

SOUTHERN  
MIDLANDS  
COUNCIL



# **A G E N D A**

## **ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING**

---

Wednesday, 27<sup>th</sup> May 2026  
10.00 a.m.

Broadmarsh Hall  
1218 Elderslie Road, Broadmarsh

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Dear Sir/Madam

## **NOTICE OF MEETING**

Notice is hereby given that the next ordinary meeting of Council will be held on

**Date: Wednesday, 27<sup>th</sup> May 2026**

**Time: 10.00 a.m.**

**Venue: Broadmarsh Hall, 1218 Elderslie Road, Broadmarsh**

*The Local Government Act 1993 section 65 provides the following:*

1. *A general manager must ensure that any advice, information or recommendation given to the council or a council committee is given by a person who has the qualifications or experience necessary to give such advice, information or recommendation.*
2. *A council or council committee is not to decide on any matter which requires the advice of a qualified person without considering such advice unless –*
  - (a) *the general manager certifies, in writing –*
    - (i) *that such advice was obtained; and*
    - (ii) *that the general manager took the advice into account in providing general advice to the council or council committee; and*
  - (b) *a copy of that advice or, if the advice was given orally, a written transcript or summary of that advice is provided to the council or council committee with the general manager's certificate.*

*I therefore certify that with respect to all advice, information or recommendation provided to the Council in or with this Agenda:*

- (1) *The advice, information or recommendation is given by a person who has the qualifications or experience necessary to give such advice, information or recommendation; and*
- (2) *Where any advice is directly given by a person who does not have the required qualification or experience, that person has obtained and taken into account in that person's general advice, the advice from an appropriately qualified or experienced person.*

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tim Kirkwood', written in a cursive style.

Tim Kirkwood  
**GENERAL MANAGER**

## OPEN COUNCIL AGENDA

In accordance with Regulation 8 of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025*, Mayor Batt is to advise all attendees that:

- a) this meeting is being recorded;
- b) all persons attending the meeting are to be respectful of, and considerate towards, other persons attending the meeting; and
- c) language and conduct at the meeting that could be perceived as offensive, defamatory or threatening to a person attending the meeting, or listening to the recording, is not acceptable.

### 1. PRAYERS

Reverend Dennis Cousens to recite prayers.

### 2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

*We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we meet today, and recognise their continuing connection to the land, water and to community. We pay respects to Elders past and present.*

### 3. ATTENDANCE

### 4. APOLOGIES

## 5. MINUTES

### 5.1 Ordinary Council Meeting

The Minutes (Open Council Minutes) of the previous meeting of Council held on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2026, as circulated, are submitted for confirmation.

#### RECOMMENDATION

**THAT the Minutes (Open Council Minutes) of the Council Meeting held 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2026 be confirmed.**

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

### 5.2 Special Committees of Council Minutes

#### 5.2.1 Special Committees of Council - Receipt of Minutes

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

- Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary Management Committee Meeting Minutes – 20 April 2026
- Bagdad Community Precinct Management Committee Meeting Minutes – 21 April 2026

#### RECOMMENDATION

**THAT the minutes of the Special Committees of Council be received.**

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

## 5.2.2 Special Committees of Council - Endorsement of Recommendations

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

- Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary Management Committee Meeting Minutes – 20 April 2026
- Bagdad Community Precinct Management Committee Meeting Minutes – 21 April 2026

### RECOMMENDATION

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

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

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

### 5.3.1 Joint Authorities - Receipt of Minutes

Nil.

### 5.3.2 Joint Authorities - Receipt of Reports (Annual & Quarterly)

Quarterly Report for the following Joint Authority, as circulated, is submitted for receipt:

- TasWaste South Quarterly Report – 1 January to 31 March 2026

### RECOMMENDATION

**THAT the Quarterly Report for the above Joint Authority is received.**

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

## 6. NOTIFICATION OF COUNCIL WORKSHOPS

In accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025*, the Agenda is to include details of any Council workshop held since the last meeting.

One workshop has been held since the last Ordinary Meeting.

A workshop was held on the 11<sup>th</sup> May 2026 at the Council Chambers, Oatlands commencing at 9.30 a.m.

Attendance: Mayor E Batt, Deputy Mayor K Dudgeon, Cirs A E Bisdee OAM, D Blackwell, B Campbell and D Fish.

Also in Attendance: T Kirkwood, D Richardson, G Finn, A Burbury, W Young and J Crosswell.

Apologies: C/r F Miller.

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

1. 2026/27 Budget
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Draft 2026/27 Operating Budget – final review
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Draft 2026/27 Capital Works Program – final review
  - Proposed 2026/27 Rates & Charges
  - Draft 2026/27 Schedule of Fees & Charges – final review

Final adoption of the 2026-27 Budget, including the Rates and Charges, is planned for 24 June 2026 Council Meeting.

2. Tas Petroleum – Tasmanian Planning Commission

General discussion relating to the correspondence received from the Tasmanian Planning Commission regarding Council's decision not to prepare draft amendment DA2500/105 - 20 Interlaken Road, Oatlands.

Preliminary discussion paper presented to the workshop.

Refer Council Meeting Agenda Item.

3. Southern Midlands Council – Review of Strategic Review

At the conclusion of the last Council Meeting, the Deputy General Manager (Andrew Benson) provided an overview of the process for the current desktop review of the Strategic Plan. Councillors were provided with a hard copy of the Strategic Planning document which was an abridged version (removed the extraneous pages that did not impact on the 'key actions and aims' of the respective Business Units).

The amended Plan (as a marked up version) included combined feedback from the respective Business Unit Managers.

Opportunity for Councillors to provide further input and feedback, with the aim of submitting a draft to the May 2026 Council Meeting, and final endorsement at the June meeting.

4. Decision Making Framework – Discussion

Following discussion, it was accepted that the framework (as presented) was practical and reasonable. The standard Agenda template be amended to reflect the elements of the framework for all key decisions. Key decisions are considered to be those decisions involving expenditure exceeding a set threshold (i.e. \$250,000).

5. Other Business:

5.1 Elected Member Learning and Development Activities

In accordance with Regulation 37(D) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2025, Council is required to provide a statement of the core learning and development activities that each Councillor has completed each financial year.

This statement is included in the Council's Annual Report.

It was agreed that time would be allocated at the Special Workshop scheduled for 1 June 2026 to complete further modules.

5.2 Woodsdale Football Club / Woodsdale Recreation & Community Hub Inc. – Financial Settlement

Refer Council Meeting Agenda Item.

4.3 Advertising / Promotional Signage – Council owned properties

Possible need to consider the development of a Policy in terms of how these signs are managed taking into account the community benefit through sponsorship and advertising.

The workshop concluded at approximately 12.15 p.m.

**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT the information be received.**

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

## 7. COUNCILLORS – QUESTION TIME

### 7.1 Questions (On Notice)

Regulation 30 of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025* 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.*

Clr F Miller submitted two questions on notice on 6 May 2026.

The second question has been listed in the Closed Session of the Agenda.

#### 1. Telstra Update

Can the General Manger please provide an update from Telstra following Council's last meeting held with Telstra representatives on 14 July 2025?

#### ***General Manager's Comment:***

Telstra's Regional Engagement Manager (Sarah Ebbelaar) has updated the attached 'Southern Midlands Council – Digital Connectivity Plan – Progress Report and Working Document'.

Ms Ebbelaar has indicated she is available to respond to any questions or requests for clarification arising from Council's consideration of this documents.

## 7.2 Questions Without Notice

Section 29 of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025* 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.

## **8. DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST**

In accordance with the requirements of Part 2 Regulation 8 of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025*, 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 2025*.

## 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 2025*, 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.

### RECOMMENDATION

**THAT: 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 2025*.**

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

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

In accordance with the requirements of Part 2 Division 4 of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025*, the agenda is to make provision for public question time.

In particular, Regulations 36, 37 and 38 of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025* provide the following:

### **36. Questions by member of the public**

- (1) *The chairperson of an ordinary council meeting must ensure that, if required, at least 15 minutes of that meeting is made available for questions by members of the public.*
- (2) *A question asked by a member of the public under regulation 37 or 38, and the answer given to that question, is not to be debated at the ordinary council meeting.*
- (3) *A council is to determine any other procedures to be followed in respect of public question time at an ordinary council meeting.*

### **37. Questions without notice by member of the public**

- (1) *A member of the public may, on invitation by the chairperson of an ordinary council meeting, ask a question without notice at the meeting.*
- (2) *A public question without notice must relate to the activities of the council.*
- (3) *The chairperson of an ordinary council meeting may require a public question without notice to be –*
  - (a) *put on notice in writing; and*
  - (b) *answered at a later ordinary council meeting.*

### **38. Questions on notice by member of the public**

- (1) *A member of the public may, at least 7 days before an ordinary council meeting, give written notice to the general manager of a question to which the member of the public seeks an answer at the meeting.*
- (2) *A public question on notice must relate to the activities of the council.*
- (3) *The chairperson of an ordinary council meeting may address a public question on notice.*
- (4) *The period referred to in subregulation (1) includes Saturdays, Sundays and statutory holidays, but does not include –*
  - (a) *the day on which notice is given under that subregulation; or*
  - (b) *the day of the ordinary council meeting.*

Councillors are advised that at the time of issuing the Agenda, two questions on notice had been received from the public.

## **Southern Midlands Regional News (Dr Julia Jabour) – Dog Management Policy**

The following question was received on 8 May 2026.

*“Under Part 3 – Control of Dogs, Division 1 in the Dog Control Act 2000, the following applies:*

### **24. Public notice of intention to declare areas**

*Before a council resolves to make a declaration under this Division in relation to an area, it is to –*

- (a) *notify, by public notice, the details of –*
  - (i) *the area; and*
  - (ii) *any condition relating to the use of that area; and*

(iii) in the case of a restricted area or prohibited area, the reasons for the declaration; and  
(b) invite submissions to be lodged within 15 working days after the notice is published; and  
(c) consider any submissions lodged.

## **25. Date and period of declaration**

A council, by public notice, is to notify –

(a) the date on which a declaration under this Division takes effect, being a date at least 20 working days after a notice under [section 24](#) is published; and  
(b) the period during which the declaration remains in force.

Can you confirm that this has been complied with in relation to the recently announced prohibited areas around the Lake Dulverton Conservation Area?”

### **Response:**

This matter relates to the recent amendment to Council's Dog Management Policy considered at the Council Meeting on 24 February 2026.

The amendment became necessary after it was confirmed that there was no officially approved dog exercise area within the Lake Dulverton Conservation Area under the *National Parks and Reserves Management Regulations 2019*.

As a result, Council had to work with the Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service to obtain formal approval for dog walking and exercising to continue on the lake foreshore.

Parks and Wildlife approved the activity, but required changes to the existing on-lead and off-lead arrangements.

Importantly, these changes were made under reserve management legislation, not under the *Dog Control Act 2000*.

Because Lake Dulverton is a Conservation Area, Council cannot independently declare a dog exercise area there under the *Dog Control Act 2000*. The authority to approve dog access within the reserve rests with Parks and Wildlife as the managing authority.

For this reason, Council considered that the public notification and submission requirements in sections 24 and 25 of the *Dog Control Act 2000* did not apply. The amendment to the Dog Management Policy was made only to reflect the conditions already approved by Parks and Wildlife.

### **Background**

Lake Dulverton is a Conservation Area reserved under the *Nature Conservation Act 2002*.

The lake was originally declared a bird sanctuary in 1929. At that time, the sanctuary covered the lake to the high-water mark. Additional foreshore land was later included when the area became a Conservation Area. Some parts of the lake and foreshore remain privately owned.

Under Council's 2022 Dog Management Policy, dogs were permitted on the foreshore but not in the lake itself.

Originally, Council managed dog access to the foreshore under the *Dog Control Act 2000* because the area was leased to the Southern Midlands Council. However, in December

2007 the foreshore and lake area were formally declared a Conservation Area under the *Nature Conservation Act 2002*.

In 2024, Parks and Wildlife advised Council that dog walking within the Conservation Area had never been formally approved and was therefore not compliant with reserve regulations.

In a letter dated 4 September 2024, Parks advised that dog walking on the foreshore trail had not been formally assessed or approved, and that Council would either need to apply for approval or stop the activity altogether.

Parks also advised that Council did not have the power under the *Dog Control Act 2000* to declare a dog exercise area on reserved land. Those powers remained with the Director of Parks and Wildlife.

As a result, dog walking on the foreshore could only continue if formal approval was granted by Parks and Wildlife.

Recognising the importance of the foreshore to the community, Council applied to Parks and Wildlife to allow dog walking to continue.

Council then completed the required reserve activity assessment process. Parks and Wildlife specified the conditions they would approve, including changes to on-lead and off-lead requirements.

Formal approval was granted on 1 September 2025.

Council subsequently amended its Dog Management Policy so that it accurately reflected the approved arrangements under the *National Parks and Reserves Management Regulations 2019*.

### **Mr Philip Morrell – 29 Main Street, Kempton – Sale of Council Chamber(s) Buildings**

The following question was received on 14 May 2026.

*“ In light of the Auditor - Generals focus on asset sustainability in rural councils ,will the general manager investigate the business case for executing a “ dual sale and leaseback agreement “ - for both the Oatlands ( 71 high street ) and Kempton ( 85 Main Street) administrative buildings having also “ Rights of first refusal to buy back “.*

*Can management evaluate whether shifting our rising building overheads, including insurance liabilities plus long term structural maintenance liabilities onto private investors and using the proceeds for shoring up our basic infrastructure management requirements is beneficial .This strategic action would of course guarantee that 100% of Council staff, front desk and local town identity stay exactly where they are today.”*

### **General Manager’s Preliminary Comments:**

Preliminary comments are provided pending any formal direction from Council.

The sale of significant public buildings, in the absence of any strategic policy approach, raises a number of issues. The following dot points provide preliminary observations only:

- a) There is not strategic planning document which identifies the potential sale of the two Council Chamber buildings whatsoever;
- b) The buildings hold civic, historical, and community significance within Oatlands and Kempton, and disposal may generate community concern regarding the long-term security of Council services in those towns;
- c) There is no financial basis to warrant the disposal of assets, to then lease back in a market where there is no competition and hence a premium would be paid;
- d) Assets are generally sold to generate cash flow (i.e. where available cash is limited and is required for ongoing operating purposes); or alternatively, to re-invest in other assets. No such investments have been identified;
- e) A sale and leaseback arrangement would create an ongoing long-term operating expense for Council through lease payments;
- f) The proposal may reduce Council’s long-term strategic flexibility, as future changes to service delivery, staffing levels, or administrative arrangements would become subject to lease conditions negotiated with private owners;
- g) Council would likely remain responsible for some building outgoings and fit-out costs under any commercial lease arrangement, depending on lease structure and market conditions;
- h) Any sale of public assets would require independent valuation, detailed financial modelling, legal due diligence, and assessment of market demand to determine whether a genuine financial benefit exists;
- i) In regional property markets with limited investor competition, Council may not achieve favourable sale proceeds or lease terms, potentially reducing any financial advantage with the arrangement;
- j) A sale and leaseback transaction may provide a short-term capital injection but does not necessarily improve Council’s underlying operating position or long-term asset sustainability obligations; and
- k) At this stage, management has not identified a demonstrated financial or strategic benefit that would warrant further investigation of the proposal ahead of other adopted Council priorities and asset management initiatives.

**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT Council elect not to proceed with any investigation into the potential disposal and leaseback of either of the Council Chamber buildings situated at 71 High Street, Oatlands or 85 Main Street, Kempton.**

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

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

**10.1      Permission to Address Council**

Nil.

**11. MOTIONS OF WHICH NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN UNDER  
REGULATION 16 (5) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MEETING  
PROCEDURES) REGULATIONS 2025**

Nil.

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

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

### 12.1 Development Applications

#### 12.1.1 Application to Amend the Planning Scheme (Reference DA2500/105), 20 Interlaken Road, Oatlands (CT44807/6, CT20462/5)

**Author:** MANAGER DEVELOPMENT & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES (GRANT FINN)

**Date:** 20 MAY 2026

#### **Attachment(s)**

*Council report + extract from Council minutes (24 Feb 2026)*

#### Introduction:

Further to Council's refusal to agree to TAS Petroleum P/L request pursuant to section 40T(1) of the Act to apply a Site Specific Qualification (SSQ) to the land at 20 Interlaken Road, Oatlands, Council is now in receipt of correspondence from the TAS Planning Commission dated 22 April 2026.

In short the Commission pursuant to s40B(4)(a) of the Act directs Council in its capacity as a planning authority to reconsider and decide whether to prepare a draft amendment in relation to the request made on behalf of TAS Petroleum P/L.

The TPC advises that the planning authority's decision should be accompanied by reasons to demonstrate how the LPS criteria were taken into account in making its decision.

In terms of the LPS Criteria, the following is an extract from the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993*:

#### **"34. LPS criteria**

(1) *In this section –*

**relevant planning instrument** means a draft LPS, an LPS, a draft amendment of an LPS and an amendment of an LPS.

(2) *The LPS criteria to be met by a relevant planning instrument are that the instrument –*

(a) *contains all the provisions that the SPPs specify must be contained in an LPS; and*

(b) *is in accordance with [section 32](#); and*

(c) *furtheres the objectives set out in [Schedule 1](#); and*

(d) *is consistent with each State policy; and*

(da) *satisfies the relevant criteria in relation to the TPPs; and*

(e) *as far as practicable, is consistent with the regional land use strategy, if any, for the regional area in which is situated the land to which the relevant planning instrument relates; and*

- (f) *has regard to the strategic plan, prepared under [section 66 of the Local Government Act 1993](#), that applies in relation to the land to which the relevant planning instrument relates; and*
  - (g) *as far as practicable, is consistent with and co-ordinated with any LPSs that apply to municipal areas that are adjacent to the municipal area to which the relevant planning instrument relates; and*
  - (h) *has regard to the safety requirements set out in the standards prescribed under the [Gas Safety Act 2019](#).*
- (2A) *A relevant planning instrument satisfies the relevant criteria in relation to the TPPs if –*
- (a) *where the SPPs and the relevant regional land use strategy have not been reviewed under [section 30T\(1\)](#) or [section 5A\(8\)](#) after the TPPs, or an amendment to the TPPs, is or are made – the relevant planning instrument is consistent with the TPPs, as in force before the relevant planning instrument is made; and*
  - (b) *whether or not the SPPs and the applicable regional land use strategy have been reviewed under [section 30T\(1\)](#) or [section 5A\(8\)](#) after the TPPs, or an amendment to the TPPs, is or are made – the relevant planning instrument complies with each direction, contained in the TPPs in accordance with [section 12B\(3\)](#), as to the manner in which the TPPs are to be implemented into the LPSs.*
- (3) *An amendment of an LPS, or a draft amendment of an LPS, is taken to meet the LPS criteria if the amendment of the LPS, or the draft amendment of the LPS, if made, will not have the effect that the LPS, as amended, will cease to meet the LPS criteria.”*

The TPC do however acknowledge at para 11 that the ‘LPS criteria were considered and in part contributed to the planning authority’s decision.’

Options:

As it stands, Council has in my opinion 1 of 2 options:

1. Revisit DA2500106 and adopt the recommendation of Council’s consultant planner (below) that was provided as part of Council’s agenda item dated 24 February 2026;

***THAT, in accordance with the provisions of the Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993 (the Act), the Planning Authority undertake the following:***

- A. That per Sections 38(2)(a) and 40D(a)(i) of the Act, it agrees to prepare and initiate draft amendment DA2500/115 to the Southern Midlands Local Provisions Schedule, as provided in Attachment 2, to:***

- a. Insert a Site-specific Qualification into SOR-Site-specific Qualifications table within the Local Provisions Schedule for the land at 20 Interlaken Road, Oatlands (CT 44897/6) that an additional Discretionary Use Class for the site is: Vehicle Fuel Sales and Service if only for the sale of fuels, charging of electric vehicles, and provision of a dedicated rest area, provided no other activity associated with the use is proposed; and The Rural zone is an applicable zone of the Table C1.6 for Canopy***

*signs, or Blade signs, if for directing attention to the sale of fuel, or charging of electric vehicles, and no other use or activity.*

- B. That in accordance with Section 40F of the Act, Council by instrument in writing affix the common seal of the Council to certify that draft amendment DA2500/15 as provided in Attachment 2 meets the LPS criteria provided in Section 34 per the requirements of Section 40F (1) of the Act.**
- C. That in accordance with Section 40FA (1) of the Act, Council directs that a copy of the draft amendment be provided to any relevant agencies or State authorities the Planning Authority considers may have an interest in the draft amendment.**
- D. That in accordance with Section 40G and Section 40Z of the Act, Council directs that draft amendment DA2500/15 be placed on public exhibition. E. That in accordance with Section 40Y of the Act, Council grants a permit for a fuel station and signage at 20 Interlaken Road, Oatlands for reasons provided in the body of the planners report and subject to recommended conditions.**

Or, alternatively:

- 2. Council reaffirm its decision not to support the request to prepare and initiate a draft amendment and that it provide further rationale to substantiate its refusal in accordance with LPS criteria to the Tasmanian Planning Commission.

#### Option 2:

To reaffirm its original decision, Council provides the following information that references LPS criteria.

Council is reminded that the decision to refuse the application was based on the following commentary:

- 1. Lack of employment: The proposed development being an unmanned self-service fuel station will not provide for the on-going employment of local residents. It is acknowledged an employee will be engaged for the cleaning of the amenities building and this is likely to be minimal (part-time). The construction and building phase may benefit local trades however there is no guarantee of a positive employment opportunities for the Oatlands, its residents or Southern Midlands**
- 2. Road user safety. There is no requirement within the application for the establishment of acceleration/deceleration lanes on the Midlands Highway which is governed by a 110km/h road speed limit. I do not agree with the Department of State Growths advice that the existing Midlands Highway and Interlaken Road junction is satisfactory. The proposed activity will compromise road user safety and I want to avoid a repeat of the crash history (major impacts) that are associated with Mood Food.**
- 3. Trade Competition: Fuel sales at the proposed self-service fuel station are in direct competition with an existing service station in Oatlands. In addition the discounted price will potentially compromise the viability of an existing established business.**

4. *The provision of EV charging stations will likely impact on the economic viability of Council's own EV charging stations at the Oatlands Aquatic Centre whose revenue assists in off-setting Council's deficit and operational costs.*
5. *Hours of Operation & Illumination: The canopy signage associated with the covered forecourt will be illuminated 24/7. In doing so this will potentially compromise the existing rural amenity and conflict with Council's aspiration to develop Southern Midlands as a 'Dark Sky Reserve.' A major development like this would be contrary to the adoption and acceptance of such a Policy.*
6. *Rural zoning. The land is agricultural land and Southern Midlands is a rural Council. The loss and conversion of rural land for non-rural purposes is contrary to the zone provisions and is likely to create a precedent for other commercial activities*

In doing so Council asserts that original grounds 3-5 (inclusive) are not valid criteria and are subsequently withdrawn.

1. **Lack of employment:** The proposed development being an unmanned self-service fuel station will not provide for the on-going employment of local residents. It is acknowledged an employee will be engaged for the cleaning of the amenities building and this is likely to be minimal (part-time). The construction and building phase may benefit local trades however there is no guarantee of a positive employment opportunities for the Oatlands, its residents or Southern Midlands.

In respect to the above, this matter is addressed within the following:

**Section 34(2)(e)**

***The instrument – as far as practicable, is consistent with the regional land use strategy, if any, for the regional area in which is situated the land to which the relevant planning instrument relates.***

Southern Tasmanian Regional Land Use Strategy (2010-2035)

Activity centres are referenced within STRLUS and they provide the focus for services, employment, and social interaction in cities and towns. They provide a broader function than just retail and commercial centres. They are also community meeting places, centres of community and government services, locations for education and employment, settings for recreation, leisure and entertainment activities, and places for living through new forms of higher density housing with good levels of amenity, in mixed land use settings.

The Regional Land Use Strategy promotes the development of multifunctional, accessible Activity Centres.

The benefits of an Activity Centre approach are significant in that it:

- Enhances the viability and vibrancy of centres and the surrounding urban environment;
- Enables a more efficient and equitable use of resources and infrastructure;
- Assists in focussing the delivery of key community services;
- Provides a centre around which housing opportunities can be strategically planned;
- Creates opportunities to live and work more closely;

- Assists in creating a more sustainable urban environment by reducing private vehicle travel and facilitating use of non-motorised forms of transport (walking and cycling); and
- Facilitates agglomeration economies for business and industry.

Council acknowledges that the size and townscape of each centre should be relative to its function, the availability of land, ease of pedestrian movement and improving linkages with public transport.

Within STRLUS, Oatlands is referred to as a Rural Service Centre whose role is to provide predominantly non-urban communities with a range of goods and services to meet their daily and weekly needs. Trips to larger Primary and Principal Activity Centres only required occasionally.

With respect to employment, this generally includes a mix of retail and office based employment servicing the local area or having limited office space requirements. May include one or two larger employers that are not suited to an urban location

There are a number of regional policies that promote the development of multifunctional, accessible Activity Centres and include:

- AC 1 *Focus employment, retail and commercial uses, community services and opportunities for social interaction in well-planned, vibrant and accessible regional activity centres that are provided with a high level of amenity and with good transport links with residential areas.*
- AC 1.1 *Implement the Activity Centre Network through the delivery of retail, commercial, business, administration, social and community and passenger transport facilities.*
- AC 1.2 *Utilise the Central Business, General Business, Local Business Zones to deliver the activity centre network through planning schemes, providing for a range of land uses in each zone appropriate to the role and function of that centre in the network.*
- AC 1.3 *Discourage out-of-centre development by only providing for in-centre development within planning schemes.*
- AC 1.4 *Promote a greater emphasis on the role of activity centres, particularly neighbourhood and local activity centres, in revitalising and strengthening the local community.*
- AC 1.10 *Activity centres should encourage local employment, although in most cases this will consist of small scale businesses servicing the local or district areas*

Comment:

The subject site is zoned Rural.

The proposal promotes the use and development of a site outside of the Activity Centre, contrary to AC1 and AC1.1.

The proposal promotes the use and development of a site within the Rural Zone, contrary to AC1.2.

With respect to alternatives, a fuel station could only be allowed within the Light Industrial Zone (Permitted), or the General Business Zone (Discretionary).

As detailed within the consultant planners report to Council, the development area of the fuel station at 20 Interlaken Road is approximately 4,500m<sup>2</sup>, not including the vehicle cross overs. Assuming this is a relatively consistent spatial requirement for uses of this type, within the Oatlands area, there are fourteen sites with an area greater than 4,500m<sup>2</sup> which are within either the Light Industrial Zone, or the General Business Zone. Arguably then, these lots by virtue of their zoning and size are capable of a similar development without the need for a planning scheme amendment.

The amendment will facilitate a fuel station, signage and rest area at the periphery of Oatlands, which is a Rural Services Centre. The proposal therefore promotes an out-of-centre development, contrary to AC1.3.

In addition, the activity is not anticipated within the Rural Zone, and represents a significant departure from the SPP.

The out-of-centre development undermines the principal in strengthening and revitalising the activity centre, the local community and will be detrimental to the town, contrary to AC1.4.

The proposal is for the use and development of an unmanned self-service fuel station and will not provide for the on-going employment of local residents, contrary to AC1.10.

Whilst a response has been provided in relation to the operative STRLUS, Council acknowledges that the impending STRLUS provides for a much smaller Rural Services Activity Centre which is contained to the eastern portion of the Midlands Highway.

### ***Section 34(2)(f) Strategic Plan***

***The instrument – has regard to the strategic plan, prepared under section 66 of the Local Government Act 1993, that applies in relation to the land to which the relevant planning instrument relates***

#### Southern Midlands Strategic Plan (2024-2034)

Council's vision includes *'a diversified economy crating employment opportunities through sustainable agriculture/horticulture, commercial, industrial activity, heritage tourism and viable historic villages/service centres;*

There are multiple references within the strategic plan that refer to employment opportunities and these include;

### **Business**

- Part 2.3.1b – Increase employment within the municipality
- Part 2.3.1.1 - Continue to facilitate and actively promote the development of new business opportunities

### *Comment*

The proposal is for the development of an unmanned self-service fuel station and through its lack of direct employment does not advance the above aims and objectives.

### Oatlands Structure Plan (2021)

The purpose of the Structure Plan is to develop an integrated framework of policies and recommendations that can be used at a strategic level to guide local and state government priorities in relation to land use and development in line with the community's vision for Oatlands.

As detailed at Part 2.3, key benefits of structure plan include:

- Infrastructure coordination - identification of infrastructure priorities that are determined based on strategic directions;
- Land supply monitoring - identification of likely future demand for land and prospective yields;
- Efficiency - by resolving broader planning issues ahead of detailed planning for subdivision and development, structure plans allow for more efficient subdivision and development approvals;
- Guidance - structure plans assist landowners and planning authorities to identify the specific issues and actions required to progress future developments;
- Implementation of regional and subregional planning policy at a local level;
- Resolution of potential land-use conflicts;
- Implementation of regional and subregional planning policy at a local level

The Study Area (Figure 1) is centred on the land adjoining, and immediately surrounding, the Callington Mill and Park, Council Chambers and the former Oatlands Council Depot site. The area then extends out to include the Oatlands light industrial zone towards the Midland Highway, the recreation ground, and the Lake Dulverton foreshore area.



Figure 1 - Oatlands study area locality

There are multiple references within the Oatlands Structure Plan to employment and one of the desired outcomes of the strategy was the *'retention, diversification and expansion of employment pathways, for local workers in the agriculture and tourism sector, in particular youth employment.'*

Key actions of the Structure Plan include among other things:

- Encourage affordable housing and rural support opportunities within the town and boost local employment;

At Part 3.4 of the SP, and specifically within Table 1 of this regional policy, Oatlands is identified as a *rural services centre* which means its role is to provide predominantly non-urban communities with a range of goods and services to meet their daily and weekly needs. The first key theme related to rural services centres is that activity centres are areas not only of focussed employment, retail and commercial uses, but also to provide community services and opportunities for social interaction. Such centres should have a high level of amenity and good transport links with residential areas.

To achieve these objectives, a range of land uses should be provided in relevant zones within the relevant planning scheme including the General Business zone, which occupies land on either side of the High Street. This will contribute to creating a multi-functional activity centre. Further to this, out-of-centre development should be discouraged by only providing for in-centre development within the relevant planning scheme; development standards within the relevant scheme should ensure high-quality urban design and pedestrian amenity; and active street frontage layouts should have preference over parking lot dominant retailing

The proposed fuel station is considered to be contrary to the above on the basis that:

- It is not being developed within a relevant zone
- The subject sites location will not contribute to creating a multi-functional activity centre

- Its location will result in an out-of-centre development.

**2. Road user safety.** There is no requirement within the application for the establishment of acceleration/deceleration lanes on the Midlands Highway which is governed by a 110km/h road speed limit. Council does not agree with the Department of State Growths advice that the existing Midlands Highway and Interlaken Road junction is satisfactory. The proposed activity will compromise road user safety and Council wants to avoid a repeat of the crash history (major impacts) that are associated with *Mood Food* – 3001 Midland Highway, Kempton.

In respect to the above, this matter is addressed within the following:

***Section 34(2)(e)***

***The instrument – as far as practicable, is consistent with the regional land use strategy, if any, for the regional area in which is situated the land to which the relevant planning instrument relates.***

STRLUS (2010-2035)

Part 13.1 STRLUS, the Midlands Highway is recognised as a significant inter-regional freight route.

Map 3, the Midlands Highway is clearly identified as a *Regional Transport Corridor*.

A focus area under the Strategy includes maximising the efficiency of freight and public transport corridors and assets including maintaining and improving existing key public transport corridors to facilitate reliable, frequent public transport services.

The Midland Highway (National Highway A1) is classified as a **Category 1 Trunk Road** in Tasmania, serving as the primary freight and passenger artery connecting the northern and southern regions. It is a critical 110 km/h, state-owned route, forming part of the national highway network.

*The Midlands Highway 10 year Action Plan* sets out the Australian and Tasmanian governments' key priorities for investing \$565 million over 10 years to upgrade the highway and improve road safety and save lives on Tasmania's key north-south freight route.

The objective of the investment was to deliver a minimum 3-star rating for the Midland Highway. Key works included the addition of safety barriers, lane widening, and creation of safer intersections to improve its Australian Road Assessment program (AusRAP) safety rating.

Crash data can provide valuable information on the road safety performance of a road network. In terms of crash data, the TIA at Part 2.2 notes the following:

*Crash data was obtained from the Department of State Growth for a 5 year period between 1st January 2020 to 31st December 2024 for Interlaken Road between Midland Highway and Coldblow Lane.*

*Two crashes were reported during this time:*

- *2:15am, Monday 7th February 2022 – ‘other-curve’ single vehicle crash resulting in property damage only.*
- *3:06pm, Sunday 3rd March 2024 – no crash type recorded (single vehicle crash) resulting in property damage only.*

*The crash data does not indicate that there are any pre-existing road safety deficiencies in the transport network that may be exacerbated by traffic generated by the proposed development. No crashes were reported at the Midland Highway/ Interlaken Road junction.*

This however is in the absence of the proposed development at 20 Interlaken Road, Oatlands.

In addition to better understand the likely traffic generation associated with the proposed development, comparisons have been made in the TIA with a like installation (Ampol self-service fuel station) in Campbell Town. It is important to note that section of Midlands Highway (85 High St) is governed by an 80km/h road speed. The comparison in Council’s opinion is unreasonable.

Council contests the introduction of a traffic generator (fuel sales, rest area, amenities building) at this location without necessary provision of appropriate upgrades e.g. acceleration and deceleration lanes, will not only increase the potential for vehicular collisions but compromise both the safety and efficiency of this transport corridor.

This too was supported by Council’s traffic engineer who undertook a peer review of the Midson TIA that was submitted in support of the application. They advised the following:

*The site and its access itself have no material issues. The layout and internal circulation look workable.*

*The main concern would be the Interlaken Road / Midland Highway intersection. The intersection currently provides AUL (auxiliary left-turn) and CHR (channelized right-turn) treatments, so left-in and right-in to Interlaken Road are fine. The issue is egress: there are no acceleration/protected turn-out facilities for left-out or right-out movements. Expecting B-double trucks to enter a 110 km/h environment from stop without acceleration provision is a safety risk. We’ve already seen risks with right-turn movements across the highway at Mood Food; here we also have staggered geometry, which compounds the risk profile.*

In the absence of an appropriate intersection upgrade the development represents a significant safety risk and is contrary to Regional Policy LUTI 1.7 *Protect major regional and urban transport corridors through planning schemes as identified in Maps 3 & 4.*

**Section 34(2)(f) Strategic Plan**

***The instrument – has regard to the strategic plan, prepared under section 66 of the Local Government Act 1993, that applies in relation to the land to which the relevant planning instrument relates***

Southern Midlands Strategic Plan 2024-2034

Key actions under *Part 1.1 Roads*, include;

- 1.1.1.3 Continue to work with the Department of State Growth (DSG) to improve the safety and standard of the Midland Highway and other state roads along with road junctions, with a high priority on the Mood Food Midland Highway access
- 1.1.1.5 Ensure that appropriate sight distances are maintained, for key transport routes, through effective roadside vegetation management / road realignment

*Comment*

Notwithstanding the advice from the road authority; email from DSG dated 12 August 2025 where they advise that '*We agree that the proposal, and its associated traffic impact on the Interlaken / Midland Highway junction, is acceptable*', Council does not agree with this position.

Council is of the opinion the development of a service station at this location without satisfactory upgrades - provision of acceleration/deceleration lanes will compromise the safety and efficiency of the road network.

Further to the above, whilst Council has been unable to source meteorological data, there is adequate anecdotal evidence to suggest that road safety is compounded by the prevalence of heavy fog for lengthy periods throughout the year.

Oatlands Structure Plan (2020)

Part 3.4 of the Oatlands Structure Plan refers to activity centres and within this regional policy, Oatlands is identified as a rural services centre which means its role is to provide predominantly non-urban communities with a range of goods and services to meet their daily and weekly needs.

The first key theme related to rural services centres is that activity centres are areas not only of focussed employment, retail and commercial uses, but also to provide community services and opportunities for social interaction. Such centres should have a high level of amenity and good transport links with residential areas.

By virtue of its location on the periphery of the township and to the west of the Midlands Highway, the proposed development does not have good transport links with Oatlands residential areas.

**6. Rural zoning.** The land is agricultural land and Southern Midlands is a rural Council. The loss and conversion of rural land for non-rural purposes is contrary to the zone provisions and is likely to create a precedent for other commercial activities.

In respect to the above, this matter is addressed within the following:

**Section 34(2)(d)**

***The instrument – is consistent with each State policy***

The State Policy on the Protection of Agricultural Land 2009 (PAL) aims to conserve and protect agricultural land so that it remains available for the sustainable development of agriculture, recognising the particular importance of prime agricultural land.

Agricultural land is defined under the policy as: *Agricultural land: means all land that is in agricultural use or has the potential for agricultural use, that has not been zoned or developed for another use or would not be unduly restricted for agricultural use by its size, shape and proximity to adjoining non-agricultural uses.*

The land is not considered agricultural land; it is not in use for agricultural purpose, nor does it have the potential for agricultural use noting its size and the disconnected circumstance of the lot in relation to its surroundings.

These factors for agricultural potential were examined as part of the ‘*Land Potentially Suitable for Agriculture Zone*’ project which though not excluding the site from the study area (identified as grey in figure 14), it did not identify any level of potential to warrant consideration as only ‘potentially constrained’

Though the land is not considered as agricultural land within the meaning of the Policy, the potential impacts of the proposal on nearby land which is considered agricultural land are relevant, particularly the potential for pollutants to enter a watercourse which has been dammed for the purpose of irrigation.

**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT Council:**

- 1. Revisit DA2500106 and adopt the recommendation of Council’s consultant planner (detailed above) that was provided as part of Council’s agenda item dated 24 February 2026;**

**OR**

- 2. Council reaffirm its decision not to support the request to prepare and initiate a draft amendment which is based on the further rationale provided in this report.**

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

**12.2 Subdivisions**

Nil.

**12.3 Municipal Seal (Planning Authority)**

Nil.

**12.4 Planning (Other)**

Nil.

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

## **13. OPERATIONAL MATTERS ARISING (STRATEGIC THEME – INFRASTRUCTURE)**

### **13.1 Roads**

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

Nil.

### **13.2 Bridges**

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

Nil.

### **13.3 Walkways, Cycle Ways and Trails**

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

Nil.

### **13.4 Lighting**

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

Nil.

### **13.5 Buildings**

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

Nil.

### **13.6 Sewer / Water and Energy**

**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:** MANAGER INFRASTRUCTURE & WORKS (DAVID RICHARDSON)

**Date:** 20 MAY 2026

This report outlines the current and upcoming works across the municipality. It provides an overview of ongoing projects, scheduled maintenance, and capital works to improve infrastructure and community facilities.

#### **Roads Program**

1. **Maintenance Grading:** Ongoing maintenance grading works will continue throughout the municipality.
2. **Pothole Repairs:** Both sealed and unsealed roads are being addressed for pothole repairs as resources permit.
3. **Culvert Cleaning & Drainage Works:** Drainage and culvert cleaning activities are underway in various locations. These works will continue as weather conditions allow.
4. **Roads Gravel re-sheeting works** will continue when there is sufficient rainfall that is required to undertake these works.
5. **Removal of poplar Trees** on Back Woodsdale Road has been completed.
6. **Corner Widening** has been completed on Woodsdale Road to the south of the Runnymede Cricket Ground.

#### **Current Capital Works**

1. **Mood food to Kempton Walkway** has commenced construction and will continue, the pathway is almost completed.
2. **Campania** Football Club change room's renovations are completed.
3. **Parattah** kerb and footpath replacement has commenced.

#### **Parks and Reserves**

1. **Recreation Grounds, Parks & Playgrounds:** Regular maintenance continues on recreation grounds, parks, and playgrounds as required.
2. **Scheduled Playground Inspections:** Inspections are being carried out to ensure compliance with safety and quality standards.

#### **Bridge Works**

1. **Bridge Maintenance:** Minor works on several bridges are currently in progress and will continue as required. Scope of works specifications are currently being prepared for re-construction works on two bridges.

### Building Services Unit

1. **Council Building Maintenance:** Ongoing maintenance works have been carried out on various council buildings and will continue.
2. **Construction of Campania Football Club** Change room additions competed.
3. **Ceiling Repair at Roche Hall:** Repair works are in progress and will continue as resources allow.

### Planned Works

1. **Road Maintenance:**
  - o Drainage and pavement repairs on various roads.
  - o Edge break repairs across various roads.
  - o Guidepost and signage replacement will continue as resources allow.
2. **Bridge Maintenance:** Ongoing and planned bridge maintenance repairs.
3. **Kempton-Mood Food Pathway:** Construction works will continue.
4. **Building Maintenance:** Continued maintenance on various council buildings.
5. **Parattah Main Road** Continue kerb and footpath replacement works.
6. **Bagdad Club** Install a new underground pipe to alleviate constraints on the current sewerage disposal system.

## QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE TO MANAGER, INFRASTRUCTURE & WORKS

### RECOMMENDATION

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

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

## **14. OPERATIONAL MATTERS ARISING (STRATEGIC THEME – GROWTH)**

### **14.1 Residential**

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

Nil.

### **14.2 Tourism**

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

Nil.

### **14.3 Business**

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

Nil.

## 14.4 Industry

### Strategic Plan Reference 2.4

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

#### 14.4.1 Drought Assistance – Rural Farming Sector

**Author:** GENERAL MANAGER (TIM KIRKWOOD)

**Date:** 20 MAY 2026

**Enclosure(s):**

*Funding and assistance available in time of drought. Information prepared for Southern Midlands Council – May 2026.*

#### ISSUE

To report on how drought assistance is now managed in Australia.

#### BACKGROUND

This report is provided in response to a matter raised at the previous Council Meeting.

It was suggested that Council review and advocate for the need for drought assistance measures, given the extended dry conditions being experienced across the region. The discussion focused on potential support for the local farming community and the role Council may have in promoting available assistance.

It was confirmed that research would be undertaken in terms of the current status of drought assistance and a report submitted to the next meeting.

#### DETAIL

Following the meeting, research was undertaken into the current status of drought assistance arrangements in Tasmania and Australia more broadly.

Australia now manages drought assistance through a “preparedness and resilience” model rather than the old system of formal drought declarations.

The big shift happened after national drought policy reforms in the 2010s. Governments moved away from declaring specific areas “in drought” before aid could flow, because support was often delayed and uneven. Instead, assistance is now mostly needs-based and ongoing, with support available regardless of whether an official drought has been declared.

Key features of the current system include:

- a shared Commonwealth–state framework under the National Drought Agreement
- permanent resilience funding through the Future Drought Fund
- income support and concessional loans available continuously, not only during declared droughts
- greater emphasis on farm business planning, climate adaptation, and risk management.

The system is split between federal and state responsibilities:

### **Commonwealth government role**

The Australian Government mainly handles:

- national drought policy
- household income support
- concessional finance
- resilience funding and climate information.

Major federal programs include:

- Future Drought Fund — invests about \$100 million annually in drought preparedness, research, resilience hubs, regional planning, and farm business resilience projects.
- Farm Household Allowance — an income-support payment for farming families facing hardship, managed through [Services Australia](#). It is not tied to formal drought declarations.
- concessional loans through the Regional Investment Corporation
- tax tools like Farm Management Deposits to help farmers smooth income between good and bad years.

### **State and territory role**

States now lead most:

- on-ground drought response
- emergency support packages
- livestock welfare measures
- water and fodder assistance
- local recovery programs.

A major philosophical change is that drought is now treated as:

- a normal business risk in Australian farming, rather than an exceptional disaster
- something that should be planned for through resilience, savings, insurance, diversification, and climate adaptation.

The research confirmed that formal drought declaration systems are no longer used in Tasmania. Drought assistance is now managed through a broader “seasonal conditions” and resilience framework administered jointly by the Australian and Tasmanian Governments.

Under the current arrangements:

- assistance is generally not dependent on a formal drought declaration;
- support is provided through a range of standing programs and targeted measures;
- emphasis is placed on preparedness, resilience, and farm business support.

Current assistance measures potentially available to primary producers include:

- Farm Household Allowance;
- concessional drought and recovery loans;
- rural financial counselling services;
- mental health and wellbeing support;
- drought preparedness and resilience programs;
- water infrastructure and irrigation support initiatives.

In Tasmania, dry seasonal conditions are monitored by the Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania (NRE Tas), which assesses regions under categories including preparedness, emerging drought, drought, and recovery.

Tasmania abolished the old exceptional-circumstances declaration system in 2013, so farmers no longer need to wait for government lines to be drawn on a map before accessing support.

At present, no Tasmanian regions are formally classified as being “in drought,” although a number of regions are identified as being in a preparedness phase due to below average rainfall and continuing dry conditions.

It is noted that local government does not directly administer drought assistance programs. However, Council may have a role in:

- advocating to State and Federal Governments regarding local conditions;
- promoting awareness of available support programs;
- supporting local community wellbeing initiatives;
- facilitating communication between affected landholders and relevant agencies.

Further monitoring of seasonal conditions will continue and any relevant updates or assistance opportunities will be reported to Council as required.

In summary, current assistance available in Tasmania includes:

- Farm Household Allowance (federal income support)
- concessional Drought Loans through the Regional Investment Corporation
- Rural Relief Fund grants
- mental health and wellbeing support
- farm business resilience planning
- water and irrigation infrastructure projects
- drought preparedness grants and regional resilience programs.

The main government information hub is:

[NRE Tasmania – Dry and Drought Conditions](#)

Farmers can also contact FarmPoint Tasmania:

Phone: 1300 292 292

Email: [farmpoint@nre.tas.gov.au](mailto:farmpoint@nre.tas.gov.au).

**Human Resources & Financial Implications** – Not applicable

**Community Consultation & Public Relations Implications** – the intention is to try and include relevant and precise information in the next Council Newsletter.

**Priority - Implementation Time Frame** – ongoing.

**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT the information be received.**

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

**ENCLOSURE**

Agenda Item 14.4.1

**Funding and assistance available in times of drought. Information prepared for Southern Midlands Council – May 2026**

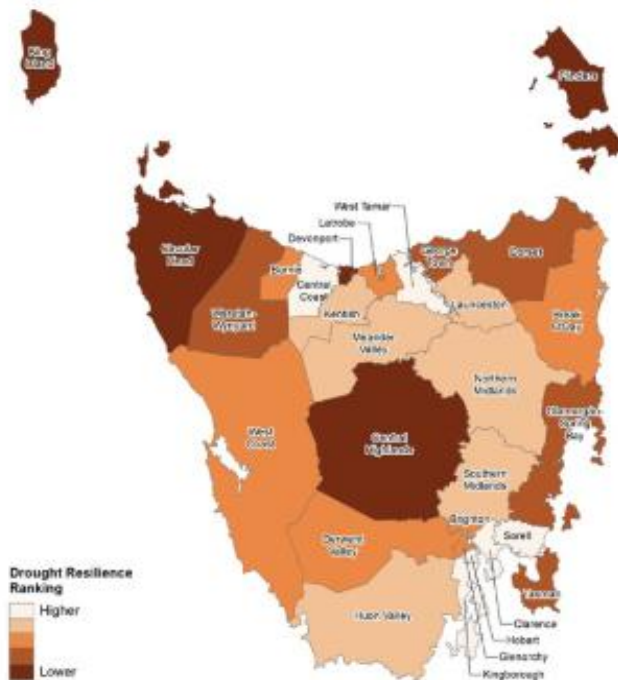
**Extracts from Department of Premier and Cabinet – Drought Ready Tasmania web pages:**

**Drought resilience assessment**

This map shows how well different parts of Tasmania might handle drought. The assessment was done in 2023 as part of regional drought resilience planning.

- Darker areas on the map have lower drought resilience, meaning they are likely to be more at risk during a drought.
- Lighter areas have higher resilience, meaning they are likely to cope better.

These assessments help us understand where the risks are now and track improvements over time. In the future, we aim to improve these assessments by including more data and indicators.





Projects funded from the Drought Ready Tasmania program (round two funds) must also align with the [Future Drought Fund's Determination 2024 -28](#) (replacing the 2020-2024 Determination). This document was signed by the Minister for Agriculture – Murray Watt 7 Feb 2024.

**Extracts from the Determination Document 2024-28 are on the following pages. The two key point are circled in red-**

1. The Determination is made under the *Future Drought Fund Act 2019*
2. Indicates that funds (for assistance in time of drought) are for public / community activities rather than individual businesses for private commercial gain.



## 1 Name

This instrument is the *Future Drought Fund (Drought Resilience Funding Plan 2024-2028) Determination 2024*.

## 2 Commencement

This instrument commences on the day after it is registered.

Note: Subsection 31(4) of the *Future Drought Fund Act 2019* provides that the Drought Resilience Funding Plan comes into force at the start of the day after the Plan is registered under the ~~*Legislation Act 2003*~~. The Plan is repealed at the end of the 4-year period that began when the Plan came into force, unless it is repealed earlier.

## 3 Authority

This instrument is made under subsection 31(1) of the *Future Drought Fund Act 2019*.

## 4 Definitions

Note: A number of expressions used in this instrument are defined in section 5 of the Act, including the following:

- (a) Drought Resilience Funding Plan;
- (b) Future Drought Fund.

In this instrument:

*Act* means the *Future Drought Fund Act 2019*.

## 5 Details of the Drought Resilience Funding Plan

Schedule 1 sets out the details of the Drought Resilience Funding Plan.

## 6 Replacement of existing Drought Resilience Funding Plan

This instrument replaces the *Future Drought Fund (Drought Resilience Funding Plan 2020 to 2024) Determination 2020*.

Note: The *Future Drought Fund (Drought Resilience Funding Plan 2020 to 2024) Determination 2020* is repealed when this instrument commences because this instrument is expressed to replace an existing Drought Resilience Funding Plan: see subsection 31(5) of the Act.



The following is an extract from *Southern Tasmania – Regional Drought Resilience Plan 2025 – Drought Ready Tasmania*

## 2.2 What does drought resilience mean?

**“I think building in a sense of community and togetherness is key to ensuring the rest of the actions follow. If communities thrive together in times of prosperity they are more equipped to support one another in times of difficulty.”**

— Survey respondent, Southern Tasmania

According to the *Future Drought Fund Drought Resilience Funding Plan 2024-2028 Determination 2024*, drought resilience is the ability to **“adapt, reorganise or transform in response to changing temperature, increasing variability and scarcity of rainfall and changed seasonality of rainfall, for improved economic, environmental and social resilience”**.

For drought resilience planning in Tasmania, community resilience means how well a community can come together to address its vulnerabilities and use its strengths to prepare for, adapt to and recover from challenges while maintaining or even improving its overall wellbeing. The *Tasmanian Disaster Resilience Strategy* defines resilience as:

**“The ability of communities and individuals to survive, adapt and thrive in the face of turbulent change or acute stresses”**

— (DPAC 2020)

Drought affects different social groups in varying ways. We might automatically think of drought as something that affects farming communities and businesses economically and by increasing stress. However, it can also affect other communities through higher food prices and reduced availability, water restrictions, and increased temperatures in urban environments, for example.

The most vulnerable in any community are usually those in lower socio-economic categories, whether they live in rural or urban settings.

## Extracts from Department of Premier and Cabinet – Drought Ready Tasmania web pages:

### FAQ's

#### How much funding is available for implementation?

Currently, there is \$1.3 million available for the implementation across all plans. This includes \$330,000 (\$110,000 per region) from the federal government, and a further \$1 million from the state government, to be rolled out as part of phase 2 (2025-2029).

Key goals and action areas detailed in the plans will be used to guide how implementation funding is spent. Projects funded from the Drought Ready Tasmania program must also align with the [Future Drought Fund's Determination 2024-28 mandatory principles](#)

Communities and organisations are also encouraged to source other avenues of funding to help in the implementation of projects identified by the plans.

#### What is the timing for the program?

The Regional Drought Resilience Planning Program will continue for the life of the Future Drought Fund.

Consultation to shape the regional drought resilience plans began in 2023. The three regional plans were finalised and approved in June 2025, and delivery is now underway.

The first round of the Drought Ready Tasmania grants program - Quick Wins - has been awarded, with 25 projects from across Tasmania receiving funding.

Planning is now underway for the second phase of the program (2025–2029).

Register your interest to stay up to date with implementation activities and future grant opportunities.

#### What will phase two of the RDRP program focus on?

Over the next four years, the Tasmanian RDRP program will focus on delivering key drought and climate resilience initiatives captured in the plans, and refining elements of the plans to ensure they continue to reflect community needs and regional drought and climate risks.

Key areas of focus include:

- Delivering against priority action areas that are common across multiple regional drought resilience plans (see these priorities below)
- Strengthening partnerships and collaboration with key organisations
- Transitioning toward regional program governance and delivery over time.

We will do this through grant programs, engagement activities and capacity development initiatives.

**What are the priority action areas from Tasmania's regional drought resilience plans?** 

The regional plans share several common action areas. Shared action areas in the plans that are expected to have the greatest impact and will guide phase two of the program are summarised below.

- **Supply chains and food networks:** Strengthen regional supply chains and food systems by identifying vulnerabilities and recommending solutions.
- **Freight and biosecurity:** Conduct regional or statewide assessments to identify freight and biosecurity vulnerabilities and recommend solutions.
- **Integrated landscape-wide management:** Expand landscape-wide drought and climate change management plans to consider long-term drought and climate variability impacts on biodiversity and natural values.
- **Ecological research and interventions:** Research significant ecological communities vulnerable to drought, to understand effects of different interventions on improving species and landscape resilience.
- **Conservation investment:** Invest in targeted conservation action for at-risk species and ecosystems.
- **Sustainable land management:** Expand education, technical support and incentives that help landholders adopt environmentally sustainable practices.
- **Aboriginal knowledge:** Recognise and share Tasmanian Aboriginal cultural knowledge and land practices, including on-country activities such as cultural burning.
- **Fire resilience:** Improve fire management resources, training and infrastructure.
- **Critical infrastructure:** Assess and strengthen regional energy, water and transport infrastructure to withstand climate risks and maintain essential services.
- **Communication systems:** Improve digital connectivity and reduce communication blackspots.
- **Market diversification:** Explore opportunities to diversify regional markets.
- **Mental health training:** Provide specialised training to help communities respond to mental health challenges linked to drought and climate variability.
- **Climate adaptation coordination:** Strengthen collaboration between government, industry and communities to deliver unified climate adaptation strategies.

**Who is responsible for delivering the program?** 

The RDRP program is community led and owned – this means that we all need to work together to progress the actions areas captured in the plans, to build our resilience to drought and climate related events.

For phase two, the Drought Ready Tas team will continue to be hosted by Resilience and Recovery Tasmania (DPAC), while we explore a suitable longer-term regional governance and administration arrangement.

**What is drought and why do we need a drought resilience plan?**

Drought is a recurring feature of the Australian landscape. It is forecast to become more frequent, severe and longer lasting in many regions as the climate changes.

While there is no one definition of drought, for the purpose of Tasmania's regional drought resilience plans, drought is defined as 'a prolonged, abnormally dry period when the amount of available water is insufficient to meet our normal use' (Bureau of Meteorology 2024). Because of this, drought means and look different depending on the region.

As drought is a major risk across all of Tasmania, we need to plan so that we can reduce the negative impacts of drought. It causes significant financial, social and environmental impacts for people, primary producers, other businesses and the community.

**What does drought resilience mean?**

For drought resilience planning in Tasmania, community drought resilience means how well we can come together to address our vulnerabilities and use our strengths to prepare for, adapt to and recover from challenges while maintaining or even improving our overall collective wellbeing.

The plans identify community connection and cooperation among people and organisations as important elements for achieving resilience. A strong economy, well cared-for landscape and well-planned infrastructure also contribute to drought resilience. The plans aim to set out practical steps to work towards achieving these.

**Who can I discuss my involvement with?**

Discuss your involvement with the team by emailing [resilience@dpac.tas.gov.au](mailto:resilience@dpac.tas.gov.au)

**The contact details for the person involved in the Drought Ready Program are:**



*This program is jointly funded by the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund and the Tasmanian Government.*



If possible, use of the Drought Ready Tasmania logo is also encouraged (but understanding it may not fit!). I've attached a comms plan which includes some further guidance if this is helpful.

Please reach out should you have any questions. Have a wonderful week,

Lucy

**Lucy Marshall | Project Manager, Regional Drought Resilience**  
Resilience and Recovery | Policy and Delivery Division

Department of Premier and Cabinet  
(m) 0461 414 686  
| [www.droughtready.tas.gov.au](http://www.droughtready.tas.gov.au)

*I work a 4-day week, with Tuesday being my day off*

## Other Additional Support Services and Assistance

Rural Business Tasmania (RBT) has a range of programs to support farming families who may be experiencing hardship / difficulties.



[1300 88 3276](tel:1300883276)

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[Home](#) [Rural Relief Fund](#) [Financial Counselling](#) [Support Programs](#) [Resources](#) [Events](#) [About Us](#)

### **RBT Support includes-**

Financial counselling

Assistance to access loans

Farm Household Allowance (Aust Govt program)

Rural Relief Fund

Assistance to access ATO deferred payment options

## Additional detailed information from the Drought Ready Tasmania Program:

### Extract from *Southern Tasmania – Regional Drought Resilience Plan 2025 – Drought Ready Tasmania*

For Southern Tasmania, the assessment found that the region demonstrates moderate resilience to future drought conditions, though there are significant differences between LGAs.

In general, local government areas in close proximity to the city have high adaptive capacity, with the exception of Glenorchy City and Brighton.

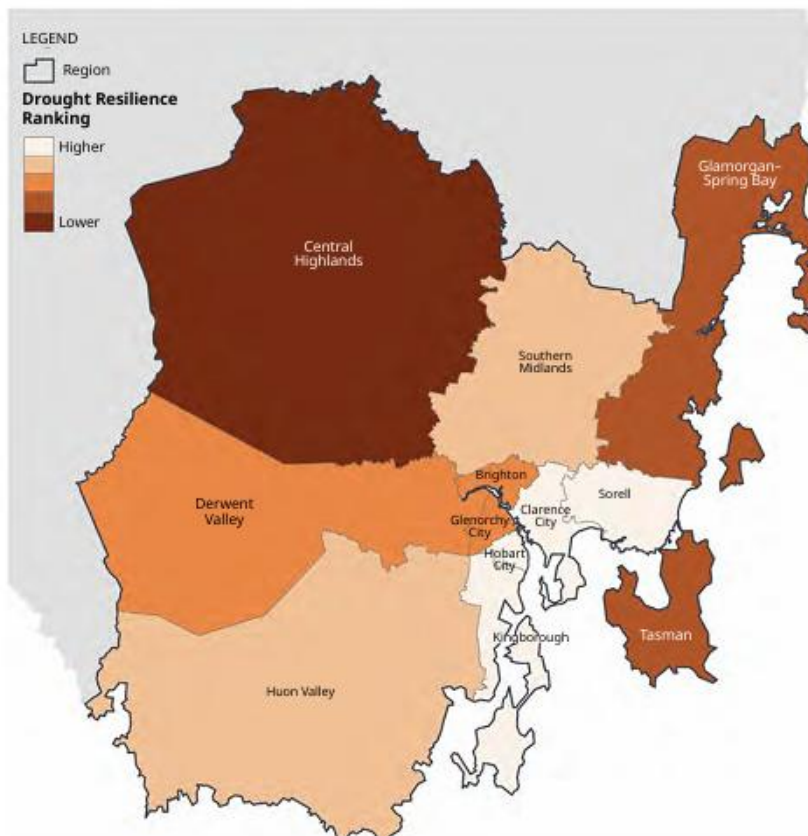
Central Highlands, East Coast and Tasman Peninsula are the most vulnerable due to higher reliance on agricultural production and higher drought exposure and sensitivity. The Derwent Valley, Southern Midlands, and Huon Valley have medium resilience.

Climate change is expected to increase the frequency and severity of extreme weather events, posing challenges for agriculture, forestry, and fisheries, which are vital to the region's economy. Strengthening adaptive capacity to drought will also boost resilience to other climate-related events.

Investments in water security, irrigation, and diverse agricultural enterprises contribute to existing resilience, but ongoing planning and collective action will be essential to address future challenges and build long-term economic, social, and environmental resilience.

Figure 7 shows the overall drought resilience rankings of the region's LGAs. Further detail is provided in [Appendix A](#).

**FIGURE 7: Southern Tasmania drought resilience assessment**



**Extract from Drought Risk, Resilience & Adaptive Capacity Data: Southern Region Summary (Drought Ready Tasmania)**

# Appendix A: Southern Region Drought Risk, Resilience and Adaptive Capacity Data Report

The Drought Risk Resilience and Adaptive Capacity Data Report for Southern Tasmania was compiled in 2023 to provide baseline data for drought resilience planning. The report is a snapshot in time of the indicative and potential drought impacts for the Southern region of Tasmania and answers the following three questions:

- What is the prevalence, severity and impact of drought?
- What is the likely prevalence, severity and impact of drought?
- What are the vulnerabilities, gaps in preparedness and adaptive capacity for drought and other related permanent transitions to a changing climate?

This report analyses the resilience of agricultural, natural environment and community systems to drought.

The Drought Risk Resilience and Adaptive Capacity Data Report, Southern Tasmania heavily informed this Southern Tasmania Regional Drought Resilience Plan and can be considered the partner document to the RDRP.

The Drought Risk Resilience and Adaptive Capacity Data Report, Southern Tasmania, 2023 can be accessed at: <https://droughtready.tas.gov.au/southern-regional-drought-resilience-planning>



Figure S-2: Prime agricultural land

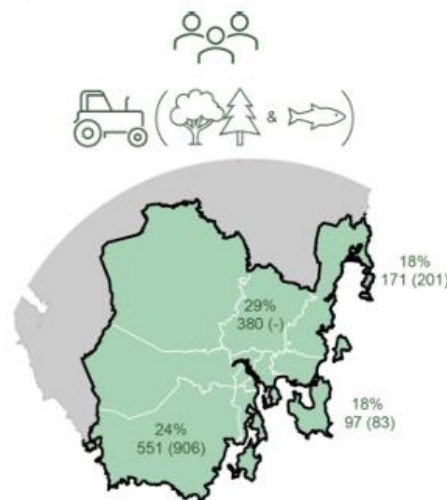


Figure S-3: Agricultural workforce per LGA (forestry and fisheries in brackets)

About a fifth to a quarter of the population in Huon Valley, Southern Midlands, Tasman and Glamorgan-Spring Bay LGAs work in primary industry. In the Southern Midlands, all of these people are employed in agriculture, while in the other LGAs aquaculture plays a significant role as well.

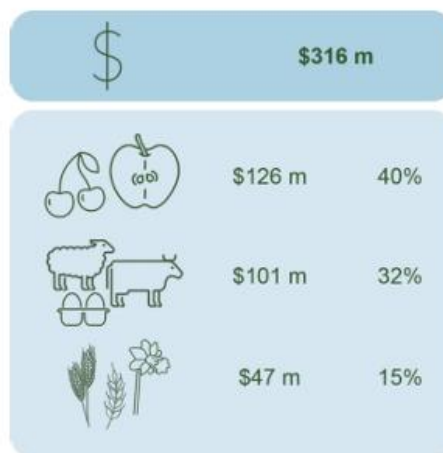
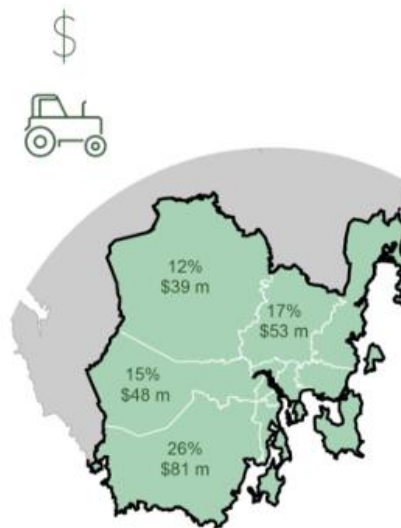


Figure S-4: Regional agricultural output

The Huon Valley, Southern Midlands, Derwent Valley and Central Highlands account for 70% of the region's agricultural output. Fruit, livestock products (excluding dairy) and field crops (including nursery and floriculture) make up approximately 87% of the value of agricultural enterprises within the Southern region.

### Natural environment

Almost half of Tasmania's internationally listed (Ramsar) wetlands are in the Southern region. The region spans 17 catchments - 13 catchments wholly within its boundaries and 4 partially within the region.



Figure S-5: Regional catchments and Ramsar wetlands

Outside the areas of modified land are vegetation communities including dry eucalypt forest, native grasslands, wet eucalypt forest and woodland, rainforest and in the coastal or elevated regions, areas of scrub, heathland and coastal complexes. Moorland, sedgeland and rushland communities and highland and treeless vegetation are found towards the higher and/or wetter regions of the Central Plateau / Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area.

There are threatened ecological communities in the region.

**Threatened ecological communities**

- Eucalyptus ovata* / *E. brookeriana* / *E. viminalis* forests
- Lowland native grasslands
- Alpine sphagnum bogs
- Subtropical and temperate coastal saltmarsh
- Giant kelp marine forests of SE Australia

Figure S-6: Threatened ecological communities

Parts of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area span the Huon Valley, Derwent Valley and Central Highlands LGAs.

### Past climate trends

Major droughts occurred across the Southern region of Tasmania in 2006, 2008 and 2019, with further more localised droughts in 2002, 2007, 2014, 2015 and 2017. These events offer insights on the impacts to agriculture and the natural environment, and the potential resilience of communities to future droughts.

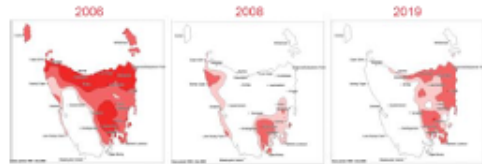


Figure S-7: Past low rainfall years (indicated in red, dark red is lowest on record)

Evapotranspiration is an indicator incorporating both water availability and temperature. Increased evapotranspiration needs to be balanced with increased rainfall to avoid water deficit.

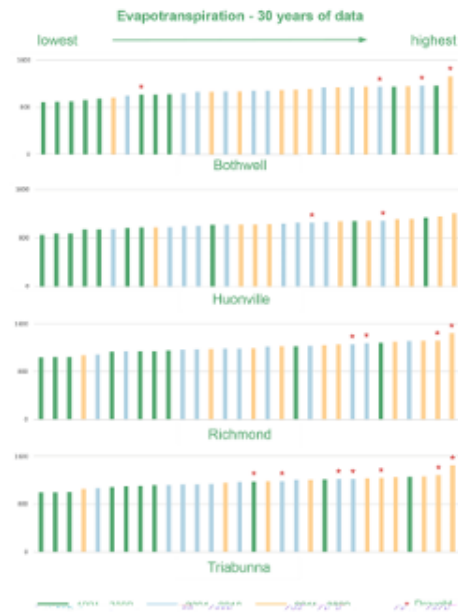


Figure S-8: Evapotranspiration over 30 years (mm, drought years marked with red asterisk)

There appears to be increasing evapotranspiration across the four Bureau of Meteorology sites examined in this report when viewed by decade.

## Projected climate changes

While the modelled 2070 rainfall may decrease overall, the fewer rainfall events that do occur are likely to be more intense.



Figure S-9: Projected climatic change trends

Four key southern towns were examined for climate variables: Bothwell (Central Highlands LGA), Huonville (Huon Valley LGA), Richmond (Clarence LGA) and Triabunna (Glamorgan-Spring Bay LGA).

Days over 30°C and average temperatures are predicted to increase by 2070.

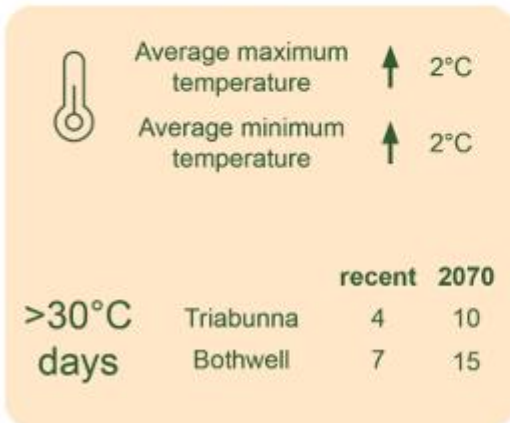
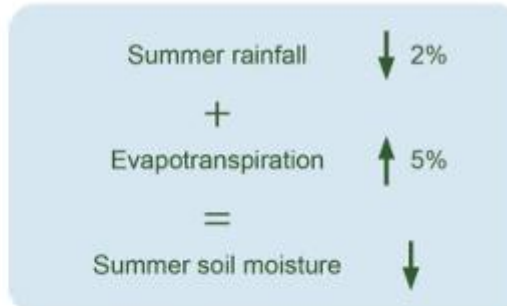


Figure S-10: Projected temperature changes (number of days over 30°C)

Overall average regional summer soil moisture is predicted to decrease in 2070.



Predicted changes to water availability in the Southern region catchments are expected to be variable..

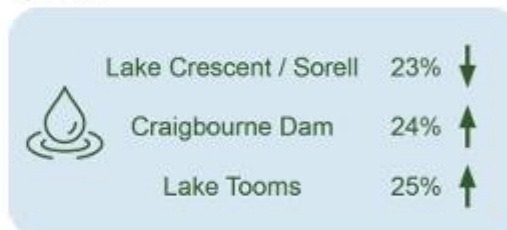


Figure S-12: Projected catchment level changes

**End of extract**

## 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:** HERITAGE PROJECTS OFFICER (ALAN TOWNSEND)

**Date:** 20 MAY 2025

#### ISSUE

Report from the Heritage Projects Officer on various Southern Midlands Heritage Projects.

#### DETAIL

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

- Brad has been on long service leave for most of the month;
- Works on the Oatlands Gaol wingwall are progressing well;
- Further work has been undertaken on the Local Provision Schedule of the Historic Heritage Code to be presented to a forthcoming Council workshop;
- Work has commenced on defining the Kempton Baptist Cemetery physical boundaries to inform the subdivision process;
- There has been a notable increase in DA's requiring heritage input;
- Heritage staff have been collaborating with the Heritage Highway Regional Tourism Association to develop the *Step Back in Time* history walk through Kempton (21 June 2026). This will be our first attempt at a long form history walk (approximately 7 kms) following the success of the Broadmarsh history tour in March;
- Ongoing improvements to the SMC archaeological artefacts catalogue, including an audit of collection security;
- Ongoing volunteer management;
- Our current Artist in Residence is Linda Hookey, an eco-printer specialising in plant dyes from foraged leaves. Linda also works in textile art.

#### RECOMMENDATION

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

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

## 15.2 Natural

### Strategic Plan Reference – page 23/24

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

### 15.2.1 NRM Unit – General Report

**Author:** NRM UNIT MANAGER (MARIA WEEDING)

**Date:** 19 MAY 2026

#### DETAIL

- Lake Dulverton - installed the posts and signage to clarify where the areas are for permitted dog exercising along the Lake foreshore. Other maintenance along the foreshore has also been undertaken, including work on tree planting sites, repainting of interpretation signage posts (black) and minor weed control works.
- Spent time researching drought information and programs currently available given the continuing challenging dry conditions being experienced.
- Spent time compiling information in relation to the history of dogs being exercised on the Lake Dulverton foreshore.
- Spent time on final design and colours for the proposed play equipment at Kempton Recreation ground.

### Weeds Officer Report, Mary Smyth

13<sup>th</sup> April – 18<sup>th</sup> May 2026

#### Enquiries/feedback

Completed the boxthorn seedling control work on Bentwick Street roadside, and informed the resident who had contacted me previously about these weeds.

#### Site visits

Inspected the old Oatlands training track as a suitable site for boxthorn rust fungus release: plenty of good specimens for this purpose! Contacted the local overseer of the site and am awaiting receipt of the biocontrol agent materials from Landcare Tasmania.

Checked out a small number of the 337 certificate enquiry properties whilst out and about on other weeds work.

Removed 16 cumbungi seed heads from a small infestation on Interlaken Road: control to follow in spring.

Visited Mangalore Rec Ground arena plantings to assess losses prior to replanting in early winter: top row requires 11 Melaleucas and Tea trees to replace some more Banksias which have died. Only five Banksias remain alive. The second row is thriving: only one swamp gum died after attack by sawfly larvae. All the newer seedlings got a water whilst I was there.

Watered the newer seedlings on the Kempton oval mounds: no further deaths since last visit, and only six replacements needed.

Found a single boneseed on Green Valley Road which had escaped our attention in spring last year. It is now an ex boneseed...i.e disposed of!

Assisted Helen with watering seedlings in various beds along Lake Dulverton, and in the cattle yards at Callington Park.

Conducted some localised mown gorse and resprouting horehound control around the Flax Mill area, and a couple of flat gorse at Mahers Point, Dulverton Track.

Assisted Maria and Helen with some clean-up work around the Flax Mill planted areas.

### **Communication**

Attended a **Boxthorn biocontrol field workshop** at the Tasmanian Junior Beekeepers sheds at Tea Tree. The well-attended meeting included an introduction from Landcare Tasmania, cautionary tales from Axel Meiss (local contractor), site background from the landowner, and an illustrated talk from Dr Ben Gooden (CSIRO). I also caught up with a few familiar faces, and we later walked to a patch of boxthorn to see how easy it is to infect the boxthorn bushes. Can't wait to spread some rust fungus around the Midlands. Please contact me if you have a patch of healthy boxthorn in need of infecting: the rust fungus does not kill the plant, but it suppresses it enough that seed production drops by around 60%.

Sent letters (with supporting information) to two Tunbridge landowners who have small boxthorn infestations on their properties, seeking their permission to go onto their land to release the boxthorn rust fungus. It is regrettable that neither landowner has responded to give me the nod for this free service...

Contacted State Growth regarding patches of Pyrethrum daisies along the Midland Highway. No response yet.

Emailed Cameron regarding a leak from one of the Pound (Oatlands) tanks, which seemed to be killing some nearby seedlings. He was unaware of the leakage problem and has now fixed it!

Writing up the results of my roadside woody weed surveys 25/26, following up on the control programme in 2024. Results so far are quite variable but follow-up is required at many sites.

### **Weeds Action Fund (WAF) Stage 3 – stemless thistle**

Too dry for germinations: expect some activity by next report.

### **Weeds Action Fund (WAF) Stage 3 – invasive perennial grasses: southern and eastern Tasmania.**

Island Regen are undertaking on-ground works to control roadside Chilean needle grass and serrated tussock, and I have been liaising with the contractors regarding local infestations.

### **Related and extra-curricular activities**

I have come across a few incorrectly labelled weed locations on the Spectrum Spatial system, so I checked the entirety of the last uploaded data (a total of 154 waypoints on the Garmin). There were 16 incorrect waypoints that will need to be removed from Spectrum Spatial; some of these I can re-map, a couple are simply double-ups, and the remainder will simply be lost data. I now check every single waypoint just after I have "saved" it to ensure the location is correct.

Attended a **Biochar production demonstration** run by Glenorchy City Council at Prince of Wales Bay, Derwent Park. Two separate firings were undertaken, using pre-cut dried boxthorn branches, and many kilos of biochar was produced.

### **Chauncy Vale Weeds**

Other than calling in to water four replacement seedlings up near the old toilets, no activity this month.

### 337 certificate enquiries

13 properties processed this month.

### Weed of the Week

Red and orange-fruited pyracantha, yarrow, blackberry nightshade, Scotch thistle and wild mignonette displayed at the end of the entrance hall at Oatlands Council offices this month.

### RECOMMENDATION

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

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

### **15.3 Cultural**

**Strategic Plan Reference 3.3**

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

Nil.

### **15.4 Regulatory (Development)**

**Strategic Plan Reference 3.4**

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

Nil

### **15.5 Regulatory (Public Health)**

**Strategic Plan Reference 3.5**

*Monitor and maintain a safe and healthy public environment.*

Nil.

## 15.6 Regulatory (Animals)

### Strategic Plan Reference 3.6

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

#### 15.6.1 Animal Management Report

**Author:** ANIMAL MANAGEMENT OFFICER (RACHEL COLLIS)

**Date:** 20 May 2026

**Enclosure(s):**

*Animal Management Statement 2026*

#### ISSUE

Consideration of the Animal Management/Compliance Officer's report for May 2026

The purpose of the report is twofold:

1. To inform both Council and the community of infringements issued by Council Officers in relation to Animal Management for the period May; and
2. Provide a brief summary of actions and duties undertaken by Council Officers in relation to animal management.
3. This in turn informs the community of the requirements and expectations of the Council to uphold and enforce relevant legislation. This too reinforces the importance of responsible ownership of animals.

All infringements detailed in this report were 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.

#### RECOMMENDATION:

**THAT the Animal Management report be received and the information noted.**

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

**ENCLOSURE**  
Agenda Item 15.6.1

Reporting period: 15 April - 20 May 2026

Category/Area	Andover	Antill Ponds Woodbury	Baden Mt Seymour Whitefoord	Bagdad	Broadmarsh Elderslie	Campania	Colebrook	Dysart	Jericho	Kempton	Lemont Pawtella York Plains	Levendale Runnymede	Mangalore	Melton Mowbray	Oatlands	Parattah	Rekuna Tea Tree	Rhyndaston Tiberias	Stonehenge Swanston	Stonor	Tunnack	Tunbridge	Woodsdale	Reporting Period Total	2025-2026		
Failing to ensure dog is not at large																								0	2		
Dog attacking person or animal causing non serious injury										1					1										2	4	
Dog attacking causing serious injury																									0	0	
Dog attacking animal causing serious injury or death																							1		1	2	
Dog - Impounded				2									1						1						4	14	
Reclaimed dogs				1									1						1						3	13	
Adopted/Dogs Home				1																					1	1	
Euthanised																									0	0	
Lost dogs reported				1		1																			2	12	
Barking complaints										1					3							1			5	13	
Animal Welfare																									0	8	
Cat complaints received																									0	2	
Stock on roads				1											2										2	23	
Impounded livestock (goat)																									0	3	
Infringement Notices Issued																									0	3	
Written letter - various matters										1															1	33	
Patrolled Areas				4			1						4		2	1							1		13	150	
Poultry complaints received																									0	2	
Kennel Licence - active																									0	4	
<b>TOTAL</b>																											

Registered 2025-2026 YTD	1728
Licences	66

**Attack Details:**

1. Council received a report of a minor dog bite in Oatlands. However the complainant did not wish to provide a statutory declaration or pursue the matter further. As a result, no further enforcement action was taken.
2. Council investigated a reported dog attack incident at Kempton involving a minor bite sustained while a person was attempting to protect their dog during an interaction between dogs – infringement issued
3. Council has received a report of an alleged dog attack incident at Tunbridge. Still Investigating

## **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:** 19 MAY 2026

#### ISSUE

Oatlands Aquatic Centre – Coordinator’s Report for the month April, 2026.

#### 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**

**Operating Budget:**

Further explanation regarding the calculation of the revised Budget will be provided at the meeting.

**OATLANDS AQUATIC CENTRE - 2025/26 OPERATING EXPENDITURE  
TO 30 APRIL 2026**

<b>INCOME</b>		<b>Annual Budget 2025/26</b>	<b>Actual Apr 2026</b>	<b>Budget Apr 2026</b>	<b>Actual YTD to 30 Apr 2026</b>	<b>Actual YTD to 30 Apr 2025</b>	<b>% Annual Budget 2025/26</b>
Admission Fees		\$235,000	\$27,651	\$19,583	\$238,810	\$173,131	101.6%
Sale of Goods		\$15,000	\$1,439	\$1,250	\$15,566	\$14,834	103.8%
Charging Station Energy Use Reimbursement		\$20,000	\$0	\$0	\$16,700	\$15,177	83.5%
<b>Sub-Total</b>		<b>\$270,000</b>	<b>\$29,090</b>	<b>\$20,833</b>	<b>\$271,075</b>	<b>\$203,141</b>	<b>100.4%</b>

<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>Annual Budget 2025/26</b>	<b>Actual Apr 2026</b>	<b>Budget Apr 2026</b>	<b>Actual YTD to 30 Apr 2026</b>	<b>Actual YTD to 30 Apr 2025</b>	<b>% of Budget 2025/26</b>
Salaries (incl. On-Costs)		\$495,348	\$41,583	\$38,104	\$438,833	\$394,329	88.6%
Operating Costs - Other		\$279,563	\$16,001	\$20,280	\$281,401	\$272,362	100.7%
<b>Total Expenditure</b>		<b>\$774,911</b>	<b>\$57,584</b>	<b>\$58,384</b>	<b>\$720,234</b>	<b>\$666,691</b>	<b>92.9%</b>

<b>Budgeted Deficit</b>		<b>-\$504,911</b>	<b>-\$28,494</b>	<b>-\$37,551</b>	<b>-\$449,158</b>	<b>-\$463,549</b>	<b>89.0%</b>
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**Group Bookings & Programs – April (15/4/26 - 18/5/26):**

<b>Event / Booking</b>	<b>School / Group</b>	<b>Participation Numbers</b>
Physio Rehab Sessions	Annabel Butler – Physiotherapist	17 individual bookings
GYM / Lane Hire	Centre Fitness Classes – GYM & Pool	6 Aqua Aerobic classes 4 GYM classes 100 participants
GYM / Lane Hire	Corumbene Program – GYM & Pool	3 pool individual bookings 3 GYM individual bookings 16 participants
Centre Hire	Kempton Primary School	54 participants
Centre Hire	Oatlands Community Hub – Splash Day	30 participants
Learn to Swim Program	Bagdad Primary School – Prep to Grade 2	68 participants
Centre Visits	Oatlands Football Club	12 participants
Centre Visits	Holiday Program – St Mary’s Catholic Care	15 participants
Lane Hire	Holiday Program – Southern Midlands Council	20 participants
Centre Visits	Fitness Passport	24 participants (April)
Lane Hire	Special Olympics Tasmania Team	10 participants
Centre Visits	Parkside Support Program	7 participants
Centre Visits	Holiday Program – Thrive Group Campbell Town	11 participants
Centre Visits	Birthday Party	2 individual parties
Lane Hire	Midlands Swimming Club	5 individual bookings

**USAGE FOR THE PERIOD 15/4/2026 – 18/5/2026  
PAID UPFRONT**

<b>Type</b>	<b>Units</b>
<b>Gym &amp; Classes</b>	
Gym Class Pass 10 Sessions	12
PAYG – Gym Class	50
PAYG – Gym (16 years)	22
PAYG – Gym (Concession)	14
<b>Gym/Pool Combo</b>	
Gym/Pool Pass 10 Sessions (16 years)	7
Gym/Pool Pass 10 Sessions (Concession)	11
PAYG – Gym/Pool Combo (17 years)	4
PAYG – Gym/Pool Combo (Concession)	6
<b>Learn to Swim</b>	
April School Holiday Private Lessons Program	20 (Full)
Term 2 Program, 2026 Enrolments (Currently)	155
<b>Pool</b>	
Upfront 6 Months Pool Membership (17 +)	0
Upfront 6 Months Pool Membership (Concession)	2
Upfront 6 Months Pool Membership (Family)	0
PAYG – Pool (4 years and under)	203
PAYG – Pool (5-16)	412
PAYG – Pool (17)	322
PAYG – Pool (Concession)	223
PAYG – (Family)	38

**DIRECT DEBITS – Current Numbers**

<b>Type</b>	<b>Units</b>
DD Pool/Gym	8
DD Gym	13
DD 6 Months Pool – 17 years +	4
DD 6 Months Pool – Child/Concession	20
DD 6 Months Centre – Family	2
DD Learn to Swim Lessons – Term 2	16

**Grant Applications & General Information**

See below an update on new programs and projects implemented during March:

- Nothing to report o at this stage.

**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.**

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

### 16.3 Access

**Strategic Plan Reference 4.3**

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

Nil.

### 16.4 Volunteers

**Strategic Plan Reference 4.4**

*Encourage community members to volunteer.*

Nil.

### 16.5 Families

**Strategic Plan Reference 4.5**

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

Nil.

### 16.6 Education

**Strategic Plan Reference 4.6**

*Increase the educational and employment opportunities available within the Southern Midlands*

Nil.

### 16.7 Capacity & Sustainability

**Strategic Plan Reference 4.7**

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

Nil.

## 16.8 Safety

### Strategic Plan Reference 4.8

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

#### 16.8.1 Tasmania Fire Service – Colebrook, Parattah and Tunnack Fire Station Properties – Proposed Transfer of Ownership

**Author:** GENERAL MANAGER (TIM KIRKWOOD)

**Date:** 20 MAY 2026

**Enclosure(s):**

*Proposed Subdivision Plan (3 Sites)*

### ISSUE

To inform Council that no objections were received during the 21 day period following public notification of Council's intention to dispose of the following public land:

- Colebrook Fire Station (part of the Colebrook Recreation Ground) – proposed area of 1,010 sqm
- Parattah Fire Station (part of the Parattah Recreation Ground) – proposed area of 858 sqm; and
- Tunnack Fire Station (separate property adjacent to the Tunnack Recreation Ground) – proposed area of 916 sqm

### BACKGROUND

Council, at its meeting held 25 March 2026, resolved as follows:

*“THAT:*

- a) *the information be received;*
- b) *Subject to receiving final confirmation of acceptance of the offer by the Tasmania Fire Service, Council, in accordance with section 178 of the Local Government Act 1993, resolve by absolute majority to sell the three parcels of land to the Tasmanian Fire Service for a total amount of \$130,000;*
- c) *the General Manager proceed to –*
  - *publish this intention on at least 2 separate occasions in a daily newspaper circulating in the municipal area;*
  - *display a copy of the notice on any boundary of the property that abuts a highway; and*
  - *notify the public that objection to the proposed sale(s) can be made to the general manager within 21 days of the date of the first publication.*

### DETAIL

Firstly, it is confirmed that written confirmation has been received from the Office of the Fire and Emergency Services Commissioner that Councils offer of \$130,000 has been accepted.

This offer was subject to the following conditions:

- Council securing marketable Certificates of Title following completion of the subdivision approval process;
- Compliance with section 178 of the Local Government Act 1993, including completion of the statutory public notification and objection process for the sale of public land; and
- Each party engaging their own legal representative and bearing their respective legal costs associated with the transaction.

Following this, the Notice of Sale of Public Land was advertised in the Mercury Newspaper on two occasions (22 April and 29 April 2026) and the relevant notices (and site plans) were displayed on the boundaries of the properties.

No objections were received within the 21 days of the date of the first publication.

Council is now in a position to proceed with the subdivision applications to create separate Titles for the Colebrook and Parattah properties, noting that the Tunnack property is already on an existing separate Title.

**Human Resources & Financial Implications** – The offer of \$130,000 has been accepted by the Tasmanian Fire Service. Direct costs such as valuation fees; advertising; surveying fees and other associated fees are estimated at \$22,000, providing a net balance of \$108,000.

Council has previously confirmed that the net sale proceeds from each of the respective properties will be reinvested in the local communities. The initial property valuations will be used as the basis for apportionment (i.e. Colebrook – 48.2%; Parattah - 21.4%; and Tunnack – 30.4%), taking into account costs associated with the sale of each property and the amount for relocation of the infrastructure at Tunnack.”

**Community Consultation & Public Relations Implications** – Council has complied with the notification requirements for the sale of public land with no objections being received.

**Priority - Implementation Time Frame** – as soon as practicable.

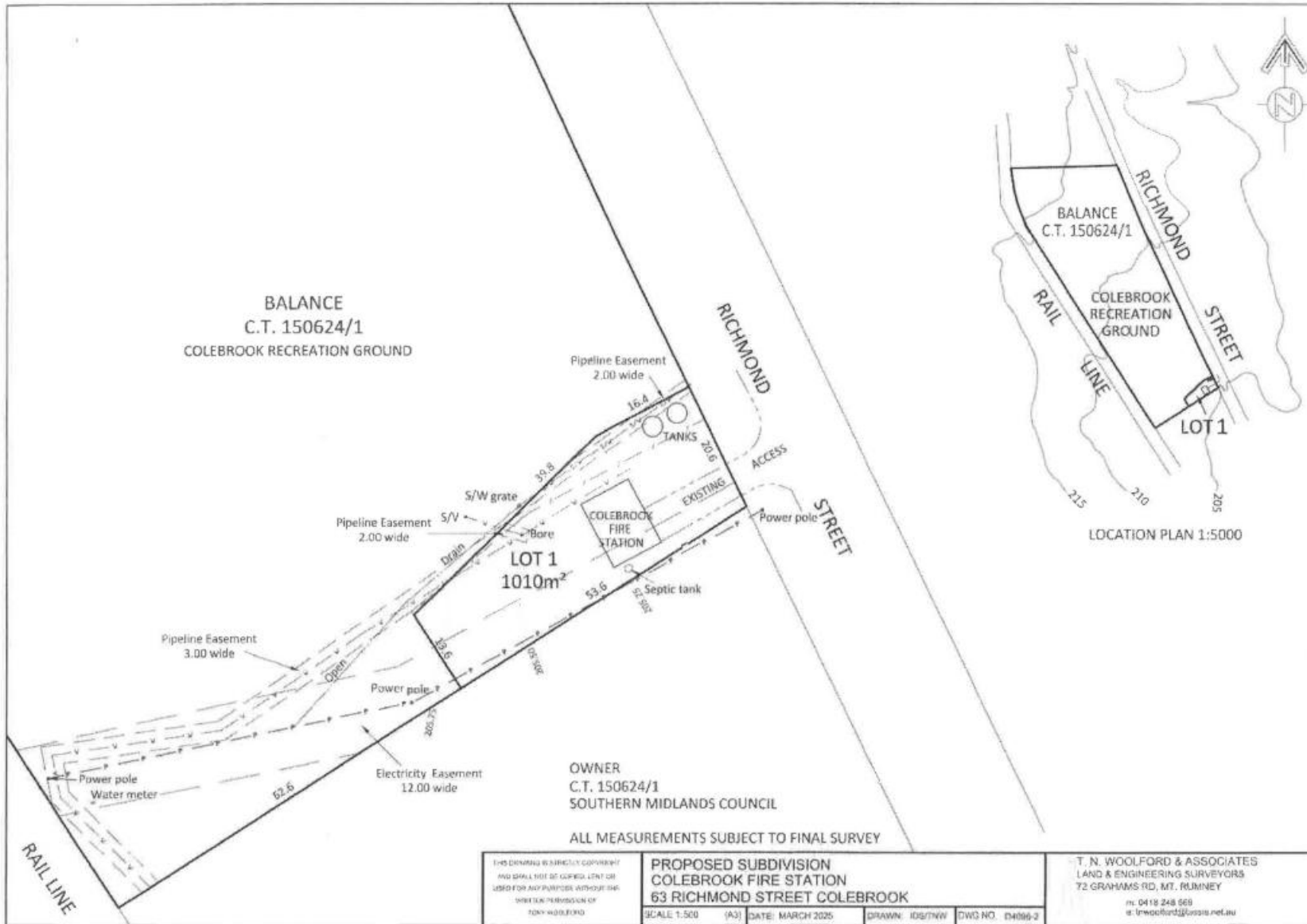
## RECOMMENDATION

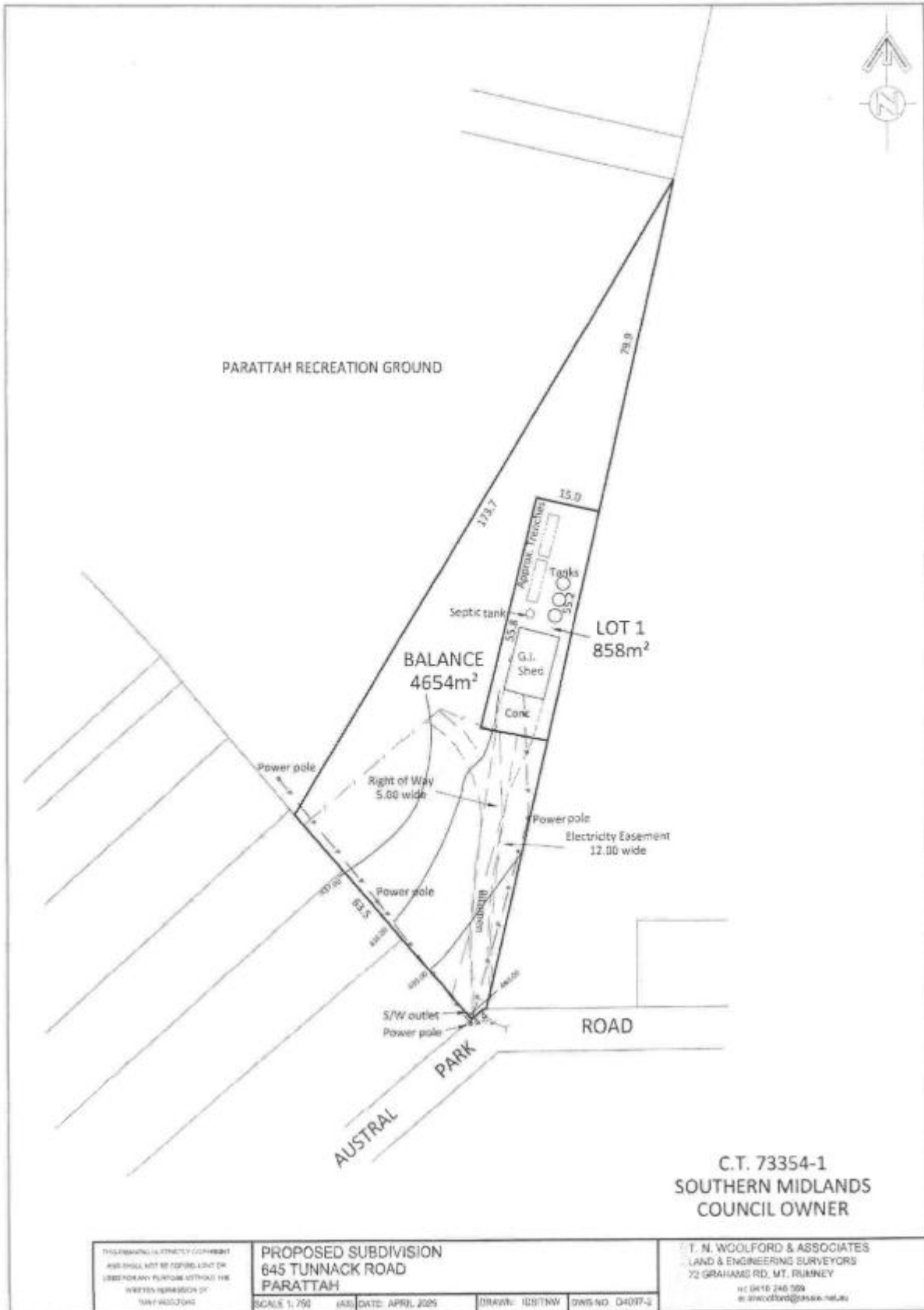
**THAT the information be received and noted, and that Council acknowledge that no objections were received during the public notification period.**

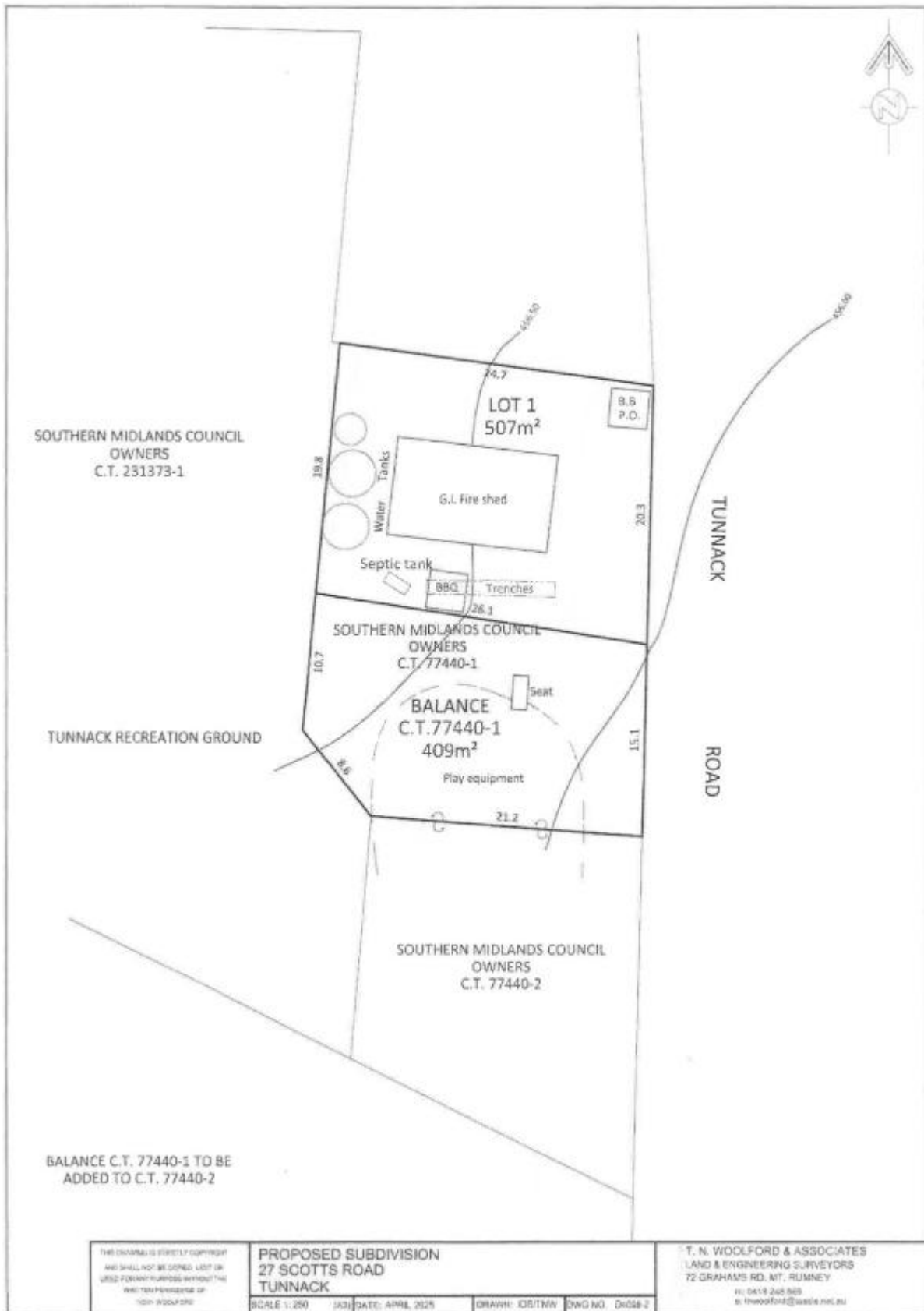
DECISION		
Councillor	Vote FOR	Vote AGAINST
Mayor E Batt		
Deputy Mayor K Dudgeon		
Clr A E Bisdee OAM		
Clr D Blackwell		
Clr B Campbell		
Clr D Fish		
Clr F Miller		

**ENCLOSURE**

Agenda Item 16.8.1







## 16.9 Consultation & Communication

### Strategic Plan Reference 4.8

*Improve the effectiveness of consultation & communication with the community.*

#### 16.9.1 Desktop Review of Southern Midlands Council Strategic Plan 2024 – 2034 and the Creation of the Strategic Plan 2026 – 2036

**Author:** DEPUTY GENERAL MANAGER (ANDREW BENSON)

**Date:** 20 MAY 2026

**Attachment(s):**

*Draft Strategic Plan 2026 - 2036*

#### **ISSUE**

Review of the Southern Midlands Council Strategic Plan in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993.

#### **BACKGROUND**

##### **The Strategic Plan**

The Local Government Act 1993 requires all Councils to have a Strategic Plan for the Municipal area. The Strategic Plan is to be in respect of at least a ten (10) year period and updated as required.

##### **Public consultation**

The Local Government Act states that in preparing a proposed Strategic Plan, or updating an existing Strategic Plan, a Council is to consult with the community in its municipal area and any authorities and bodies it considers appropriate.

The General Manager of the Council is to make a copy of the proposed Strategic Plan, or an updated Strategic Plan, available for public inspection at the public office of the Council during ordinary office hours.

##### **Changes to the Strategic Plan**

The Southern Midlands Council will formally review the Southern Midlands Strategic Plan every four years. Every two years Council will undertake a desktop review to ensure that any emerging issues are able to be included within the plan. Once the formal review has been undertaken the Council is required to invite submissions from the public in respect of the plan. It is also required to consider those submissions before adopting or updating the strategic plan.

As soon as a Council adopts a strategic plan, or updates it, the General Manager is required, under the Local Government Act 1993 to make a copy of the strategic plan available for public inspection at the public office of the Council during ordinary office hours. The Southern Midlands Strategic Plan will also be available on the Council's website at [www.southernmidlands.tas.gov.au](http://www.southernmidlands.tas.gov.au)

Council's Strategic Plan in its current general format was adopted prior to the commencement of the 2006/07 financial year. The Strategic Plan 'informs' the objectives & content of Council's Annual Operational Plan. The Strategic Plan was last reviewed in May / June 2024, through a full community consultation process.

## DETAIL

It is now two years, since the last review of the Plan. It was agreed by Council that the Strategic Plan, whilst it is a ten year Plan would be reviewed every two years to ensure that it remains relevant and appropriate as Council's / Community's strategic intent for the Southern Midlands local government area. That means every four years the Plan goes to the Community for a full review and in the ensuing two year blocks, an internal desktop review is undertaken with Councillors and Council Managers.

As a result of the Councillor and Manager workshops the review identified a number of items within the draft Strategic Plan 2026 – 2036. These were highlighted, with some amendments and additions. The new line items and key actions have been included to reflect current and emerging issues. The draft Strategic Plan 2026 – 2036 attached is provided as a 'clean' version, noting that Councillors and Managers do have their workshop copy of the suggested changes and with those new or amended items highlighted in a coloured font and showing the deletions in the document in a black font being 'struck through' for recognition/clarity and discussion.

It is also noted that the financial 'ratio and trend data' page will be updated to reflect the end of the financial year figures when they become available.

As Councillors are aware, the process for any policy document being, that it is tabled at one meeting and then "lays on the table" until the next meeting, to enable Councillors sufficient time to work through and consider all of the ramifications of the strategy/policy, before the document is finally considered for adoption at the following meeting.

## CONCLUSION

That the draft Strategic Plan 2026 – 2036 is recommended to Councillors for consideration and further input if required.

## Community Consultation & Public Relations Implications – Nil

**Policy Implications** – This is Council's major policy document and the ramifications of the directions in this Strategic Plan could alter some subservient policy documents.

**Priority - Implementation Time Frame** – July 2026.

## RECOMMENDATION

### THAT Council:

1. Received and note the report;
2. Endorse the process of the desktop review and workshops in the formulation of the draft Strategic Plan 2026 - 2036 to date; and
3. Consider the adoption of the draft Strategic Plan 2026 - 2036, and any amendments agreed during the meeting with final consideration in the June 2026 Council meeting.

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

## 17. OPERATIONAL MATTERS ARISING (STRATEGIC THEME – ORGANISATION)

### 17.1 Improvement

#### Strategic Plan Reference 5.1

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

#### 17.1.1 Local Government Electoral Legislation - Update

**Author:** GENERAL MANAGER (TIM KIRKWOOD)

**Date:** 20 MAY 2026

**Enclosure(s):**

*Minister for Local Government (Hon Kerry Vincent MLC) – Letter dated 30 April 2026*

#### ISSUE

Provide Council with an update on the status and timing of the State Government's local government electoral legislation.

#### DETAIL

Refer enclosed letter dated 30 April 2026 from the Minister for Local Government, the Hon Kerry Vincent MLC.

The following issues are highlighted for noting:

- The new electoral legislation will now be deferred until after the 2026 local government elections;
- The local government elections will not be deferred as a result of delays with legislative reform;
- Elections will largely be conducted in the same format as 2022;
- Change to Councillor numbers and allowances will be made via the Targeted Reform Bill (i.e. ahead of the 2026 elections);
- All other major proposed electoral changes, including legislated caretaker provisions, donations, advertising, and expenditure changes, and prescribed pre-election education will be held over until after the 2026 elections.

**Human Resources & Financial Implications** – As noted previously, the Southern Midlands Council will bear a significant increase in costs as a result of increasing allowances, with no offset in a reduction of Councillor numbers. The total increase is \$40,977 or 35.67%.

**Community Consultation & Public Relations Implications** – Not applicable.

**Policy Implications** – Policy position.

**Priority - Implementation Time Frame** – Refer above detail.

**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT the information be received and noted.**

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

**ENCLOSURE**

*Agenda Item 17.1.1*

Minister for Housing and Planning  
Minister for Infrastructure and Transport  
Minister for Local Government

Level 10, 15 Murray Street, HOBART TAS 7000 Australia  
GPO Box 123 HOBART TAS 7001 Australia  
Email: Minister.Vincent@dpac.tas.gov.au



30 APR 2026

Dear Mayors and General Managers

**Local Government Electoral Legislation**

I am writing to provide an update on the status and timing of the Government's local government electoral legislation.

I recognise the sector's need for clarity on the Government's intentions for implementing legislative changes with the upcoming 2026 local government elections.

I note the timeframes for finalising and introducing the electoral legislation into Parliament were affected by last year's State Election and associated caretaker period.

The legislation itself is a complex package of reforms to our electoral system, so we wanted to ensure the new statutory framework is workable and fit for purpose. We undertook extended consultation on the draft legislation from late last year to the end of February to ensure we were able to meet the sector's needs.

We are actively considering key themes from this consultation and in response to concerns raised by the sector we will be reviewing several reform proposals which were tested in the draft Bills. This includes direct election of deputy mayors, the number of elector signatures required for a notice of nomination, and provisions relating to personal interest returns.

I expect to introduce the final legislation into the Parliament in the middle of 2026.

I have made the decision to defer implementation of the new electoral legislation until after the 2026 local government elections.

It is important for this decision to be communicated early, instead of rushing the implementation of the reforms or further deferring a decision on implementation timing until closer to the elections.

To be clear, I will not be considering any postponement of the local government elections.

Elections will be conducted in largely the same format as 2022, with a handful of priority reforms implemented ahead of the 2026 elections.

Priority reforms to address barriers to electors with a print disability will be included in the Local Government Amendment (Targeted Reform) Bill 2026 to guarantee their

implementation for the 2026 elections. Changes to numbers and allowances will also be made via the Targeted Reform Bill.

All other major proposed electoral changes, including legislated caretaker provisions, donations, advertising, and expenditure changes, and prescribed pre-election education, will be held over until after the 2026 local government elections.

A phased approach to implementation is proposed, with key provisions coming in as early as possible in the new term of councils, including migration of the General Managers Electoral Rolls to the TEC and the introduction of reforms to managing councillor interests.

The objective will be to implement the new framework in its entirety within 18 months of its passage through the Parliament. This will allow for the testing of the new framework through any by-elections or recounts in the electoral period, prior to the new framework being then being used for the 2030 ordinary council elections.

I thank you all for your continued support and engagement as we deliver our *Priority Reform Program 2024-2026*, and hope this letter provides sufficient assurance and clarity around the framework for the conduct of the 2026 local government elections.

Yours sincerely



Hon Kerry Vincent MLC  
**Minister for Local Government**

### **17.1.2 Policy Review – Donations & Community Support Policy**

**Author:** MANAGER COMMUNITY & CORPORATE DEVELOPMENT (WENDY YOUNG)

**Date:** 19 MAY 2026

**Attachment(s):**

*Draft Donations & Community Support Policy (marked up version)*

#### **PURPOSE**

The policy establishes eligibility criteria and application requirements for organisations seeking Council assistance for annual events conducted within the Southern Midlands municipal area.

#### **BACKGROUND**

The proposed Policy aims to ensure that Council assistance is directed toward significant community events that provide social, cultural, tourism, and economic benefits to the municipality.

Council receives requests each year from community organisations, service clubs, and not-for-profit groups seeking financial and in-kind assistance for annual events.

Historically, assistance has been considered on a case-by-case basis. The proposed Policy has been developed to provide a clear, transparent, and consistent framework for assessing requests and determining eligibility.

The Policy specifically applies to events that meet the requirements of a Place of Assembly under relevant legislation and public safety requirements.

- Streamlining administration processes;
- Ensuring early consideration of operational requirements;
- Improving event planning and risk management outcomes; and
- Providing greater transparency and consistency in decision-making.

The Policy also clarifies expectations for event organisers regarding documentation, safety planning, and evidence of attendance thresholds.

**Human Resources & Financial Implications –**

**Community Consultation & Public Relations Implications –**

**Policy Implications – Policy position.**

**Priority - Implementation Time Frame –** Following final adoption by Council.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT Council:**

- 1. Receive and note the report; and**
- 2. Consider the draft Donations & Community Support Policy for adoption at June 2026 Council meeting.**

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

**17.1.3 Policy Review - Recruitment Policy & Procedures and Selection Policy & Procedures**

**Author:** DEPUTY GENERAL MANAGER (ANDREW BENSON)

**Date:** 20 MAY 2026

**Attachment(s)**

*Draft Revision – Recruitment Policy & Procedures*

*Draft Revision – Selection Policy & Procedures*

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is formally adopt the amended versions of the Recruitment Policy and Procedures and the Selection Policy and Procedures.

**BACKGROUND**

These policies were tabled at the April 2026 Council Meeting with no changes made.

No further changes or amendments have been identified.

**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT Council:**

- 1. Receive and note the report; and**
- 2. Subject to any further amendments, adopt the Recruitment Policy and Procedures and the Selection Policy and Procedures.**

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

## **17.2 Sustainability**

### **Strategic Plan Reference 5.2**

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

### **17.2.1 Tabling of Documents**

Nil.

### **17.2.2 Elected Member Statements**

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

## 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 30 April 2026)

**Author:** FINANCE OFFICER (MANDY BURBURY)

**Date:** 6 MAY 2026

#### ISSUE

Provide the Financial Report for the period ending 30<sup>th</sup> April 2026.

#### 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 July 2025 to 30 April 2026.
- Operating Expenditure Report – 1 July 2025 to 30 April 2026.
- Capital Expenditure Report – 1 July 2025 to 30 April 2026.
- Cash Flow Statement – 1 July 2025 to 30 April 2026.

#### OPERATING EXPENDITURE (OPERATING BUDGET)

Overall operating expenditure to end of April was \$8,135,667, representing 88.1% 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**

Nil.

#### **Strategic Theme – Growth**

**Sub-Program – Business** - expenditure to date (\$349,098 – 132.3%). Additional expenditure relates to a higher than anticipated value of private works (offset by an increase in private works income).

**Strategic Theme – Landscapes**

Nil.

**Strategic Theme – Community**

Nil.

**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
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.**

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

**STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME**  
**for the period 1 Jul 2025 to 30 Apr 2026**

	Annual Budget \$	Year to Date Actual \$	%	Comments
<b>Income</b>				
Rates	7,810,961	7,880,621	100.9%	Includes Interest & Penalties on rates
User Fees (refer Note 1)	1,536,868	1,553,701	101.1%	Includes Private Works
Interest	520,000	387,238	74.5%	
Government Subsidies	11,700	0	0.0%	Heavy Vehicle Licence Fees
Other (refer Note 2)	332,400	210,150	63.2%	Includes TasWater Distributions
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>10,211,930</b>	<b>10,031,710</b>	<b>98.2%</b>	
Grants - Operating	4,744,884	1,815,508	38.3%	
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>14,956,813</b>	<b>11,847,218</b>	<b>79.2%</b>	
<b>Expenses</b>				
Employee benefits	-6,024,988	-3,942,604	65.4%	Less Roads - Resheeting (Capitalised)
Materials and contracts	-4,195,550	-3,798,482	90.5%	Less Roads - Resheeting (Capitalised), Includes Land Tax & Private Works
Depreciation and amortisation	-4,738,700	-3,946,753	83.3%	Percentage Calculation (year-to-date)
Finance costs	-2,223	-2,223	100.0%	Interest
Contributions	-296,700	-222,525	75.0%	Fire Service Levies
Other	-184,841	-169,833	91.9%	Audit Fees and Councillor Allowances
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>-15,443,002</b>	<b>-12,082,420</b>	<b>78.2%</b>	
<b>Surplus (deficit) from operations</b>	<b>-486,189</b>	<b>-235,202</b>	<b>48.4%</b>	
Grants - Capital (refer Note 3)	1,064,853	2,028,101	190.5%	
Sale Proceeds (Plant & Machinery)	0	288,740		
Sale Proceeds (Land & Buildings)	0	1		
Sale Proceeds (Other Assets)	0	5,244		
Net gain / (loss on disposal of non-current assets)	0	0		
<b>Surplus / (Deficit)</b>	<b>578,664</b>	<b>2,086,884</b>	<b>360.6%</b>	

**STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME**  
**for the period 1 Jul 2025 to 30 Apr 2026**

	Annual Budget \$	Year to Date Actual \$	%	Comments
<b>NOTES</b>				
1. Income - User Fees				
- All other Programs	1,176,420	1,107,314	94.1%	
- Private Works	360,449	446,388	123.8%	
	1,536,868	1,553,701	101.1%	
2. Income - Other				
- TasWater	182,400	125,400	68.75%	Shareholder Distributions
- Public Open Space Contributions	150,000	0	0.00%	
- Stormwater Headworks	0	20,000		
- Blue Gum Rovers	0	735		Donations for Tunnack Recreation Ground
- JLT Group	0	1,578		Interest Disbursement
- Insurance Recoveries	0	8,292		
- Campania Halls Committee	0	15,000		Contribution towards External Painting
- Colebrook Hall Committee	0	3,510		Transfer on closure of Bank Account
- Woodsdale Cemetery Committee	0	8,121		Transfer on closure of Bank Account
- Heritage Education and Skills Centre	0	4,513		Transfer on closure of Bank Account
- Lake Dulverton & Callington Park Management Committee	0	5,000		Contribution towards operating costs of Callington Park Toilet
- TasWater	0	18,000		Contribution for Mains & Meter Upgrades - Kempton
	332,400	210,150	63.2%	

**STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME**  
**for the period 1 Jul 2025 to 30 Apr 2026**

	Annual Budget \$	Year to Date Actual \$	%	Comments
<b>NOTES Cont.</b>				
3. Grants - Capital				
- Aust Govt (Roads To Recovery)	1,064,853	1,012,500	95.08%	
- Aust Govt (LRCI Phase 4)	0	629,654		Final Instalment
- State Govt (VRUP Round 1)	0	14,410		Campania Pedestrian Railway Crossing (Final Instalment)
- State Govt (VRUP Round 1)	0	29,308		Campania Reeve Street West (Final Instalment)
- State Govt (VRUP Round 1)	0	18,129		Campania Reeve Street East (Final Instalment)
- State Govt (VRUP 2025)	0	14,310		Campania Reeve Street- Hall Ln to Lee St (First Instalment)
- State Govt (VRUP 2025)	0	11,150		Oatlands High Street - Road Pedestrian Crossing (First Instalment)
- State Govt (VRUP 2025)	0	17,215		Bagdad School Road - Road Improvements (First Instalment)
- State Govt (EID Tag Rebate Scheme)	0	1,425		75% Rebate on eID Reader
- Local Govt. Assoc. Tas. (Open Spaces Program)	0	280,000		Campania Recreation Ground - Changeroom Upgrade (First Instalment)
	1,064,853	2,028,101	190.46%	
4. Grants - Operating				
- FAGS 2024/25	4,744,884	1,810,173	38.15%	
- State Govt (Resilience & Recovery Grant)	0	5,335		Southern Midlands Farmers Group Drought Resilience (Establishing Governance)
	4,744,884	1,815,508	38.3%	

**SOUTHERN MIDLANDS COUNCIL : OPERATING EXPENDITURE  
2025/26  
SUMMARY SHEET**

PROGRAM	ACTUAL (to 30 Apr 26)	BUDGET (to 30 Apr 26)	YTD VARIANCE	YTD %	FULL YEAR BUDGET - INC. GRANTS & OTHER
<b>INFRASTRUCTURE</b>					
Roads	1,137,478	1,454,903	317,425	78.2%	4,410,593
Bridges	51,907	88,221	36,313	58.8%	653,390
Walkways	202,852	223,028	20,175	91.0%	273,165
Lighting	60,663	78,280	17,617	77.5%	93,936
Public Toilets	97,507	115,510	18,003	84.4%	140,739
Stormwater	4,914	26,901	21,987	18.3%	89,081
Waste	1,145,867	1,304,034	158,167	87.9%	1,592,340
Information, Communication	-	16,667	16,667	0.0%	20,000
<b>INFRASTRUCTURE TOTAL:</b>	<b>2,701,189</b>	<b>3,307,543</b>	<b>606,354</b>	<b>81.7%</b>	<b>7,273,244</b>
<b>GROWTH</b>					
Residential	-	-	-	-	-
Tourism	23,996	37,709	13,713	63.6%	41,276
Business	349,098	263,797	-85,301	132.3%	316,556
Industry	-	-	-	0.0%	-
<b>GROWTH TOTAL:</b>	<b>373,094</b>	<b>301,506</b>	<b>- 71,588</b>	<b>123.7%</b>	<b>357,832</b>
<b>LANDSCAPES</b>					
Heritage	296,917	423,110	126,193	70.2%	501,173
Natural	189,203	219,681	30,479	86.1%	257,515
Cultural	507	13,333	12,827	3.8%	16,000
Regulatory - Development	704,391	893,564	189,174	78.8%	1,101,058
Regulatory - Public Health	13,968	21,817	7,848	64.0%	26,180
Regulatory - Animals	99,097	114,242	15,145	86.7%	140,975
Environmental Sustainability	-	4,167	4,167	0.0%	5,000
<b>LANDSCAPES TOTAL:</b>	<b>1,304,083</b>	<b>1,689,914</b>	<b>385,831</b>	<b>77.2%</b>	<b>2,047,901</b>
<b>COMMUNITY</b>					
Community Health & Wellbeing	239,607	318,121	78,514	75.3%	378,545
Recreation	1,075,896	1,080,220	4,324	99.6%	1,256,464
Access	-	-	-	0.0%	-
Volunteers	21,325	42,500	21,175	50.2%	45,000
Families	-	8,333	8,333	0.0%	10,000
Education	-	-	-	0.0%	-
Capacity & Sustainability	52,261	50,504	-1,757	103.5%	55,505
Safety	6,798	16,625	9,827	40.9%	19,950
Consultation & Communication	1,589	21,417	19,828	7.4%	25,700
<b>LIFESTYLE TOTAL:</b>	<b>1,397,475</b>	<b>1,537,720</b>	<b>140,245</b>	<b>90.9%</b>	<b>1,791,164</b>
<b>ORGANISATION</b>					
Improvement	50,115	109,497	59,382	45.8%	131,397
Sustainability	1,991,691	1,977,078	-14,613	100.7%	3,445,765
Finances	318,019	314,241	-3,778	101.2%	395,700
<b>ORGANISATION TOTAL:</b>	<b>2,359,826</b>	<b>2,400,817</b>	<b>40,991</b>	<b>98.3%</b>	<b>3,972,862</b>
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$8,135,667</b>	<b>\$9,237,500</b>	<b>\$1,101,833</b>	<b>88.1%</b>	<b>\$15,443,003</b>

**CAPITAL EXPENDITURE PROGRAM 2025-26**  
**As at 30 April 2026**

		BUDGET \$	EXPENDITURE \$	BALANCE \$	COMMENTS	COMPLETION DEADLINE
<b>INFRASTRUCTURE</b>						
<b>ROAD ASSETS</b>						
Resheeting Program	Roads Resheeting	590,000	269,272	320,728		
Reseal Program	Jericho - Jericho Road (1500m)	38,700	38,734	-34	Roads to Recovery \$38,700	30 June 2026
	Kempton - Cliftonvale Road (1500m)	65,600	65,698	-98	Roads to Recovery \$65,600	30 June 2026
	Oatlands - High Street (500m)	41,200	41,289	-89	Roads to Recovery \$41,200	30 June 2026
	Oatlands - Interlaken Road	25,000	23,100	1,900		
	Woodbury - Glenmorey Road (Two Sections 1700m)	42,500	42,543	-43	Roads to Recovery \$42,500	30 June 2026
	Woodbury - Woodbury Road (500m)	35,000	43,736	-8,736		
	Woodsdale - Woodsdale Road	31,200	31,298	-98	Roads to Recovery \$31,200	30 June 2026
	Tunbridge - Scott Street (300m)	40,000	31,796	8,204	Originally in Reconstruct & Seal \$60K	
Sealed Edge Breaks	Sealed Road Edge Breaks Program	200,000	<i>as below</i>	74,554		
	Campania - Brown Mountain Road		2,167			
	Campania - Native Corners Road		9,473			
	Colebrook - Eldon Road		22,276			
	Colebrook - Franklin Street		1,000			
	Elderslie - Elderslie Road		16,962			
	Jericho - Lower Marshes Road		3,552			
	Rhyndaston - Rhyndaston Road		11,500			
	Stonor - Blackgate Road		0			
	Stonor - Stonor Road		32,860			
	Woodsdale - Woodsdale Road		13,416			
	York Plains - York Plains Road		12,240			
Reconstruct & Seal	Bagdad - Swan Street (700m)	136,800	136,881	-81	Roads to Recovery \$136,800	30 June 2026
	Tunnack - Eldon Road (700m)	113,500	113,529	-29	Roads to Recovery \$113,500	30 June 2026
	Woodsdale - Woodsdale Road (dig-out)	28,700	28,758	-58	Roads to Recovery \$28,700	30 June 2026
Construct & Seal	Mangalore - Blackbrush Road (1.3km section starting from seal Mangalore end)	200,200	200,222	-22	Roads to Recovery \$200,200	30 June 2026
	Rhyndaston - Rhyndaston Road (1.35km of 2.7km starting at railway line)	199,300	199,399	-99	Roads to Recovery \$199,300	30 June 2026
Minor Seals (New)	Kempton - Erskine Street (Extention of Seal - 80m)	25,000	0	25,000	Roads to Recovery \$25,000	30 June 2025
	Mt Seymour - Blackgate Road (500m between end of seal & dust suppressant)	93,200	93,277	-77	Roads to Recovery \$93,200	30 June 2026
	Oatlands - Bentwick Street	20,000	0	20,000	Budget c/f	
Other Works	Bagdad - School Road (Traffic & Safety Improvements)	69,000	1,057	67,943	VRUP Funding \$34,430	30 April 2026
	Campania - Car Park Improvements	100,000	72,481	27,519	\$60K Budget C/F WIP \$72,112	
	Campania - Reeve Street (Reconstruct Retaining Wall - Union St to Lee St)	40,000	0	40,000		
	Campania - Structure Plan - Town Gateway and Streetscape	40,000	0	40,000	Budget C/F	
	Colebrook - Coalmine Bend Road (Redirect Drainage from Train Line - Piping)	25,000	25,807	-807		
	Oatlands - Hasting Street Junction	15,000	14,761	239	WIP \$959	
	Oatlands - High Street (Traffic Islands)	45,940	641	45,299	VRUP Funding \$22,300 RTR \$23,640	30 June 2026
	Runnymede - Woodsdale Road (Asphalt Overlay 150m)	25,313	0	25,313	Roads to Recovery \$25,313	30 June 2026
	Tunbridge - Main Street (Kerb & Gutter Renewal)	40,000	46,290	-6,290	WIP \$4186.12	
		<b>2,326,153</b>	<b>1,646,014</b>	<b>680,139</b>		

**CAPITAL EXPENDITURE PROGRAM 2025-26**  
**As at 30 April 2026**

		BUDGET \$	EXPENDITURE \$	BALANCE \$	COMMENTS	COMPLETION DEADLINE
<b>WALKWAYS</b>	Footpaths - General Streetscapes	45,959	0	45,959		
	Bagdad - Midland Highway Pathway (Primary School north to Community Club)	240,000	253,132	-13,132	Election Commitment - \$150,000 WIP \$1,130	2 March 2026
	Campania - Reeve Street (Hall St to Lee St)	57,740	427	57,313	VRUP Funding \$28,620	30 June 2026
	Colebrook - Richmond Road (Asphalting)	4,041	4,041	0	Funded from footpaths general budget	
	Kempton - Burnett Street to Mood Food	425,565	276,987	148,578	Better Active Transport \$278K WIP \$5332	30 June 2026
	Kempton - Main Street (Southern End 300m)	75,000	741	74,259		
	Oatlands - Church Street (High St to Esplanade both sides - Design Only)	10,000	0	10,000		
	Oatlands - Church Street (Sth Parade to William St - north. side - Footpath - 130 m)	30,000	64,323	-34,323	Budget C/F	
	Parattah - Streetscape (Stage 1)	50,000	417	49,583		
	Tunnack - Streetscape (Year 1 of 3)	100,000	73,251	26,749	WIP \$73,042	
		<b>1,038,305</b>	<b>673,319</b>	<b>364,986</b>		
<b>PUBLIC TOILETS</b>	General Public Toilets - Upgrade Program	14,616	0	14,616	Budget c/f	
	Colebrook - History Room Toilets (Replace Septic Tank)	10,000	9,830	170		
		<b>24,616</b>	<b>9,830</b>	<b>14,785</b>		
<b>DRAINAGE</b>	Bagdad / Mangalore - Hydraulic Assessment (Flood Mapping)	61,625	0	61,625	Budget C/F	
	Stormwater System Management Plans ( <i>Urban Drainage Act 2013</i> )	50,000	40,456	9,544	WIP \$456	
	Oatlands - High Street / Church Street Jct (Pipe Replacement)	15,000	14,946	54		
	Oatlands - High Street /Wellington Street Jct (New Pit)	4,000	3,973	27		
	Oatlands - Queen Anne St (Pipe into existing Drain)	35,000	21,806	13,194		
		<b>165,625</b>	<b>81,182</b>	<b>84,443</b>		
<b>WASTE</b>	Wheelie Bins and Crates	10,000	20,398	-10,398		
		<b>10,000</b>	<b>20,398</b>	<b>-10,398</b>		
<b>GROWTH</b>						
<b>TOURISM</b>	Oatlands - Heritage Interpretation Panel renewal	2,000	0	2,000		
	Oatlands Accommodation Facility	0	42,283	-42,283	WIP \$42,283 (Offset by Barrack Street Property)	
		<b>2,000</b>	<b>42,283</b>	<b>-40,283</b>		

**CAPITAL EXPENDITURE PROGRAM 2025-26**  
**As at 30 April 2026**

		BUDGET	EXPENDITURE	BALANCE	COMMENTS	COMPLETION
		\$	\$	\$		DEADLINE
<b>LANDSCAPES</b>						
<b>HERITAGE</b>						
	Jericho - Memorial Avenue - Plaques	20,500	23,814	-3,314	Budget c/f WIP \$4,300. Offset by donation of \$500.	
	Kempton - Memorial Avenue Park - Interps	19,545	0	19,545	Budget C/F	
	Melton Mowbray - Recognition plaque JH Bisdee VC OBE (DVA Grant)	8,480	8,904	-424	Saluting Their Service Grant \$7,480	30 April 2025
	Oatlands - Callington Mill - Structural Repair & External painting	80,000	0	80,000	\$40K Budget C/F	
	Oatlands - Court House (Wall Stabilisation)	15,000	13,019	1,981	WIP \$4,764	
	Oatlands - Gaolers Residence (Chimney Capping & Fireplace Repairs)	5,000	866	4,134	Budget C/F	
	Oatlands - Gaolers Residence (Lighting & Hanging System Upgrade)	5,000	973	4,027		
	Oatlands - Gaolers Residence (Wingwall)	23,000	13,313	9,687	Budget C/F	
	Oatlands - Heritage Collections Store	10,000	3,700	6,300	WIP \$3,700	
	Oatlands - Roche Hall (Building Improvements for PRISM)	144,161	53,805	90,356	\$90K Budget C/F WIP \$19,644 \$5,839 to Portable Stage	
	Oatlands - Roche Hall Forecourt (Interps - Planning Condition of Approval)	40,000	7,820	32,180	WIP \$7,820	
		<b>370,686</b>	<b>126,213</b>	<b>244,473</b>		
<b>NATURAL</b>						
	Campania - Bush Reserve / Cemetery	300,000	108,144	191,856	WIP \$93,346	
	Chauncy Vale - Day Dawn Cottage Improvements	12,000	10,311	1,689	WIP \$8,557	
	Chauncy Vale - Toilet & Interps Upgrade	100,000	69,672	30,328	Election Commitment \$80,000 WIP \$22,570	30 June 2026
		<b>412,000</b>	<b>188,127</b>	<b>223,873</b>		
<b>REGULATORY - DEVELOPMENT</b>						
	Master / Structure Plans (Bagdad / Mangalore / Campania)	50,000	151,791	-101,791	Includes Flour Mill Park Master Plan	
	Kempton Council Chambers - Structural Damage	0	16,650	-16,650	External Contractor Liable for damage	
	Kempton - Council Chambers (Office Furniture & Equipment)	7,025	0	7,025		
	Property Purchase - 10 Barrack Street, Oatlands (Police Residence)	530,000	0	530,000	Budget C/F	
	Oatlands - Stanley Street Master Plan	20,000	172	19,828	Budget c/f WIP \$172	
		<b>607,025</b>	<b>168,612</b>	<b>438,413</b>		
<b>PUBLIC HEALTH</b>						
	Woodsdale Cemetery - Memorial Wall	0	1,845	-1,845	Offset by Committee Contribution	
		<b>0</b>	<b>1,845</b>	<b>-1,845</b>		
<b>ANIMAL CONTROL</b>						
	Oatlands - Off-Lead Dog Park	35,000	1,947	33,053	WIP \$1,947	
	Electronic Identification Stick Reader	1,900	1,900	0	NRE Grant \$1,425	
		<b>36,900</b>	<b>3,847</b>	<b>33,053</b>		

**CAPITAL EXPENDITURE PROGRAM 2025-26**  
**As at 30 April 2026**

	BUDGET \$	EXPENDITURE \$	BALANCE \$	COMMENTS	COMPLETION DEADLINE
<b>COMMUNITY</b>					
<b>RECREATION</b>					
Facilities & Recreation Committee	835	0	835	Budget \$40,000 (projects funded as below)	
Building Upgrades (Sites determined following inspections)	50,000	0	50,000		
Playground Upgrades (inspections)	50,000	0	50,000		
Bagdad - Bagdad Community Club (Precinct Plan & Property Transfer)	111,000	95,003	15,997	\$35K Budget c/f WIP \$95,003	
Bagdad - Bagdad Community Club (Redevelopment)	0	50,931	-50,931	WIP \$49,706	
Bagdad - Bagdad Community Club (Sports Pavilion)	0	222,416	-222,416	WIP \$211,856 Subject to Funding	
Bagdad - Bagdad Community Club (Multi-purpose Sports Hall)	0	252,160	-252,160	WIP \$252,160 Subject to Funding	
Bagdad - Bagdad Community Club (Oval Relocation)	0	26,500	-26,500	WIP \$25,500 Subject to Funding	
Bagdad - Bagdad Community Club (Wastewater System)	200,000	2,266	197,734		
Bagdad - Bagdad Community Club (OAC Building - New electrical connection)	0	5,300	-5,300	Funded from cash trf - Bagdad CC Committee	
Bagdad - Bagdad Community Club (Installation of LED lights for Oval/Car Park)	0	2,400	-2,400	Funded from cash trf - Bagdad CC Committee	
Bagdad - Iden Road Park Development	75,000	0	75,000	Budget C/F	
Bagdad - Acquisition 1689 Midland Highway Bagdad	0	317,553	-317,553	Funding not allocated	
Campania - Flour Mill Park (Redevelopment)	68,000	0	68,000		
Campania - Hall (External Painting)	36,800	41,470	-4,670	WIP \$39,696	
Campania - Recreation Ground (Electronic Scoreboard)	47,875	50,165	-2,290	WIP \$48,043	
Campania - Recreation Ground (Landscaping & Tiered Seating)	270,000	202,198	67,802	Election Commitment - \$200K WIP \$374	30 June 2026
Campania - Recreation Ground (All abilities Car Parking)	26,750	11,744	15,006	Election Commitment - \$18K	30 June 2026
Campania - Recreation Ground (Upgrade Change rooms)	1,100,000	937,695	162,305	LGAT Open Space \$400K / SMC \$700K WIP	
Colebrook - Hall (Windows, Ramps, Double Doors)	10,000	0	10,000		
Kempton - Carriage Shed (External Repair & Repainting)	11,700	0	11,700		
Kempton - Recreation Ground (Site Dev) (Boundary Fence)	24,250	14,118	10,132	Budget c/f WIP \$14,118	
Kempton - Recreation Ground (Cricket Net, basket ball / pickle ball court)	80,000	100,721	-20,721	Active Tas - Election Commitment WIP \$2,886	30 June 2026
Melton Mowbray - Streetscape Works (Trough / Shelter etc)	90,000	109,652	-19,652	\$60K Budget C/F WIP \$85,022	
Oatlands - Aquatic Centre (Outdoor Area Seating)	4,000	2,057	1,943		
Oatlands - Aquatic Centre (Learn to Swim Equipment)	2,000	583	1,417		
Oatlands - Aquatic Centre (Gymnasium Equipment Upgrade)	1,955	1,047	908		
Oatlands - Aquatic Centre (Defibrillator)	1,995	1,995	0	Funded from Gym Equipment Budget	
Oatlands - Aquatic Centre (Baby Change Table)	1,050	1,050	0	Funded from Gym Equipment Budget	
Oatlands - Aquatic Centre (Female Change Rooms / Shower Cubicles)	10,000	0	10,000		
Oatlands - Aquatic Centre (Pump Replacement)	10,000	0	10,000		
Oatlands - Gay Street, Hall (Air Lock & Heating)	40,000	14,432	25,568	\$30K of Budget C/F WIP \$14,432	
Oatlands - Gay Street, Hall (Kitchen Floor Repairs / Underpinning)	8,000	0	8,000		
Oatlands - Midlands Community Centre (External Painting - Front of Building)	8,000	0	8,000	Budget C/F	
Oatlands - Old Swimming Pool (Staged demolition)	62,889	4,521	58,368	Balance Budget C/F	
Oatlands - Recreation Ground (Redevelopment)	0	175,721	-175,721	Subject to Funding WIP \$172,521	
Oatlands - Recreation Ground (Electronic Scoreboard)	55,145	50,535	4,610	AFL grant pending, OFC Contribution, SMC \$30K	
Oatlands - Recreation Ground (Irrigation Upgrade)	3,640	3,640	0	Funded from Facilities & Rec Committee Budget	
Parattah - Recreation Ground (Reglaze Windows)	2,724	2,724	0	Funded from Facilities & Rec Committee Budget	
Runnymede - Recreation Ground (Pitch Renewal)	8,000	8,258	-258		
Tunbridge - Tunbridge Park (Tree Planting)	2,802	2,802	0	Funded from Facilities & Rec Committee Budget	
Tunnack - Recreation Ground (Kiosk Removal)	8,000	0	8,000		
Tunnack - Recreation Ground (Toilet Block Painting)	4,000	0	4,000		
Woodsdale Recreation Ground	45,000	0	45,000	Budget C/F	
Water Bottle Refill Stations	7,980	0	7,980	Budget C/F	
	<b>2,539,389</b>	<b>2,711,656</b>	<b>-172,266</b>		
<b>FAMILIES</b>					
Kempton Childcare Centre	0	0	0	2026-27 Budget Item	
	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>		
<b>CAPACITY &amp; SUSTAINABILITY</b>					
Property Purchase - 9 Barrack Street, Oatlands (Police Residence)	73,248	50,009	23,238	Budget \$519,490 less \$446K spent in 22/23	
Portable Stage	15,884	17,370	-1,486	Council Decision, small grant & PRISM funding	

**CAPITAL EXPENDITURE PROGRAM 2025-26**  
**As at 30 April 2026**

		BUDGET \$	EXPENDITURE \$	BALANCE \$	COMMENTS	COMPLETION DEADLINE
		<b>89,132</b>	<b>67,379</b>	<b>21,752</b>		
<b>SAFETY</b>	Sale of Fire Sheds to Crown	0	2,126	-2,126	Expenses offset by income from sale	
		<b>0</b>	<b>2,126</b>	<b>-2,126</b>		
<b>ORGANISATION</b>						
<b>SUSTAINABILITY</b>	WIFI Equipment	7,000	0	7,000	Budget C/F	
	Council Website Upgrade	40,000	13,260	26,740	Budget C/F	
	Communications Link Upgrade	5,000	0	5,000		
	Computer / Network Upgrades	18,000	5,806	12,194		
	Oatlands - Various Buildings (Security Upgrades)	10,000	2,960	7,040	Budget Originally for Heritage Buildings	
	Oatlands - Town Hall (Office Furniture & Equipment)	7,500	0	7,500		
	Oatlands - Town Hall (Replacement Heat Pump)	5,500	7,700	-2,200		
	Oatlands - Town Hall (Toilet Upgrade / Air lock / Lift) Year 1 of 5 \$300K per annum	400,000	17,794	382,206	\$100K Budget C/F WIP \$8,437	
		<b>493,000</b>	<b>47,521</b>	<b>445,479</b>		
<b>WORKS</b>	Kempton - Works Depot (Toilet / Shower Upgrade)	30,000	0	30,000		
	Kempton - Works Depot (Security Cameras)	5,000	0	5,000		
	Oatlands - Works Depot (Sump Pump)	1,400	1,399	1	Budget from Minor Plant	
	Minor Plant Purchases	10,600	4,085	6,515		
	Radio System	5,000	220	4,780		
	<b>Plant Replacement Program</b>					
	Heavy Vehicles - Gross Amount	889,370	435,330	454,040		
	(Trade Allowance - \$254K)					
	Light Vehicles - Gross Amount	515,179	308,209	206,970		
	(Trade Allowance - \$299K)					
		<b>1,456,549</b>	<b>749,244</b>	<b>707,305</b>		
<b>GRAND TOTALS</b>		<b>9,571,379</b>	<b>6,539,596</b>	<b>3,031,783</b>		

<b>CASH FLOW</b> <b>2025/2026</b>	INFLOWS	INFLOWS	INFLOWS	INFLOWS	INFLOWS	INFLOWS	INFLOWS	INFLOWS	INFLOWS	INFLOWS	INFLOWS	INFLOWS	INFLOWS
	(OUTFLOWS)	(OUTFLOWS)	(OUTFLOWS)	(OUTFLOWS)	(OUTFLOWS)	(OUTFLOWS)	(OUTFLOWS)	(OUTFLOWS)	(OUTFLOWS)	(OUTFLOWS)	(OUTFLOWS)	(OUTFLOWS)	(OUTFLOWS)
	July 2025	Aug 2025	Sep 2025	Oct 2025	Nov 2025	Dec 2025	Jan 2026	Feb 2026	Mar 2026	Apr 2026	May 2026	Jun 2026	(Total 2025/26)
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>													
<b>Payments</b>													
Employee costs	(654,876)	(424,204)	(370,607)	(391,754)	(369,294)	(585,181)	(334,843)	(352,509)	(379,438)	(332,252)			(4,194,958)
Materials and contracts	(987,152)	(399,774)	(459,970)	(353,322)	(310,386)	(391,272)	(267,707)	(406,616)	(311,398)	(306,858)			(4,194,454)
Interest	(2,223)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			(2,223)
Other	(28,004)	(82,892)	(68,686)	(161,851)	(55,689)	(119,697)	(79,937)	(36,570)	(80,010)	(116,156)			(829,493)
	(1,672,254)	(906,870)	(899,264)	(906,927)	(735,369)	(1,096,150)	(682,487)	(795,694)	(770,846)	(755,266)	0	0	(9,221,129)
<b>Receipts</b>													
Rates	722,648	431,037	2,387,961	589,319	921,681	321,995	812,600	292,190	920,517	328,525			7,728,474
User charges	1,376,627	109,039	268,268	172,447	110,902	142,440	501,484	81,729	128,790	135,148			3,026,875
Interest received	33,066	36,362	50,568	34,958	21,740	38,895	40,575	65,248	35,106	30,720			387,238
Subsidies	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			0
Operating Grants	0	603,391	5,335	0	603,391	0	0	603,391	0	0			1,815,508
Other	70,371	159,430	49,262	53,844	23,639	39,782	145	19,514	46,453	4,309			466,750
	2,202,712	1,339,260	2,761,394	850,568	1,681,354	543,112	1,354,805	1,062,072	1,130,866	498,702	0	0	13,424,845
<b>Net cash from operating activities</b>	<b>530,458</b>	<b>432,390</b>	<b>1,862,130</b>	<b>(56,360)</b>	<b>945,985</b>	<b>(553,038)</b>	<b>672,318</b>	<b>266,378</b>	<b>360,020</b>	<b>(256,564)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4,203,717</b>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>													
Payments for property, plant & equipment	(197,080)	(549,583)	(616,036)	(368,073)	(512,545)	(943,380)	(181,300)	(535,391)	(417,268)	(334,377)			(4,655,034)
Proceeds from sale of property, plant & equipment	32,932	35,131	0	164,541	24,545	13,073	0	1	0	23,762			293,985
Proceeds from Capital grants	0	0	0	0	14,410	1,689,591	1,425	14,310	0	28,365			1,748,101
Proceeds from Investments	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			0
Payment for Investments	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			0
<b>Net cash used in investing activities</b>	<b>(164,148)</b>	<b>(514,453)</b>	<b>(616,036)</b>	<b>(203,532)</b>	<b>(473,590)</b>	<b>759,284</b>	<b>(179,875)</b>	<b>(521,080)</b>	<b>(417,268)</b>	<b>(282,249)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(2,612,947)</b>
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>													
Repayment of borrowings	(109,510)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			(109,510)
Proceeds from borrowings	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			0
<b>Net cash from (used in) financing activities</b>	<b>(109,510)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(109,510)</b>
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held	256,800	(82,063)	1,246,095	(259,891)	472,395	206,246	492,443	(254,702)	(57,248)	(538,814)	0	0	1,481,260
Cash at beginning of reporting month	11,895,902	12,152,702	12,070,639	13,316,734	13,056,842	13,529,237	13,735,483	14,227,926	13,973,224	13,915,976	0	0	11,895,902
<b>Cash at end of reporting period</b>	<b>12,152,702</b>	<b>12,070,639</b>	<b>13,316,734</b>	<b>13,056,842</b>	<b>13,529,237</b>	<b>13,735,483</b>	<b>14,227,926</b>	<b>13,973,224</b>	<b>13,915,976</b>	<b>13,377,162</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>13,377,162</b>

**18. MUNICIPAL SEAL**

Nil.

**19. CONSIDERATION OF SUPPLEMENTARY ITEMS TO THE  
AGENDA**

**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT in accordance with Regulation 17 (1) of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025*, the following items are to be dealt with in Closed Session.**

<b>Matter</b>	<b>Local Government (<i>Meeting Procedures</i>) Regulations 2025 Reference</b>
<i>Closed Council Minutes - Confirmation</i>	17(2)
<i>Applications for Leave of Absence</i>	17(2)(i)
<i>Woodsdale Recreation Ground – Transfer of Ownership</i>	17(2)(g)
<i>Councillor Question Time – Question on Notice</i>	17(2)(h)(i)
<i>Bagdad Community Precinct – Bagdad Golf Club Inc. New Lease</i>	17(2)(f)(ii)
<i>Dept of Education, Children and Young People – Lease of Kempton Community Health Centre</i>	17(2)(f)(ii)
<i>Kempton Child Care Centre (previously Kempton Community Health Centre)</i>	17(2)(f)(ii)
<i>W Wilkinson – 29 Lowe Street, Tunbridge – Request for Remission</i>	17(2)(h)(i)

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

**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT in accordance with Regulation 17(2) of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025*, Council move into Closed Session and the meeting be closed to members of the public.**

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

## **CLOSED COUNCIL AGENDA**

### **20. BUSINESS IN “CLOSED SESSION”**

#### **20.1 Closed Council Minutes - Confirmation**

*In accordance with the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025, 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 17(2) of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025.*

#### **20.2 Applications for Leave of Absence**

*In accordance with the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025, 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 17(2)(i) of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025.*

#### **20.3 Woodsdale Recreation Ground – Transfer of Ownership to Woodsdale Recreation & Community Hub Inc. – Final Settlement**

*In accordance with the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025, 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 17(2)(g) of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025.*

#### **20.4 Councillors Question Time – Question On Notice**

*In accordance with the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025, 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 17(2)(h)(i) of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025.*

#### **20.5 Bagdad Community Precinct – Bagdad Golf Club Inc. (New Lease)**

*In accordance with the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025, 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 17(2)(f)(ii) of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025.*

**20.6 Department for Education, Children and Young People – Lease of Kempton Community Health Centre Conversion to Child Care Centre (Including ‘Before & After School Care Program’ Facility)**

*In accordance with the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025, 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 17(2)(f)(ii) of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025.*

**20.7 Kempton Child Care Centre (ex Community Health Centre) – Sub Lease Southern Midlands Council to Kidbiz Pty Ltd as trustee for Bennett Family Trust (ABN 56 406 689 682)**

*In accordance with the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025, 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 17(2)(f)(ii) of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025.*

**20.8 W Wilkinson – 29 Lowe Street, Tunbridge – Request for Remission (or part remission) of Subdivision Development Application Fees**

*In accordance with the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025, 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 17(2)(h)(i) of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025.*

**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT Council move out of “Closed Session”.**

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

## OPEN COUNCIL AGENDA

### 21. CLOSURE