Applicable Laws and Council's policies and procedures; and
- (g) Recognise that Workers are ultimately responsible for their own behaviour.

3. SCOPE

This Policy covers and applies to Workers in relation to:

- (i) Behaviour at the Workplace;
- (ii) The performance of work for or in connection with Council; and
- (iii) Conduct outside the Workplace or working hours if the acts or omissions:
 - (a) Are likely to cause serious damage to the relationship between Council, workers at the workplace; or
 - (b) Are incompatible with Workers duty to Council; or
 - (c) Damage or are likely to damage Council's interest or reputation.

This policy does not cover or apply to a Councillor.



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4. DEFINITIONS

Applicable Laws

All laws in connection with the carrying out of work or the Workplace including:

- Age Discrimination Act 2004 (Cth)
- Anti-Discrimination Act 1998 (TAS)
- Australian Human Rights Commission Act 1986 (Cth)
- Child and Youth Safe Organisations Act 2023 (TAS)
- Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (Cth)
- Fair Work Act 2009 (Cth)
- Local Government Act 1993 (TAS)
- Racial Discrimination Act 1975 (Cth)
- Sex Discrimination Act 1984 (Cth)
- Work Health & Safety Act 2012 (TAS)
- Workers Rehabilitation & Compensation Act 1988 (TAS)

Confidential Information

Any information, with the exception of information in the public domain other than as a result of a breach by the Worker disclosed, or communicated to the Worker by, or on behalf of Council that:-

- (a) Is marked or designated as 'Confidential'
- (b) Would at law be considered secret or 'confidential information of Council';
- (c) That the Worker might reasonably expect Council to regard as confidential; or
- (d) Which comes into the Worker's possession, or is learnt, accessed or generated by the Worker, in the course of the Worker's employment or engagement, whether or not the information was originally supplied by the Council; and
 - (i) relates to Council dealings, customer or client lists, financial position and arrangements, funding, transactions, general affairs, contracts entered into, program planning and consultant's advice, promotional information, planning information, equipment and techniques, used or any of the above matters for Council's business;
 - (ii) Without limiting the generality of the above relates to internal Council management, the structure of Council, information about Workers, Policies, marketing programs, strategies, plans, investments or aspects of its future operations; or
 - (iii) Relates to internal Council management, the structure of the business of Council, Council personnel, marketing programs, strategies, plans, investments or aspects of its future operations.



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Conflict of Interest

An actual, potential or perceived conflict between duties or work or services provided to Council and private interests of a Worker, in which the Worker has private 'interests' which could improperly influence the performance of work, duties or services provided to Council by that Worker.

Without limiting the generality of the above, includes any 'interests' identified in the Local Government Act 1993 (TAS).

Council Property

Any real or tangible property (e.g. cash, motor vehicles, plant and equipment); and any intangible property (e.g. intellectual property and goodwill) owned by Council or in Council's possession or control.

Councillor

An elected member of Council known as a Councillor or otherwise meeting the definition of a 'councillor' as defined under section 3 of the Local Government Act 1993 (TAS).

Worker

A person who carries out work for Council as a worker of Council and also includes:-

- (a) a contractor or subcontractor;
- (b) an employee of a contractor or subcontractor;
- (c) an employee of a labour hire company who has been assigned to work at Council;
- (d) an outworker;
- (e) an apprentice or trainee;
- (f) a student gaining work experience;
- (g) a volunteer; or
- (i) a person of a prescribed class;

But does not include a Councillor.

General Manager

The General Manager of Council as appointed under section 61 of the Local Government Act 1993 (TAS).

Infringing Workplace Behaviour

Any act or omission, which amounts to a breach of any Council policy, contractual obligation or misconduct at common law.

Manager/Supervisor

A person at the Workplace who is appointed to a position that has management/supervisory responsibilities for others or their appropriately nominated or authorised delegate

Nominated Council Delegate

Deputy General Manager



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Other Persons at the Workplace

Any persons at the Workplace who is not a Worker including visitor and ratepayers.

Privileged Information

Any information which is subject to legal professional privilege

Sensitive Information

Personal information or an opinion relating to personal information about individuals:

- (a) Racial or ethnic origin; or
- (b) Political opinions; or
- (c) Membership of a political association; or
- (d) Religious beliefs or affiliations; or
- (e) Philosophical beliefs; or
- (f) Membership of a professional or trade association; or
- (g) Membership of a trade union; or
- (h) Sexual preferences or practices; or
- (i) Criminal record; and
- (j) Health information about an individual

Workplace

A place where work is carried out for Council.

Training

Council will provide all persons covered by this Policy with appropriate training so they are made aware of their responsibilities and obligations under the Policy.

5. REQUIREMENTS

- (a) Workers must comply with this Policy;
- (b) If Workers are unsure as to compliance then consider:
 - (i) Discussions with other Workers or Managers/Supervisors at the workplace to get an objective viewpoint.
 - (ii) What you would do if it was your money, time or equipment;
 - (iii) Being on the receiving end of your decision or action;
 - (iv) Whether you could adequately defend your actions to your immediate Manager/Supervisor;
 - (v) The potential consequences of your behaviours or decisions for other Workers, your family, Council's ratepayers and wider community including whether you would feel comfortable with it reported in the media; and
 - (vi) Who will benefit? Will it be fair to Council, the parties involved and yourself. If Employees and/or other Workers still have doubts about the correct thing to do, refer the matter to the General Manager for advice.



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- (c) Managers/supervisors are required to reasonably promote this Policy within their area of responsibility and take reasonable steps to ensure that any potential breaches of this Policy are identified, taken seriously and acted upon appropriately.

6. POLICY

6.1 Acting with Honesty and Integrity

Acting with honesty and integrity will maintain the respect and confidence in Council. To demonstrate honesty and integrity Workers will:

- (a) Treat Workers and Other Persons at the Workplace with honesty, respect and courtesy;
- (b) Not take improper advantage of their position in order to obtain a benefit for others or themselves
- (c) Report dishonest, unethical, fraudulent or corrupt behaviour or maladministration by Workers or Other Persons at the Workplace;
- (d) Not seek or accept any type of unauthorised compensation, fee/payment (ie monetary or non-monetary), commission or gratuity from a third part in connection with the operations of Council;
- (e) Not offer or accept any gift, hospitality, or other financial/non-financial benefit without the prior written approval of the Nominated Council Delegate;
- (f) Not make or take any bribes, kickbacks, inducements or other illegal payments of any kind for the benefit of any person or party in connection with obtaining orders or favourable treatment or for any other purpose in connection with the operations of Council;
- (g) Report in writing to the Nominated Council Delegate with full details of any gifts, hospitality, or other financial/non-financial benefit received by Employees or other Worker; and
- (h) Encourage and support good faith reporting of breaches of this Policy without retribution.

6.2 Acting with Professionalism

Professionalism is conduct that fosters and preserves reputations as individuals and that of Council. To demonstrate professionalism Employees and other Workers will:

- (a) Not engage in or tolerate Infringing Workplace Behaviour;
- (b) Support and not publicly criticise, decisions of Council;
- (c) Not undermine or bring Council's integrity or reputation into disrepute;
- (d) Work co-operatively as a team and treat Employees, other Workers and other Persons at the Workplace with respect and dignity;



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- (e) Exercise diligence, best endeavours and sound judgment when carrying out their duties or providing services;
- (f) Maintain a professional relationship with third parties when engaged as a Worker;
- (g) Provide levels of service that they competent and authorised to provide;
- (h) Not make unauthorised statements or commitments on behalf of the Council.

6.3 Acting in Accordance with the Law and Policies and Procedures

Workers should act in the spirit and intent of the Applicable Laws governing Council's activities and strive to be familiar with and comply with all relevant laws, policies and procedures. To demonstrate this commitment Employees and other Workers will:

- (a) Respect and abide by all Applicable Laws, Policies and Procedures;
- (b) Comply with all lawful and reasonable directs from authorised persons;
- (c) Only act within their authority;
- (d) Protect Council property, in particular, take care to avoid or minimise the possibility of theft or misuse of Council Property;
- (e) Only use Council property for Council purposes and in accordance with appropriate authorisations;
- (f) Not use Council property for private purposes unless authorised by their Manager/Supervisor; and
- (g) Comply with delegations, and other authorisations as directed.

6.4 Declaring and Avoiding Conflicts of Interest

Conflict of Interests can jeopardise confidence in Council. To demonstrate declaration and avoidance Workers will:

- (a) Not take on Personal business or financial or private interests that compete or conflict with Council's interests;
- (b) Inform their Manager/Supervisor as soon as they become aware of possible Conflicts of Interest involving themselves or others and provide all reasonable information about the possible Conflict of Interest and comply with any directions;
- (c) Reasonably seek approval before taking up other employment or engagements outside of their position with Council;
- (d) Declare any Conflict of Interest that could occur through share-holdings, ownership of real estate or being the trustee of beneficiary of a trust;
- (e) Not use of take advantage of any Council Property or Information belonging to Council for personal benefit or for the benefit of any other person;
- (f) Not engage directly or indirectly in any outside business activity involving commercial contact with Council or work for the benefit of Council commercial customers,



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suppliers or competitors without the prior written consent of the Nominated Council Delegate; and

- (g) Disclose ownership of shares in a listed entity which deals with or competes with Council to the Nominated Council Delegate.

6.5 Respect Privacy and do not Misuse Information

To demonstrate respect for privacy and proper use of information Employees and other Workers will:

- (a) Not disclose Confidential Information to any person or entity without the prior written consent of the Nominated Council Delegate;
- (b) Not disclose to any person or entity without the prior written consent of the Nominated Council Delegate or improperly use specific information referred to in s338A and 339 of the Local Government Act 1993 (TAS).
- (c) Disclose if required by Applicable Laws, Confidential Information (but no more than is necessary to discharge their legal obligations), to the relevant authority in a manner that is accurate and truthful. Before such disclosures are made, and if permitted by Applicable Laws, Employees and other Workers acting as Council's representatives must advise, to the extent permitted by Applicable Law, the Nominated Council Delegate about the pending disclosure;
- (d) Not use Confidential Information for the purpose of directly or indirectly obtaining personal gain or another benefit.
- (e) Only access Confidential Information for authorised work-related tasks;
- (f) Disclose to their Manager/Supervisor situations that may create a Conflict of Interest before a conflict arises, or if one does occur, immediately on becoming aware;
- (g) Not encourage others to disclose Confidential Information or Sensitive Information or Privileged Information.
- (h) Ensure the secure collection, storage and disposal of Confidential Information and Sensitive Information regardless of its medium; and
- (i) Comply with Applicable Laws regarding declaration of any pecuniary interest they or a close associate of theirs may have regarding any matter in which they provide advice to Council, make a decision or determination or make a recommendation to Council about.

6.6 Strive to be Good Citizens and Achieve Community Respect

Council is committed to service excellence and aims to maintain public confidence and respect. Workers will:

- (a) Be aware that the choices they make in business activities may impact on Workers and Other Persons at the Workplace, the community and the environment and must take this into account when making decisions,



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- (b) Commit to taking reasonable care to avoid acts and omissions that may adversely affect themselves, Workers and Other Persons at the Workplace,
- (c) Aim to be socially, financially and environmentally responsible in the use of Council resources;
- (d) Work together to achieve Council's goals and visions;
- (e) Perform their duties to the best of their ability and ensure work is carried out efficiently and effectively;
- (f) Commit to equality and diversity;
- (g) Strive to make a positive contribution to Council, Workers and Other Persons at the Workplace, and the community;
- (h) Consider the broader impact of their decisions on stakeholders and the community; and
- (i) Report any corrupt or fraudulent conduct or any maladministration.

6.7 Obligations after leaving Council

- (a) Prior to ceasing work for Council, Workers must return all Council equipment, property and documentation provided or obtained as part of their work. This includes, but is not limited to, instruction manuals, identification cards, procurement cards, keys, vehicles, mobile phones, other communication devices, personal protective equipment, all tools, computer software and hardware;
- (b) If a Worker ceases working for Council they must not disclose any confidential information provided to them.
- (c) Workers must repay any outstanding debts owed to Council prior to ceasing work for Council. Council reserves the right to deduce any monies owed from the Employee's final pay.

6.8 Reporting of Breaches

Workers must reasonably report breaches of Infringing Workplace behaviour as follows:

For breaches by:

- (a) An Worker (other than the General Manager), the report must go to the reporting person's applicable Manager; and/or
- (b) The General Manager the report must go to the Mayor (of if unavailable to the next appropriately delegated Councillor) and
- (c) As otherwise required or permitted by Applicable Laws.



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6.9 Breaches of Policy

Workers who engage in Infringing Workplace Behaviour may be subject to appropriate disciplinary action in accordance with the Disciplinary Policy and Procedure. Infringing Workplace Behaviour may also amount to breaches of Applicable Laws:

Exposing individuals to legal proceedings; and

Making Council vicariously liable for the conduct of others.

6.10 Child and Youth Safe Organisation

Workers must prioritise, promote and protect the safety and wellbeing and prevent abuse and harm of children and young people. Provide an environment that ensures that the right to cultural safety of children who identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander is respected. **It is the responsibility of all workers of the Southern Midlands Council to note and comply with the following:**

- (a) Care about children and young people's safety and wellbeing.
- (b) Children and young people are informed about their rights, participate in decisions affecting them and are taken seriously.
- (c) Families and communities are informed and involved in promoting child safety and wellbeing.
- (d) Equality is upheld and diversity needs respected.
- (e) People working with children and young people are suitable and supported to reflect child safety and wellbeing.
- (f) Processes to respond to complaints and concerns are child-focused.
- (g) Workers are equipped with knowledge, skills and awareness to keep children and young people safe through ongoing education and training.
- (h) Physical and online environments promote safety and wellbeing while minimising the opportunity for children and young people to be harmed.

LEGISLATION

Work Health and Safety Act 2012 (TAS)
Work Health and Safety Regulations 2012 (TAS)
Fair Work Act 2009 (CTH)
Anti-Discrimination Act 1998 (TAS)
Sex Discrimination Act 1984 (CTH)
Child and Youth Safe Organisations Act 2023 (TAS)



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RELATED DOCUMENTS

Disciplinary Policy and Procedure
Complaints & Grievances Policy and Procedure
Respect in the Workplace Policy
Fraud Control and Corrupt Conduct Prevention Policy and Procedure
Children Safety & Wellbeing Policy

DOCUMENT ADMINISTRATION

This Instruction is a managed document and is to be reviewed every three (3) years or as directed by the General Manager.

This document is Version 2 effective January 2023. The document is maintained by the General Manager's Unit of Southern Midlands Council.

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.

CARRIED

Matter	<i>Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015 Reference</i>
<i>Closed Council Minutes - Confirmation</i>	15(2)
<i>Applications for Leave of Absence</i>	15(2)(h)
<i>Property Matter - Bagdad</i>	15(2)(e)(ii)

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

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 Deputy Mayor K Dudgeon, seconded by Clr B Campbell

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	✓	

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 Property Matter - Bagdad

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)(e)(ii) of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council move out of “Closed Session”.

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

THAT Council move out of “Closed Session”.

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	✓	

OPEN COUNCIL MINUTES

21. CLOSURE

The Meeting closed 1.05 p.m.