

SOUTHERN
MIDLANDS
COUNCIL



MINUTES

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday, 23rd September 2026
10.00 a.m.

Kempton Municipal Offices
85 Main Street, Kempton

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OPEN COUNCIL MINUTES

MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF THE SOUTHERN MIDLANDS COUNCIL HELD WEDNESDAY 23rd SEPTEMBER 2026 AT THE KEMPTON MUNICIPAL OFFICES, 85 HIGH STREET, KEMPTON, COMMENCING AT 10.00 A.M.

In accordance with Regulation 8 of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025*, Mayor Batt advised 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 recited prayers.

2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Mayor E Batt recited Acknowledgement of Country.

3. ATTENDANCE

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

Mr T Kirkwood (General Manager), Mr A Benson (Deputy General Manager & Director Community & Development Services), Mr D Richardson (Director Assets), Mr G Finn (Manager Development & Environmental Services), Mrs A Burbury (Manager Finance), Ms W Brown (Manager Community & Corporate Development) and Ms J Crosswell (Executive Assistant).

4. APOLOGIES

Nil.

5. MINUTES

5.1 Ordinary Council Meeting

The Minutes (Open Council Minutes) of the previous meeting of Council held on 26 August 2026, as circulated, are submitted for confirmation.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Minutes (Open Council Minutes) of the Council Meeting held 26 August 2026 be confirmed with the following amendment:

Item 16.1.1 – Southern Midlands Council – Community Small Grants Program 2026

Based on the recommendations from the Facilities & Recreation Committee, the recommended grants for approval should have included a grant of \$2,500 to the Oatlands Community Association for the installation of new carpet in the conference room.

The supporting working papers provided by the Committee include this recommended grant allocation, however it was omitted in error from the recommendation provided to Council and the subsequent decision.

The decision should therefore be amended to include a grant allocation of \$2,500 payable to the Oatlands Community Association for the installation of new carpet in the conference room.

AMENDED DECISION

DECISION

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

THAT based on the recommendations from the Facilities & Recreation Committee, the financial allocations for the Southern Midlands Council Community Small Grants Program 2026 be awarded in scored priority to the following organisations be approved.

Bagdad Cricket Club Inc	
For New Cricket Wicket at Bagdad	\$ 3,000.00
Campania Football Club Inc.	
Storage Room Security & Upgrades	\$2,000.00
Levendale & Woodsdale History Rooms Inc.	
Air-conditioning Equipment	\$ 646.00
Midlands Swim Club	
Equipment.	\$ 1,800.00
Oatlands Ex-Service & Community Club Inc.	
Glass Door Upright Fridge.	\$ 3,000.00

Oatlands Community Association	
New Carpet in Conference Room	\$2,500.00
Midlands Pickle Ball Group.	
Pickle Ball bats, balls and nets.	\$ 1,990.00
Runnymede Cricket Club Inc.	
Security Door.	\$ 3,000.00
St Marys Community Cemetery Kempton Inc.	
Heritage Repairs.	\$ 2,990.00
Tunnack Community Club Inc.	
Toilet facilities upgrade.	\$ 2,950.00
Tunnack Hall & Progress Assn Inc.	
Kitchen Upgrade	\$ 2,500.00
Wine South Inc.	
Event Signage	\$ 498.00
CARRIED	

DECISION

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

THAT the Minutes (Open Council Minutes) of the Council Meeting held 26 August 2026 be confirmed, including the amendment to the above decision.

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

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:

- Campania Cemetery Management Committee - Meeting held 4 September 2026
- Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary Management Committee – Meeting held 24 August 2026

RECOMMENDATION

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

DECISION

Moved by Cllr B Campbell, seconded by Cllr D Blackwell

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

CARRIED

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

5.2.2 Special Committee of Council - Endorsement of Recommendations

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

- Campania Cemetery Management Committee - Meeting held 4 September 2026
- Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary Management Committee – Meeting held 24 August 2026

RECOMMENDATION

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

DECISION

Moved by Cllr D Blackwell, seconded by Cllr B Campbell

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

CARRIED

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

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)

Nil.

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 14 September 2026 at the Council Chambers, Oatlands commencing at 9.30 a.m.

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

Also in Attendance: A Benson, D Richardson and J Crosswell, W Young, G Finn, B Conde, N Wilson

Apologies: T Kirkwood, Cllrs B Campbell and F Miller.

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

1. Caretaker Period for Councillors

Councillors were reminded that the 'Election Caretaker Policy' has now come into effect. Council is required to be mindful of the provisions of the Policy that apply during the Caretaker period. The Caretaker Period will remain in effect through to the close of polls. Councillors are encouraged to familiarise themselves with the Policy and ensure that its requirements are observed during this period.

2. Planning Compliance Matter – Oatlands

Manager Development & Environmental Services (Grant Finn) and Senior Planning Officer (Bernadette Conde) attended the workshop to brief Council on issues relating to a property at Oatlands and the possible breach of the planning permit.

Council officers continue to work with the owner of the property to facilitate a potential outcome.

3. Works Program – Issue for Discussion

Director Assets (David Richardson) provided comment in relation to the following matters:

- a) Huntington Tier Road – removal of significant trees. A report has been received from Scott Rollins Tree Risk Assessment Services which has inspected two veteran Eucalyptus trees in Huntington Tier Road, Dysart. The report shows these trees are in declining condition and for the safety of residents and road users should be removed. Consultation will be arranged for nearby residents.
- b) High Street, Oatlands – proposal to advance Streetscape Plan. Footpath design has been raised as an ongoing issue in Oatlands, particularly due to safety concerns with uneven pavement causing tripping hazards. Differing opinions on materials to use for

new pavement but a popular suggestion is to replicate what was used in recent upgrades to Campbell Street, Oatlands.

- c) Main Street, Kempton – Footpath Renewal. Discussion regarding northern entrance to Kempton and proposed upgrades.
- d) Wellington Street, Oatlands – Car Parking issue in the vicinity of Oatlands District High School where concerns have been raised regarding safety in Wellington Street and the amount of vehicles in the area during peak times. Discussions with Todd Williams from the Department for Education, Children and Young People and School Principal Denise Bryant who agree a separate staff car park is required which will free up parking for parents in drop off and pick up zones.

4. Service Tasmania – Change Proposal

Advice received from the Acting Director of Service Tasmania, Community and Government Services, indicates that the State Government will be initiating a community consultation process regarding proposed changes to the Service Tasmania operation (shopfront) at Oatlands. The Manager Administration & ICT Services (Nick Wilson) attended the workshop and advised council that the planned changes include reducing the hours of Service Tasmania in Oatlands from 25 to 20 hours per week. A decision to be made whether to reduce daily hours to 4 hours a day, 5 days per week, or 5 hours a day 4 days per week.

An online survey being shared on social media requesting feedback on potential changes and it is expected that further information regarding the proposed changes and consultation process will be announced early next week.

5. Oatlands District High School – Prep / Grade 1 Visit

Students from Oatlands District High School attended the workshop to discuss waste and recycling. Students asked various questions and played games that encouraged them to think about what items go to landfill and what can be recycled.

6. Local Government Amendment (Targeted Reform) Act 2026

Following the Act's recent passage by the Tasmanian Parliament, a number of provisions commenced on 1 September by proclamation by the Governor. Whilst a number of the amendments just provided a head of power, with further Orders relating to implementation will follow in 2027, the following have an immediate effect:

- Expanding the circumstances in which a performance improvement direction may be recommended to include a failure to comply with statutory requirements – no need to take any action at present (to brief new Council)
- Provisions for the appointment of temporary advisors - no need to take any action at present (to brief new Council)
- Remote Meetings – refer amendment section of the Act
- Councillor allowances and number reforms – in terms of Councillor numbers, no change for SMC, but the new allowances will take affect from 1 November 2026

7. October Ordinary Council Meeting – Possible change of date

Due to the Local Government Election polling period closing Tuesday 27 October 2026, it was decided to change the Council meeting (scheduled for the 28 October 2026) and move it a week earlier to 21 October 2026.

The main issue in changing the date would be ensuring the public are aware of the changes but this can be rectified by publication in the Mercury and Southern Midlands Regional News (and also on social media).

The workshop concluded at approximately 11.50 a.m.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the information be received.

DECISION

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

THAT the information be received.

CARRIED

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

7. COUNCILLORS – QUESTION TIME

7.1 Questions (On Notice)

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.*

Nil.

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.

Clr A E Bisdee OAM – Erskine Street, Kempton – Cemetery Property – questioned the current status of the property.

General Manager confirmed that site investigations have concluded; subdivision survey plan prepared; and Brad William’s progressing the formal closure of the cemetery in accordance with the Burial and Cremation Act 2019.

Clr B Campbell – raised a number of questions / issues - including:

1. Fire Danger period approaching – are there sufficient machinery resources (i.e. bulldozers and water tankers) available?

2. Cumbungi has been appearing in Tunbridge, Andover and some other areas – what measures are being taken to eradicate?

Question taken on notice – to advise Weeds Officer.

3. Queried why properties without a dwelling are being charged for waste collection?

General Manager – This should not be the case, possibly the charge has been mistaken for the waste management charge.

4. Medical Centre at Campania – can this idea be incorporated in the Strategic Plan?

Noted.

5. Ex Levendale Primary School – now privately owned. Apparently plaques have been removed and whereabouts are unknown.

To be investigated.

6. Building (Property adjoining Tunbridge Park – southern side) – dilapidated building – what is planned?

General Manager – this is privately owned but fencing has been installed recently to separate the building from the park. Council have been in discussion with property owner.

Clr F Miller – any updates on the Telstra upgrades at Oatlands and Colebrook?

General Manager – Telstra have started upgrades in Oatlands but no update on Colebrook as yet. Will discuss with Telstra representative.

Clr D Blackwell – Update on the fires at Colebrook?

General Manager – No further information available.

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*.

Nil.

9. CONSIDERATION OF SUPPLEMENTARY ITEMS TO THE AGENDA

In accordance with the requirements of Part 2 Regulation 8 (6) of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 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.

Nil.

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, no questions on notice had been received from the public.

Mayor E Batt invited questions from other members of the public in attendance.

The following questions were asked by Julia Jabour – Southern Midlands Regional News

1. Queenstown has just stepped up to oppose the governments scaling back of Service Tasmania services. Is SMC prepared to do the same for Oatlands?

It is confirmed that Mayor Batt wrote to the Premier of Tasmania on 14 September 2026, the day after it was announced that changes were being proposed for the Service Tasmania office at Oatlands.

The Mayor's letter urged the State Government not to proceed with any plans to reduce the level of service currently available to the residents of our municipality. He noted that Oatlands is a growing town with a sound base of surrounding economic development, particularly in agriculture, tourism and whisky production.

The Mayor also raised concern that Oatlands appeared to have been categorised as a "remote location", alongside Queenstown, Whitemark and Currie. He pointed out that, if remoteness is to be a factor in determining whether services should be reduced, Oatlands is not geographically remote.

In addition to opposing the proposed reduction in operating hours, the Mayor requested any data or evidence that could be made available to support the proposal to reduce the number of service hours significantly below those currently provided.

The Premier responded to the Mayor by letter dated 22 September 2026.

2. What is required to get a disabled parking space outside the Midlands Memorial Community Centre, 68 High Street?

The provision of a dedicated disabled parking space is not straightforward as there are a number of factors that need to be taken into account, including the loss of a standard parking space (possibly 2) and the requirements for safe and accessible access.

The attached diagram provides an indication of the space and what infrastructure required, including:

- *A parking bay 2.4 metres wide;*
- *A parking bay 5.4 metres long;*
- *An additional 1.2 metre wide area to allow users to connect to a continuous accessible path of travel*
- *Protected from vehicle routes, which given the proposed location, would be particularly challenging due to the close proximity of High Street; and*
- *Vertical signage mounted at a height of 1.0 to 1.5 metres high to ensure adequate visibility.*

For these reasons, the existing disabled parking provision within the Aquatic Centre car park remains the preferred solution. It provides a more practical location that can accommodate the relevant accessibility requirements while avoiding the additional challenges associated with establishing a compliance space on High Street.

3. What is the latest information about the motel proposal?

In summary, Council has granted an extension of time in relation to the Development and Sale Agreement with THN Hospitality Pty Ltd (as the preferred proponent) for the Oatlands Boutique Accommodation development. Council has also reaffirmed its commitment to a package of development incentives intended to support the delivery of the project and assist in achieving Council's strategic objectives for the site.

BACKGROUND

In July 2021, Council determined that THN Hospitality Pty Ltd (THN Hospitality) would be the preferred proponent for the Oatlands Boutique Hotel Development Opportunity. This determination followed an extensive Expressions of Interest process undertaken by Council to identify a suitable proponent for the development.

Following the appointment of THN Hospitality as the preferred proponent, Council and THN Hospitality proceeded to negotiate a Development and Sale Agreement which was subsequently executed by the parties and became effective on 15 June 2022.

The Agreement contains a number of obligations, milestones and timeframes relating to the progression of the development. The parties acknowledge that these requirements have not been met within the agreed timelines for a number of reasons, some of which are outside the control of either party.

Council has therefore granted an extension of time to allow the project to continue progressing in accordance with the objectives of the Agreement. Progress will be monitored over the next nine months and reviewed at that time.

During this period, THN Hospitality will continue to review the building design (with the aim of reducing the overall capital cost); revise the associated business plan; work through the various challenges that have arisen during the development process, including the significant increase in construction costs; and investigate the availability of other support, including potential government assistance.

4. The two new shower cubicles in the Female change rooms at the pool are welcomed, but I have been tasked with asking Council if the water taps in these two new cubicles can be changed to a handle rather than a knob that you turn. It seems that people with arthritic hands, or mums holding babies, are finding the knobs impossible to use. The preferred tap I am referring to is the one in the existing shower cubicle.

This feedback has also been received and Council will action accordingly.

Stephen Booker – is there the possibility for remedial works on the pavement in High Street, Oatlands to fix trip hazards?

General Manager – Council will continue their inspection program to identify high risk areas, but long term replacement is preferable.

Stephen Booker – Lack of seating in High Street, Oatlands.

General Manager – part of street scape development will include seating. Style of seating to be decided on.

Stephen Booker – Speeding in High Street, Oatlands – is there the option of traffic calming measures?

General Manager – will notify local police of concern raised.

Julia Jabour – Southern Midlands Regional News – had the following questions:

1. Query for Councillor Miller via third party: If elected as Mayor or councillor, are you going to make a fourth attempt to close the public road at the rear of Craighourne Dam?

Clr F Miller – Not appropriate to answer but if they would like to contact directly they are welcome.

2. Tas Petroleum - 20 Interlaken Road - Update?

Manager Development and Environmental Services advised that Council does not have an active involvement in the current proceedings but there is a further directions hearing scheduled for Thursday 24 September 2026.

3. Update on the Youth Justice Facility

Manager Development and Environmental Services advised he has recently had discussions with Councils solicitor and they do not expect a decision before December 2026. Tenders have been released for the construction which is expected to begin this year

4. Has the recently appointed Junior Mayor been involved in any council activities?

Manager Community & Corporate Development advised that the Junior Mayor assisted council staff at the Southern Midlands Council stall at the career expo held recently at Oatlands District High School. Has not attended any other official engagements as yet but more to come in future.

DECISION

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

THAT Council break for morning tea at 10.50 a.m.

CARRIED

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

DECISION

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

THAT Council reconvene at 11.11 a.m.

CARRIED

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

10.1 Permission to Address Council

Nil.

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

Nil.

12.2 Subdivisions

Nil.

12.3 Municipal Seal (Planning Authority)

Nil.

12.4 Planning (Other)

Nil.

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

13. OPERATIONAL MATTERS ARISING (STRATEGIC THEME – INFRASTRUCTURE)

13.1 Roads

Strategic Plan Reference 1.1

1.1.1 Maintenance and improvement of the standard and safety of roads in the municipal area.

13.1.1 Oatlands District High School Parking (Wellington Street, Oatlands)

Author: DIRECTOR ASSETS (DAVID RICHARDSON)

Date: 20 SEPTEMBER 2026

ISSUE

Council has received a number of complaints and concerns from the Oatlands community regarding traffic congestion in Wellington Street, Oatlands, particularly during weekday school pick-up and drop-off times.

Similar concerns have also been raised by local school bus operators, who have reported difficulties navigating Wellington Street during these peak periods.

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's support for a contribution of approximately \$12,000 towards the construction of a dedicated staff car park at Oatlands School.

The proposed project represents a partnership between Council and the Tasmanian Department of Education to improve parking arrangements associated with the school and reduce the impact of congestion on Wellington Street during pick up and drop off times.

DETAIL

Oatlands School is located in an area where available off-street parking is limited. As a result, school staff currently utilise roadside parking along Wellington Street.

The concentration of staff vehicles along the roadside, particularly during school drop-off and pick-up periods, contributes to congestion and can create difficulties for the movement of vehicles and pedestrians in the area.

The Department of Education and council has identified an opportunity to construct a dedicated staff car park at the school to provide additional off-street parking.

The Department has committed approximately \$32,000 towards the project and has requested Council's consideration of a contribution of approximately \$12,000 to undertake the site works and supply appropriate gravel material to assist with the construction costs.

The benefits of this proposal have the potential to save Council from having to undertake further engineering solutions to address the existing parking issues along Wellington Street. This could avoid the need to install additional off-street parking bays and construct new kerb and guttering throughout Wellington Street.

The project would provide dedicated off-street parking for school staff, allowing staff vehicles to be removed from Wellington Street.

The proposed funding arrangement is:

Contributor	Approximate Contribution
Tasmanian Department of Education	\$32,000
Council	\$12,000
Total Project Funding	\$44,000

The final scope and cost of the works would be confirmed between Council and the Department of Education prior to commencement.

Human Resources & Financial Implications –

\$12,000 be allocated to Capital Works Funding

Community Consultation & Public Relations Implications

Council officers and the education department have met on site and agreed on the proposal.

Policy Implications – N/A

Priority - Implementation Time Frame – October-November 2026

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council:

- 1. Supports a contribution of approximately \$12,000 towards the construction of a dedicated staff car park at Oatlands School.**
- 2. Notes that the Tasmanian Department of Education is contributing approximately \$32,000 towards the project.**
- 3. Authorises councils Director Assets, to finalise arrangements with the Department of Education regarding the Council contribution and delivery of the works.**
- 4. Notes that the proposed car park will provide dedicated off-street parking for school staff, reducing the number of staff vehicles parking along the Wellington Street roadside and assisting to alleviate traffic congestion and improve road safety in the vicinity of Oatlands School.**

DECISION

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

THAT Council:

1. Supports an 'in-kind' contribution of approximately \$12,000 towards the construction of a dedicated staff car park at Oatlands School.
2. Notes that the Tasmanian Department of Education is contributing approximately \$32,000 towards the project.
3. Authorises councils Director Assets, to finalise arrangements with the Department of Education regarding the Council contribution and delivery of the works.
4. Notes that the proposed car park will provide dedicated off-street parking for school staff, reducing the number of staff vehicles parking along the Wellington Street roadside and assisting to alleviate traffic congestion and improve road safety in the vicinity of Oatlands School

CARRIED

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

13.2 Bridges

Strategic Plan Reference 1.2

1.2.1 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

1.3.1 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

1.4.1a Ensure adequate lighting based on demonstrated need

Nil.

13.5 Buildings

Strategic Plan Reference 1.5

1.5.1 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

1.6.1 Increase the capacity of access to reticulated sewerage services

1.6.2 Increase the capacity and ability to access water to satisfy development and Community to have access to reticulated water

1.6.3 Increase the capacity of access to reticulated energy services.

Nil.

13.7 Drainage

Strategic Plan Reference 1.7

1.7.1 Maintenance and improvement of the town storm-water drainage systems.

Nil.

13.8 Waste

Strategic Plan Reference 1.8

<i>1.8.1 Maintenance and improvement of the provision of waste management services to the Community.</i>
--

Nil.

13.9 Information, Communication Technology

Strategic Plan Reference 1.9

<i>1.9.1 Improve access to modern communications infrastructure.</i>
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Nil.

13.10 Officer Reports – Assets

13.10.1 Assets Report

Author: DIRECTOR OF ASSETS (DAVID RICHARDSON)

Date: 20 SEPTEMBER 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 have been completed where required on various roads.
5. **Gravel** production has been completed at Stonehenge Quarry.

Current Capital Works

1. **Commenced road site preparation works** on road stabilization sites.
2. **Road re-sealing and Stabilisation** Tenders are currently advertised.
3. **Kempton Childcare facility:** Works have been completed.

Parks and Reserves

1. **Recreation Grounds, Parks & Playgrounds:** Regular maintenance continues on recreation grounds, parks, and playgrounds as required including top-dressing of ovals.
2. **Scheduled Playground Inspections:** Inspections are being carried out to ensure compliance with safety and quality standards.
3. **Lake Dulverton Walkway** (Oatlands to Parattah) has been re-sheeted and made safer for users.

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 reconstruction works on 2 bridges.

Building Services Unit

1. **Council Building Maintenance:** Ongoing maintenance works have been carried out on various council buildings and will continue.
2. **Ceiling Repair at Roche Hall:** Repair works are in progress and will continue as resources allow.
3. **Kempton Childcare facility:** Works have been completed.
4. **Works on Gay Street Hall Oatlands** kitchen and flooring renovations have been completed.

Planned Works

1. **Road Maintenance:**
 - Drainage and pavement repairs on various roads.
 - Edge break repairs across various roads.
 - Guidepost and signage replacement will continue as resources allow.
2. **Bridge Maintenance:** Ongoing and planned bridge maintenance repairs.
3. **Building Maintenance:** Continued maintenance on various council buildings.
4. **Road Re-Sheeting Works** will continue on roads that have been identified as requiring gravel.
5. **Signage instillation** to comply with a recent Tas-Rail audit is underway at level crossings throughout the municipality.
6. **Oatlands Aquatic Centre** Complete shower renovations.

Re-Allocation of Footpath Funding Kempton Main Road:

Council has received enquiries regarding the missing section of footpath, which is currently gravel, at the northern end of Kempton where the recently completed Mood Food walkway commences at Burnett Street.

The Director Assets proposes to utilise a portion of the funding allocated in the 2025/26 Capital Works Budget to widen the existing concrete paths at the southern end of Main Road, Kempton. This funding would enable the missing section of footpath to be infilled, providing a continuous pedestrian connection through Kempton and improving accessibility and pedestrian safety.



Kempton proposed footpath upgrade area

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE TO THE DIRECTOR ASSETS

Deputy Mayor K Dudgeon – Commended the works team on upgrades to the walking track at Parrattah. The Deputy Mayor also complimented the standard of work done at the new child care centre at Kempton.

Mayor E Batt – Horseys Road, Dysart – is there the potential to apply a dust suppressant on this road given the increase in residences in the area.

Director Assets – taken on notice and to assess in accordance with Council's Dust Suppressant Policy.

Clr B Campbell – Tunbridge – side of footpath there is a lip – need to backfill?

Director Assets – to inspect and take appropriate action.

Clr B Campbell – Eldon Road and Inglewood Road - Hooning and anti-social behaviour.

Director Assets – relay comments to Tasmania Police.

Clr B Campbell – Unsecured loads in Oatlands when residents are heading to the waste transfer station.

Director Assets – relay comments to Tasmania Police.

Mayor E Batt - Blackbrush Road (towards the junction) – Drainage issue and a hole in pavement needs repairing.

Director Assets – to inspect and take appropriate action.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Assets Report be received and the information noted.

DECISION

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

THAT the Assets Report be received and the information noted.

CARRIED

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

14. OPERATIONAL MATTERS ARISING (STRATEGIC THEME – GROWTH)

14.1 Residential

Strategic Plan Reference 2.1

2.1.1 Increase the resident, rate-paying population in the municipality.

Nil.

14.2 Tourism

Strategic Plan Reference 2.2

2.2.1 Increase the number of tourists visiting and spending money in the municipality.

Nil.

14.3 Business

Strategic Plan Reference 2.3

2.3.1a Increase the number and diversity of businesses in the Southern Midlands

2.3.1b Increase employment within the municipality

2.3.1c Increase Council revenue to facilitate business and development activities (social enterprise).

Nil.

14.4 Industry

Strategic Plan Reference 2.4

2.4.1 Retain and enhance the development of the rural sector as a key economic driver in the Southern Midlands

2.4.2 Increase access to irrigation water within the municipality.

Nil.

15. OPERATIONAL MATTERS ARISING (STRATEGIC THEME – LANDSCAPES)

15.1 Heritage

Strategic Plan Reference – Page 22

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

15.1.1 Heritage Project Program Report

Author: MANAGER HERITAGE PROJECTS AND SERVICES (BRAD WILLIAMS)

Date: 16 SEPTEMBER 2026

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

- Planning and execution of the History of Colour Symposium, with all seats sold out and proceeds of \$1,400 donated to the MMPHC Auxilliary;
- Initial consultation with DUO Design for measured drawings of Eddington's Cottage Bagdad;
- Completion of interps panel for Sgt Lewis at Bagdad, to be installed soon;
- Ongoing engagement and participation with the Heritage Highway Tourism Association;
- Discussion with HHRTA re next history excursion, possibly Oatlands to Parattah;
- Ongoing management of AiRSpace and planning for Performing Artist in Residence (PRISM).

RECOMMENDATION

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

DECISION

Moved by Clr D Fish, seconded by Clr B Campbell

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

CARRIED

DECISION		
Councillor	Vote FOR	Vote AGAINST
Mayor E Batt	✓	
Deputy Mayor K Dudgeon	✓	
Clr A E Bisdee OAM	✓	
Clr D Blackwell	✓	
Clr B Campbell	✓	
Clr 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: 15 SEPTEMBER 2026

DETAIL

- Lake Dulverton – At the August Council meeting Council endorsed the recommendation to cease adding supplementary water to the 51 Hectare area of the Lake, thereby allowing this area to go through a natural dry cycle. This result of this will benefit the Lake environment as a method of managing the *Myriophyllum salicifolium* (water milfoil plant). This is the plant that is now dominating this area of Lake water area and causing water quality issues in this section (the larger area beside the town). Two community drop in information sessions were held (Monday 31st August, 3.30 – 7.30 p.m and Monday 7 September – 3.30-5.30 p.m.). There was around 20 members of the public attended to gain a better understanding of the Lake and the background behind the course of action. Parks & Wildlife and Inland Fisheries representatives were present to assist with queries for the August session. The water area beside High Street (2.2Ha area) will be retained, with water continuing to be added from supplementary sources.
- Kempton Recreation Ground – As previously mentioned, the playground will be moved to be at a site closer to the toilet block and the other recreation items that exist within that vicinity. Following a meeting on site, an overall plan is now being drafted by a recreation area and playground design specialist, to ensure that the new playground will integrate with other proposed elements such as seating, shelter, future play items area, future BBQ area, linkage paths etc.
- Helen, Mary and Maria, along with some other members of staff undertook and passed a Short Term Low Impact Traffic Management Course. This qualification is required for the NRM Unit staff as a person who is working on a roadside verge on a number of occasions.
- Helen is continuing assisting the Works Department in developing policies and procedures in relation to Workplace Health and Safety.
- Maria spent time compiling a report for a section of the 2025/2026 Southern Midlands Council Annual Report document.

Weeds Officer Report, Mary Smyth

17th August – 14th September 2026

Enquiries/feedback

Whilst out on a dusk walk around the block at home, I ran in to a local landowner chatting with my neighbour. This particular landowner was one of two that I had reached out to months ago seeking permission to release the boxthorn biocontrol agent on their land. It was interesting to hear that he wasn't keen to take up the offer because boxthorn acts as a good shelter plant for his livestock. I explained that the rust fungus would not eradicate

boxthorn, only suppress seed production. I also explained that it's taken over 10 years of research to get to this stage, most of which is undertaken to prove that the bio-control agent will only survive on boxthorn and not anything else. I have a couple of other sites earmarked for rust fungus release in Tunbridge...

On another location, out at Levendale, Helen and I met the new owners of the old Levendale Primary School. They had received information about Spanish heath being on their land, but suggested that it would be worth also including a photo or two of declared weeds to aid identification (they came from interstate and were completely unaware of Spanish heath). An excellent idea which I will explore this month.

Had a phone call from a resident who recognised the many clumps of light green seedlings coming up on the edges of the Midlands Highway as medicinal opium poppy plants. I had also noticed the seedlings but was waiting for them to flower before attempting accurate identification. I managed to find a couple of more mature plants, take some photos, and report everything to the Regulated Crops section of Natural Resources and Environment. They were prompt in their reply, they know about the plants, and control has begun. I relayed all this back to the original caller and thanked her for getting in touch.

Site visits

Spanish heath observation and mapping field work continues when possible. Three more small roadside patches on Woodsdale Road were found last time. Isolated Great mullein plants are dug out when found.

Attended the inaugural native seedling planting bee at a property near Oatlands on 4th September. I instructed the owners, a group of students from Cressy Area School, and other adults in attendance on the nuances of planting tubestock locally. Around 200 plants were put in the ground, watered and tree guarded.

Called in to Dysart tip to do a circuit of the verges along the roads to eradicate thistles, mullein, hemlock and Patterson's curse. Interestingly, there was no PC on the spot where I've found it previously (on the sloping verge on the inside of the "off" road) but there were 3 separate small patches on the verge near the drum muster area.

A rare calm day precipitated some targeted control of scotch thistles on the Lake Dulverton bunds. Nearly 2000 plants will not be maturing to produce seed, annoy visitors, or impede waterfowl.

Later that same day, I was finally able to complete the twitch control of the western row at the Pound in Oatlands. The next day I was able to come back to the Pound and water all the new seedlings in Rows 1, 3 and 4.

Whilst collecting weeds from various sites around the district for the Chauncy Vale stall on 12th September, I discovered a new-to-Southern-Midlands weed growing on a small patch of roadside near Andover Road: Field marigold (*Calendula arvensis*). This has not been recorded anywhere in central Tasmania, so it will be photographed, recorded, uploaded onto iNaturalist, and then exterminated!

Some maintenance work also carried out by the NRM team at the Kempton Rec Ground mounds: the last three seedling replacements were put in, all newer plants were weeded and watered inside their tree guards, and all newer plants were sprayed outside the tree guards to remove weed competition over summer. 27 small boxthorn seedlings were also removed.

Communication

I have received 3 small vials of the boxthorn biocontrol rust fungus from the CSIRO and this will be released at 3 separate locations in Oatlands and Tunbridge in late September. First draft of Weeds section of the Annual Report has been completed.

Article published in Southern Midlands Regional News on what it looks like at the very start of weeds establishing at various sites.

Submitted an illustrated article to the Ratepayers Newsletter on getting ahead with broad-leaf weed controls in the garden (and paddock).

Research

Heard about a new herbicide for woody weeds, Method 240SL. The active ingredient was one I had not heard of, but Method is the same class as our current woody weed herbicide, is more troublesome to use, and also kills grasses, so we won't be trying this one at the moment.

Weeds Action Fund (WAF) Stage 3 – stemless thistle

Some correspondence with Enviro-dynamics regarding changing the required public info session to more on-ground work instead. This has been approved!

Weeds Action Fund (WAF) – invasive perennial grasses: southern and eastern Tasmania

No activity this month.

Chauncy Vale weeds

Visited the area above Eve's Bath with Helen on the morning of the 18th August to control Slender thistle seedlings, but the seedlings were very small. Follow-up in a few weeks will mean the thistles are a good deal easier to spot.

Chauncy Vale 80th birthday celebrations Saturday 12th September

An invitation by the Committee to set up a stall all about Chauncy Vale weeds came to fruition between 12.30pm and 4.45pm on the day. The table housed a display of real weeds actually found at CV, and a group of potential CV weeds (ie. garden thug plants). Pamphlets, brochures and booklets lined the rear of the table, and the two weed displays were separated by a tray of Running postman tubestock plants, which I had grown myself and was happy to give away to interested members of the public. All in all, a lovely day with many interested folks visiting the stall.

337 certificate enquiries

3 properties processed this month.

Weed of the Week

A couple of busy weeks in the field saw the display pared back to weed booklets only. Blue periwinkle and tree lucerne were shown during the other weeks.

RECOMMENDATION

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

DECISION

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

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

CARRIED

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

15.3 Cultural

Strategic Plan Reference 3.3

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

Nil.

15.4 Regulatory (Development)

Strategic Plan Reference 3.4

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

Nil.

15.5 Regulatory (Public Health)

Strategic Plan Reference 3.5

3.5.1 Monitor and maintain a safe and healthy public environment.

15.1.1 Tree Removal - Huntington Tier Road, Dysart

Author: DIRECTOR ASSETS (DAVID RICHARDSON)

Date: 20 SEPTEMBER 2026

Attachment(s):

Arborists tree assessment report

ISSUE

Council has received a request to undertake road investigation works along a section of Huntington Tier Road, Dysart, in response to concerns regarding road user safety.

The area of concern is located near two significant gum trees situated within the Huntington Tier Road corridor. The trees have been identified as a potential safety hazard for road users due to their location and the resulting restriction to sight distance for vehicles travelling along the road.

Council has received reports of near misses and minor motor vehicle collisions occurring in the vicinity of the trees, raising concerns regarding the ongoing safety of road users at this location.

To assist Council in determining appropriate options to improve road safety, a qualified arborist was engaged to undertake an assessment of the two trees. The arborist's assessment will inform Council's consideration of potential measures to address the identified sight-distance and road safety concerns, while also taking into account the significance and condition of the trees.

DETAIL

Trees T1 and T2 are located immediately opposite one another within the Huntington Tier Road corridor.

The trees have been assessed in the context of the road environment and the proposed road safety upgrade. The assessment has resulted in a recommendation for the removal of both trees. The site of the trees is very restrictive and does not allow for any potential road widening works within the existing road reservation.

In particular, removal of T2 is recommended within 12 months. Given that T1 is also recommended for removal and the trees are located directly opposite one another, concurrent removal provides an opportunity to address both recommendations through a single coordinated work operation.

The proposed approach will also facilitate the efficient coordination of arboriculture works and traffic management within the road corridor.



Human Resources & Financial Implications –

Estimated costs of the tree removal and associated road pavement works are \$15,000.

Community Consultation & Public Relations Implications – *No specific community consultation has been undertaken in relation to the proposed tree removal. The recommendation arises from the assessment of the trees in the context of road safety and the management of the road corridor if the proposed tree removal is approved officers will consult with the adjoining land owners.*

Policy Implications – N/A

Priority - Implementation Time Frame – within the next 3 Months

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council:

- 1. Approve the removal of trees T1 and T2 at Huntington Tier Road; Or**
- 2. Do not approve the removal of trees T1 and T2 at Huntington Tier Road.**

DECISION

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

THAT Council approve the removal of trees T1 and T2 at Huntington Tier Road.

CARRIED

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

15.6 Regulatory (Animals)

Strategic Plan Reference 3.6

3.6.1 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: 8 September 2026

Enclosure:

Animal Management Statement 2026

ISSUE

Consideration of the Animal Management/Compliance Officer's report for September 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 September; 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

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

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

CARRIED

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

ENCLOSURE

Agenda Item 15.6.1

Reporting period: 21 August - 9 September 2026

Reporting period: 21 August - 5 September 2026																																						
Category/Area	Andover	Antill Ponds Woodbury	Baden Mt Seymour Whiteford	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	2026- 2027													
Failing to ensure dog is not at large				2																				2	6													
Dog attacking person or animal causing non serious injury				1																				1	0													
Dog attacking causing serious injury																								0	0													
Dog attacking animal causing serious injury or death								1									1							2	1													
Dog - Impounded																								0	4													
Reclaimed dogs																								1	3													
Adopted/Dogs Home																								0	0													
Euthanised																								0	0													
Lost dogs reported													1											1	1													
Barking complaints						2																		2	3													
Animal Welfare																			1					1	2													
Cat complaints received																								0	0													
Stock on roads																	1							1	1													
Impounded livestock																								0	0													
Infringement Notices Issued				3																				3	2													
Written letter - various matters				2	1	3				1		1	1		1	1		1						12	11													
Poultry complaints received																								0	2													
Kennel Licence - active													1											1	0													
TOTAL																																						

Registered 2026-2027 YTD	1530
Pending	214
Licences	60

Attack Details:

Cliftonvale Road - Lambs reported attacked by unknown dog(s)

Williams Road - Sheep killed by unknown dog

Bagdad - Minor dog incident involving a child. Infringement issued

15.7 Environmental Sustainability

Strategic Plan Reference 3.7

3.7.1 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

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

Nil.

16.2 Recreation

Strategic Plan Reference 4.2

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

Nil.

16.3 Access

Strategic Plan Reference 4.3

4.3.1 Continue to explore transport options for the Southern Midlands community
4.3.2 Continue to meet the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA).

Nil.

16.4 Volunteers

Strategic Plan Reference 4.4

4.4.1 Encourage community members to volunteer.

Nil.

16.5 Families

Strategic Plan Reference 4.5

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

Nil.

16.6 Education

Strategic Plan Reference 4.6

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

Nil.

16.7 Capacity & Sustainability

Strategic Plan Reference 4.7

4.7.1 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

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

16.8.1 Southern Midlands Council – *Emergency Management Act 2006* - Nomination to the Position(s) of Municipal Emergency Management Coordinator and Deputy Municipal Emergency Management Coordinator

Author: GENRAL MANAGER (TIM KIRKWOOD)

Date: 16 SEPTEMBER 2026

ISSUE

Council to nominate person(s) to the positions of Municipal Emergency Management Coordinator and Deputy Municipal Emergency Management Coordinator under the *Emergency Management Act 2006*.

BACKGROUND

The position of Municipal Coordinator is currently held by the General Manager (Tim Kirkwood). This appointment was for a period of five (5) years and is due to expire on 28 October 2026.

The position of Deputy Municipal Coordinator is currently held by Council's Manager Community & Corporate Development. This appointment also expires on 28 October 2026.

DETAIL

Section 23 of the *Emergency Management Act 2006* provides the following:

“23. Municipal Emergency Management Coordinators and Deputies

- (1) The Minister is to appoint a Municipal Emergency Management Coordinator and a Deputy Municipal Emergency Management Coordinator for each municipal area.*
- (2) The Minister is to appoint as Municipal Emergency Management Coordinator, or Deputy Municipal Emergency Management Coordinator, for a municipal area a person nominated by the council in that municipal area.*
- (3) Each Municipal Coordinator and Deputy Municipal Coordinator may hold that office in conjunction with any other appointment, position or office.*
- (4) Each Municipal Coordinator and Deputy Municipal Coordinator holds office for the period, and on the terms and conditions, specified in his or her instrument of appointment.*
- (5) A Deputy Municipal Coordinator for a municipal area may act in the office of Municipal Coordinator if –*
 - (a) the Municipal Coordinator is absent from Tasmania or from duty as Municipal Coordinator; or*
 - (b) the Municipal Coordinator is otherwise unable to perform the functions of the office of Municipal Emergency Management Coordinator; or*
 - (c) the Municipal Coordinator has died, resigned or been removed from office and a new Municipal Coordinator has not been appointed.*
- (6) While the Deputy Municipal Coordinator is acting in the office of Municipal Emergency Management Coordinator, he or she is taken to be the Municipal Coordinator.*

(7) *The Minister, by written notice provided to a council, may require the council to nominate persons for the positions of Municipal Emergency Management Coordinator and Deputy Municipal Emergency Management Coordinator by providing that nomination to the Minister within the time specified in the notice.*

(8) *A council may only nominate a person for the position of Municipal Emergency Management Coordinator or Deputy Municipal Emergency Management Coordinator if the person, once appointed to the position, would have the authority and ability to make decisions relating to the coordination of emergency management in the municipal area during an emergency without first seeking the approval of the council.*

(9) *On receipt of the nomination, the State Controller is to provide the nomination, together with his or her recommendations, to the Minister.*

(10) *If a council fails to comply with a notice provided under subsection (7) , the Minister may appoint a person he or she considers suitable to be Municipal Emergency Management Coordinator or Deputy Municipal Emergency Management Coordinator for the municipal area.*

(11) *If a council fails to nominate a Municipal Coordinator or Deputy Municipal Coordinator, the Minister may appoint a person he or she considers suitable to be Municipal Emergency Management Coordinator or Deputy Municipal Emergency Management Coordinator for the municipal area governed by that council.”*

Human Resources & Financial Implications – Nil.

Community Consultation & Public Relations Implications – N/A.

Priority - Implementation Time Frame - Immediate.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council nominate:

- a) Tim Kirkwood (General Manager) as the Municipal Emergency Management Coordinator; and**
- b) Wendy Young (Manager Community & Corporate Development) as the Deputy Municipal Emergency Management Coordinator.**

DECISION

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

THAT Council nominate:

- a) Tim Kirkwood (General Manager) as the Municipal Emergency Management Coordinator; and**
- b) Wendy Young (Manager Community & Corporate Development) as the Deputy Municipal Emergency Management Coordinator.**

CARRIED

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

16.8.2 Draft Tasmania Fire and Emergency Services Bill 2026

Author: GENERAL MANAGER (TIM KIRKWOOD)

Date: 16 SEPTEMBER 2026

Attachment(s):

Tasmania Fire and Emergency Services Bill Consultation 2026 – LGAT Preliminary Positions Paper

ISSUE

To seek Council's feedback on the draft Tasmania Fire and Emergency Services Bill 2026 for submission to the Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT), for consideration in LGAT's submission to the Tasmanian Government.

BACKGROUND

The development of this proposed legislation dates back many years. A Discussion Paper was released in 2018, followed by an Options Paper in 2021. The Options Paper considered the potential integration of the State Emergency Service (SES) and the Tasmania Fire Service (TFS), including the implications of various funding models.

In December 2023, the State Government released the draft Tasmania Fire and Emergency Services Bill 2023, which included a proposed funding model.

The Bill was not progressed at that time as the Government was unable to establish an appropriate funding formula.

The Tasmanian Government has now released the draft Tasmania Fire and Emergency Services Bill 2026 for consideration. LGAT is seeking feedback from councils to inform its submission to the Tasmanian Government.

Council is therefore invited to consider the draft Bill and identify any matters, particularly those relating to local government responsibilities, funding arrangements, governance, service delivery and potential financial or operational impacts that should be raised through LGAT's submission.

DETAIL

The Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT) has prepared a Preliminary Positions Paper in response to the *Tasmanian Fire and Emergency Services Bill 2026*.

The LGAT is seeking feedback from Councils before finalising its submission to the Tasmanian Government. The paper outlines the Association's position on a range of proposed reforms, including:

- Integration of the Tasmania Fire Service (TFS) and State Emergency Service (SES) into a single Tasmanian Fire and Emergency Services (TFES)
- Governance arrangements and the proposed State Fire and Emergency Services Commission
- Volunteer recognition and leadership arrangements

- SES funding and municipal responsibilities
- Fire and emergency services levy arrangements
- Disaster risk reduction, resilience, and climate adaptation
- Other issues with potential implications for local government

LGAT's positions are preliminary and based on local governments previous submissions relating to the proposed reform.

Prior to preparing its final response, the LGAT is seeking input, in particular:

- Positions, whether you agree, disagree with or strengthening is required
- Potential impacts on councils, municipal emergency management arrangements, SES volunteer units, governance, funding or compliance obligations that may not be adequately captured
- Whether we should advocate more strongly on any particular issues, particularly around local government involvement in decision making, disaster risk reduction, resilience or climate adaptation

The LGAT has requested feedback by 25 September 2026, noting the period for consultation actually closes on 9 October 2026.

The draft Bill was briefly considered at the Southern Midlands Emergency Management Committee Meeting held on 15 September and some of the following comments reflect the matters raised during that discussion.

General Position

In general, establishing the TFES in legislation to bring together the TFS and SES under one organisational banner, while maintaining their individual operational duties, roles and responsibilities is supported.

The integration of the two services has the potential to improve coordination and provide a more integrated approach to fire and emergency management across Tasmania. However, it is important that the establishment of the TFES does not result in additional unfunded responsibilities or financial burdens being transferred to local government.

Financial Arrangements:

Under the *Fire Services Act 1979* and the *Local Government Act 1993*, Council is required to collect the fire service contribution / levy imposed on property owners within their municipal area, subject to applicable exemptions.

Under the *Emergency Services Act 2006*, Councils are currently required to fund volunteer SES units.

The draft Bill brings SES volunteer units within the proposed TFES structure; however, it does not appear to materially change the existing responsibility of councils to fund SES units.

This differs from the reform approach proposed in 2023, under which the proposed TFES would have assumed responsibility for SES-related functions and services transitioning from local government.

Council considers that the financial responsibilities associated with the proposed TFES should be appropriately aligned with the State's responsibility for emergency services and should not result in additional or ongoing unfunded costs being imposed on local government.

Council's preferred position is that the TFES should be funded from State consolidated revenue, rather than through a property-based levy collected by councils.

If a property-based levy is retained, Council considers that its collection should be undertaken by the State Revenue Office, rather than by local government. This would remove the administrative burden from councils and more appropriately align responsibility for the revenue collection function with the State.

If local government is to retain responsibility for collecting the levy, the administrative commission payable to councils should be reviewed. Council considers that the current 4 per cent commission does not adequately reflect the actual cost incurred by councils in administering the levy and recommends that the commission be increased to 10 per cent.

LGAT should advocate for a transparent and sustainable funding model that clearly identifies the respective financial responsibilities of the State and local government and avoids the transfer of additional costs to councils without appropriate funding.

Property Exemptions:

The Fire Service Act 1979 currently identifies a number of categories of land that are exempt from the fire service levy, including land owned by councils.

Clause 73 of the draft Bill does not specify equivalent exemptions, with the matter instead proposed to be dealt with through regulations.

Council considers that this creates uncertainty and a potential financial risk for local government. In particular, there is a risk that council-owned land that is currently exempt from the levy could become liable for the levy under future regulations.

LGAT should advocate for the Bill itself to provide appropriate protection for existing exemptions, including an explicit exemption for land owned by councils, rather than leaving the matter entirely to subordinate legislation.

Any change to existing property exemptions should be subject to appropriate consultation with local government and consideration of the financial implications for councils.

Clause 40 – Directions to Councils in Respect of Municipal Areas

Clause 40 provides the Commission, or an authorised member, with a broad power to direct a council, by written notice, to undertake specified actions in respect of land within its municipal area.

This provision does not appear to have an equivalent in the Fire Service Act 1979 and represents a significant expansion of the potential obligations imposed on local government.

Of particular concern is that the power is not limited to land owned, occupied or controlled by the council. A direction may relate to any land within the municipal area, including privately owned land or land over which Council has no ownership or operational control.

Under clause 40(3), a council receiving a direction is required to act under the Local Government Act 1993 as if the matter were a nuisance. If Council fails to comply, clause 40(4) allows the Commission to authorise TFES members to enter the land and undertake the required works, with the reasonable costs then recoverable from Council as a debt.

This creates a potentially significant financial and operational exposure for councils. Council could be required to undertake, or ultimately pay for, works on land that it does not own, occupy or control and in circumstances where Council has not otherwise determined that the works are necessary or appropriate.

The provision also has the potential to undermine the existing allocation of responsibility between landowners, local government and the State in relation to emergency management, land management and risk mitigation.

Council considers that clause 40 should be substantially amended to:

- Limit directions to matters within the lawful responsibility, functions and powers of the council.
- Ensure that Council is not required to undertake or fund works on privately owned land unless there is a clear statutory basis for the council to do so and appropriate funding is provided.
- Require consultation with the affected council before a direction is issued, except where immediate action is necessary to address an imminent risk to life or property.
- Provide a clear mechanism for councils to review or challenge a direction.
- Ensure that where the State considers works are necessary on land that Council does not own or control, responsibility for undertaking and funding those works rests with the appropriate landowner or the State, rather than automatically transferring to Council.
- Provide that any direction imposing a new or additional financial obligation on a council must be accompanied by appropriate funding.

LGAT should advocate strongly for these amendments to ensure that clause 40 does not create an open-ended obligation for councils to undertake or fund emergency management works outside their existing functions and responsibilities.

Clause 55 – Municipal Volunteer TFES Divisions

Clause 55 also raises significant concerns regarding the potential financial and operational obligations imposed on councils.

The clause allows the FES Commissioner to require a council to establish and maintain municipal volunteer TFES Divisions. While subsection 55(1) refers to the council considering

what divisions are necessary after consultation with the FES Commissioner, subsection 55(2) separately provides that the FES Commissioner may establish a TFES Division on the Commissioner's own initiative or at the request of a council.

Under clause 55(3), unless otherwise agreed with the Commission, Council is required to provide for the storage and maintenance of equipment and other facilities and resources necessary for municipal volunteer TFES Divisions, including accommodation for training.

Clause 55(5) further enables the FES Commissioner to specify standards for the storage and maintenance of equipment and to inspect divisions, assets and equipment and issue recommendations and guidelines to councils.

Taken together, these provisions appear capable of creating a situation where:

1. A municipal volunteer TFES Division can be established without the council having requested or agreed to its establishment.
2. The FES Commissioner can determine standards and requirements applying to the division and its facilities.
3. Council can then be required to provide and maintain the facilities, equipment and resources necessary for the division.
4. Council may consequently incur ongoing capital and operational expenditure in meeting requirements that it did not initiate or agree to.

This creates a significant concern regarding the appropriate allocation of responsibility and funding between the State and local government.

The legislation should not permit the State to determine that a council is required to establish or support a TFES Division and then effectively require the council to fund the resulting infrastructure, equipment, facilities and maintenance costs.

Council considers that clause 55 should be amended so that the establishment of a municipal volunteer TFES Division, and any associated obligation for Council to provide facilities, equipment or other resources, occurs only to the extent agreed to by the council. At a minimum, where the FES Commissioner considers that a municipal volunteer TFES Division is required but Council does not agree to establish or support the division, the State should retain responsibility for establishing, resourcing and funding that division.

Council also considers that any standards or requirements imposed by the FES Commissioner that have financial implications for councils should be subject to agreement with the relevant council and accompanied by appropriate State funding.

Council recommends that LGAT advocate for amendments to clauses 40 and 55 to ensure that the Bill does not create additional or unfunded obligations for local government. In particular:

Human Resources & Financial Implications – Refer comment above.

Community Consultation & Public Relations Implications – To be considered.

Priority - Implementation

Time Frame – Feedback is to be provided to the Local Government Association by 25 September 2026.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council provide feedback to the Local Government Association of Tasmania consistent with the comments outlined in this report in relation to the draft Tasmania Fire and Emergency Services Bill 2026.

DECISION

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

THAT Council provide feedback to the Local Government Association of Tasmania consistent with the comments outlined in this report in relation to the draft Tasmania Fire and Emergency Services Bill 2026.

CARRIED

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

16.9 Consultation & Communication

Strategic Plan Reference 4.8

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

Nil.

17. OPERATIONAL MATTERS ARISING (STRATEGIC THEME – ORGANISATION)

17.1 Improvement

Strategic Plan Reference 5.1

5.1.1 Improve the level of responsiveness to Community & Developer needs

5.1.2 Improve communication within Council

5.1.3 Improve the accuracy, comprehensiveness and user friendliness of the Asset Management System

5.1.4 Increase the effectiveness, efficiency and use-ability of Council ICT systems

5.1.5 Maintain the Business Process Improvement & Continuous Improvement framework

17.1.1 Information Communication Technology (ICT) Risk Management and Governance Policy – Tabling of Draft Policy

Author: MANAGER ADMINISTRATION & ICT (NICK WILSON)

Date: 16 SEPTEMBER 2026

Attachment(s):

Information Communication Technology (ICT) Risk Management and Governance Policy

ISSUE

The Information Communication Technology (ICT) Risk Management and Governance Policy was tabled at the August 2026 Council meeting. No amendments have been identified or received.

The Policy will also be tabled at the Audit Panel meeting on 22 September 2026.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT: The Information Communication Technology (ICT) Risk Management and Governance Policy be adopted.

DECISION

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

THAT the Information Communication Technology (ICT) Risk Management and Governance Policy be adopted.

CARRIED

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

17.2 Sustainability

Strategic Plan Reference 5.2

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

17.2.1 Tabling of Documents

1. Lake Dulverton – Public Information Sessions

A copy of the flyer promoting the public information sessions is included as an enclosure to provide the background detail.

Following the conduct of these sessions, the Dulverton Anglers, a key stakeholder group, has provided a letter of support for the actions being taken by Council.

The Anglers were advised that a copy of this letter would be circulated and tabled at this Council Meeting.

2. Levensdale and Woodsdale History Rooms

Letter of Appreciation – Community Small Grants Program 2026 – Facility Upgrade Grant

3. Letter from the Premier of Tasmania

Response to the proposed changes to opening hours at Service Tasmania service centre in Oatlands

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the information be received.

DECISION

Moved by Cllr D Fish, seconded by Cllr B Campbell

THAT the information be received.

CARRIED

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

Lake Dulverton – Public Information Sessions flyer

LAKE DULVERTON – WATER CHANGES

PUBLIC INFORMATION SESSIONS

Monday 31 August 2026
3.30 pm – 7.30 pm
or
Monday 7 September 2026
3.00 pm – 5.00 pm

Where - Council Chambers, Oatlands

WHAT IS HAPPENING AT LAKE DULVERTON?

A floating underwater plant known as Water Milfoil (*Myriophyllum salicifolium*) is becoming increasingly dominant in one section of Lake Dulverton.

The thick growth is affecting water quality, particularly during the warmer summer months. It is also creating challenges for the Lake's birdlife and fish and is smothering Water Ribbon (*Cyanogeton procerum*) — an important wetland plant that supports birdlife around the lake.

WHAT IS NEXT?

To help control the Water Milfoil, the supplementary water to a section of the Lake will be stopped for a period of time.

This will allow the wetland to respond to natural climatic conditions. As a result, this section of the Lake is likely to dry out for a period of time.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

Lake Dulverton is a valuable wetland environment, and managing its future requires us to consider:

- Water quality
- Bird and fish habitat
- Native wetland plants
- The impacts of a changing climate
- The long-term health of the lake

Come and chat with people involved in managing Lake Dulverton.
This is a drop-in information session — there is no formal presentation.

We welcome the community to come along.

Dulverton Anglers – Letter of Support

DULVERTON ANGLERS

EST 2024



Lake Dulverton Repatriation Program

Over many years, Lake Dulverton has been a renown recreational facility for the Oatlands community. 'The Lake' has played host to a number of recreations spanning over many generations with longtime locals and travelers alike having memories of activities such as speed boat racing, canoe races and sail boats bringing the lake to life. In more recent times Lake Dulverton has adopted a more relaxed variety of hobbies, playing host to hikers, bird watchers, rock climbers and anglers, to name a few.

Unfortunately, over the past couple of years, Lake Dulverton has rapidly declined in health going from a thriving wetland filled with aquatic life, birds and opportunity, to what is now a dead waterway, overran with aquatic weed (milfoil). Through observation of Dulverton Anglers, we have seen 'The Lake' diminish in dissolved oxygen to as low as 5% which is not enough to sustain aquatic life such as fish. The diminished dissolved oxygen levels not only have a fatal result for aquatic life, but the flow on effect is also much greater, flowing on to bird life which can be seen in the gross decline in in bird numbers around the lake.

The aquatic weed that has taken over the lake is blanketing the surface, not allowing natural aggravation of the top water to introduce oxygen. The blanket of Milfoil is choking out the Ribbon weed and other species of weed that are beneficial to many native animals for food sources, shelter and nesting material.

Despite the best efforts of Dulverton Anglers in suppressing the weed and maintaining some clear water, we have been overrun and the weed has completely taken over.

The changes we see in the lake need to be addressed urgently before irreversible damage is caused to a vital part of the Oatlands district.

Dulverton Anglers fully support the repatriation program outlined by the Southern Midlands Council and commend councilors on reaching a bold yet considered decision.

Brady Robins
Dulverton Anglers
President
Dulvertonanglers@gmail.com
0437111327

Levendale and Woodsdale History Rooms – Letter of Appreciation

LEVENDALE AND WOODSDALE HISTORY ROOMS INC.

2278 Woodsdale Rd, Woodsdale TAS 7120
Email: woodsdalemuseum@gmail.com



20 September 2026

Andrew Benson
Deputy General Manager / Director Community & Development Services
Southern Midlands Council
PO Box 21
Oatlands, Tasmania 7120

Dear Mr Benson

Re: Thank You – Community Small Grants Program 2026 – Facility Upgrade Grant

On behalf of the committee and volunteers of the Levendale and Woodsdale History Rooms Inc., I write to thank you and the Southern Midlands Council for the grant of \$646.00 awarded to our organisation under the Community Small Grants Program 2026, as confirmed in the Mayor's letter of 27 August 2026.

This funding will be used to purchase a dehumidifier for the Woodsdale School building, a weatherboard structure built in 1884 that houses our museum's collection. As outlined in our application, the building experiences relative humidity levels of between 60% and 85% during the winter months, placing the collection at significant risk of mould, corrosion and material degradation. The dehumidifier will allow us to bring humidity levels down to, and maintain them within, a range appropriate for the preventive care of the collection.

Many of the items in our care are irreplaceable, having been donated or loaned by local families because of their connection to the history of the Levendale and Woodsdale districts. Council's support directly protects this shared community heritage and helps ensure it remains available to the district for generations to come.

We are grateful for the Southern Midlands Council's continued support of small, volunteer-run community organisations such as ours. We will proceed with the purchase promptly and will provide the completed Evaluation and Acquittal Form, together with the supplier invoice, in accordance with the grant conditions.

Please pass on our thanks to the Mayor, Councillor Edwin Batt, and to all Councillors for their consideration of our application.

Thank you again for supporting our museum and the preservation of local history.

Yours sincerely

Margaret Smith
Secretary / Public Officer
Levendale and Woodsdale History Rooms Inc.

Letter from the Premier of Tasmania regarding proposed changes to opening hours at Service Tasmania in Oatlands



22 September 2026

Cr Edwin Batt
Mayor
Southern Midlands Council
Email: mail@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au

Dear Mayor Batt

Thank you for your letter of 14 September 2026 regarding the proposed changes to opening hours at the Service Tasmania service centre in Oatlands. I appreciate you taking the time to outline Council's concerns and to advocate on behalf of the Southern Midlands community.

The Tasmanian Government remains committed to maintaining access to face-to-face government services across regional Tasmania. Importantly, the Oatlands Service Tasmania centre is not proposed to close and will continue to provide in-person services to residents under the proposed model. The current consultation relates to opening hours only and no final decision has been made.

You requested further information regarding the data underpinning the proposal. Analysis of Service Tasmania customer activity for 2025-26 shows that the Oatlands service centre records an average of **20 customer transactions per day**, with an **average transaction time of 3.0 minutes**. This level of demand is significantly lower than the number of service hours currently provided and has been a key factor in reviewing operating arrangements.

The review also considered customer usage patterns across the five service centres included in the proposal. Oatlands records an average daily customer volume comparable with Campbell Town, which also averages 20 customers per day, while Queenstown averages 26, Currie 13 and Whitemark 8. Modelling undertaken by Service Tasmania indicates that the proposed opening hours would continue to provide sufficient capacity to meet current customer demand and maintain local access to face-to-face services.

I note your comments regarding Oatlands' location and economic importance. The proposal is not based on a judgement about the importance of the community, nor solely on remoteness. Rather, it reflects an assessment of customer demand and the need to ensure service delivery remains sustainable while continuing to provide local access to essential government services. Oatlands is an important regional centre and the Government recognises the significant contribution the town and the wider Southern Midlands region make through agriculture, tourism and other industries.

Community consultation commenced on 14 September and will conclude on 2 October 2026. The purpose of the consultation is to ensure community views, stakeholder feedback and local circumstances are considered before any decisions are made. I encourage Southern Midlands Council to participate in that process and provide any further information it believes should be taken into account.

OFFICIAL

Thank you again for your correspondence. I appreciate Council's interest in this matter and welcome its ongoing engagement during the consultation period.

Yours sincerely

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

Jeremy Rockliff MP
Premier

OFFICIAL

17.2.2 Elected Member Statements

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

Deputy Mayor K Dudgeon – Advised council that Oatlands resident Kerry Mancey has retired from the Oatlands Fire Brigade following 50 years of service. Council congratulates Kerry and will send a letter of appreciation.

Deputy Mayor K Dudgeon – 15 year old Oatlands resident Mia Barwick has been selected to represent Australia in the under 19's Women's Cricket tour in India.

Mayor E Batt – Thanked volunteer fire fighters who attended the recent fires in Colebrook noting that the quick response resulted in minimal property damage.

Clr D Blackwell – Attended and volunteered at the Chauncy Vale 80 year's celebration held Saturday 12 September 2026. A well-attended event with over 200 through the gate on the day. A very enjoyable event with kids activities, face painting and an outdoor cinema hosting the movie 'They found a Cave', noting that one of the actors in the film was an ex Broadmarsh resident. Special thanks was given to SES volunteers for managing car parking.

17.2.3 Local Government Amendment (Targeted Reform) Act 2026

Author: GENERAL MANAGER (TIM KIRKWOOD)

Date: 18 SEPTEMBER 2026

Attachment(s):

Extracts - Local Government (Meetings Procedures) Regulations 2025

ISSUE

Provide confirmation that the *Local Government Amendment (Targeted Reform) Act 2026* was recently passed by the Tasmanian Parliament and that a number of provisions commenced on 1 September by proclamation by the Governor.

DETAIL

The Local Government Amendment (Targeted Reform) Act 2026 included a number of amendments to the *Local Government Act 1993*, and other related legislation.

Some of these amendments just provided a head of power to facilitate the change and further Orders relating to implementation will follow in 2027. However, the following have an immediate effect:

- Expanding the circumstances in which a performance improvement direction may be recommended to include a failure to comply with statutory requirements – no need to take any action at present (to brief new Council)
- Provisions for the appointment of temporary advisors - no need to take any action at present (to brief new Council)
- Remote Meetings – refer amendment section of the Act (attached)
- Councillor allowances and number reforms – in terms of Councillor numbers, no change for SMC, but the new allowances will take effect from 1 November 2026

The enclosed Table lists all the relevant changes and the details related to timeframes etc.

The Induction process for the newly elected Council will involve a detailed briefing in relation to each.

Human Resources & Financial Implications – Refer comment provided.

Community Consultation & Public Relations Implications – Not applicable.

Priority - Implementation Time Frame – Refer detail provided.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the information be received.

DECISION

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

THAT the information be received.

CARRIED

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

17.3 Finances

Strategic Plan Reference 5.3

5.3.1 Community's finances will be managed responsibly to enhance the wellbeing of residents

5.3.2 Council will maintain community wealth to ensure that the wealth enjoyed by today's generation may also be enjoyed by tomorrow's generation

5.3.3 Council's financial position will be robust enough to recover from unanticipated events, and absorb the volatility inherent in revenues and expenses.

17.3.1 Monthly Financial Statement (Period ending 31 August 2026)

Author: MANAGER FINANCE (MANDY BURBURY)

Date: 8 SEPTEMBER 2026

ISSUE

Provide the Financial Reports for the period ending 31st August 2026.

BACKGROUND

The Operating Expenditure Report includes year to date budget estimates for each Program and corresponding year to date actual expenditure. Variations between budget and actual expenditure are provided.

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 31 August 2026.
- Operating Expenditure Report – 1 July 2025 to 31 August 2026.
- Capital Expenditure Report – 1 July 2025 to 31 August 2026.
- Cash Flow Statement – 1 July 2025 to 31 August 2026.

OPERATING EXPENDITURE (OPERATING BUDGET)

Overall operating expenditure to the end of August was \$1,680,704, representing 82.0% of the Year to Date Budget.

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

Strategic Theme - Infrastructure

Nil.

Strategic Theme – Growth

Sub-Program – Business - expenditure to date (\$61,975 – 120.13%). Any additional expenditure relating to private works is 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.

DECISION

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

THAT the Financial Report be received and the information noted.

CARRIED

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

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
for the period 1 July 2026 to 31 August 2026

	Annual Budget \$	Year to Date Actual \$	%	Comments
Income				
Rates and charges	8,228,816	8,163,976	99.2%	Includes Interest & Penalties on rates
User fees	1,208,114	299,723	24.8%	
Interest	492,000	82,061	16.7%	
Government Subsidies	35,100	0	0.0%	Heavy Vehicle Licence Fees
Other income (refer Note 1)	451,956	118,462	26.2%	Private Works & Developer Contributions
Investment revenue from water corporation	182,400	0	0.0%	
Sub-Total	10,598,387	8,664,222	81.8%	
Grants - Operating (refer Note 2)	4,982,205	270,614	5.4%	
Total Income	15,580,592	8,934,835	57.3%	
Expenses				
Employee benefits	-6,029,712	-840,487	13.9%	Less Roads - Resheeting (Capitalised)
Materials and contracts	-4,164,565	-782,070	18.8%	Less Roads - Resheeting (Capitalised), Includes Land Tax
Depreciation and amortisation	-5,039,700	-856,059	17.0%	Percentage Calculation (based on year-to-date)
Contributions	-307,026	0	0.0%	Fire Service Levies
Finance costs	0	0	0.0%	Interest
Other expenses	-528,233	-58,996	11.2%	Private Works, Audit Fees & Councillor Allowances
Total expenses	-16,069,236	-2,537,612	15.8%	
Surplus (deficit) from operations	-488,644	6,397,224		
Grants - Capital (refer Note 3)	1,264,513	8,200	0.6%	
Sale Proceeds (Plant & Machinery)	0	0		
Sale Proceeds (Land & Buildings)	0	0		
Sale Proceeds (Other Assets)	0	0		
Net gain / (loss on disposal of non-current assets)	0	0		
Surplus / (Deficit)	775,869	6,405,424		

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
for the period 1 July 2026 to 31 August 2026

	Annual Budget \$	Year to Date Actual \$	%	Comments
NOTES				
1. Income - Other				
- Developer Contributions	100,000	18,700	18.70%	
- Private Works	351,956	81,430	23.14%	
- Oatlands Football Club Contribution (Telstra Footy Grant)	0	18,182		Oatlands Recreation Ground - Electronic Scoreboard
- Blue Gum Rovers Donation to Tunnack Rec. Ground	0	150.00		
	<u>451,956</u>	<u>118,462</u>	26.2%	
2. Grants - Operating				
- FAGS 2026/27	4,982,205	270,614	5.43%	
	<u>4,982,205</u>	<u>270,614</u>	5.4%	
3. Grants - Capital				
- Aust Govt (Roads To Recovery)	1,264,513	0	0.00%	
- Aust Govt (National Shed Development Programme)	0	8,200		

**SOUTHERN MIDLANDS COUNCIL : OPERATING EXPENDITURE
2026/27
SUMMARY SHEET**

PROGRAM	YTD ACTUAL (to 31 Aug 26)	YTD BUDGET (to 31 Aug 26)	YTD VARIANCE	YTD %	FULL YEAR BUDGET - INC. GRANTS & OTHER
INFRASTRUCTURE					
Roads	255,555	259,077	3,522	98.64%	4,305,519
Bridges	0	13,579	13,579	0.00%	748,441
Walkways	51,185	49,879	-1,306	102.62%	284,475
Lighting	296	13,020	12,724	2.28%	78,120
Public Toilets	21,326	22,812	1,486	93.49%	145,268
Stormwater	0	5,550	5,550	0.00%	91,302
Waste	189,306	282,067	92,761	67.11%	1,719,905
Information, Communication	0	3,333	3,333	0.00%	20,000
INFRASTRUCTURE TOTAL:	517,669	649,318	131,649	79.73%	7,393,030
GROWTH					
Residential	0	0	0	-	10,000
Tourism	20,160	23,219	3,059	86.83%	38,552
Business	61,975	51,591	-10,384	120.13%	309,543
Industry	0	0	0	-	0
GROWTH TOTAL:	82,134	74,809	-7,325	109.79%	358,095
LANDSCAPES					
Heritage	65,696	94,006	28,310	69.88%	530,808
Natural	28,344	40,139	11,795	70.61%	256,091
Cultural	0	2,667	2,667	0.00%	16,000
Regulatory - Development	134,381	167,757	33,376	80.10%	1,081,539
Regulatory - Public Health	1,195	4,418	3,222	27.06%	26,505
Regulatory - Animals	13,358	20,079	6,721	66.53%	129,636
Environmental Sustainability	0	0	0	0.00%	0
LANDSCAPES TOTAL:	242,974	329,065	86,090	73.84%	2,040,579
COMMUNITY					
Community Health & Wellbeing	46,075	65,882	19,807	69.94%	387,791
Recreation	222,787	233,893	11,106	95.25%	1,317,359
Access	0	0	0	0.00%	0
Volunteers	199	200	1	0.00%	30,000
Families	0	1,667	1,667	0.00%	10,000
Education	0	0	0	0.00%	0
Capacity & Sustainability	23,860	25,001	1,141	95.44%	55,505
Safety	3,001	9,992	6,991	30.03%	59,950
Consultation & Communication	857	4,283	3,426	20.01%	25,700
LIFESTYLE TOTAL:	296,779	340,917	44,139	87.05%	1,886,305
ORGANISATION					
Improvement	582	22,375	21,793	2.60%	134,251
Sustainability	527,918	602,168	74,249	87.67%	3,848,449
Finances	12,647	31,033	18,386	40.75%	408,526
ORGANISATION TOTAL:	541,148	655,576	114,428	82.55%	4,391,226
TOTALS	\$1,680,704	\$2,049,685	\$368,981	82.0%	\$16,069,235

Southern Midlands Council
Minutes – 23rd September 2026

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE PROGRAM 2026-27
As at 31 August 2026

		BUDGET \$	EXPENDITURE \$	BALANCE \$	COMMENTS	COMPLETION DEADLINE
INFRASTRUCTURE						
ROAD ASSETS						
Resheeting Program	Roads Resheeting	600,000	163,865	436,135		
	Jericho - Lower Marshes Road (Jericho end 3.2km)	73,500	-	73,500	Roads to Recovery - \$73,500	30 June 2027
	Jericho - Lower Marshes Road (Starting Bellevalle Rd east 1km)	23,000	-	23,000	Roads to Recovery - \$23,000	30 June 2027
	Stonehenge - Inglewood Road (Starting Stonehenge west 1.5km)	34,500	-	34,500	Roads to Recovery - \$34,500	30 June 2027
	Campania - Estate Road (Starting White Kangaroo Rd 1.5km)	34,500	-	34,500	Roads to Recovery - \$34,500	30 June 2027
	Campania - White Kangaroo Road (Starting Stratford Rd north (1.5km)	34,500	-	34,500	Roads to Recovery - \$34,500	30 June 2027
Reseal Program	Roads Reseal Program	450,000	-	450,000	Roads to Recovery - \$150,000	30 June 2027
	Bagdad - East Bagdad Road (Midland Hwy to Bagdad Rvt 300m)		-			
	Bagdad - Le Compte Place (300m)		-			
	Bagdad - Lyndon Road (250m)		-			
	Dysart - Clifton Vale Road (Fosters Rd to Sugarloaf Rd 1.8km)		-			
	Dysart - Clifton Vale Road (Cockatoo Gully Rd north 2.0 km)		-			
	Jericho - Jericho Road (Starting Sth of Midland Hwy 1.0km)		-			
	Oatlands - Albert (100m)		-			
	Oatlands - Campbell (240m)		-			
	Oatlands - Mason (100m)		-			
	Oatlands - Stutzer (210m)		-			
	Woodsdale - Woodsdale Road (Buckland Rd to Woodsdale Hall 1.3km)		-			
	Woodsdale - Woodsdale Road (Starting nth entrance to Woodsdale Back Rd east 650m)		-			
	Jericho - Lower Marshes Road Asphaltting (Starting Jericho Rd 100m)		-			
	York Plains - York Plains Road Asphaltting (Starting east of Nala Rd 50m)		-			
	Sealed Road Edge Breaks (as below)	200,000	-	174,097		
	Campania - Native Corners Road		-			
	Elderslie - Clifton Vale Road		-			
	Tunnack - Eldon road		2,132			
	Various - Woodsdale Road		23,771			
Reconstruct & Seal	Program (as per Maloneys Condition Assessment Report)	394,500	-	394,500	Roads to Recovery - \$394,500	30 June 2027
	Woodsdale Road (Starting 1.3km nth Woodsdale Back Rd nth 600m))	100,000	-	100,000	Roads to Recovery - \$100,000	30 June 2027
	Woodsdale Road (Starting Weedings Rd north 300m)					
	Woodsdale Road (Vicinity of 2105 Woodsdale Rd sth 100m)					
	Woodsdale Road (Starting 750m nth Woodsdale Back Road nth 350m)					
	Yarlington Road (Starting Richmond Rd heading sth 800m)					
Construct & Seal	Mangalore - Blackbrush Road (1.0 km section starting from seal Broadmarsh end)	200,000	-	200,000	Roads to Recovery - \$200,000	30 June 2027
	Rhyndaston - Rhyndaston Road (Remaining 1.35km)	220,000	-	220,000	Roads to Recovery - \$220,000	30 June 2027
Minor Seals (New)	Kempton - Erskine Street (Extention of Seal - 80m)	25,000	8,456	16,544	Roads to Recovery \$25,000 WIP \$8,455.56	30 June 2026
	Oatlands - Bentwick Street	20,000	-	20,000	Budget C/F	
Other Works	Bagdad - School Road (Traffic & Safety Improvements)	69,000	40,835	28,165	VRUP Funding \$34,430	31 December 2026
	Campania - Car Park Improvements	18,783	-	18,783	Budget C/F	
	Campania - Car Park Fence (900mm Picket Fence - Powder Coated)	13,000	-	13,000		
	Campania - Structure Plan - Town Gateway and Streetscape	40,000	-	40,000	Budget C/F	
	Kempton - Main Street (Kerb & Gutter 65m - renewal)	10,000	-	10,000		
	Oatlands - Hay Street (Junction)	15,000	-	15,000		
	Oatlands - High Street (Traffic Islands)	45,940	897	45,043	VRUP Funding \$22,300 SMC \$23,640 WIP \$896.84	31 December 2026
	Roads - Shouldering Program (Major)	300,000	2,985	297,015		
		2,921,223	242,940	2,678,283		

Southern Midlands Council
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CAPITAL EXPENDITURE PROGRAM 2026-27
As at 31 August 2026

		BUDGET \$	EXPENDITURE \$	BALANCE \$	COMMENTS	COMPLETION DEADLINE
BRIDGES	Elderslie - Roydon Road (Abutment and Foundation Reinstatement)	176,000	4,080	171,920		
	Campania - Estate Road (Abutment Reinstatement)	176,000	4,080	171,920		
	Colebrook - Lovely Banks Road (Culvert Extension)	30,000	-	30,000		
		382,000	8,161	373,839		
WALKWAYS	Footpaths - General Streetscapes	50,000	-	50,000		
	Kempton - Burnett Street to Mood Food	444,265	449,017 -	4,752	Better Active Transport \$278K WIP \$439,671.72	
	Kempton - Main Street (Southern End 300m)	75,000	741	74,259	Budget C/F WIP \$741.24	
	Oatlands - Church Street (High Street to Esplanade - Both Sides)	40,000	-	40,000	Includes \$10K budget c/f	
	Oatlands - High Street (Vicinity of BP)	40,000	-	40,000		
	Parattah - Township - Streetscape Works (Stage 2)	100,000	115,336 -	15,336	Budget C/F \$50K	
	Tunnack - Footpath Upgrade Program (Yr 3 of 3)	150,000	73,251	76,749	Budget C/F \$100K WIP \$73,250.58	
		899,265	638,346	260,919		
PUBLIC TOILETS	General Public Toilets - Upgrade Program	12,956	-	12,956	Budget C/F \$14,616	
	Oatlands - Lake Dulverton Toilets (Electricity Upgrade)	4,660	4,660	-	Funded from General Public Toilet Upgrade Program	
		17,616	4,660	12,956		
DRAINAGE	Bagdad / Mangalore - Hydraulic Assessment (Flood Mapping)	61,625	-	61,625	Budget C/F	
	Kempton - Erskine Street (Extension - pipe/open drain)	24,000	-	24,000		
	Oatlands - Queen Anne Street (Pipe Extension)	30,000	-	30,000		
		115,625	-	115,625		
WASTE	Wheelie Bins and Crates	20,000	-	20,000		
	Campania WTS - Portable Toilet to replace hired toilet	-	3,812 -	3,812	Hire fee funded in operating budget	
	Dysart WTS - Portable Toilet to replace hired toilet	-	3,119 -	3,119	Hire fee funded in operating budget	
		20,000	6,930	13,070		
GROWTH TOURISM	Kempton - Pergolas (Roadside Stopover)	10,000	-	10,000		
	Oatlands - Heritage Interpretation Panel renewal	2,000	-	2,000	Budget C/F	
	Oatlands Accommodation Facility	-	42,283 -	42,283	WIP \$42,283 (Offset by Barrack Street Property)	
		12,000	42,283 -	30,283		
LANDSCAPES HERITAGE	General Interpretation Signage (Bagdad, Wellington St Chapel, Baden Hall)	10,000	-	10,000		
	Jericho - Memorial Avenue - Plaques	20,500	23,814 -	3,314	Budget C/F WIP \$23813.64 Offset by donation of \$500.	
	Kempton - Memorial Avenue Park - Interps	19,545	-	19,545	Budget C/F	
	Oatlands - Callington Mill - Structural Repair & External painting	120,000	-	120,000	Budget C/F \$80K	
	Oatlands - Gaol (Cell Footprint Rehabilitation and Interpretation)	162,889	14,198	148,691	Budget C/F \$40K	
	Oatlands - Gaolers Residence (Chimney Capping & Fireplace Repairs)	5,000	1,385	3,615	Budget C/F WIP \$1384.81	
	Oatlands - Gaolers Residence (Lighting & Hanging System Upgrade)	5,000	973	4,027	Budget C/F WIP \$972.97	
	Oatlands - Gaolers Residence (Wingwall)	23,000	15,530	7,470	Budget C/F WIP \$15,277.01	
	Oatlands - Heritage Collections Store	10,000	3,700	6,300	WIP \$3,700	
	Oatlands - Roche Hall (Building suitable for PRISM)	244,161	58,914	185,247	Budget C/F \$144,161 WIP \$56,880.22	
	Oatlands - Roche Hall Forecourt (Interps - Planning Condition of Approval)	40,000	7,820	32,180	Budget C/F WIP \$7,820	
		660,095	126,334	533,761		

Southern Midlands Council
Minutes – 23rd September 2026

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE PROGRAM 2026-27

As at 31 August 2026

		BUDGET \$	EXPENDITURE \$	BALANCE \$	COMMENTS	COMPLETION DEADLINE
NATURAL	Bagdad - Chauncy Vale (Restoration of Winter Walk track to Day Dawn Cottage)	28,658	-	28,658		
	Chauncy Vale - Toilet & Interps Upgrade	100,000	72,925	27,075	Budget C/F WIP \$70,662.50 Election Commitment \$80K	30 June 2026
	Campania - Bush Reserve / Cemetery	300,000	114,018	185,982	Budget C/F WIP \$109,937.24	
	Oatlands - Dulverton Foreshore & Mahers Point (Table and Seating/New Seat Mahers Point)	10,000	-	10,000		
	Oatlands - Dulverton Foreshore (Renew Faded Interpretation Signage)	8,000	-	8,000		
		446,658	186,943	259,715		
LANDSCAPES						
REGULATORY	Kempton - Erskine Street Subdivision	-	1,235	1,235	Funded from sale of property WIP \$1235.45	
- DEVELOPMENT	Oatlands - Stanley Street Master Plan	20,000	172	19,828	Budget c/f WIP \$172	
	Planning Scheme Amendments	50,000	-	50,000		
	Property Purchase - 10 Barrack Street, Oatlands (Police Residence)	530,000	-	530,000	Budget C/F	
		600,000	1,407	598,593		
REGULATORY	Campania - Cemetery (fencing & landscaping)	50,000	-	50,000		
- PUBLIC HEALTH	Woodsdale - Cemetery (Additional Columbarium)	8,121	1,845	6,276	Funded from Committee Contribution	
		58,121	1,845	56,276		
COMMUNITY						
RECREATION	Recreation Committee	38,020	-	38,020	Original Budget \$40,000 - allocations to date as below	
	Buildings General Allocation (Sites TBC following Inspection)	50,000	-	50,000		
	Playground Upgrades (Locations TBC following inspection)	50,000	-	50,000		
	Bagdad - Bagdad Community Club (Precinct Plan & Property Transfer)	111,000	95,273	15,727	\$111K Budget c/f WIP \$95,003	
	Bagdad - Bagdad Community Club (Redevelopment)	-	50,931	50,931	WIP \$50,931.23	
	Bagdad - Bagdad Community Club (Sports Pavilion)	-	222,416	222,416	WIP \$222,406.30 Subject to Funding	
	Bagdad - Bagdad Community Club (Multi-purpose Sports Hall)	-	252,160	252,160	WIP \$252,160 Subject to Funding	
	Bagdad - Bagdad Community Club (Oval Relocation)	-	26,500	26,500	WIP \$25,500 Subject to Funding	
	Bagdad - Bagdad Community Club (Wastewater System)	200,000	54,618	145,382	Budget C/F WIP \$24,268.52	
	Bagdad - Bagdad Community Club (New Cricket Wicket)	6,980	-	6,980	\$3K Small Grant, \$2K Club Cont., \$1,980 Rec. Committee	
	Bagdad - Eddington Cottage (Stabilisation, Safety & Security)	30,000	-	30,000		
	Bagdad - Iden Park (Minor Upgrades)	75,000	-	75,000	Budget C/F	
	Campania - Flour Mill Park (Redevelopment - Court Upgrade, Dog Park, Drainage)	108,000	-	108,000	Budget C/F \$68K	
	Colebrook - Hall (Windows, Ramps, Double Doors)	10,000	-	10,000	Budget C/F	
	Kempton - Carriage Shed (External Repair & Repainting)	11,700	-	11,700	Budget C/F	
	Kempton Rec Ground - Playground Development (Year 1 of 2 - \$100 per year)	100,000	846	99,154		
	Levendale Playground Development	20,000	-	20,000		
	Oatlands - Aquatic Centre (Female Change Rooms / Shower Cubicles)	10,000	4,200	5,800	Budget C/F	
	Oatlands - Aquatic Centre (Learn to Swim- Life Jackets)	2,000	-	2,000		
	Oatlands - Aquatic Centre (Learn to Swim - Platform)	7,500	-	7,500		
	Oatlands - Aquatic Centre (Allowance - Pumps Replacement)	10,000	-	10,000		
	Oatlands - Aquatic Centre (Gymnasium - Equipment Upgrade - cross trainer / mirrors)	6,800	-	6,800		
	Oatlands - Aquatic Centre (Storage area for boat & lane rope)	5,000	-	5,000		
	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	2,928	5,072	Budget C/F WIP \$781.95	
	Oatlands - Midlands Community Centre (External Painting - Front of Building)	8,000	-	8,000	Budget C/F	
	Oatlands - Off-Lead Dog Park	35,000	1,947	33,053	Budget C/F WIP \$1,947	
	Oatlands - Recreation Ground (Redevelopment)	-	175,991	175,991	Subject to Funding WIP \$175,720.50	
	Oatlands - Recreation Ground (Electronic Scoreboard)	55,145	73,827	18,682	AFL Grant, OFC Contribution, SMC \$30K WIP \$65,481.52	
	Tunnack - Recreation Ground (Toilet Block Painting)	4,000	-	4,000	Budget C/F	
	Water Bottle Refill Stations	7,980	-	7,980	Budget C/F	
	Woodsdale - Woodsdale Hall (Playground Safety Fence)	4,000	-	4,000		
		1,014,125	976,067	38,058		

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE PROGRAM 2026-27
As at 31 August 2026

		BUDGET \$	EXPENDITURE \$	BALANCE \$	COMMENTS	COMPLETION DEADLINE
FAMILIES	Kempton - Childcare Centre (Year 1 of 2) Total funding \$130,000	65,000	114,886 -	49,886	WIP \$27,453.72	
		65,000	114,886 -	49,886		
CAPACITY	Oatlands - Men's Shed (Window, Roof & other improvements)	8,200	3,904	4,296	Aust Govt (National Shed Development Programme)	31 December 2026
		8,200	3,904	4,296		
SAFETY	Sale of Fire Sheds to Crown	-	2,646 -	2,646	Expenses offset by income from sale	
		-	2,646 -	2,646		
ORGANISATION						
SUSTAINABILITY	Council Website Upgrade	55,000	13,260	41,740	Includes \$40K budget c/f	
	Communications Link Upgrade	5,000	-	5,000	Budget C/F	
	Centralise Security Camera Systems (including server)	25,000	2,960	22,040	Includes \$10K budget c/f	
	Computer / Network Upgrades	12,194	-	12,194	Budget C/F	
	Exchange and Office Upgrade - Perpetual Licence	48,000	-	48,000		
	Hardware Failure Allowance	10,000	-	10,000		
	Oatlands Depot and Kempton Chambers (Alarm System Upgrades)	5,000	-	5,000		
	WIFI Equipment	7,000	-	7,000	Budget C/F	
	Kempton - Council Chambers (Office Furniture & Equipment)	7,500	-	7,500		
	Oatlands - Town Hall (Office Furniture & Equipment)	7,500	-	7,500		
	Oatlands - Town Hall Toilets (Year 2 of 5 commitment - total \$300K per annum)	700,000	20,564	679,436	\$400K Budget C/F WIP \$17,794.27	
		882,194	36,784	845,410		
WORKS	Kempton - Works Depot (Toilet / Shower Upgrade)	30,000	-	30,000	Budget C/F	
	Oatlands Depot - Vehicle Hoist	5,000	-	5,000		
	Oatlands Depot - Quick Fill Tank	10,000	-	10,000		
	Minor Plant Purchases	12,000	1,517	10,483		
	Radio System	5,000	-	5,000		
	Plant Replacement Program					
	Heavy Vehicles - Gross Amount	724,758	-	724,758		
	(Trade Allowance - \$304K)					
	Light Vehicles - Gross Amount	660,133	-	660,133		
	(Trade Allowance - \$741K)					
		1,446,891	1,517	1,445,374		
GRAND TOTALS		\$9,549,012.50	\$2,395,652.77	\$7,153,359.73		

CASH FLOW 2026/2027	INFLWS (OUTFLOWS) July 2026 \$	INFLWS (OUTFLOWS) Aug 2026 \$	INFLWS (OUTFLOWS) Sep 2026 \$	INFLWS (OUTFLOWS) Oct 2026 \$	INFLWS (OUTFLOWS) Nov 2026 \$	INFLWS (OUTFLOWS) Dec 2026 \$	INFLWS (OUTFLOWS) Jan 2027 \$	INFLWS (OUTFLOWS) Feb 2027 \$	INFLWS (OUTFLOWS) Mar 2027 \$	INFLWS (OUTFLOWS) Apr 2027 \$	INFLWS (OUTFLOWS) May 2027 \$	INFLWS (OUTFLOWS) Jun 2027 \$
Cash flows from operating activities												
Payments												
Employee costs	(413,989)	(441,354)										
Materials and contracts	(588,215)	(469,409)										
Interest	0	0										
Other	(9,791)	(34,684)										
	(1,011,995)	(945,446)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Receipts												
Rates	448,063	314,757										
User charges	170,386	123,127										
Interest received	31,162	50,899										
Subsidies	0	0										
Operating Grants	0	270,614										
Other	18,850	166,642										
	668,461	926,038	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Net cash from operating activities	(343,534)	(19,407)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cash flows from investing activities												
Payments for property, plant & equipment	(114,062)	(172,852)										
Proceeds from sale of property, plant & equipment	0	0										
Proceeds from Capital grants	8,200	0										
Proceeds from Investments	0	0										
Payment for Investments	0	0										
Net cash used in investing activities	(105,862)	(172,852)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cash flows from financing activities												
Repayment of borrowings	0	0										
Proceeds from borrowings	0	0										
Net cash from (used in) financing activities	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held	(449,396)	(192,259)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cash at beginning of reporting month	16,105,388	15,655,992	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cash at end of reporting period	15,655,992	15,463,733	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

18. MUNICIPAL SEAL

Nil.

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

Nil.

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.

DECISION

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

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

Matter	Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015 Reference
Closed Council Minutes - Confirmation	17(2)
Applications for Leave of Absence	17(2)(h)(i)
General Manager – Performance Review	17(2)(a)

CARRIED

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

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.

DECISION

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

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.

CARRIED

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

CLOSED COUNCIL MINUTES

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 General Manager – Performance Review

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)(a) of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council move out of “Closed Session”.

DECISION

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

THAT Council move out of “Closed Session”.

CARRIED

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

OPEN COUNCIL MINUTES

21. CLOSURE

The meeting closed at 12.05 p.m.