

SOUTHERN
MIDLANDS
COUNCIL



MINUTES

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday 24th September 2025
10.00 a.m.

Oatlands Municipal Offices
71 High Street, Oatlands

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OPEN COUNCIL MINUTES

MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF THE SOUTHERN MIDLANDS COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 24th SEPTEMBER 2025 AT THE OATLANDS MUNICIPAL OFFICES, 71 HIGH STREET, OATLANDS, 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 Karen Woolford 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 and Cllr D Fish.

Mr T Kirkwood (General Manager), Mr A Benson (Deputy General Manager), Mr G Finn (Manager Development and Environmental Services), Ms W Young (Manager, Community and Corporate Development), Mrs A Burbury (Finance Officer), Mr B Williams (Manager Heritage Projects), Mr A Briggs (Oatlands Aquatic Centre Coordinator) and Mrs J Crosswell (Executive Assistant).

4. APOLOGIES

Cllr F Miller (previously granted leave of absence).

5. MINUTES

5.1 Ordinary Council Meeting

The Minutes (Open Council Minutes) of the previous meeting of Council held on 27 August 2025, as circulated, are submitted for confirmation.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Minutes (Open Council Minutes) of the Council Meeting held 27 August 2025 be confirmed.

DECISION

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

THAT the Minutes (Open Council Minutes) of the Council Meeting held 27 August 2025 be confirmed.

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	✓	

5.2 Special Committees of Council Minutes

5.2.1 Special Committees of Council - Receipt of Minutes

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

- Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary Management Committee Minutes – 25 August 2025
- Facilities & Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes – 11 September 2025

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 above Special Committees of Council be received.

CARRIED

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

5.2.2 Special Committees of Council - Endorsement of Recommendations

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

- Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary Management Committee Minutes – 25 August 2025
- Facilities & Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes – 11 September 2025

RECOMMENDATION

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

DECISION

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

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

CARRIED

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

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

5.3.1 Joint Authorities - Receipt of Minutes

Report(s) prepared by the following Joint Authority, as circulated, are submitted for receipt:

- TasWaste South – Local Government Forum Minutes – 7 August 2025

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the report prepared by the above Joint Authority be received.

DECISION

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

THAT the report prepared by the above Joint Authority 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	✓	

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 2015*, the Agenda is to include details of any Council workshop held since the last meeting.

A workshop was held on the 8th September 2025 at the Council Chambers, Oatlands commencing at 9.30 a.m.

Attendance: Mayor E Batt, Cllrs A E Bisdee OAM, D Blackwell, B Campbell, D Fish and F Miller (remotely).

Also in Attendance: A Benson, W Young and D Richardson.

Apologies: Deputy Mayor K Dudgeon, T Kirkwood

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

1. Targa Tasmania event the Southern Midlands

(Eldon Road, from Gettington Road to Rhyndaston Road, on Tuesday 18th November 2025)

The Clerk of the Course for this year's Targa Tasmania, Stuart Benson, attended the Workshop. It was noted that it has been over twelve years since a Targa stage had been held in the Southern Midlands. This session presented a valuable opportunity for Councillors to engage directly with Stuart, who has been a past Race Director as well as a participant in Targa Tasmania. The focus of his presentation was on key community impact areas, including:

- Traffic and road management
- Risk and safety measures
- Potential for property damage
- Communications with local residents

Senior Sergeant Mark Williams also attended this session. While Tasmania Police have historically played a significant role in the pre-planning of Targa, it was felt that the local Tasmania Police presence will help ensure that local policing networks are fully informed of the current arrangements, particularly given recent changes to the Targa operational protocols.

Stuart outline the operational and safety protocols that Targa has in place, including recent updates following the event's review. He also covered how the organisation plans to inform and engage with local residents in advance of the event. He responded to many questions from Councillors.

This briefing was helpful in ensuring that Councillors are well-equipped to respond to any community queries in the lead-up to the event.

Stuart was requested to prepare some articles for inclusion on Council's website and Facebook page, as well as provide an article for the Southern Midlands Regional News.

2. Tasmanian Fire Service – Exploring the Transfer of Property Ownership

(where Stations are located on Council owned properties)

The Manager Infrastructure & Works (David Richardson) provided a briefing for Councillors in respect of this matter and advised that for a period of time, the Tasmanian Fire Service (TFS) has been assessing the possibility of purchasing properties (or part thereof) where the Fire Station buildings are located on Council owned property and Recreation Grounds. The following sites have been identified as possible acquisitions as part of that process:

- Colebrook;
- Parattah; and
- Tunnack.

In addition to the above, the TFS has submitted a draft lease relating to the Campania Fire Station.

Proposed subdivision plans as well as valuations from the Office of the Valuer General have been prepared for Colebrook; Parattah and Tunnack. The sale price of these sites is under consideration and further research with other local authorities will be undertaken as to the manner in which they have considered the property transfer values.

3. Southern Midlands Council – Number of Elected Members

Clr Fraser Miller had requested that Council consider a preliminary discussion regarding the potential to increase the number of elected Councillors from seven (7) to nine (9). This item was intended to gauge initial views from Councillors and explore whether there is 'in-principle' support to investigate the matter further.

By a decision of Council in 2014, it was moved that the number of Southern Midlands Councillors was reduced from nine (9) to seven (7), effective from the October 2014 Election.

The workshop was advised that following the General Manager's attendance at the General Manager's forum held 3rd & 4th September, the Office of Local Government advised that a report/paper will be circulated within the next two weeks that will address a review into both Councillor allowances and Councillor numbers on a state-wide basis. It is unclear whether this will be in the form of a Consultation Paper or a final Order / Direction that will negate any Local Government Board Review process.

It was resolved to await the arrival of the Consultation Paper or Order/Direction from the Office of Local Government and then continue these discussions.

4. Development & Environmental Services – Review of Enforcement Policy

This Item was deferred to a future meeting.

5. Development & Environmental Services – Review of Caravan Policy

The Manager Development & Environmental Services (Grant Finn) provided a background on the need for the policy and then worked through the draft policy with the workshop participants. No additional elements, or alterations were offered for inclusion.

The workshop concluded at 11.07 a.m.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the information be received.

DECISION

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

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	✓	

7. COUNCILLORS – QUESTION TIME

7.1 Questions (On Notice)

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

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

Nil.

7.2 Questions Without Notice

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

It states:

“29. Questions without notice

(1) A councillor at a meeting may ask a question without notice –

- (a) of the chairperson; or*
- (b) through the chairperson, of –*
 - (i) another councillor; or*
 - (ii) the general manager.*

(2) In putting a question without notice at a meeting, a councillor must not –

- (a) offer an argument or opinion; or*
- (b) draw any inferences or make any imputations – except so far as may be necessary to explain the question.*

(3) The chairperson of a meeting must not permit any debate of a question without notice or its answer.

(4) The chairperson, councillor or general manager who is asked a question without notice at a meeting may decline to answer the question.

(5) The chairperson of a meeting may refuse to accept a question without notice if it does not relate to the activities of the council.

(6) Questions without notice, and any answers to those questions, are not required to be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

(7) The chairperson of a meeting may require a councillor to put a question without notice in writing.

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

Deputy Mayor K Dudgeon – Horses (Parattah) – received numerous representations regarding the number of horses being kept at the property and the impact on residents.

Manager Development & Environmental Services advised that Council officers have been communicating with the Office of Racing Integrity (ORI) and a multi-agency response has been initiated. In addition, Council’s Environmental Health Officer will be conducting a further inspection of the property to determine what ‘environmental nuisances’ (i.e. dust/odour etc.) may exist that requires action by Council. The level of response from the ORI has improved give recent media coverage.

Deputy Mayor K Dudgeon – Possible drought circumstances – commented about the number of farmers that have expressed concern regarding the present dry weather conditions. Despite recent rainfall (minimal), the subsequent wind events have negated any benefit. Is there any availability of external support assistance?

It was generally acknowledged that a drought declaration would not be considered under the present conditions however this can be monitored going forward.

Clr A E Bisdee OAM – Property (Kempton) – Storage of Cars i.e. number of vehicles being kept on the property) – is this property being monitored and need for any Council action?

Manager Development & Environmental Services advised that Council officers do have knowledge of the property. Recent approval has been given for the construction of a large shed that will house some of the vehicles and improve the overall presentation of the property. It was confirmed that the property is not being used as a ‘wrecking yard’ and development approval is not required.

Clr B Campbell – Woodsdale Recreation Ground – Transfer of Ownership – update sought.

The General Manager confirmed that a Contract for sale of Real Estate has been forwarded and not returned to date. The purchaser is also required to confirm who will act on its behalf for the conveyance process when the signed Contract is returned.

Clr B Campbell – Waste Transfer Station – Recycling Bins – questioned who pays to transport these bins and who receives the proceeds from the recycling products?

The General Manager advised that Council is responsible for the cost of transporting the recycling bins and Council also receives the proceeds from the recycling products.

Mayor E Batt – Bus Stop Sign(s) – Main Street, Kempton – questioned the absence of Bus Stop sign(s) in the vicinity of the Council Chambers?

Following general discussion, Deputy General Manager to follow-up with the Department of State Growth to confirm the designated bus stop areas and the need for signposting.

8. DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

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

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

Nil.

9. CONSIDERATION OF SUPPLEMENTARY ITEMS TO THE AGENDA

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

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

Nil.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Julia Jabour – Southern Midlands Regional News

Is there anything Council can do to address the appalling situation of the well over 100 horses being run in the centre of Parattah, as residents now have serious concerns about their own health from the smell, dust, hay and manure blowing in water tanks?

(Neither Tasracing, which is rumoured to be funding the ‘stud’, nor Tasmanian Racing Integrity Commission will answer my questions.)

Reference was made to the comments provided by the Manager Development & Environmental Services in response to a question raised by the Deputy Mayor (refer earlier in the meeting).

Manager Development & Environmental Services advised that Council officers have been communicating with the Office of Racing Integrity (ORI) and a multi-agency response has been initiated. In addition, Council's Environmental Health Officer will be conducting a further inspection of the property to determine what 'environmental nuisances' (i.e. dust/odour etc.) may exist that requires action by Council. The level of response from the ORI has improved give recent media coverage.

Julia Jabour – Southern Midlands Regional News - made reference to the comment contained within the NRM Unit report relating to dogs on the foreshore of Lake Dulverton and sought additional detail.

General Manger provided clarification and an explanation of the issue. Approval has now been given by the Parks and Wildlife Service for dogs to remain with the conservation area (subject to conditions). The correspondence from Parks will be submitted to the next meeting of the Lake Dulverton & Callington Park Management Committee who will address the issues around communicating the change and what signage may be required.

Julia Jabour – Southern Midlands Regional News – Oatlands Hotel Proposal - Any update?

General Manger advised that there is still ongoing communication with the preferred proponents. In more recent times, the proponents have been aiming to identify other potential investor options.

Julia Jabour – Southern Midlands Regional News – Tas Petroleum – Fuel Stop Proposal – Any update?

Manager Development & Environmental Services confirmed that a Development Application (DA) has been submitted. Following initial assessment, a request for further information has been given to the proponents. Once these requests for further information are satisfied, the DA will be advertised accordingly.

10.1 Permission to Address Council

Nil.

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

Nil.

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

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

12.1 Development Applications

Nil.

12.2 Subdivisions

Nil.

12.3 Municipal Seal (Planning Authority)

Nil.

12.4 Planning (Other)

12.4.1 Policy Development Update - Caravan Policy

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

Date: 16 SEPTEMBER 2025

Attachment(s)
Caravan Policy

Issue

The updating of the existing Policy to reflect both a change in Council's attitude and outline the requirements for those who wish to temporarily occupy a caravan on private land in the Southern Midlands municipal area.

Background

Council has an existing Policy which is a 2013 iteration and is subsequently due for a review.

The attached revised Policy has been compiled in conjunction with Council's Building Permit Authority, Community Development and Environmental Health teams.

In the absence of a By-law, this policy will assist Council to deliver a consistent approach to the consideration of temporary occupancy of caravans.

By-Laws provide detailed rules for managing specific Council responsibilities and activities that are not sufficiently covered by State legislation.

The majority of Council's in Tasmanian have legally binding By-laws that relate specifically to this matter.

Unfortunately Policies do not have the same legal standing and are simply internal guidelines, not laws that dictate how the Council will act.

This Policy will guide council officers and ensure consistent, transparent, and impartial management of Caravan Licences and their temporary occupation.

In addition, it was presented at a Council workshop on Monday 8th September 2025 where feedback from elected members was sought.

Discussion

The draft revision of the Caravan Policy is attached and shows some the changes to the document as discussed above. There are no changes required by legislation.

As Councillors are aware, the process for any policy document is, that it is tabled at one meeting and then "lays on the table" until the next meeting, to enable Councillors sufficient

time to work through and consider all of the ramifications of the strategy/policy, before the document is finally considered for adoption at the following meeting, subject to any amendments agreed by Council.

Human Resources and Financial Implications

The assessment and application of the Policy will require both officer time and other operational resources.

Policy Implications

Adoption of revised policy.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council:

- 1. Receives and notes the report; and**
- 2. Considers draft version 1 of the Caravan Policy in preparation for adoption of the revised policy at the October 2025 Council meeting, subject to any amendments made by Council.**

DECISION

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

THAT Council:

- 1. Receives and notes the report; and**
- 2. Considers draft version 1 of the Caravan Policy in preparation for adoption of the revised policy at the October 2025 Council meeting, subject to any amendments made by Council.**

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	✓	

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

13. OPERATIONAL MATTERS ARISING (STRATEGIC THEME – INFRASTRUCTURE)

13.1 Roads

Strategic Plan Reference 1.1

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

Nil.

13.2 Bridges

Strategic Plan Reference 1.2

Maintenance and improvement of the standard and safety of bridges in the municipality.

Nil.

13.3 Walkways, Cycle Ways and Trails

Strategic Plan Reference 1.3

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

Nil.

13.4 Lighting

Strategic Plan Reference 1.4

Ensure adequate lighting based on demonstrated need / Contestability of energy supply.

Nil.

13.5 Buildings

Strategic Plan Reference 1.5

Maintenance and improvement of the standard and safety of public buildings in the municipality.

Nil.

13.6 Sewers / Water

Strategic Plan Reference(s) 1.6

Increase the capacity of access to reticulated sewerage services / Increase the capacity and ability to access water to satisfy development and Community to have access to reticulated water.

Nil.

13.7 Drainage

Strategic Plan Reference 1.7

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

Nil.

13.8 Waste

Strategic Plan Reference 1.8

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

Nil.

13.9 Information, Communication Technology

Strategic Plan Reference 1.9

Improve access to modern communications infrastructure.

Nil.

13.10 Officer Reports – Infrastructure & Works

13.10.1 Manager – Infrastructure & Works Report

Author: MANAGER INFRASTRUCTURE & WORKS (DAVID RICHARDSON)

Date: 20 SEPTEMBER 2025

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. **Annual Resealing & Stabilisation Program:** Preparations have begun for Council's annual road resealing and stabilization program, which will be carried out on various roads.

Current Capital Works

1. **Melton Mowbray Park Development:** Development works continue at Melton Mowbray Park. Currently awaiting Heritage Tas approval for the trough replacement.
2. **Mood Food to Kempton walkway has commenced construction.**
3. **Kerb Construction at Tunbridge Main Road:** New kerb construction has been completed.
4. **Campania Football Club change rooms are underway.** Works are progressing well
5. **Kempton Recreation Ground:**
 - Construction of a new pickle ball/basketball court is underway.
 - Work on new cricket nets has also commenced.
6. **Cole Mine Bend Road.** Stormwater drainage is being installed to mitigate against flooding and washing out the road in sections.

Parks and Reserves

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

3. **Bagdad Oval:** Top dressing works and aeration works have been completed.
4. **Runnymede Recreation Ground.** A new synthetic cricket wicket cover is being installed.

Bridge Works

1. **Bridge Maintenance:** Minor works on several bridges are currently in progress and will continue as required.

Building Services Unit

1. **Council Building Maintenance:** Ongoing maintenance works have been carried out on various council buildings and will continue.
2. **Construction of Campania Football Club Change Room Additions:** Construction work has commenced.
3. **Ceiling Repair at Roche Hall:** Repair works are in progress.

Planned Works

1. **Road Maintenance:**
 - Drainage and pavement repairs on various roads.
 - Edge break repairs across various roads.
2. **Bridge Maintenance:** Ongoing and planned bridge maintenance repairs.
3. **Kempton-Mood Food Pathway:** Construction works will continue.
4. **Building Maintenance:** Continued maintenance on various council buildings.
5. **Continued Development at Melton Mowbray Open Space Area:** Works to proceed as planned.
6. **Continued Works at Kempton Recreation Ground:** Ongoing development of recreational facilities at Kempton.

Bagdad Community Club to Bagdad School shared walkway. Commence construction of walkway over the coming month.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE TO MANAGER, INFRASTRUCTURE & WORKS

Mayor E Batt – Lake Dulverton - Walkway to Parattah – received a comment that the path may need some maintenance as this person was a regular user and rides an ‘E scooter’.

To be inspected.

Mayor E Batt – Melton Mowbray Park – Trough and Tree planting – update?

Manager Heritage Projects confirmed that relocation of the Trough is imminent and tree planting is planned for the site. Needs to confirm timing with the Manager Infrastructure and Works.

Clr B Campbell – Oatlands to Parattah Walkway – commented that there is a need to extend the walkway through to the Railway line?

Issue to be referred to the next meeting of the Lake Dulverton and Callington Park Management Committee for information.

Clr B Campbell – replacement of Guide Posts – how is this progressing?

General Manager advised that this is an ongoing program.

RECOMMENDATION

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

DECISION

Moved by Clr D Fish, seconded by Clr B Campbell

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

CARRIED

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

14. OPERATIONAL MATTERS ARISING (STRATEGIC THEME – GROWTH)

14.1 Residential

Strategic Plan Reference 2.1

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

Nil.

14.2 Tourism

Strategic Plan Reference 2.2

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

Nil.

14.3 Business

Strategic Plan Reference 2.3

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

Nil.

14.4 Industry

Strategic Plan Reference 2.4

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

Nil.

15. OPERATIONAL MATTERS ARISING (STRATEGIC THEME – LANDSCAPES)

15.1 Heritage

Strategic Plan Reference – Page 22

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

15.1.1 Heritage Project Program Report

Author: HERITAGE PROJECTS OFFICER (BRAD WILLIAMS)

Date: 24 September 2025

ISSUE

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

DETAIL

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

- Further planning and liaison with the Australian Institute of Architects for the Open House Southern Midlands event in November.
- Progressing Roche Hall works and conservation management plan.
- Researching Eddington's Cottage, Bagdad.
- Creation of a digital catalogue of Council's art collection arising from the AiRSpace project. Michelle Webster will present this to Council at the next workshop.
- August's Artist in Residence is Eleesa Howard, and places for 2026 have been offered, with a full calendar for next year.
- Finalising documentation on the Erskine Street cemetery (9Kempton) for consultation with the Regulator of the Burial and Cremation Act.
- Public enquiries and development appraisals have increased markedly over the last month.

RECOMMENDATION

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

DECISION

Moved by Deputy Mayor K Dudgeon, seconded by Cllr 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	✓	

15.1.2 Ownership Dispute – Painting Displayed in Oatlands Supreme Court House

Author: MANAGER HERITAGE PROJECTS (BRAD WILLIAMS)

Date: 24 SEPTEMBER 2025

ISSUE

To seek Council direction on a request by Mr. John Jones OAM of Kempton for possession of a painting which has been displayed in the Oatlands Supreme Court House since 2007.

BACKGROUND & DETAIL

Since 2007 there has been a painting displayed in the Oatlands Supreme Court House of a mounted colonial policeman in front of the building. The work was painted by the late Mr. Russ Ames OAM in 2007.



Figure 1 – The painting.

The painting is included on Council's heritage collections database and has been on display in the building since 2007. A label attached to the back of the painting, presumably affixed by Mr. Ames states:

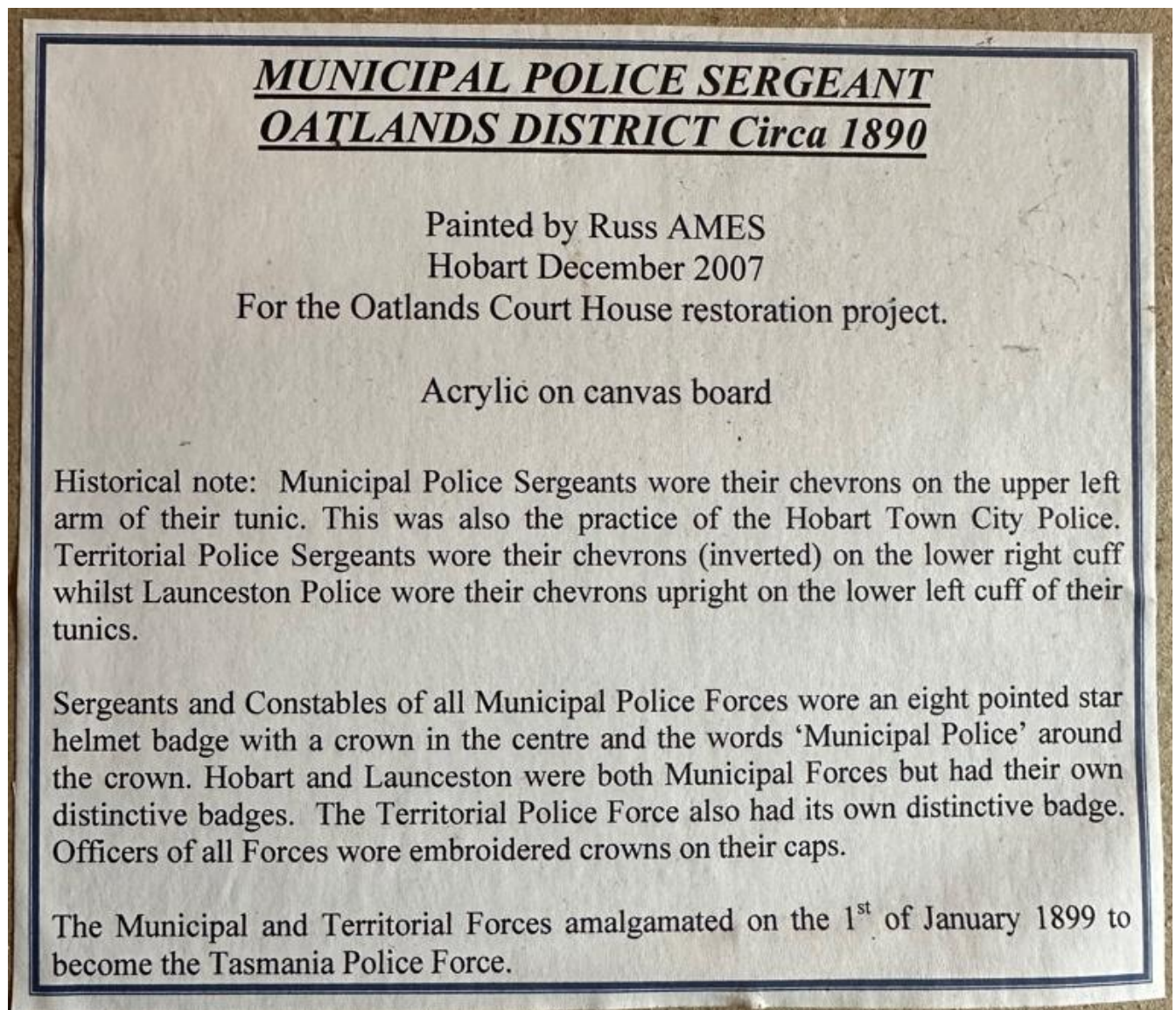


Figure 2 – Label affixed to the back of the painting.

The following labels have been displayed in the court house with the painting for the last 18 years:

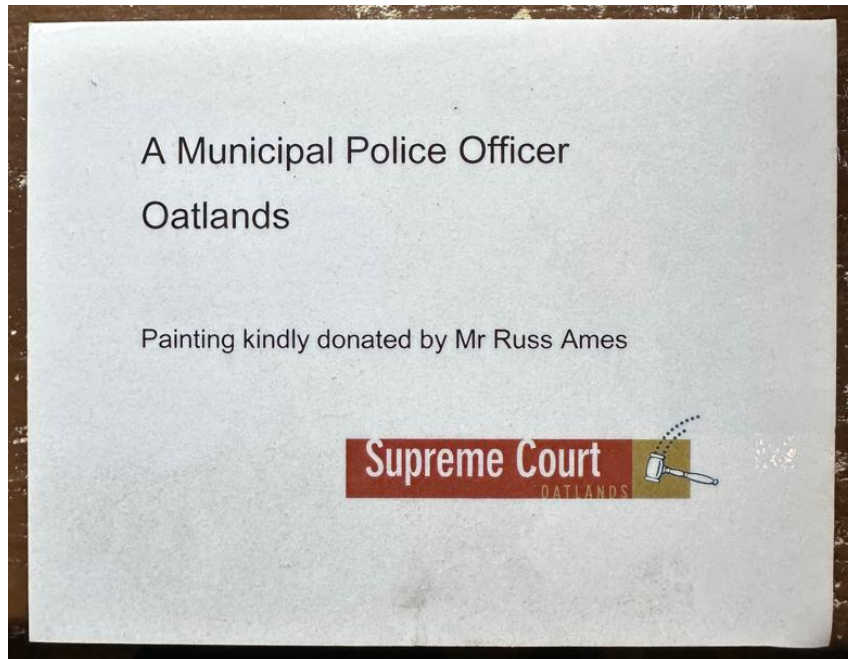


Figure 3 – Label displayed adjacent to the painting since 2007.

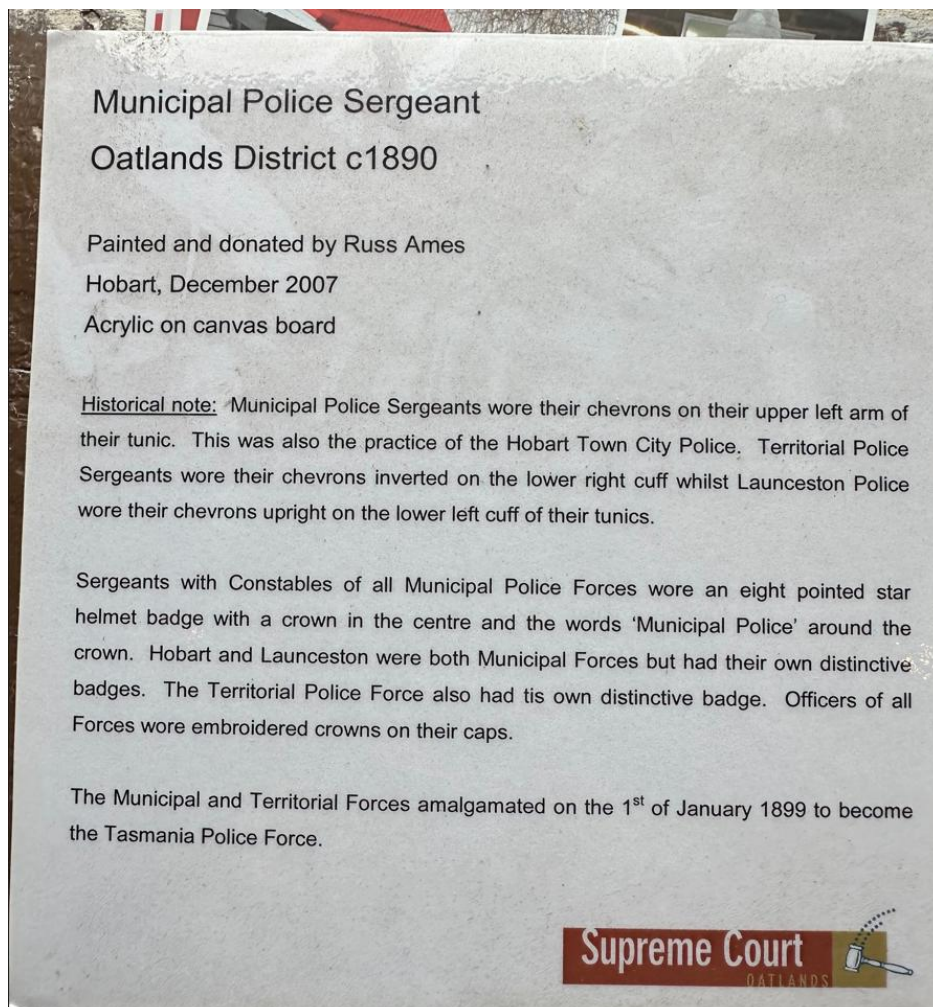


Figure 4 – Interpretation panel displayed adjacent to the painting since 2007.

Mr. John Jones OAM, a former Councillor of Southern Midlands has requested that he take possession of the painting, as he insists that it is his property and that he wishes its return. That position is contrary to the understanding of Council's Manager Heritage Projects that the painting was donated to Council by Mr. Ames for display in the Oatlands Supreme Court House.

Mr. Jones facilitated the Council connection with Mr. Ames, who was a curator at the Tasmanian Police Museum. In late 2007 that organisation donated some police-related items to Council for permanent display in the Oatlands Supreme Court House, and Mr. Ames undertook some research on the Municipal Police to assist with the interpretation project. It was at that time that the painting was provided to Council. At that time Mr. Jones was a SMC Councillor and was a committee member overseeing that project. The label on the back of the painting as depicted in Figure 2 indicates that it was the intention that the painting be '*for the Oatlands Court House restoration project*' – accordingly it has been on permanent display ever since with an attribution to Mr. Ames' donation (see Figures 3-4).

Mr. Jones insists that the painting was given to him as a personal gift by Mr. Ames during discussions on the Oatlands Supreme Court House Interpretation Project and that he subsequently loaned it to Council. There is no disclosure of the painting being given to Mr. Jones personally in the course of his duties as a Councillor on Council's publicly available Gift Register, which would have been required of a Councillor for such a gift pursuant to Council's Gifts and Benefits Policy, in accordance with s.56B of the Local Government Act 1993.

It is the understanding of the author of this report that the painting was donated to Council by Mr. Ames with the express intent of its permanent display in the Oatlands Supreme Court House.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The painting was accessioned into Council's heritage collections database. There is no documentation known to suggest that the painting was on-loan.

Had the painting been a gift to Mr. Jones as part of his advocacy for a Council project it would have been disclosed on the Gift Register as required by s.56B of the Local Government Act. No disclosure was made.

No loan documentation exists for the painting as would be required by Section 3.6 of Council's Heritage Collections Policy (Incoming Loans).

Disposing of an item from the heritage collection at the insistence of a member of the public without any clear substantiation is inconsistent with Section 3.8 of Councils Heritage Collections Policy (Deaccessioning).

Council's Heritage Collections Policy does not include any dispute resolution provisions - accordingly this issue has been brought to Council for determination.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT:

- a) Council resolves to hand the painting to Mr. John Jones OAM.

OR

- b) Council asserts their ownership of the painting and it remains on display in the Oatlands Supreme Court House as intended by the artist unless Mr. Jones can provide evidence of his ownership.

DECISION

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

THAT Council asserts its ownership of the painting 'Municipal Police Sergeant' and it remain on display in the Oatlands Supreme Court House as intended by the artist Mr. Russ Ames OAM.

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	✓	

15.1.3 Policy Endorsement – Metal Detecting on Council Sites

Author: MANAGER HERITAGE PROJECTS (BRAD WILLIAMS)

Date: 24 SEPTEMBER 2025

ISSUE

To seek Council endorsement of the proposed Metal Detecting on Council Sites Policy.

Attachment(s):

Metal Detecting on Council Sites

BACKGROUND

Council occasionally receives requests from members of the public for metal detecting on Council owned/managed sites. These include heritage sites/buildings, as well as other assets such as recreation grounds, halls etc. These requests are always refused due to the potential for excavation arising from metal detecting:

- Causing archaeological impact (and potentially requiring Tasmanian Heritage Council approval).
- Resulting in misappropriation of Council property (e.g. artifacts).
- Potentially damaging underground assets.
- Potentially damaging ground surfaces.
- Potentially causing a public hazard if not backfilled.

Tasmania has an avid community of metal detectorists, as evidenced by many social media pages which regularly exhibit valuable/heritage items retrieved from sites across the state. There appears to be a misconception that prospecting licenses issued by Mineral Resources Tasmania (MRT) allow metal detecting on any public land in Tasmania unless expressly prohibited (e.g. National Parks, designated fossicking areas and NRE owned historic sites).

The proposed policy seeks to gain Council's position on the matter of metal detecting, and to provide Council officers with a firm policy basis for enforcing the above.

The proposed policy was tabled at Council's August 2025 meeting. No corrections nor amendments have been requested.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council endorse the policy.

DECISION

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

THAT Council endorse the policy.

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	✓	

5.2 Natural

Strategic Plan Reference – page 23/24

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

15.2.1 NRM Unit – General Report

Author: NRM PROGRAMS MANAGER (MARIA WEEDING)

Date: 16 SEPTEMBER 2025

DETAIL

- Maria has continued working on Lake Dulverton matters. One of the issues has been dogs on the foreshore of the Lake. The community have had dogs being exercised on the foreshore for decades, however there was no formal approval ever provided by Parks which is required because the foreshore has been now incorporated into the Conservation area. Originally the foreshore was just listed as Crown Land and the conservation area (Sanctuary) was the water area to the high water mark. Parks advised that dogs in a designated Conservation area were actually prohibited. A letter was sent to Parks in December 2024 requesting the recognition and continuation of dogs begin exercised on the foreshore of the Lake. The Lake Dulverton & Callington Park Management Committee had to agree to a number of changes to the current dog use of the area. Without the changes, it was unlikely that Southern Midlands could continue to allow dogs anywhere on the foreshore area. Signage and information related to the changes will go out in due course.
- Helen, Mary and Maria spent time planting a number of grevillias on the Lake Dulverton foreshore close to the Esplanade where a bank was too steep to mow, and the grass vegetation has had to be sprayed in the past. A number of other sites were also infill planted with some native plants provided by the Midlands Tree Committee.
- Maria has spent some time assisting E Bjorksten compile and label some photos as part of her project to compile a set of historical records of the dry stone walls in and around Oatlands. The information has now been handed to the Historical Society for future records and access by the general public.
- In response to a query on the new table and seat combination and single seat placed in Callington Park last month, the products were selected because are specifically marketed as commercial grade engineered products designed for public spaces. The powder coated steel frame component gives strength and is low maintenance. The durability of the ecoslat that makes up the seats and the table top is excellent in that it is not a cold surface to sit on (like steel would be), and does not hold moisture within the product (such as wood). This means the seat does not remain damp, particularly over the winter months of the year, which would be an issue with a wood product. The ecoslat product is also a low maintenance product that is not easily vandalised.
- Helen has been assisting Mary with some of her work. See report below.
- Helen has renewed her DrumMuster Inspector accreditation, as she does the DrumMuster administration on behalf of Southern Midlands
- Helen has taken some annual leave and also been on sick leave.

- The Weeds Officer Mary proved the following report for Council to note:

19th August – 16th September 2025

Enquiries/feedback

A local farmer expressed interest in learning about agricultural weeds to watch out for, and to be notified of upcoming workshops etc. After discussion, the farmer said that the season has been so dry that the expected on-ground weed issues have not eventuated yet, so a property visit has been postponed.

Prepared a package of information about broom control and native revegetation for new Oatlands landowners and it was received with thanks.

Assisted a landowner to find a single Spanish heath bush on their private land via a couple of photos taken by Mary from the roadside. Once made aware of the plant, the landholder was keen to remove Spanish Heath weed, and was appreciative of the photos that were sent to her phone to assist in identifying the exact location of the plant.

Site visits

Ongoing weed work and planting of tubestock into the Kempton Recreation Ground mounds. Ongoing weed work at the Mangalore Arena to control the plethora of weeds that have germinated.

Ongoing assistance with weed work and landcare activities around Lake Dulverton with MW and/or HG.

Ongoing planting, watering and mulching of new plants at the Pound, Oatlands. The western row needs follow-up work before it can be replanted, and these later plants will need regular watering over the summer months.

Some targeted weed control, and the planting of 7 Silver banksias at the southern end of the playground at Tunbridge Park has been completed.

One windy afternoon, I tackled a few local outlier broom and tree lupin bushes around Oatlands, and the single willow at Oatlands tip. Very satisfying work.

Communication

Illustrated article on boneseed and pampas grass (reminder alert) plus photos of more local broadleaf weed rosettes published in the Southern Midlands Regional Newsletter.

Weeds Action Fund

Contracts have been awarded to various organisations to manage the 6 project areas under the WAF (see the Natural Resources and Environment website) but roll-out activities are yet to start. I have been keeping the Stemless thistle contact informed of progress, but it is highly unlikely that WAF on-ground works will be able to be done this year.

Roadside Woody Weeds

Have begun follow-up survey work on the results of contractor control works on the roadside woody weeds priority sites (mostly gorse and broom outlier populations) over the last couple of years. Initial results are patchy: some areas have almost all plants killed off, others fewer than half the bushes are dead...

Work on Spanish heath has been delayed due to wind.

Research

Researching the genus *Galium* (Bed straw plant) for a future SMRN article. There are 6 introduced Galiums in Tasmania, but only 1 is declared.

Related and extra-curricular activities

Spent a very productive 3 hours of my own time cutting & pasting the remaining few hundred boneseed bushes in the little reserve on Fingerpost Road (first half of the boneseed was completed last year) plus 3 roadside plants down near the Tasman Highway (even though that is in Clarence Municipality). There will no longer be any seed produced this year, and follow-up work will complete eradication over time.

Weed of the Week

NZ flax, periwinkle, boneseed and tree lucerne displayed at Oatlands front office this month.

RECOMMENDATION

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

DECISION

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

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	✓	

DECISION

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

THAT Council break for morning tea at 11.02 a.m.

CARRIED

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

DECISION

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

THAT the meeting resume at 11.24 a.m.

CARRIED

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

15.3 Cultural

Strategic Plan Reference 3.3

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

Nil.

15.4 Regulatory (Development)

Strategic Plan Reference 3.4

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

Nil.

15.5 Regulatory (Public Health)

Strategic Plan Reference 3.5

Monitor and maintain a safe and healthy public environment.

Nil.

15.6 Regulatory (Animals)

Strategic Plan & Annual Plan **Southern Midlands Strategic Plan (2024-2034)**

3.6 Regulatory – Animals

- 3.6.1 *Create an environment where animals are treated with respect and do not create a nuisance for the Community.*
- 3.6.1.1 *Continue dog control. Regulatory, licensing and educational programs*
- 3.6.1.2 *Continue to conduct a public awareness/education program that informs the community of the need to contain livestock and the associated legal requirements within available resources.*
- 3.6.1.3 *Investigate the establishment of Off-Lead Dog Parks in Oatlands and Campania*
- 3.6.1.3 *Encourage the State Government to recognise the feral cat problem as distinct from the escaped/released/straying domestic cat problem and contribute to a State wide/regional strategy to meaningfully reduce the number of feral cats that now form a self-sustaining and very large population in rural areas*
- 3.6.1.4 *Review the endorsed 'Southern Tasmania Regional Cat Management Strategy 2021-2026' recognising that the Strategy is based on an 'opt-in' approach which would be reliant on available resources, and taking into account the extent of the problem within each municipal area*

15.6.1 Animal Management Report

Author: ANIMAL MANAGEMENT OFFICER (RACHEL COLLIS)

Date: 18 SEPTEMBER 2025

Enclosure(s):
Animal Management Statement 2025

ISSUE

Consideration of the Animal Management/Compliance Officer's report for September 2025
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.

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 Cllr D Blackwell

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	✓	

ENCLOSURE

Agenda Item 15.6.1

Reporting period: 20 August - 18 September 2025

Category/Area	Andover	Antill Ponds Woodbury	Baden Mt Seymour Whitefoord	Bagdad	Broadmarsh Elderslie	Campania	Colebrook	Dysart	Jericho	Kempton	Lemont Pawtella York Plains	Levendale Runnymede	Mangalore	Melton Mowbray	Oatlands	Parattah	Rekuna Tea Tree	Rhyndaston Tiberias	Stonehenge Swanston	Stonor	Tunnack	Tunbridge	Woodsdale	Reporting Period Total	2025-2026
																								0	
Failing to ensure dog is not at large																									2
Dog attacking animal causing serious injury or death (1 sheep)										1														1	
Dog - Impounded				1				1																2	3
Reclaimed dogs				1				1																2	3
Adopted/Dogs Home																								0	
Euthanised																								0	
Lost dogs reported																								0	2
Barking complaints																1								1	5
Animal Welfare															1									1	2
Cat complaints received																								0	1
Stock on roads						2						1			2				1					6	4
Impounded livestock																								0	
Infringement Notices Issued																								0	1
Written letter - various matters					2					1			1		2									6	9
Patrolled Areas				3		3	1	1		1					2	1			1					13	29
Kennel Licence - Issued																								0	1
TOTAL																								32	

Registered 2025-2026 YTD	1539
Pending 2025-2026	127
Licences	65

15.7 Environmental Sustainability

Strategic Plan Reference 3.7

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

Nil.

16. OPERATIONAL MATTERS ARISING (STRATEGIC THEME – COMMUNITY)

16.1 Community Health and Wellbeing

Strategic Plan Reference 4.1

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

16.1.1 Southern Midlands Council – Community Small Grants Program 2025

Author: DEPUTY GENERAL MANAGER (ANDREW BENSON)

Date: 15 SEPTEMBER 2025

Attachment(s):

Agreed Process for Considering the SMC Community Small Grants Programme.

BACKGROUND

Council has conducted a Community Small Grants program twice a year since 2008, converting to an annual program in September 2009. The main aim of the program is to streamline and condense the many requests for financial support received from various community groups, charitable organisations and service providers throughout the year. The program has proven to be very popular with all the target groups and excellent goodwill is gleaned from the successful grant recipients. Additional kudos has been obtained by having presentations to successful Grantee organisations at the Australia Day function in January.

[EXTRACT FROM THE GUIDELINES]

The Southern Midlands Council's Community Small Grants program has been established to support projects, programs and activities developed for the benefit of the residents of the Southern Midlands local government area.

The Community Small Grants provide assistance to community groups to provide programs, improve safety, undertake minor capital works, and facilitate small seminars, conferences and forums or purchase equipment.

The Southern Midlands Council recognises the immense community benefit provided to our residents and visitors by local community organisations through the provision of opportunity for involvement in activities in Southern Midlands.

The Community Small Grants Program is one method of supporting and assisting local organisations in providing additional opportunities for the Southern Midlands community.

Purpose

To provide financial assistance in a regulated and equitable way to community groups catering for, and responding to, the needs of the residents and visitors to Southern Midlands.

The program provides assistance to organisations to conduct a wide range of activities. The following broad categories are designed to give applicants an idea as to the types of projects which Council seeks to support through this program:

Community Building

Projects which aim to increase community participation & access to information, services & facilities while strengthening community and social well-being.

Minor Capital Works

Projects which enhance our community facilities by aiding in the development of new facilities or improvements to any existing Community/Council owned facility. It will provide assistance for projects such as fencing, roofing, ground lighting, shade sails, building refurbishments, paving, etc.

Safety/Accessibility Upgrades/Equipment

Projects that increase the capacity of local groups and clubs to cater for the needs of the community. These developments can be in the form of a construction project or the purchase of equipment.

Frequency

Council's grant program is currently held on an annual basis.

Important Dates:

*The current round for assistance opens at 8.30am on Monday 28th July 2025 and **closes on Monday 1st September 2025 at 4:00pm**. Applications can be lodged at either the Oatlands or Kempton Office, or lodged electronically at mail@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au*

Projects are able to start from Monday 9th October 2025 - full acquittal is required by 30th July 2026.

Level of Funding Available

An organisation can apply for assistance up to a maximum of \$3000 per round- no minimum grant amount applies.

Eligibility

Financial Assistance WILL be considered for:

- *Any not for profit community group or voluntary association that is legally constituted as an incorporated body or under the auspice of one.*
- *The group or organisation is located in the Southern Midlands municipal area or is proposing an activity or project which will take place in the Southern Midlands municipal area, for the benefit of those who live, visit or conduct business in the municipal area.*
- *The applicant is able to demonstrate financial viability and competence.*
- *The applicant meets Council's insurance requirements.*
- *Education providers are able to apply on the condition that the project/activity is open to all residents and has a broad community benefit.*
- *For equipment grants, applicants are required to contribute at least 50% towards the cost of equipment for items considered 'consumables' eg. cricket bats / balls,*

footballs etcItems of a longer term nature eg. line marking machines , training equipment and the like would be eligible for up to 100% funding.

The following are important areas to address

- *Any application which relates to works or projects on property not under the applicants direct ownership (land tenure) or control, must provide a letter of authorisation and approval for said works / projects from the land owner with the grant application.*
- *In the case of applications from the Department of Education, where the facilities will be used by Community and school students alike, the application requires written commitment from the Department of Education / Principal that the facilities (or improvements) will be accessible by the public.*

Financial Assistance WILL NOT be given for:

- *Activities by a private person that is not a formal representative of a bone fide organisation.*
- *Activities of For-Profit organisations.*
- *Applicant organisations who have previously failed to acquit Council assisted projects in line with the agreed terms.*
- *Projects that have previously received funding from this grant program.*
- *Working Capital or straight donation purposes.*
- *Projects by local schools/education providers that are exclusive to student's core school curriculum with no availability to the general public.*
- *Retrospective request for a project already fully or partially completed*
- *Community Organisations who already receive Council funds to undertake a specific activity for which funding is being sought or community organisations wanting to do a specific activity that is already funded by Council.*
- *Facilities where little or no public access is available.*
- *Travel to sporting competitions or conferences for individual or community groups.*
- *Projects/ programs that are not based in or focused on southern midlands residents*

It should be noted that meeting the eligibility criteria is not a guarantee of funding.

The following conditions apply to all financial assistance allocated through the program

Project Management

Funds will only be spent on the project for which funds were applied and as approved by the Southern Midlands Council.

Successful applicants must finalise and acquit the project within the approved time frame and approved budget as per application form.

Any variation of this agreement, such as an extension of the project completion date, shall only be made in writing between the parties. Any request for extension of time must be received in writing prior to the relevant original acquittal completion date.

Successful applicants are required to maintain a copy of all receipts of project expenditure for the term of the grant program, including copies of any advertising, media, newsletters, etc. Council will require copies of expenditure invoices / receipts as part of its acquittal procedure.

If relevant, applicants must obtain and comply with all applicable Council Permit Regulations for example planning, &/or building permit – including road closures, outdoor advertising and any health and safety programs (please ensure that costs for these permits, if required, are included in your application). Please ensure that you have allowed sufficient timeline for these approvals to be obtained and the project to be completed in a timely manner.

The Council strongly encourages that all equipment acquired through the program be insured against theft and fire or covered under your organisations insurance policy.

Although possession of current public liability insurance is not a condition of eligibility, Council strongly encourages all applicants to investigate all their insurance requirements to ensure activities are adequately covered and protected.

Financial

Should a group not be able to fulfil the grant conditions as indicated on the application form or substantial savings have been made, any unspent funds shall be returned to the Southern Midlands Council. In special circumstances, surplus funds from savings made may be authorized for redirection to fund similar projects/ activities. Pre-approval in writing should be sought from Council prior to any additional funds being expended. Should the project exceed the amount estimated, groups will be required to meet the additional costs.

Promotion

The Council requests that successful applicants actively promote the support of the Southern Midlands Council. This may include (but not limited to) any of the following:

- Inclusion of the Southern Midlands Council logo in press advertising or any promotional material.*
- Acknowledgement of the Southern Midlands Council in radio or television advertising, award presentation, etc.*
- Opportunities for the Mayor or delegate to participate in any public relations activities, launches, or proceedings associated with the project. Sufficient notice should be given in the form of an official letter of invite addressed to the General Manager.*
- Must attend Council arranged event celebrating the provision of the grant funding, in particular providing a representative at Council's Australia Day ceremony.*

- *Prominently displaying any certificates or plaques associated with the Council's provision of any grant funding*

A version of Council's Logo is available and will be provided on request. The logo can only be used for a specific purpose to which it was requested and must be replicated in its existing form and not altered in any way.

If use of the Council logo is not practicable, the following wording should be incorporated in any material related to the funded project: "Proudly supported by the Southern Midlands Council".

Evaluation / Acquittal Process

Once the project or equipment purchase has been completed, grant recipients must submit an evaluation and provide copies of any advertising, newsletters and media releases relating to the funded project. An evaluation form will be provided with the grant approval letter.

Evidence of expenditure of funds is required to accompany the evaluation. It is preferred that the evaluation / acquittal information be forwarded as soon as the project or purchase is complete i.e. not left until the final acquittal date

Unsatisfactory acquittal of the grant may lead to withdrawal of the grant approval and subsequent request for return of the allocated funding. Inability to apply for future grant funding may also apply in this circumstance. If you are having difficulties completing the acquittal obligations, please contact Council's grant staff to discuss possible solutions.

Priority Criteria

Due to the limited amount of funds available, priority will be given to projects that:

- 1. Demonstrate considerable benefit to the Southern Midlands community;*
- 2. Raise the awareness of or access to a service, program, group or issue or maximize the participation or use of a facility;*
- 3. Demonstrate coordination with other groups in the community;*
- 4. Address local issues by attempting to meet a community need or gap;*
- 5. Show evidence of community support for the project;*
- 6. Enhance the lifestyle options for residents and visitors in the community;*
- 7. Demonstrate an ability to manage the project through resource allocation including financial resources, effective planning, clear goals and evaluation processes;*
- 8. Demonstrate the ability to be ongoing [if applicable]*
- 9. Is the project reliant on other funds, if so has other funding been approved (evidence of the other funding is required to accompany the application);*
- 10. includes the ability for broad Community access – Land Tenure [in the ownership of the applicant or in other ownership]*

11. *Grant funds applied for as a % of the total amount to complete the project [Inc. in kind contribution] i.e. A financial contribution by the applicant/s would be favourably looked upon*
12. *The Project shall be one that has not received any previous funding for the same purpose by Council or any other funding body (i.e. no 'double dipping')*
13. *Demonstrate that a Risk Assessment of the project is deemed within acceptable limits*
14. *Has the Applicant received funding over the last five years (if the organisation has received funding over the last five years through this program, then a weighting will be included to provide a higher ranking for Applicants that have not received funding over the last five years)*

Final funding decisions are made on the merit of each application against the stated eligibility criteria, guidelines and an assessment against the aforementioned criteria.

Assessment

The application process is as follows:

The application forms can be accessed from the Council Chambers, Oatlands and Kempton or via the Council Website: www.southernmidlands.tas.gov.au

Applicants are encouraged to contact Council's Manager Community & Corporate Development, Andrew Benson on 6254 5050 if you have any questions relating to completion of the forms or require information in regard to how your project meets the guidelines of the program.

The completed applications, once received within timeline parameters, will be assessed and prioritized by the assessment panel consisting of Council Officers and Councillors. The panel's decision is final and no further correspondence shall be entered into.

The assessment panel will then make their recommendations to the next scheduled Council Meeting for adoption.

*Once adopted by Council the applicants will be informed of their success or otherwise in gaining funding. Successful applicants will need to supply Council with a tax invoice [on their own letterhead preferably] for the approved grant amount to allow funding of grant monies to be processed .**This should be done as soon as the approved grant funding letter has been received.***

<i>Tips for completing the Application Form</i>
--

Please use the following as a guide to help you to complete the application form.

Section 1: General Information

1 – 5 As directed by the form, please provide as many details as possible about your group / organisation / club.

Section 2: Details of the Project

Tell us about your project, what you are planning and what you want to achieve.

6. *Select the category that your project best fits under.*
7. *Give your project a name which represents what your project/activity is about.*
8. *Indicate where the project/activity is to be held or carried out (e.g. Hall, park, or facility).*
9. *When answering this question think about the following:*
 - *What does your group want to achieve? (E.g. raise awareness of a service program, group or local issue, improve access to and use of a community facility, maximize participation in your group or a particular activity, improve safety).*
 - *What steps are you planning to take to make sure your project/activity runs smoothly?*
 - *Who might you involve; (e.g.) young persons, older persons, people with different abilities, people from different cultural backgrounds).*
 - *Why is this project/activity important for your group/organisation and the wider community?*
10. *When answering this question think about the following?*
 - *How things will be different for your group and/or the wider community?*
 - *What might it allow them to do that they can't at present?*
 - *How might it improve access to or participation in activities?*
 - *Who will benefit most from your project/activity?*
Keep in mind concepts such as community pride, attracting people to the region and spending money in the community, forming new community links, etc.
11. *Tell us how your group identified a need in the community (e.g. community consultation, public meeting, suggestion box).*
 - *Why do you think the need exists?*
 - *Why is it a problem/issue for your group and/or the wider community?*
 - *Who have you spoken to about this need?*
 - *Why has your group chosen this way to tackle the problem and/or improve the situation?*
12. *To answer these questions think about:*
 - *Can you draw on volunteers from within your group or organisation? If yes, what sort of work will they be asked to do or in what way can they help?*
 - *What equipment, machinery, etc. you have?*
 - *What sort of skills or abilities do the individuals involved in the project/activity have? (E.g. financial management, organisational, trade skills – e.g. plumber, builder etc.).*
 - *What type of outside assistance will you seek to complete the project or run the event?*
13. *For example:*
 - *Increased participation/membership*

- *A well-attended event or activity*
- *Peoples comments and thoughts (how will you get these?)*
- *Media coverage (e.g. newspaper, community newsletter)*
You may wish to identify the main aims of your project which you can go back and review to see whether you were successful.

14. *Please provide approximate start date, completion date, and a contact person for the project.*

Section 3: Budget

Please complete this section as accurately as possible and attach more pages if necessary.

15. *Clearly list the expenses for your project/activity and indicate which expenses you intend to use Council's contribution for.*

16. *Please provide details of the confirmed and anticipated sources of funding for your project. If available please provide with your application any documents confirming the availability of these funds (e.g. bank statements, loan details, letters, etc.).*

Good luck with your Application

[END OF EXTRACT FROM THE GUIDELINES]

CURRENT POSITION

This is the nineteenth round of the Grants Program that Council have offered, with the application form and guidelines being continually refined to provide clear and concise information and criteria for community groups and organisations who apply for the grants.

The Program time table is shown below:-

TIMETABLE

Grant Applications open (with Application Forms available from the SMC website from this date)	Monday 28 July 2025
Grant Applications close	Monday 1 September 2025 (4.00pm)
Confirmation letter acknowledging receipt of applications	Wednesday 3 September 2025
Facilities & Recreation Committee Agenda closes	Thursday 4 September 2025
Facilities & Recreation Committee meeting	Thursday 11 September 2025

Full Council meeting Agenda closes	Thursday 18 September 2025
Full Council meeting [To consider recommendations from the Facilities & Recreation Committee]	Wednesday 24 September 2025
Successful / Unsuccessful letters to grant applicants	Week commencing Monday 29 September 2025
Grant Acquittal	30th June 2026

Nine applications were received, identifying \$36,608.00 worth of projects, requesting a total of \$21,648.00 of support from Council through the SMC Community Small Grants Program 2025.

Within the application we ask,

GRANT AMOUNT REQUESTED: \$ _____ **[GST Inc.]**

Council may not be able to fund the full amount requested .Please advise the minimum amount that would still allow the project to continue \$ _____.

A total “Will Accept” figure of \$18,430.00 has been determined from the applications for this grant round. The funds available for distribution by Council for the projects being \$30,000 as per the 2025/26 budget,

ASSESSMENT PROCESS

Unlike most previous rounds of this grant program, the 2025 program had been slightly under subscribed and the Committee took the view that there was not the requirement to work through a normal rational decision making process (copy attached of the *SMC Community Small Grants-Process & Analysis*) by an Assessment Panel, to look at the priority/ranking of the applications to enable equitable funding decisions to be made.

The Deputy General Manager confirmed to the Committee that all applications were consistent with the program guidelines and therefore they were eligible for funding consideration.

Southern Midlands Community Small Grants Program 2025							
Applications						Recommendation	
Group/Club	Auspiced by	Project	Project Cost	Grant Sought	Will Accept	Recommend to Council	Score
Campania Community Group Inc		First Aid Training for Community	\$ 2,670.00	\$ 1,770.00	\$ 1,470.00	\$ 1,770.00	
Campania Community Group Inc_2		Creation of a History Room	\$ 7,103.00	\$ 2,353.00	\$ 1,953.00	\$ 2,353.00	
Oatlands Community Assn		New Stove	\$ 1,759.00	\$ 1,409.00	\$ 1,279.00	\$ 1,409.00	
Oatlands District Football Assn Inc		Upgrading of Office Equipment	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,250.00	\$ 2,000.00	
Oatlands Ex-Serv & Com Club Inc		EFPOS Machine upgrade	\$ 2,353.00	\$ 2,228.00	\$ 2,228.00	\$ 2,228.00	
Oatlands Highland Gathering	SMC	Purchase of Stage for Community Use	\$ 10,045.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	
Oatlands Swim Club	OCA	Swimming equipment	\$ 3,312.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	
Tunnack Community Club		Roof repairs	\$ 4,078.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 2,750.00	\$ 3,000.00	
Woodsdale Football Club Inc		New replacement refrigerator	\$ 2,888.00	\$ 2,888.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,888.00	
			\$ 36,608.00	\$ 21,648.00	\$ 18,430.00	\$ 21,648.00	
		Budgeted Funding for 2025		\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00	
		balance		\$ 8,352.00	\$ 11,570.00	\$ 8,352.00	

The Facilities & Recreation Committee reviewed the Applications and arrived at the following decision.

DECISION

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

THAT given the dollar value of Applications is less than the budgeted amount and that the Deputy General Manager has confirmed that all Applications meet the Southern Midlands Community Small Grants Program 2025 Guidelines, the ranking of the Applications is not warranted and therefore all of the Applications are recommended to Council for approval as detailed below.

Campania Community Group Inc.

For Community First Aid Training

\$ 1,770.00

Campania Community Group Inc.

Creation of a History Room as part of the Campana War Memorial Hall, subject to formal agreement with the Campana Hall Committee and Council

\$2,353.00

Oatlands Community Association Inc.

New stove for the Midlands Memorial Community Centre

\$ 1,409.00

Oatlands District Football Association Inc.

Office equipment upgrade.

\$ 2,000.00

Oatlands Ex-Service & Community Club Inc.

EFPOS machine upgrade.

\$ 2,228.00

Oatlands Highland Gathering Committee

Purchase of portable stage components for Community use. \$ 3,000.00

Oatlands Swim Club	
Swim training pool equipment.	\$ 3,000.00
Tunnack Community Club Inc.	
Roof repairs.	\$ 3,000.00
Woodsdale Football Club Inc.	
Replacement refrigerator.	\$ 2,888.00
CARRIED	

CONCLUSION

The Facilities & Recreation Committee received nine applications identifying \$36,608.00 worth of projects to be undertaken in the Southern Midlands for the benefit of the Community, requesting a total of \$21,648.00, but acknowledging the acceptance of a lower figure (will accept) of \$18,430.00 of support from Council through the SMC Community Small Grants Program 2023.

Council had allocated \$30,000.00 in its 2025/2026 budget for the Program. A preliminary assessment was undertaken to ensure that all applications met the Program Guidelines. It was confirmed that all applications did meet the Program Guidelines. Therefore the available funds were allocated in accordance with the Grants Summary on the preceding page. The recommendations from the Facilities & Recreation Committee in respect of the SMC Community Grants Program 2025 are clear and unambiguous,

From an historical perspective it is interesting to note that since the inception of the Southern Midlands Community Small Grants Program in 2007, **Council have paid out to Community Groups through this Program \$518,742.00, supporting Southern Midlands Community Projects.**

It must be acknowledged that this Program and this Council has made a significant contribution to this Southern Midlands Community through the SM Community Small Grants Program, a contribution that current and past Councillors should be rightly proud of.

Human Resources & Financial Implications – Funds included in the 2025/2026 budget.

Community Consultation & Public Relations Implications - Include an award session for the next Australia Day event.

Policy Implications - Nil.

Priority - Implementation Time Frame - From the date of the September Council meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT, based on the recommendations of the Facilities & Recreation Committee, Council approves the allocation of funds under the 2025 Southern Midlands Council Community Small Grants Program to the following organisations:

Campania Community Group Inc. For Community First Aid Training	\$ 1,770.00
Campania Community Group Inc. Creation of a History Room as part of the Campania War Memorial Hall, subject to formal agreement with the Campania Hall Committee and Council	\$2,353.00
Oatlands Community Association Inc. New stove for the Midlands Memorial Community Centre	\$ 1,409.00
Oatlands District Football Association Inc. Office equipment upgrade.	\$ 2,000.00
Oatlands Ex-Service & Community Club Inc. EFPOS machine upgrade.	\$ 2,228.00
Oatlands Highland Gathering Committee Purchase of portable stage components for Community use	\$ 3,000.00
Oatlands Swim Club Swim training pool equipment.	\$ 3,000.00
Tunnack Community Club Inc. Roof repairs.	\$ 3,000.00
Woodsdale Football Club Inc. Replacement refrigerator.	\$ 2,888.00

DECISION

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

THAT, based on the recommendations of the Facilities & Recreation Committee, Council approves the allocation of funds under the 2025 Southern Midlands Council Community Small Grants Program to the following organisations:

Campania Community Group Inc. For Community First Aid Training	\$ 1,770.00
Campania Community Group Inc. Creation of a History Room as part of the Campania War Memorial Hall, subject to formal agreement with the Campania Hall Committee and Council	\$2,353.00
Oatlands Community Association Inc. New stove for the Midlands Memorial Community Centre	\$ 1,409.00
Oatlands District Football Association Inc. Office equipment upgrade.	\$ 2,000.00

Oatlands Ex-Service & Community Club Inc.	
EFPOS machine upgrade.	\$ 2,228.00
Oatlands Highland Gathering Committee	
Purchase of portable stage components for Community use	\$ 3,000.00
Oatlands Swim Club	
Swim training pool equipment.	\$ 3,000.00
Tunnack Community Club Inc.	
Roof repairs.	\$ 3,000.00
Woodsdale Football Club Inc.	
Replacement refrigerator.	\$ 2,888.00
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	✓	

16.2 Recreation

Strategic Plan Reference 4.2

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

16.2.1 Oatlands Aquatic Centre – Coordinators Report

Author: OATLANDS AQUATIC CENTRE COORDINATOR (ADAM BRIGGS)

Date: 17 SEPTEMBER 2025

ISSUE

Oatlands Aquatic Centre – Coordinator's Report for the month of August 2025.

DETAIL

The purpose of the report is twofold:

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

Financial Reporting:

**OATLANDS AQUATIC CENTRE - 2025/26 OPERATING EXPENDITURE
TO 31 AUGUST 2025**

INCOME		Annual Budget 2025/26	Actual Aug 2025	Budget Aug 2025	Actual YTD to 31 Aug 2025	Actual YTD to 31 Aug 2024	% Annual Budget 2025/26
Admission Fees		\$235,000	\$19,755	\$19,583	\$37,634	\$27,234	16.0%
Sale of Goods		\$15,000	\$1,251	\$1,250	\$2,539	\$1,872	16.9%
Charging Station Energy Use Reimbursement		\$20,000	\$0	\$0	\$5,097	\$4,168	25.5%
Sub-Total		\$270,000	\$21,006	\$20,833	\$45,270	\$33,274	16.8%

EXPENDITURE		Annual Budget 2024/25	Actual Aug 2025	Budget Aug 2025	2025/26 Year to Date	2024/25 Year to Date	% of Budget 2025/26
Salaries (incl. On-Costs)		\$495,348	\$42,543	\$38,104	\$79,213	\$63,326	16.0%
Operating Costs - Other		\$279,563	\$27,382	\$21,848	\$56,039	\$51,695	20.0%
Total Expenditure		\$774,911	\$69,924	\$59,952	\$135,252	\$115,020	17.5%

Budgeted Deficit		-\$504,911	-\$48,918	-\$39,119	-\$89,982	-\$81,746	17.8%
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Group Bookings & Programs – August (13/8/25 - 16/9/25):

Event / Booking	School / Group	Participation Numbers
Physio Rehab Sessions	Annabel Butler – Physiotherapist	20 individual bookings
GYM / Lane Hire	Fitness Program – GYM & Pool	4 pool individual bookings 5 GYM individual bookings 30 participants
GYM / Lane Hire	Corumbene Program – GYM & Pool	4 pool individual bookings 5 GYM individual bookings 18 participants
Centre Hire	Kempton Primary – Learn to Swim K-6	48 participants
Centre Hire	Bothwell District – Learn to Swim K-6	47 participants
Centre Hire	Oatlands District – Carnival K-2	67 participants
Centre Hire	Oatlands District – Carnival 3-10	50 participants
Centre Hire	Glenora District – Carnival 3-10	30 participants
Centre Hire	Kempton Primary – Carnival 3-6	26 participants
Centre Hire	Campania District – Carnival 3-10	40 participants
Centre Visits	Birthday Party	20 participants
GYM Visits	Campbell Town District	8 participants
Centre Hire	Orford Primary – Carnival 3-6	40 participants
Lane Hire	St Francis School	20 participants
Lane Hire	Geneva Christian School	24 participants
Centre Hire	Bagdad Primary – Learn to Swim P-2	63 participants
Centre Visits	Fitness Passport	16 participants (August)
Lane Hire	Midlands Swimming Club	4 individual bookings

USAGE FOR THE PERIOD 13/8/2025 – 16/9/2025
PAID UPFRONT

Type	Units
Gym	
PAYG – Gym (17 years)	12
PAYG – Gym (Concession)	18
Gym/Pool Combo	
Gym/Pool Pass 10 Sessions (17 years)	6
Gym/Pool Pass 10 Sessions (Concession)	9
PAYG – Gym/Pool Combo (17 years)	3
PAYG – Gym/Pool Combo (Concession)	2
Learn to Swim (Total Numbers)	
Term 3, 2025 Program Enrolments (Currently)	165
Pool	
Upfront 6 Months Pool Membership (17 +)	2
Upfront 6 Months Pool Membership (Concession)	1
Upfront 6 Months Pool Membership (Family)	0
PAYG – Pool (4 years and under)	61
PAYG – Pool (5-16)	141
PAYG – Pool (17)	219
PAYG – Pool (Concession)	106
PAYG – (Family)	17

DIRECT DEBITS – Current Numbers

Type	Units
DD Pool/Gym	8
DD Gym	8
DD 6 Months Pool – 17 years +	1
DD 6 Months Pool – Child/Concession	20
DD 6 Months Centre – Family	1

Grant Applications & General Information

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

- No new programs to report at this stage.

Human Resources & Financial Implications – Refer above detail.

Community Consultation & Public Relations Implications – N/A

Policy Implications – N/A

Priority - Implementation Time Frame – N/A

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the information be received and noted.

DECISION

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

THAT the information be received and noted.

CARRIED

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

16.2.2 Oatlands Recreation Ground – Installation of Electronic Scoreboard / Video Board

Author: GENERAL MANAGER (TIM KIRKWOOD)

Date: 19 SEPTEMBER 2025

ISSUE

Council to consider funding for supply and installation of an Electronic Scoreboard / Video Board at the Oatlands Recreation Ground.

BACKGROUND

Councillors are aware that capital upgrade Plans (including detailed specifications) have been prepared for the Oatlands Recreation Ground. In summary, the capital upgrade involves:

- Minor additions and alterations to and general refurbishment of existing clubrooms; and
- A new changeroom building to be constructed on the north-west part of the property.

The total project cost has been estimated at \$2.80 million.

Development approval was granted in March 2025.

A grant application was submitted under the Australian Government's *Growing Regions Program* seeking funding of \$1.96 million, with Council being prepared to contribute the remaining \$840,000. This Council contribution has been incorporated into the *Southern Midlands Council's Long-Term Financial Management Plan*, as endorsed by Council in June 2025.

Unfortunately, this application was unsuccessful, and no suitable alternative funding programs are currently available. As such, the broader project remains in abeyance pending further funding opportunities.

DETAIL

During the planning phase, it was generally acknowledged that the total project budget had the capacity to include the replacement of the existing scoreboard at the Oatlands Recreation Ground. Given that the broader project is on hold, Council is now being asked to consider progressing with the electronic scoreboard / video board component as a stand-alone initiative.

This approach would deliver a tangible improvement to the facility, support local and regional sporting events, and provide broader community benefit. Notably, the Oatlands Recreation Ground is identified as a regional-level asset in the Southern Midlands Community Infrastructure Plan, yet it has seen little significant investment in recent years (since installation of ground lighting).

In reference to the Plan, it states:

“The existing regional assets in Oatlands are in good condition, however the building assets at the Oatlands Recreation Ground require upgrading to an acceptable standard.”

The Plan includes the following management strategy:

“The management of Regional Assets should focus on maintaining and enhancing the role of these key assets for a range of uses including sports, recreation, sociocultural values, health and wellbeing, and tourism. The identification of Regional Assets allows for strategic investment in key assets rather than spreading resources across many poor quality facilities.”

It should be noted that whilst the main intended use is an electronic scoreboard, the video board enables use for many other purposes.

Councillors would be aware of the recent installation of an electronic scoreboard at the Campania Recreation Ground, completed at a cost of \$48,500. This was funded primarily via a \$35,000 grant from the Tasmanian Government with Council contributing \$12,875. The Campania Cricket/Football Club took responsibility for the on-site works, including erection of the steel framework and concrete for the footings.

This recent project provides a relevant benchmark in terms of both cost and delivery model.

During the recent Oatlands District Football Association finals, and in particular the Grand Final which attracted 1,600 plus spectators, comments were noted in relation to the scoreboard being sub-standard in terms of location; safety and suitability (i.e. given the technology now available). It was of particular concern that the tradition of playing finals at Oatlands was being questioned given the standard of infrastructure.

The Oatlands Football Club did submit an application through the 2024 round of Council's Community Small Grants Program and were allocated \$3,000 subject to the Club securing the balance of the funding. This has not eventuated, and the \$3,000 is still being held by Council.

Over recent weeks, and subsequent to the finals series being held, the Oatlands Football Club has approached Council to discuss the possibility of the scoreboard being advanced separately.

As part of the proposal, and similar to the Campania project, the Football Club has committed to take responsibility for the on-site works, including erection of the steel framework and concrete for the footings.

Human Resources & Financial Implications – Based on the final cost for the Campanian installation, a total project budget of \$50,000 would be required.

Hence, an additional \$47K is required to fund the project, taking into account the \$3K already allocated through the Community Small Grants Program.

Potential sources of funding will be raised for discussion at the meeting.

Note: There are no suitable grant programs available at present, however a grant could be pursued if an opportunity arises in the short-term.

Community Consultation & Public Relations Implications – As commented above, the existing Scoreboard is sub-standard. It does reflect poorly when one of the main objectives for a 'regional asset' is to ensure that the facilities are of a high standard in keeping with their regional importance.

Policy Implications – N/A

Priority - Implementation Time Frame – Dependent on Council decision.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT:

- a) The report and information be received;
- b) Council confirm its willingness to fund the project (in full or in part), subject to final costings and potential co-contributions;
- c) Undertake detailed costing and specification work, and (if deemed necessary by Planning) proceed with an application for development approval; and
- d) Investigate external funding opportunities, if available.

DECISION

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

THAT:

- a) The report and information be received;
- b) Council confirm its willingness to fund the project (in full or in part), subject to final costings and potential co-contributions;
- c) Undertake detailed costing and specification work, and (if deemed necessary by Planning) proceed with an application for development approval; and
- d) Investigate external funding opportunities, if available.

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	✓	

16.3 Access

Strategic Plan Reference 4.3

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

Nil.

16.4 Volunteers

Strategic Plan Reference 4.4

Encourage community members to volunteer.

Nil.

16.5 Families

Strategic Plan Reference 4.5

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

Nil.

16.6 Education

Strategic Plan Reference 4.6

Increase the educational and employment opportunities available within the Southern Midlands

Nil.

16.7 Capacity & Sustainability

Strategic Plan Reference 4.7

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

Nil.

16.8 Safety

Strategic Plan Reference 4.8

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

Nil.

16.9 Consultation & Communication

Strategic Plan Reference 4.8

Improve the effectiveness of consultation & communication with the community.

Nil.

17. OPERATIONAL MATTERS ARISING (STRATEGIC THEME – ORGANISATION)

17.1 Improvement

Strategic Plan Reference 5.1

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

17.1.1 Office of Local Government (Department of Premier and Cabinet) – Discussion Paper – Reforms to Councillor Numbers and Allowances

Author: GENERAL MANAGER (TIM KIRKWOOD)

Date: 17 SEPTEMBER 2025

Attachment(s):

Discussion Paper – Reforms to Councillor Numbers and Allowances

ISSUE

Council to consider the *Discussion Paper - Reforms to Councillor Numbers' and Allowances*, issued by the Office of Local Government and to provide feedback on the proposals contained therein.

BACKGROUND

The Minister for Local Government, the Hon Kerry Vincent MLC, has initiated a review of councillor numbers and allowances across the local government sector.

This review stems from a key recommendation of the *Future of Local Government Review*.

The Minister has indicated that it is timely to reform numbers and allowances across the local government sector, recognising that the role of councillors is increasingly complex, and that there has been an absence of meaningful and consistent change to both representation and pay to reflect this.

DETAIL

The Office of Local Government has published a Discussion Paper for council and community feedback, which proposes a data-driven framework for determining consistent, appropriate, and fair representation and pay across councils.

The following is an extract from the Discussion Paper in terms of what reform is needed:

1. High number of councillors: Tasmania has one of the highest numbers of councillors per person in Australia, which can lead to inefficiencies and, in some cases, undemocratic election outcomes where candidates win with very few votes.

2. Inconsistencies in representation: Historical reviews of numbers targeted at a small number of councils, have left councils of similar size with different numbers of councillors, creating inequitable variations.
3. Low pay for councillors: Current allowances do not reflect the growing complexity of councillors' roles, discouraging diverse and talented candidates and indirectly limiting the time some councillors can devote to their duties.
4. Outdated system: The current method for setting allowances, based on registered voters and operating revenue, has notable flaws - failing to account for population size or council responsibilities, and is susceptible to volatile changes from grant revenue.

The following is a summary of what is proposed:

The Government proposes a new, fair, and data-driven system to set councillor numbers and allowances, using factors like population, development activity, infrastructure, urbanisation, and road networks. Key changes include:

- Fewer councillors: Reducing the total number of councillors from 263 to 203, with councils having 9, 7, or 5 councillors based on their size and complexity.
- Higher allowances: Increasing councillor allowances by 14.25% on average, funded by savings from fewer councillors.
- A fairer framework: Aligning councillor numbers and pay to council responsibilities, ensuring equal pay for equal work and consistency across similar councils.
- Ongoing reviews: Establishing regular, four-yearly reviews to keep the system up-to-date and responsive to community needs.
- Additional support: Exploring whether to require councils to pay the 12% superannuation equivalent allowance into councillors' super funds.

Comments:

In reference to the Discussion Paper, in simple terms, the proposal would

- Assign councils to one of three categories (9, 7, or 5 councillors) using a scoring system based on factors like population, infrastructure, development activity, and geographic size.
- Utilise six allowance categories, with pay levels set using the same scoring system to create fair 'bands' within each councillor category.
- Ensure consistent representation for similar councils, reducing the total number of councillors by 60 to 203 statewide.
- Use savings from fewer councillors to fund a cost-neutral 14.25% increase to all allowance bands (this increase being considered appropriate in the context of fewer councillors, and in recognition of the growing complexity and importance of the role of councillors).
- Create a sustainable model for regular reviews of councillor numbers and allowances every four years.
- Implement the new framework through amendments to the Local Government Act 1993, streamlining the process without needing separate reviews.

Whilst the Discussion Paper suggests that the reforms are designed to be cost neutral (i.e. across the entire sector), in the case of Southern Midlands Council, the proposed reforms are not cost neutral i.e. there is no reduction in the number of elected members to offset the increase in remuneration.

Specific feedback is requested in relation to the following:

1. Should we consider any strategies/guidance for council decision making where a quorum cannot be maintained?
 - Refer the commentary and reasoning provided on Page 9.
2. Should it be mandatory for councillors' existing superannuation equivalent payments to be directed into a nominated superannuation fund?
 - Refer the commentary and reasoning provided on Page 10. For clarification, the superannuation component is included in the total allowance and is not an additional payment. It would be deducted prior and paid direct to the nominated super fund. If anything, Council's position could be based on each Councillor having the discretion to nominate depending on their individual circumstances.
3. Should the methodology and ongoing review framework for councillor allowances and numbers be embedded in legislation?
 - Refer the commentary and reason provided on Page 10.
It is recommended that Council support a provision being included within the legislation that requires a regular review. This would ensure council numbers and allowances remain fair and equitable on an absolute and relative basis over time in response to demographic and other changes.

As a general comment, it is apparent that the Office of Local Government has invested considerable time and resources into developing a detailed methodology and formula for determining councillor numbers and allowances. The metrics used, along with the data sources required to calculate the 'score', are transparent and readily accessible. In my opinion, the approach is based on sound reasoning, removes subjectivity from the process, and provides consistency across the sector.

Human Resources & Financial Implications – As noted previously, the Southern Midlands Council will bear a significant increase in costs. The total increase is \$40,977 or 35.67%.

Whilst the Discussion Paper does flag the option of staggering the transition to the allowance rates, it is considered that this approach would not be fair or equitable.

Community Consultation & Public Relations Implications – The proposed reforms to councillor numbers and allowances may attract significant public interest, particularly around the perceived increase in elected member remuneration. The Office of Local Government has not required formal community consultation at the individual Council level.

Policy Implications – Policy position.

Priority - Implementation Time Frame – Feedback is invited by 7th November 2025.

Minor legislative amendments will be required to Schedule 3 of the Local Government Act 1993 and Schedule 4 of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2025 to implement changes to councillor numbers and allowances resulting from this framework.

It is proposed that these changes will be implemented before the October 2026 local government elections.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council:

- a) Receive a copy of the Discussion Paper – Reforms to Councillor Numbers and Allowances;**
- b) Agree ‘in-principle’ to the proposed reforms (as detailed in the discussion paper), noting that the key recommendation is to retain seven elected members;**
- c) In terms of providing specific feedback to the issues raised, Council provides the following:**
 - a. Council does not have any set position regarding the need for any strategies/guidance for council decision making where a quorum cannot be maintained**
 - b. Council does not support any compulsory system of being required to make superannuation contributions direct to a nominated superannuation fund, and supports the continuation of the current discretionary system**
 - c. Council supports the inclusion of a legislative provision requiring regular reviews to ensure that councillor numbers and allowances remain fair and equitable – both absolutely and relatively - over time in response to demographic and other changes.**

DECISION

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

THAT Council:

- a) Receive a copy of the Discussion Paper – Reforms to Councillor Numbers and Allowances;**
- b) Agree ‘in-principle’ to the proposed reforms (as detailed in the discussion paper), noting that the key recommendation is to retain seven elected members;**
- c) In terms of providing specific feedback to the issues raised, Council provides the following:**
 - a. Council does not have any set position regarding the need for any strategies/guidance for council decision making where a quorum cannot be maintained**
 - b. Council does not support any compulsory system of being required to make superannuation contributions direct to a nominated**

superannuation fund, and supports the continuation of the current discretionary system

- c. Council supports the inclusion of a legislative provision requiring regular reviews to ensure that councillor numbers and allowances remain fair and equitable – both absolutely and relatively - over time in response to demographic and other changes.

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	✓	

17.2 Sustainability

Strategic Plan Reference 5.2

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

17.2.1 Tabling of Documents

Nil.

17.2.2 Elected Member Statements

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

Deputy Mayor K Dudgeon - Denise Smith is once again organising many events in October for Pink Up Oatlands. All money raised goes to the McGrath Foundation supporting people experiencing cancer and their families.

Deputy Mayor K Dudgeon - Congratulations to Olivia Baker, a 16 year old student from Oatlands who has won the 2025 National Merino Fleece Young Judges Championships at the Royal Adelaide Show.

Deputy Mayor K Dudgeon - Online geography website WorldAtlas has named Oatlands as one of the eight best towns in Australia to retire to.

Deputy Mayor K Dudgeon – Advised council of the passing of Jean Hepburn. Jean and her husband ran the Oatlands Pharmacy for over 30 years.

17.3 Finances

Strategic Plan Reference 5.3

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

17.3.1 Monthly Financial Statement (Period ending 31 August 2025)

Author: FINANCE OFFICER (MANDY BURBURY)

Date: 17 SEPTEMBER 2025

ISSUE

Provide the Financial Report for the period ending 31st August 2025.

BACKGROUND

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

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

DETAIL

The enclosed Report incorporates the following: -

- Statement of Comprehensive Income – 1 July 2024 to 31 August 2025.
- Operating Expenditure Report – 1 July 2024 to 31 August 2025.
- Capital Expenditure Report – 1 July 2024 to 31 August 2025.
- Cash Flow Statement – 1 July 2024 to 31 August 2025.

OPERATING EXPENDITURE (OPERATING BUDGET)

Overall operating expenditure to end of July was \$1,766,860 which represents 89.3% of the Year to Date Budget.

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

Strategic Theme - Infrastructure

Sub-Program – Bridges - expenditure to date (\$14,726 – 111.82%). Increased operating expenditure on bridges is due to a continued focus on bridge maintenance prior to the commencement of our road asset capital works program. It is anticipated that bridge operating expenditure will decrease once resources are utilised on capital projects.

Strategic Theme – Growth

Sub-Program – Business - expenditure to date (\$87,122 – 165.13%). Additional expenditure relates largely to a higher than anticipated value of private works (offset by an increase in private works income).

Strategic Theme – Landscapes

Nil.

Strategic Theme – Community

Nil.

Strategic Theme – Organisation

Nil.

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE PROGRAM

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

Legend – Source and completion deadlines for grant funded projects

Roads to Recovery	It is the Government's intention that the full allocation is budgeted and spent in the year allocated
Other Specific Purpose Grants	Completion date as per grant deed or approved extension date

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Financial Report be received and the information noted.

DECISION

Moved by Cllr D Blackwell, seconded by Cllr 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	✓	
Cllr A E Bisdee OAM	✓	
Cllr D Blackwell	✓	
Cllr B Campbell	✓	
Cllr D Fish	✓	

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
for the period 1 Jul 2025 to 31 Aug 2025

	Annual Budget \$	Year to Date Actual \$	%	Comments
Income				
Rates	7,810,961	7,750,379	99.2%	Includes Interest & Penalties on rates
User Fees (refer Note 1)	1,536,868	474,243	30.9%	Includes Private Works
Interest	520,000	69,428	13.4%	
Government Subsidies	11,700	0	0.0%	Heavy Vehicle Licence Fees
Other (refer Note 2)	332,400	1,853	0.6%	Includes TasWater Distributions
Sub-Total	10,211,930	8,295,903	81.2%	
Grants - Operating	4,744,884	603,391	12.7%	
Total Income	14,956,813	8,899,294	59.5%	
Expenses				
Employee benefits	-6,024,988	-846,496	14.0%	Less Roads - Resheeting (Capitalised)
Materials and contracts	-4,195,550	-886,854	21.1%	Less Roads - Resheeting (Capitalised), Includes Land Tax & Private Works
Depreciation and amortisation	-4,738,700	-804,930	17.0%	Percentage Calculation (based on year-to-date)
Finance costs	-2,223	-2,223	100.0%	Interest
Contributions	-296,700	0	0.0%	Fire Service Levies
Other	-184,841	-31,288	16.9%	Audit Fees and Councillor Allowances
Total expenses	-15,443,002	-2,571,790	16.7%	
Surplus (deficit) from operations	-486,189	6,327,504	-1301.4%	
Grants - Capital (refer Note 3)	1,064,853	0	0.0%	
Sale Proceeds (Plant & Machinery)	0	62,818		
Sale Proceeds (Land & Buildings)	0	0		
Sale Proceeds (Other Assets)	0	5,244		
Net gain / (loss on disposal of non-current assets)	0	0		
Surplus / (Deficit)	578,664	6,395,567	1105.2%	

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
for the period 1 Jul 2025 to 31 Aug 2025

	Annual Budget \$	Year to Date Actual \$	%	Comments
NOTES				
1. Income - User Fees				
- All other Programs	1,176,420	420,856	35.8%	
- Private Works	360,449	53,388	14.8%	
	<u>1,536,868</u>	<u>474,243</u>	30.9%	
2. Income - Other				
- TasWater Distributions	182,400	0	0.00%	
- Public Open Space Contributions	150,000	0	0.00%	
- Blue Gum Rovers donation to Tunnack Rec. Ground	0	275.00		
- JLT Group Interest Disbursement	0	1,578		
	<u>332,400</u>	<u>1,853</u>	0.6%	
3. Grants - Capital				
- Aust Govt (Roads To Recovery)	1,064,853	0	0.00%	
	<u>1,064,853</u>	<u>0</u>	0.00%	
4. Grants - Operating				
- FAGS 2024/25	4,744,884	603,391	12.72%	
	<u>4,744,884</u>	<u>603,391</u>	12.7%	

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

PROGRAM	ACTUAL (to 31 Aug 25)	BUDGET (to 31 Aug 25)	YTD VARIANCE	YTD %	FULL YEAR BUDGET - INC. GRANTS & OTHER
INFRASTRUCTURE					
Roads	295,240	277,554	- 17,686	106.37%	4,410,593
Bridges	14,726	13,169	- 1,557	111.82%	653,390
Walkways	38,474	40,972	2,498	93.90%	273,165
Lighting	13,015	15,656	2,641	83.13%	93,936
Public Toilets	15,767	22,570	6,803	69.86%	140,739
Sewer/Water	-	-	-	-	-
Stormwater	140	5,180	5,040	2.70%	89,081
Waste	173,640	260,807	87,167	66.58%	1,592,340
Information, Communication	-	3,333	3,333	0.00%	20,000
INFRASTRUCTURE TOTAL:	551,001	639,241	88,240	86.20%	7,273,244
GROWTH					
Residential	-	-	-	-	-
Tourism	7,876	23,443	15,567	33.60%	41,276
Business	87,122	52,759	- 34,362	165.13%	316,556
Industry	-	-	-	-	-
GROWTH TOTAL:	94,998	76,202	18,796	124.67%	357,832
LANDSCAPES					
Heritage	58,566.11	90,108.55	31,542.44	65.00%	501,173
Natural	41,480.72	41,470.07	-10.65	100.03%	257,515
Cultural	0.00	2,666.67	2,666.67	0.00%	16,000
Regulatory - Development	131,186.83	171,517.64	40,330.81	76.49%	1,101,058
Regulatory - Public Health	2,977.28	4,363.33	1,386.05	68.23%	26,180
Regulatory - Animals	20,491.53	21,876.96	1,385.43	93.67%	140,975
Environmental Sustainability	0.00	833.33	833.33	0.00%	5,000
LANDSCAPES TOTAL:	254,702.47	332,836.54	78,134.07	76.52%	2,047,901
COMMUNITY					
Community Health & Wellbeing	54,457.57	64,424.19	9,966.62	84.53%	378,545
Recreation	227,006.99	234,493.92	7,486.93	96.81%	1,256,464
Access	0.00	0.00	0.00	-	0
Volunteers	0.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	0.00%	45,000
Families	0.00	1,666.67	1,666.67	0.00%	10,000
Education	0.00	0.00	0.00	-	0
Capacity & Sustainability	22,897.83	25,000.83	2,103.00	91.59%	55,505
Safety	710.13	3,325.00	2,614.87	21.36%	19,950
Consultation & Communication	0.00	4,283.33	4,283.33	0.00%	25,700
LIFESTYLE TOTAL:	305,072.52	335,693.94	30,621.42	90.88%	1,791,164
ORGANISATION					
Improvement	0.00	21,899.47	21,899.47	0.00%	131,397
Sustainability	549,534.20	543,646.99	-5,887.21	101.08%	3,445,765
Finances	11,552.37	29,783.28	18,230.91	38.79%	395,700
ORGANISATION TOTAL:	561,086.57	595,329.74	34,243.17	94.25%	3,972,862
TOTALS	\$1,766,860	\$1,979,304	\$212,443	89.3%	\$15,443,003

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE PROGRAM 2025-26
As at 31 August 2025

		BUDGET \$	EXPENDITURE \$	BALANCE \$	COMMENTS	COMPLETION DEADLINE
INFRASTRUCTURE						
ROAD ASSETS						
Resheeting Program	Roads Resheeting	590,000	74,004	515,996		
Reseal Program	Roads Reseal Program	300,000	0	300,000	Roads to Recovery - \$200,000	30 June 2026
	Jericho - Jericho Road (1500m)					
	Kempton - Cliftonvale Road (1500m)					
	Oatlands - High Street (500m)					
	Tunbridge - Scott Street (290m)					
	Woodbury - Glenmorey Road (Two Sections 1700m)					
	Woodbury - Woodbury Road (500m)					
	Sealed Road Edge Breaks					
	Campania - Brown Mountain Road	100,000	13,025	86,975		
	Colebrook - Eldon Road	100,000	13,416	86,584		
Reconstruct & Seal	Bagdad - Swan Street (700m)	160,000	0	160,000	Roads to Recovery - \$160,000	30 June 2026
	Tunbridge - Scott Street (300m)	60,000	0	60,000	Roads to Recovery - \$60,000	30 June 2026
	Tunnack - Eldon Road (700m)	135,000	0	135,000	Roads to Recovery - \$135,000	30 June 2026
Construct & Seal	Mangalore - Blackbrush Road (1.3km section starting from seal Mangalore end)	195,000	0	195,000	Roads to Recovery - \$195,000	30 June 2026
	Rhyndaston - Rhyndaston Road (1.35km of 2.7km starting at railway line)	202,500	0	202,500	Roads to Recovery - \$202,500	30 June 2026
Minor Seals (New)	Mt Seymour - Blackgate Road (500m between end of seal & dust suppressant)	60,000	0	60,000	Roads to Recovery - \$60,000	30 June 2026
	Oatlands - Bentwick Street	20,000	0	20,000	Budget c/f	
Other Works	Campania - Car Park Improvements	100,000	72,112	27,888	\$60K Budget C/F WIP \$72,112	
	Campania - Reeve Street (Reconstruct Retaining Wall - Union St to Lee St)	40,000	0	40,000		
	Campania - Structure Plan - Town Gateway and Streetscape	40,000	0	40,000	Budget C/F	
	Colebrook - Coalmine Bend Road (Redirect Drainage from Train Line - Piping)	25,000	0	25,000		
	Oatlands - Hasting Street Junction	15,000	959	14,041	WIP \$959	
	Oatlands - High Street (Traffic Islands)	45,940	0	45,940	VRUP Funding \$22,300 RTR \$23,640	30 June 2026
	Tunbridge - Main Street (Kerb & Gutter Renewal)	40,000	9,427	30,573	WIP \$4186.12	
		2,228,440	182,943	2,045,497		
WALKWAYS						
	Footpaths - General Streetscapes	50,000	0	50,000		
	Bagdad - Midland Highway Pathway (Primary School north to Community Club)	240,000	1,130	238,870	Election Commitment - \$150,000 WIP \$1,130	
	Bagdad - School Road (Traffic & Safety Improvements)	69,000	0	69,000	VRUP Funding \$34,430	30 April 2026
	Campania - Hall St to Lee St (50% Contribution - Subject to VRUP)	57,740	0	57,740	VRUP Funding \$28,620	30 June 2026
	Kempton - Burnett Street to Mood Food	425,565	5,332	420,233	Better Active Transport \$278K WIP \$5332	30 June 2025
	Kempton - Main Street (Southern End 300m)	75,000	0	75,000		
	Oatlands - Church Street (High St to Esplanade both sides - Design Only)	10,000	0	10,000		
	Oatlands - Church Street (Sth Parade to William St - north. side - Footpath - 130 m)	30,000	0	30,000	Budget C/F	
	Parattah - Streetscape (Stage 1)	50,000	0	50,000		
	Tunnack - Streetscape (Year 1 of 3)	100,000	73,251	26,749	WIP \$73,042	30 June 2025
		1,107,305	79,713	1,027,592		

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE PROGRAM 2025-26
As at 31 August 2025

		BUDGET \$	EXPENDITURE \$	BALANCE \$	COMMENTS	COMPLETION DEADLINE
PUBLIC TOILETS	General Public Toilets - Upgrade Program	14,616	0	14,616	Budget c/f	
	Colebrook - History Room Toilets (Replace Septic Tank)	10,000	0	10,000		
		24,616	0	24,616		
DRAINAGE	Bagdad / Mangalore - Hydraulic Assessment (Flood Mapping)	61,625	0	61,625	Budget C/F	
	Stormwater System Management Plans (<i>Urban Drainage Act 2013</i>)	50,000	456	49,544	WIP \$456	
	Oatlands - High Street / Church Street Jct (Pipe Replacement)	15,000	0	15,000		
	Oatlands - High Street /Wellington Street Jct (New Pit)	4,000	0	4,000		
	Oatlands - Queen Anne St (Pipe into existing Drain)	35,000	0	35,000		
		165,625	456	165,168		
WASTE	Wheelie Bins and Crates	10,000	9,799	201		
		10,000	9,799	201		
GROWTH						
TOURISM	Oatlands - Heritage Interpretation Panel renewal	2,000	0	2,000		
	Oatlands Accommodation Facility	0	42,283	-42,283	WIP \$42,283 (Offset by Barrack Street Property)	
		2,000	42,283	-40,283		
LANDSCAPES						
HERITAGE	Jericho - Memorial Avenue - Plaques	20,500	4,300	16,200	Budget c/f WIP \$4,300. Offset by donation of \$500.	
	Kempton - Memorial Avenue Park - Interps	19,545	0	19,545	Budget C/F	
	Melton Mowbray - Recognition plaque JH Bisdee VC OBE (DVA Grant)	8,480	8,207	273	Saluting Their Service Grant \$7,480	30 April 2025
	Oatlands - Callington Mill - Structural Repair & External painting	80,000	0	80,000	\$40K Budget C/F	
	Oatlands - Court House (Wall Stabilisation)	15,000	4,764	10,236	WIP \$1,187	
	Oatlands - Gaoiers Residence (Chimney Capping & Fireplace Repairs)	5,000	866	4,134	Budget C/F	
	Oatlands - Gaoiers Residence (Lighting & Hanging System Upgrade)	5,000	0	5,000		
	Oatlands - Gaoiers Residence (Wingwall)	23,000	0	23,000	Budget C/F	
	Oatlands - Heritage Buildings (Security Upgrades)	10,000	0	10,000		
	Oatlands - Heritage Collections Store	10,000	3,700	6,300	WIP \$3,700	
	Oatlands - Roche Hall (Building Improvements for PRISM)	150,000	47,607	102,393	\$90K Budget C/F WIP \$19,644	
	Oatlands - Roche Hall Forecourt (Interps - Planning Condition of Approval)	40,000	7,820	32,180	WIP \$7,820	
		386,525	77,265	309,260		
NATURAL	Campania - Bush Reserve / Cemetery	300,000	97,936	202,064	WIP \$93,346	
	Chauncy Vale - Day Dawn Cottage Improvements	12,000	10,311	1,689	WIP \$8,557	
	Chauncy Vale - Toilet & Interps Upgrade	80,000	37,558	42,442	Election Commitment \$80,000 WIP \$22,570	
		392,000	145,804	246,196		

Southern Midlands Council
Minutes – 24th September 2025

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE PROGRAM 2025-26
As at 31 August 2025

		BUDGET \$	EXPENDITURE \$	BALANCE \$	COMMENTS	COMPLETION DEADLINE
REGULATORY	Master / Structure Plans (Bagdad / Mangalore / Campania)	50,000	129,153	-79,153	Includes Flour Mill Park Master Plan	
- DEVELOPMENT	Kempton Council Chambers - Structural Damage	0	16,650	-16,650	External Contractor Liable for damage	
	Property Purchase - 10 Barrack Street, Oatlands (Police Residence)	530,000	0	530,000	Budget C/F	
	Oatlands - Stanley Street Master Plan	20,000	172	19,828	Budget c/f WIP \$172	
		600,000	145,975	454,025		
ANIMAL CONTROL	Oatlands - Off-Lead Dog Park	35,000	1,947	33,053	WIP \$1,947	
		35,000	1,947	33,053		
COMMUNITY						
RECREATION	Facilities & Recreation Committee	40,000	0	40,000		
	Building Upgrades (Sites determined following inspections)	50,000	0	50,000		
	Playground Upgrades (Sites determined following inspections)	50,000	0	50,000		
	Bagdad - Bagdad Community Club (Precinct Plan & Property Transfer)	111,000	95,003	15,997	\$35K Budget c/f WIP \$95,003	
	Bagdad - Bagdad Community Club (Redevelopment)	0	49,706	-49,706	WIP \$49,706	
	Bagdad - Bagdad Community Club (Sports Pavilion)	0	211,856	-211,856	WIP \$211,856 Subject to Funding	
	Bagdad - Bagdad Community Club (Multi-purpose Sports Hall)	0	252,160	-252,160	WIP \$252,160 Subject to Funding	
	Bagdad - Bagdad Community Club (Oval Relocation)	0	26,500	-26,500	WIP \$25,500 Subject to Funding	
	Bagdad - Bagdad Community Club (Wastewater System)	200,000	0	200,000		
	Bagdad - Iden Road Park Development	75,000	0	75,000	Budget C/F	
	Campania - Flour Mill Park (Redevelopment)	68,000	0	68,000		
	Campania - Hall (External Painting)	36,800	41,470	-4,670	WIP \$39,896	
	Campania - Recreation Ground (Electronic Scoreboard)	47,875	48,507	-632	WIP \$48,043	
	Campania - Recreation Ground (Landscaping & Tiered Seating)	270,000	374	269,626	Election Commitment - \$200K WIP \$374	30 June 2026
	Campania - Recreation Ground (All abilities Car Parking)	26,750	0	26,750	Election Commitment - \$18K	30 June 2026
	Campania - Recreation Ground (Upgrade Change rooms)	1,100,000	134,440	965,560	LGAT Open Space \$40K / SMC - \$700K WIP \$59,138	
	Colebrook - Hall (Windows, Ramps, Double Doors)	10,000	0	10,000		
	Kempton - Carriage Shed (External Repair & Repainting)	11,700	0	11,700		
	Kempton - Recreation Ground (Site Dev) (Boundary Fence)	24,250	14,118	10,132	Budget c/f WIP \$14,118	
	Kempton - Recreation Ground (Cricket Net, basket ball / pickle ball court)	80,000	13,307	66,693	Active Tas - Election Commitment WIP \$2,886	30 June 2026
	Melton Mowbray - Streetscape Works (Trough / Shelter etc)	90,000	95,370	-5,370	\$60K Budget C/F WIP \$85,022	
	Oatlands - Aquatic Centre (Outdoor Area Seating)	4,000	0	4,000		
	Oatlands - Aquatic Centre (Learn to Swim Equipment)	2,000	0	2,000		
	Oatlands - Aquatic Centre (Gymnasium Equipment Upgrade)	5,000	0	5,000		
	Oatlands - Aquatic Centre (Female Change Rooms / Shower Cubicles)	10,000	0	10,000		
	Oatlands - Aquatic Centre (Pump Replacement)	10,000	0	10,000		
	Oatlands - Gay Street, Hall (Air Lock & Heating)	40,000	14,432	25,568	\$30K of Budget C/F WIP \$14,432	
	Oatlands - Gay Street, Hall (Kitchen Floor Repairs / Underpinning)	8,000	0	8,000		
	Oatlands - Midlands Community Centre (External Painting - Front of Building)	8,000	0	8,000	Budget C/F	
	Oatlands - Old Swimming Pool (Staged demolition)	62,889	726	62,163	Balance Budget C/F	
	Oatlands Recreation Ground (Redevelopment)	0	174,791	-174,791	Subject to Funding WIP \$172,521	
	Runnymede - Recreation Ground (Pitch Renewal)	8,000	256	7,744		
	Tunnack - Recreation Ground (Kiosk Removal)	8,000	0	8,000		
	Tunnack - Recreation Ground (Toilet Block Painting)	4,000	0	4,000		
	Woodsdale Recreation Ground	45,000	0	45,000	Budget C/F	
	Water Bottle Refill Stations	7,980	0	7,980	Budget C/F	
		2,514,244	1,173,015	1,341,230		

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE PROGRAM 2025-26
As at 31 August 2025

		BUDGET \$	EXPENDITURE \$	BALANCE \$	COMMENTS	COMPLETION DEADLINE
CAPACITY & SUSTAINABILITY	Property Purchase - 9 Barrack Street, Oatlands (Police Residence)	73,248	50,009	23,238	Budget \$519,490 less \$446K spent in 22/23	
		73,248	50,009	23,238		
ORGANISATION						
SUSTAINABILITY	WiFi Equipment	7,000	0	7,000	Budget C/F	
	Council Website Upgrade	40,000	5,925	34,075	Budget C/F	
	Communications Link Upgrade	5,000	0	5,000		
	Computer / Network Upgrades	18,000	0	18,000		
	Kempton - Council Chambers (Office Furniture & Equipment)	7,500	0	7,500		
	Oatlands - Town Hall (Office Furniture & Equipment)	7,500	0	7,500		
	Oatlands - Town Hall (Replacement Heat Pump)	5,500	0	5,500		
	Oatlands - Town Hall (Toilet Upgrade / Air lock / Lift) Year 1 of 5 \$300K per annum	400,000	17,794	382,206	\$100K Budget C/F WIP \$8,437	
		490,500	23,719	466,781		
WORKS	Kempton - Works Depot (Toilet / Shower Upgrade)	30,000	0	30,000		
	Kempton - Works Depot (Security Cameras)	5,000	0	5,000		
	Minor Plant Purchases	12,000	0	12,000		
	Radio System	5,000	0	5,000		
	Plant Replacement Program					
	Heavy Vehicles - Gross Amount	889,370	429,434	459,936		
	(Trade Allowance - \$254K)					
	Light Vehicles - Gross Amount	515,179	47,101	468,078		
	(Trade Allowance - \$299K)					
		1,456,549	476,535	980,014		
GRAND TOTALS		9,486,051	2,409,463	7,076,589		

CASH FLOW 2025/2026	INFLWS (OUTFLOWS) July 2025 \$	INFLWS (OUTFLOWS) Aug 2025 \$	INFLWS (OUTFLOWS) Sep 2025 \$	INFLWS (OUTFLOWS) Oct 2025 \$	INFLWS (OUTFLOWS) Nov 2025 \$	INFLWS (OUTFLOWS) Dec 2025 \$	INFLWS (OUTFLOWS) Jan 2026 \$	INFLWS (OUTFLOWS) Feb 2026 \$	INFLWS (OUTFLOWS) Mar 2026 \$	INFLWS (OUTFLOWS) Apr 2026 \$	INFLWS (OUTFLOWS) May 2026 \$	INFLWS (OUTFLOWS) Jun 2026 \$	INFLWS (OUTFLOWS) (Total 2024/25) \$
Cash flows from operating activities													
Payments													
Employee costs	(654,876)	(424,204)											(1,079,079)
Materials and contracts	(987,152)	(399,774)											(1,386,926)
Interest	(2,223)	0											(2,223)
Other	(28,004)	(82,892)											(110,897)
	(1,672,254)	(906,870)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	(2,579,125)
Receipts													
Rates	722,648	431,037											1,153,686
User charges	1,376,627	109,039											1,485,666
Interest received	33,066	36,362											69,428
Subsidies	0	0											0
Other revenue grants	0	603,391											603,391
Other	70,371	159,430											229,802
	2,202,712	1,339,260	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3,541,972
Net cash from operating activities	530,458	432,390	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	962,848
Cash flows from investing activities													
Payments for property, plant & equipment	(197,080)	(549,583)											(746,664)
Proceeds from sale of property, plant & equipment	32,932	35,131											68,063
Proceeds from Capital grants	0	0											0
Proceeds from Investments	0	0											0
Payment for Investments	0	0											0
Net cash used in investing activities	(164,148)	(514,453)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	(678,601)
Cash flows from financing activities													
Repayment of borrowings	(109,510)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	(109,510)
Proceeds from borrowings	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Net cash from (used in) financing activities	(109,510)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	(109,510)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held	256,800	(82,063)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	174,737
Cash at beginning of reporting month	11,895,902	12,152,702	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11,895,902
Cash at end of reporting period	12,152,702	12,070,639	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12,070,639

17.3.2 Funding Support Requested by Wine South Tasmania

Author: DEPUTY GENERAL MANAGER (ANDREW BENSON)

Date: 16 SEPTEMBER 2025

ISSUE

Request for funding support for a November 2025 and March 2026 event by Wine South Tasmania.

BACKGROUND

The Deputy General Manager was contacted by Alex Winen on behalf of Wine South Tasmania about funding support for events that they will be running (details below). The DGM advised Alex that that the SM Community Small Grants would be an avenue to explore as a not-for-profit, but unfortunately the SM Community Grant for this year have closed. The DGM offered to put the request to Council at the next Council meeting to gauge Council's view in respect of the request. Research into the organisations web site reviewed the following information, also noting that Events Tasmania is also a sponsor for Wine South.

[Start of Extracts from the Wine South Tasmania website]

Wine South Tasmania / About

ABOUT WINE SOUTH TASMANIA

Wine South is a community-focused, not-for-profit organisation run entirely by enthusiastic volunteers from the Southern Tasmanian wine region.

Founded in 1999, our dedicated committee brings together a diverse blend of skills and backgrounds, united by a passion for our vineyards, winemaking heritage, and local community.



OUR EVENTS



Each year, we proudly produce two signature events to showcase our region's richness:

- [Southern Open Vineyards Weekend](#), held traditionally on the first weekend of March.
- [Spring in the Vines](#) Festival, launched in 2020 and held on the first weekend in November.

Through these events, we celebrate the unique character of Southern Tasmania's wines, boost regional tourism, support vineyard collaborations, and enhance our reputation as a premier cool-climate wine destination. We are committed to fostering connections between wine lovers, producers, and our beautiful landscape.



[End of Extracts from the Wine South Tasmania website]

DETAIL

The letter of request is included below, along with the quotation for the signage. The request could be an application under the SM Community Small Grants Program, with Wine South being a not-for-profit organisation and with a number of its members being in the Southern Midlands Local Government. Alternatively it could be considered under the assistance for Annual Events. Extract below from the Donations and Community Support Policy.

2. POLICY

2.1 Assistance for Annual Events

2.1.1 Requests for assistance from not-for-profit organisation, community, or service groups based within the Southern Midlands Municipality will be considered with the maximum donation being \$1,500.00.

Note: Assistance depends on value for money to the Community and will not be given for projects that would be eligible for consideration within Council's Community Small Grants Program.

10/09/25

Alex Winen
(On behalf of Wine South Tasmania)
234 White Kangaroo Rd,
Campania, TAS 7026

The General Manager
Southern Midlands Council
PO BOX 1
Oatlands 7021

Proposal for Financial Support: Feather Flags for Small Local Producers

Overview

Wine South Tasmania is a grassroots initiative led by passionate volunteers committed to promoting and supporting local producers across Southern Tasmania. Our signature event, Spring in the Vines, is designed to showcase small vineyards and independent winemakers—particularly those who do not operate an on-site cellar door.

As the Coal Valley increasingly attracts large-scale investment and commercial wine production, our event seeks to shine a light on the families who live and work in the Southern Midlands region, preserving the authenticity and community spirit that could define our local wine culture.

To further this mission, we are seeking support from the Southern Midlands Council to purchase up to 10 feather flags to be placed at the entrances of participating local producer's properties. These flags will serve as vibrant, eye-catching markers that celebrate local enterprise and help visitors easily identify producer locations.

Purpose and Impact

The feather flags will:

- Increase visibility of local producers to both residents and tourists for the event
- Strengthen regional identity by showcasing our commitment to local enterprise
- Encourage economic activity by drawing attention to farmgate sales and producer events
- Support volunteer efforts by providing a tangible tool to amplify our outreach
- Cross-promotion: Local food vendors, artisans, and musicians benefit from shared foot traffic and visibility.
- Celebrating local heritage: Campania's and the Coal valleys deep viticultural roots. This initiative aligns with the Council's strategic goals of promoting tourism, supporting small businesses, and enhancing community pride. Enhance awareness and knowledge about the growing agricultural industry and the unique viticulture region we call home.
- Social well-being benefits: Festivals offer a relaxed setting for neighbours to reconnect, visitors to mingle, and families to enjoy shared experiences.
- This event relies on community volunteers, deepening engagement and ownership.
- Attendees learn about cool-climate varietals, sustainable viticulture, and the craftsmanship behind each bottle. Leading to future engagement and community growth and employment in the sector.

Budget Request

We are requesting financial assistance to cover the cost of either.

Item	Quantity	Estimated Cost	Total Cost
Custom Feather Flags	5	Package price 5	603.92
Custom feather flags	10	Package price 10	1095.00

Southern Midlands Region registration of participants as of 13/9/2025

1. Bear and Bird Wines – 234 White Kangaroo Rd, Campania 7026
2. 2forty9 Wine Farm – 249 White Kangaroo Rd, Campania 7026
3. Roslyn 1823 – 409 White Kangaroo Rd, Campania 7026
4. Wobbly Boot Vineyard – 487 Whit Kangaroo Rd, Campania 7026
5. Domaine A Stoney Vineyard - 105 Tea Tree Rd, Campania 7026
6. Invercarron Vineyard – 1330 Elderslie Rd, Broadmarsh 7030
7. Winstead Vineyard – 75 Winstead Rd, Bagdad 7030
8. Drew Wines and Merriworth Wines are located in Tea Tree. This is a part of the Southern Midlands and Brighton Councils.

Joining the Southern Midlands Region event registrations in 2026.

1. Sisu Wines - 1479 Colebrook Rd, Campania 7026
2. Bremley Vineyard – 1589 Colebrook Rd, Campania 7026

We are happy to work with Council staff to ensure the flags meet any branding or design guidelines relevant to the region. These flags would be used directly for producers who live in the Southern Midlands Region.

Community Support

This project is backed by a growing network of producers and volunteers who have committed time and resources to its success. The flags will be maintained by the committee and producers themselves, ensuring longevity and continued impact.

Closing

We respectfully request the Council's support in funding this initiative. Your contribution will directly empower local producers, energize community pride, and enhance the visibility of our region's unique offerings.

Thank you for considering our proposal. We welcome the opportunity to discuss this further and provide any additional information required.

Warm regards,



Alex Winen

On behalf of Wine South Tasmania

SignNation Hobart 1/10 Whitestone Drive GRANTON, TAS 7030 anthony@signnation.com.au (03) 6249 8647 ABN #: 50 614 472 918 www.signnation.com.au		 CREATIVE BRANDING & SIGNAGE						
Quote 3210 Teardrop Banners Pricing (Flag Only) (Small 2300mm H)		SALES REP INFO Anthony Bewley anthony@signnation.com.au 0407 060 077	QUOTE DATE 09/09/2025 QUOTE EXPIRY DATE 10/09/2025 TERMS Pre Paid					
REQUESTED BY Wine South		CONTACT INFO Paul Willcock						
#	ITEM	QTY	UOM	U.PRICE	DISC	DISC.PRICE	TOTAL (EXCL. GST)	TAXABLE
1	Teardrop Flags Only Flag only to suit small teardrop banner setups (2300mm H) Single sided print (Mirror reverse), black sleeve PRICING STRUCTURE FLAG QTY – PRICE EX GST • 1 – \$96.2 • 2 – \$167.7 • 3 – \$234.61 • 4 – \$289.99 • 5 – \$345.16 • 10 – \$614.86 • 20 – \$1135.8	1	Each	\$0.00			\$0.00	Y
2	Teardrop Banner Flag Full Setup Full small teardrop banner setups (2300mm H) Single sided print (Mirror reverse), black sleeve, pole to suit, ground spike PRICING STRUCTURE FLAG QTY – PRICE EX GST • 1 – \$153.4 • 2 – \$282.1 • 3 – \$402.86 • 4 – \$503.63 • 5 – \$603.92 • 10 – \$1095.06 • 20 – \$2044.72	1	Each	\$0.00			\$0.00	Y
3	Design & Layout Time allocated to produce, refine and prepare artwork	1	Each	\$99.50	20.0%	\$79.60	\$79.60	Y

Given that the events for which the signage will be needed, will be undertaken in November 2025 and March 2026, there is no value in waiting for the SM Community Small Grants Program 2026.

If Council considers that this request has merit and that it is, of a collective mind to support this request a suggested option would be, that given Wine South is requesting support for the eight vineyards in November 2025 and the additional two in March 2025, that are in the Southern Midlands local government area, the following could be considered.

Council has ten complete 'feather sign' sets, made up with the weighted stand, the wand and the flag, refer to the image below;



Council uses these signs for the Heritage & Bullock Festive, but does also loan them out for other Community use in the Southern Midlands local government area, in a similar manner that we loan out our two Mini Grand Stands for Community events in the Southern Midlands. If it is acceptable option to Wine South, Council could loan the ten stand and wand components to Wine South for the two forthcoming events and Council could consider funding the 'flags only', element of the request, for the ten flags only, at this point in time at a total value of \$614.86 ex gst. (as per the quotation).

Human Resources & Financial Implications – The value of the 'Grant' would be \$614.86 and could be drawn from the balance of the Community Grants Program 2025 budget or from the Assistance with Annual Events budget. It is noted that a report will be included in the October Council meeting agenda to seek an allocation from underspend balance of the SM Community Small Grants Program 2025, for \$7,045.00 to purchase equipment that will crucial in building the Oatlands Highland Gathering into a major annual summer event for Oatlands .

Community Consultation & Public Relations Implications – Nil

Policy Implications – If Council is of the view that it is willing to support this request as outlined above, the funds would have to go through a not-for-profit incorporated body of Wine South's choice.

Priority - Implementation Time Frame – to be completed no later than October 2025

RECOMMENDATION

For Discussion

DECISION

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

THAT Council:

- a) acknowledge the funding support request from Wine South Tasmania;
- b) loan Wine South Tasmania ten sign stands and wand components for the two forthcoming community events; and
- c) Council fund the 'flags only' element of the request for ten flags, at a total value of \$614.86 ex GST (to be funded from the Community Small Grants Program budget).

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	✓	

18. MUNICIPAL SEAL

**18.1 Signing & Sealing Grant Deed – Department of State Growth
Traffic Infrastructure Improvements at School Road Bagdad**

Author: DEPUTY GENERAL MANAGER (ANDREW BENSON)

Date: 15 SEPTEMBER 2025

Attachment(s):

1. *Grant Deed – Department of State Growth*
2. *Concept Design School Road Bagdad*

ISSUE

Signing and Sealing a Grant Deed. This project is being funded through the Department of State Growth under the Vulnerable Road Users Grant Program 2025.

BACKGROUND

The upgrading of traffic infrastructure requiring improvements in School Road adjacent to the Bagdad Primary School has been an issue for many years.

DETAIL

The Approved Purpose of this Grant with the State Government is to provide support to Council in the upgrading of the existing traffic infrastructure arrangements at School Road, Bagdad. The Grant Deed provides \$34,400.00 ex GST, with the completion date no later than the December 2026. Council's contribution to this project is \$34,570.00. The Grant Deed was required to be signed & sealed and returned to the Department as a matter of urgency and therefore this report is seeking endorsement by Council of the execution.

Human Resources & Financial Implications – The value of the Grant is \$34,400.00 with \$34,570.00 Council contribution.

Community Consultation & Public Relations Implications – Currently nil, although discussions have been held with the Principal of the Bagdad School.

Policy Implications – Nil

Priority - Implementation Time Frame – to be completed no later than December 2026.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council endorse the signing and sealing of the Grant Deed for the funding agreement between the Tasmanian Government (through the Department of State Growth) and the Southern Midlands Council, for the amount of \$34,400 for traffic infrastructure upgrades in School Road, Bagdad.

DECISION

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

THAT Council endorse the signing and sealing of the Grant Deed for the funding agreement between the Tasmanian Government (through the Department of State Growth) and the Southern Midlands Council, for the amount of \$34,400 for traffic infrastructure upgrades in School Road, Bagdad.

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	✓	

**18.2 Signing & Sealing Grant Deed – Department of State Growth
Proposed Footpath in Reeve Street, Between Lee Street and Hall Street
Campania**

Author: DEPUTY GENERAL MANAGER (ANDREW BENSON)

Date: 15 SEPTEMBER 2025

Attachment(s):

1. *Grant Deed – Department of State Growth*
2. *Concept Design Proposed Reeve St Footpath*

ISSUE

Signing and Sealing a Grant Deed. This project is being funded through the Department of State Growth under the Vulnerable Road Users Grant Program 2025.

BACKGROUND

The upgrading of pedestrian footpaths and traffic infrastructure in Campania is part of a strategy that Council have been working through for a number of years titled *Campania Footpaths & Bus Stops - working towards DDA compliance*, and it has been supported through a number of Vulnerable Road User Grant projects. This current project will see the completion of the footpaths along Reeve Street, south of Climie Street, which will connect the centre of the Campania Village to safe bus stop access.

DETAIL

The Approved Purpose of this Grant with the State Government is to provide support to Council in the construction of a footpath along Reeve Street between Lee Street and Hall Street, Campania. The Grant Deed provides \$28,620.00 ex GST, with the completion date no later than the December 2026. Council's contribution to this project is \$29,120.00. The Grant Deed was required to be signed & sealed and returned to the Department as a matter of urgency and therefore this report is seeking endorsement by Council of the execution.

Human Resources & Financial Implications – The value of the Grant is \$28,620.00 with \$29,120.00 Council contribution.

Community Consultation & Public Relations Implications – There has been extensive consultation with the Campania Community, including 'Drop In' sessions at the Campania War Memorial Hall.

Policy Implications – Nil

Priority - Implementation Time Frame – to be completed no later than December 2026.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council endorse the signing and sealing of the Grant Deed for the funding agreement between the Tasmanian Government (through the Department of State Growth) and the Southern Midlands Council, for the amount of \$28,620 for the construction of a new footpath along Reeve Street, between Lee Street and Hall Street, Campania.

DECISION

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

THAT Council endorse the signing and sealing of the Grant Deed for the funding agreement between the Tasmanian Government (through the Department of State Growth) and the Southern Midlands Council, for the amount of \$28,620 for the construction of a new footpath along Reeve Street, between Lee Street and Hall Street, Campania.

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	✓	

**18.3 Signing & Sealing Grant Deed – Department of State Growth
Proposed Pedestrian Crossing in High Street Oatlands**

Author: DEPUTY GENERAL MANAGER (ANDREW BENSON)

Date: 15 SEPTEMBER 2025

Attachment(s):

1. *Grant Deed – Department of State Growth*
2. *Concept Design Proposed Pedestrian Crossing High St Oatlands*

ISSUE

Signing and Sealing a Grant Deed. This project is being funded through the Department of State Growth under the Vulnerable Road Users Grant Program 2025.

BACKGROUND

The construction of a pedestrian crossing at the northern end of High Street, Oatlands has been discussed as part of the traffic management issues in Oatlands on a quite a few occasions. This current project will see the construction of a sandstone pedestrian crossing in keeping with the heritage fabric of the northern end of High Street.

DETAIL

The Approved Purpose of this Grant with the State Government is to provide support to Council in the construction of a pedestrian crossing in High Street, Oatlands. The Grant Deed provides \$22,300.00 ex GST, with the completion date no later than the December 2026. Council's contribution to this project is \$23,640.00. The Grant Deed was required to be signed & sealed and returned to the Department as a matter of urgency and therefore this report is seeking endorsement by Council of the execution.

Human Resources & Financial Implications – The value of the Grant is \$22,300.00 with a \$23,640.00 Council contribution.

Community Consultation & Public Relations Implications – There has been extensive consultation with the Oatlands Community, through the Oatlands Structure Plan.

Policy Implications – Nil

Priority - Implementation Time Frame – to be completed no later than December 2026.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council endorse the signing and sealing of the Grant Deed for the funding agreement between the Tasmanian Government (through the Department of State Growth) and the Southern Midlands Council, for the amount of \$22,300 to construct a pedestrian crossing at the northern end of High Street Oatlands.

DECISION

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

THAT Council endorse the signing and sealing of the Grant Deed for the funding agreement between the Tasmanian Government (through the Department of State Growth) and the Southern Midlands Council, for the amount of \$22,300 to construct a pedestrian crossing at the northern end of High Street Oatlands.

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	✓	

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

Nil.

RECOMMENDATION

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

DECISION

Moved by Clr B Campbell, seconded by Clr D Fish

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

Matter	Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015 Reference
Closed Council Minutes - Confirmation	15(2)(g)
Applications for Leave of Absence	15(2)(h)
Contract – Annual Road Stabilisation Program	15(2)(d)
Contract – Annual Road Spray Sealing Program	15(2)(d)

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	✓	

RECOMMENDATION

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

DECISION

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

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

CARRIED

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

CLOSED COUNCIL MINUTES

20. BUSINESS IN “CLOSED SESSION”

20.1 Closed Council Minutes - Confirmation

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

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

20.2 Applications for Leave of Absence

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

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

20.3 Contract – Annual Road Stabilisation Program

DECISION

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

THAT Council accept the following quote:

- 1. Road Reconstruction / Stabilisation Program (Contract 03/2025) – Quote submitted by Andrew Walter Constructions (AWC) for lime stabilisation for an amount of \$610,540.00 (GST excl.);**
- 2. In accordance with the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015*, Council authorises the release of this decision in respect to this item to the general public and for communication to relevant parties.**

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	✓	

20.4 Contract – Annual Road Spray Sealing Program

DECISION

Moved by Cllr B Campbell, seconded by Cllr D Blackwell

THAT Council accept the following quote:

1. Road Spray Sealing Program (Contract 04/2025) – Quote submitted by Downer EDI Works Pty Ltd for an amount of \$191,580.70 (GST excl.);
2. In accordance with the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015*, Council authorises the release of this decision in respect to this item to the general public and for communication to relevant parties.

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	✓	

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council move out of “Closed Session”.

DECISION

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

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	✓	

OPEN COUNCIL MINUTES

21. CLOSURE

The meeting closed at 12.08 p.m.