

SOUTHERN
MIDLANDS
COUNCIL



MINUTES

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday, 25th March 2026
10.00 a.m.

Colebrook Hall
45 Richmond Street, Colebrook

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OPEN COUNCIL MINUTES

MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF THE SOUTHERN MIDLANDS COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 25TH MARCH 2026 AT THE COLEBROOK HALL, 45 RICHMOND STREET, COLEBROOK, COMMENCING AT 10.00 A.M.

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

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

1. PRAYERS

Reverend Dennis Cousens recited prayers.

2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Mayor E Batt recited Acknowledgement of Country.

3. ATTENDANCE

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

Mr T Kirkwood (General Manager), Mr A Benson (Deputy General Manager), Mr D Richardson (Manager Infrastructure and Works), Mr G Finn (Manager Development and Environmental Services), Ms W Young (Manager Community and Corporate Development) and Ms J Crosswell (Executive Assistant).

4. APOLOGIES

Cllr F Miller.

5. MINUTES

5.1 Ordinary Council Meeting

The Minutes (Open Council Minutes) of the previous meeting of Council held on 24th February 2026, as circulated, are submitted for confirmation.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Minutes (Open Council Minutes) of the Council Meeting held 24th February 2026 be confirmed.

DECISION

Moved by Clr D Fish, seconded by Clr B Campbell

THAT the Minutes (Open Council Minutes) of the Council Meeting held 24th February 2026 be confirmed.

CARRIED

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

5.2 Special Committees of Council Minutes

5.2.1 Special Committees of Council - Receipt of Minutes

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

- Campania Cemetery Management Committee - Meeting held 19th March 2026

RECOMMENDATION

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

DECISION

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

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

CARRIED

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

5.2.2 Special Committees of Council - Endorsement of Recommendations

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

- Campania Cemetery Management Committee - Meeting held 19th March 2026

RECOMMENDATION

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

DECISION

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

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

CARRIED

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

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

5.3.1 Joint Authorities - Receipt of Minutes

Nil.

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

Nil.

6. NOTIFICATION OF COUNCIL WORKSHOPS

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

One workshop has been held since the last Ordinary Meeting.

A workshop was held on the 10th March 2026 at the Council Chambers, Oatlands commencing at 9.30 a.m.

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

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

Apologies: Clr F Miller.

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

1. 2026/27 Budget

- Overview – Long Term Financial Management Plan
- Presentation of the draft 2026/27 Capital Works Program
- Preliminary Rating Discussion – as per notes provided.

2. Australian Electoral Commission – Boundary Redistributions

The AEC has released their proposed redistribution of federal electorates.

Consultation is open until 27 March 2026.

In reference to the Report Summary, the Redistribution Committee is proposing changes to 4 of Tasmania's electorates to balance representation over the longer term. The following is an extract from the report:

Key elements of the proposed redistribution

In meeting the requirements of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* (the Electoral Act), the Redistribution Committee for Tasmania is proposing changes to 4 of Tasmania's 5 electorates to balance representation over the longer term:

- The electorate of **Braddon** remains unchanged, reflecting its stable enrolment and strong, clearly defined communities of interest.
- The electorate of **Bass** gains the localities of Blackstone Heights and Prospect Vale from the electorate of Lyons, aligning these communities more closely with Launceston's urban, economic and service networks.
- Southern Tasmanian electorates are reshaped to deliver contiguous, logical boundaries, grounded in geography and community connections.

- The electorate of **Franklin** gains the local government areas of Brighton, Glamorgan Spring Bay, Sorell and Tasman, strengthening its south-eastern coherence and resolving its non-contiguity.
 - The electorate of **Clark** becomes Australia’s southern-most electorate, taking in the Huon Valley local government area and the remainder of Kingborough local government area, better reflecting how communities connect and travel across the region.
 - The electorate of **Lyons** is reshaped to become a smaller, mainly south central electorate gaining Glenorchy local government area and losing most of the east coast local government areas.
- Geographic separation within electorates is removed, with the River Derwent forming a clear and recognisable boundary.
 - Every electorate includes an urban or regional centre, strengthening access and representation.

Importantly, these proposed changes meet the numerical requirements of the redistribution quota and projected enrolment quota for Tasmania.

Proposed electorate names

The Redistribution Committee proposes retaining the current names of all of Tasmania’s 5 electorates. The Committee considered changes to the names of the electorates of Clark and Franklin, given it has proposed significant elector and geographic changes. The Committee was not persuaded that alternative names presented in public submissions demonstrated sufficient connection to the reconfigured electorates. The Committee therefore invites further public feedback and name suggestions for consideration by the augmented Electoral Commission.

As an outcome of the workshop, a submission is to be prepared for consideration at the next Council Meeting. The aim being to raise opposition in relation to the Glenorchy being included in the Lyons electorate.

3. General Manager Briefing

Presentation of briefing paper.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the information be received.

DECISION

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

THAT the information be received.

CARRIED

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

7. COUNCILLORS – QUESTION TIME

7.1 Questions (On Notice)

Regulation 30 of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025* relates to Questions on notice. It states:

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

Nil.

7.2 Questions Without Notice

Section 29 of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025* relates to Questions without notice.

It states:

“29. Questions without notice

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Clr B Campbell – Yarlington Road, Colebrook – stock straying – is this still an issue?

General Manager indicated that he was not aware of any ongoing issues, however a member of the public indicated that there were still problems being experienced. Animal Control Officer to follow-up.

Clr B Campbell – Old Colebrook Post Office – condition of front verandah – any update in relation to timing of remedial works?

Question taken on notice.

Clr B Campbell – Tas Fire Service – Woodsdale Fire Station – trip hazard side entry door.

To be reported to the Tasmania Fire Service District Officer.

Clr B Campbell – Oatlands Council Chambers / Town Hall – side entry door upgrade (i.e. accessibility).

Plans are being finalised.

Clr B Campbell – Tas Petroleum – Development Application – any feedback received?

Manager Development & Environmental Services informed Council that the Planning Commission has requested copies of all relevant documentation for review. These have been submitted.

Clr B Campbell – TasRecylce – Container refund collection point – need to have a site located within Southern Midlands Council area.

Manager Infrastructure & Works provided background comment. Will raise at the next quarterly meeting.

Clr D Blackwell – Food Licences – Fee Options – can this be discussed as part of the budget process?

General Manager confirmed that this can be considered as part of reviewing the Schedule of Fees & Charges.

Mayor E Batt – Kempton Township – 200 year celebration – Mayor Batt sought Council's views regarding the conduct of an event or activity to celebrate and recognise the 200-year anniversary of Kempton.

The General Manager advised that Council could collaborate with the Green Ponds Progress Association to develop and deliver an appropriate commemorative event or activity.

Mayor E Batt – Kempton – Stormwater Management Plan – questioned whether the Kempton Stormwater Management Plan can be placed on Council's website for review by members of the community.

The General Manager confirmed that a copy of the Plan can be made available on the website.

8. DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

In accordance with the requirements of Part 2 Regulation 8 of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025*, the chairman of a meeting is to request Councillors to indicate whether they have, or are likely to have, a pecuniary interest in any item on the Agenda.

Accordingly, Councillors are requested to advise of a pecuniary interest they may have in respect to any matter on the agenda, or any supplementary item to the agenda, which Council has resolved to deal with, in accordance with Part 2 Regulation 8 (6) of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025*.

Nil.

9. CONSIDERATION OF SUPPLEMENTARY ITEMS TO THE AGENDA

In accordance with the requirements of Part 2 Regulation 8 (6) of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025*, the Council, by absolute majority may decide at an ordinary meeting to deal with a matter that is not on the agenda if the General Manager has reported –

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

Nil.

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

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

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

36. Questions by member of the public

(1) *The chairperson of an ordinary council meeting must ensure that, if required, at least 15 minutes of that meeting is made available for questions by members of the public.*

(2) *A question asked by a member of the public under regulation 37 or 38, and the answer given to that question, is not to be debated at the ordinary council meeting.*

(3) *A council is to determine any other procedures to be followed in respect of public question time at an ordinary council meeting.*

37. Questions without notice by member of the public

(1) *A member of the public may, on invitation by the chairperson of an ordinary council meeting, ask a question without notice at the meeting.*

(2) *A public question without notice must relate to the activities of the council.*

(3) *The chairperson of an ordinary council meeting may require a public question without notice to be –*

(a) put on notice in writing; and

(b) answered at a later ordinary council meeting.

38. Questions on notice by member of the public

(1) *A member of the public may, at least 7 days before an ordinary council meeting, give written notice to the general manager of a question to which the member of the public seeks an answer at the meeting.*

(2) *A public question on notice must relate to the activities of the council.*

(3) *The chairperson of an ordinary council meeting may address a public question on notice.*

(4) *The period referred to in subregulation (1) includes Saturdays, Sundays and statutory holidays, but does not include –*

(a) the day on which notice is given under that subregulation; or

(b) the day of the ordinary council meeting.

Councillors are advised that, at the time of issuing the Agenda, one question on notice had been received from a member of the public.

R & K Goudsouzian (Wybra Hall, Midland Highway, Mangalore) – Development Application – Custodial Facility at 466 Brighton Road, Pontville

The following question was received on 2nd March 2026.

In the previous 3 months up to the 10th December 2025 when council voted on the Development Application for the proposed Youth Justice Custodial facility at Pontville

- were there any meetings or workshops to discuss this?

- who was in attendance at those meeting workshops and what was discussed?

- was Roger Jaensch or any other government representative in attendance at any of these meetings/workshops?

Response:

This question seeks details in relation to any meetings or workshops held during the period 10th September 2025 to 10th December 2025.

For information, the Development Application was advertised on 17th November 2025, with representations invited for a fourteen-day period ending 1st December 2025. The Agenda for the Council Meeting was issued on 6th December 2025.

The Development Application was formally considered by Council at its meeting held on 10th December 2025, which commenced at 2.00 p.m.

A meeting was held on 9th December 2025. This meeting was with Mr R Goudsouzian. This meeting was attended by Deputy Mayor K Dudgeon, Cllrs A E Bisdee OAM, D Blackwell, B Campbell and D Fish. Council officer G Finn was present.

Councillors were able to attend an informal briefing with Council officers on 10th December 2025, commencing at 11.00 a.m., prior to the Council Meeting. This session provided an opportunity for Councillors to seek clarification of matters arising from the Agenda assessment report or to request further explanation if required.

This internal briefing/ workshop was attended by Mayor E Batt, Deputy Mayor K Dudgeon, Cllrs A E Bisdee OAM, D Blackwell, B Campbell and D Fish. There were no government representatives in attendance. Council officers T Kirkwood, G Finn and L Brown were also present.

No other meetings or workshops were held to discuss this matter within the nominated period.

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

Ms Christine Boyce – acknowledged and thanked Council for the work undertaken on Yarlington Road, Colebrook and within the Colebrook Township more broadly, including streetscape improvements.

Julia Jabour – Midlands Hotel – High Street, Oatlands – raised concerns regarding unsightly temporary fencing that has been in place for a considerable period. Does Council have any authority to address the situation?

The General Manager acknowledged that the fencing has been in place for an extended period and advised that it remains due to the site being classified as a construction area and to manage potential risks. While Council may not have any specific legislative powers to require its removal, the matter can be raised with the property owner to explore possible options.

Julia Jabour – raised concerns regarding fuel pricing and the potential for a fuel shortage, and queried whether Council has considered any plans to manage the situation?

The General Manager confirmed that Council officers have had preliminary discussions in relation to business continuity requirements in the event of a fuel shortage and/or significant price increases. More broadly, CEOs and General Managers are in communication through a process facilitated by the Local Government Association of Tasmania.

Steven Booker – Sandstone Memorial Plaques, High Street, Oatlands – referred to a matter raised several months ago regarding the plaques in High Street, Oatlands. He queried whether it would be possible to reposition the plaques so that they are readable from the

footpath/verge rather than facing the roadway. With ANZAC day approaching, he asked whether this be addressed?

Matter to be assessed and actioned as a priority.

Steven Booker – Eddington Cottage – Midland Highway Bagdad – acknowledged Council's recent purchase of this property and noted that a Conservation Management Plan has been commenced. It was also noted that there is a potential fire risk associated with grass and other vegetation surrounding the building.

Property to be inspected and appropriate action taken.

10.1 Permission to Address Council

Nil.

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

Nil.

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

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

12.1 Development Applications

12.1.1 Development Application (DA2500146)

For: Extractive Industry increase in production to Level 2 activity at 1114 Stonehenge Road, Stonehenge (C/T 113533/1, 175080/1) application made by Southern Midlands Council on behalf of the owners Fife AMI 2303 Inglewood Road Pty Ltd

Author: CONSULTANT PLANNER (MANAGER PLANNING, BRIGHTON COUNCIL)

Date: 19 MARCH 2026

Applicant:	David Richardson obo Southern Midlands Council
Land Owner	FIFE AMI 2303 Inglewood Road Pty Ltd
Subject Site:	1114 Stonehenge Road, Stonehenge (C/T 113533/1, 175080/1) (PID 9196051)
Proposal:	Increase annual extraction from 5,000 m ³ to 20,000 m ³ and increase processing from 1,000 m ³ to 20,000 m ³ (≈32,000 tonnes) within Mining Lease 1977 P/M, including expanding disturbed area from 1.78 ha to 3.01 ha to a maximum excavation depth of 20 m.
Planning Scheme:	Tasmanian Planning Scheme - Brighton
Zoning:	Agriculture
Applicable Codes/Overlays:	Parking and Sustainable Transport Code Road and Railway Assets Code
Other	Level 2 Activity (EMPCA)
Use Class:	Extractive Industry
Discretions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use (Intensification of existing use) (7.2.1 TPS-SM) • Increase in vehicle movements (C3.5.1 A1.4)
Representations:	0 objections were received to the application 1 positive submission relating to site remediation received.
Attachments	A - Application Documents as exhibited B – EPA Part B Permit Conditions C – Representation
Recommendation	Approval with conditions

STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

The purpose of this report is to enable the Planning Authority to determine application DA2500146.

The relevant legislation is the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993 (LUPAA)*. The provisions of LUPAA require a planning authority to take all reasonable steps to ensure compliance with the planning scheme.

The Planning Authority's assessment of this proposal should also consider the issues raised in any representations received, the outcomes of the State Policies and the objectives of Schedule 1 of the Land Use Planning and Approvals Act, 1993 (LUPAA).

This report details the reasons for the officer recommendation. The Planning Authority must consider this report but is not bound to adopt the recommendation. Broadly, the Planning Authority can either:

- (1) adopt the recommendation, or
- (2) vary the recommendation by adding, modifying, or removing recommended reasons and conditions or replacing an approval with a refusal (or vice versa).

Any alternative decision requires a full statement of reasons to comply with the *Judicial Review Act 2000* and the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025*.

SITE ASSESSMENT

The land to which the application relates is contained within an area of 2583ha and represents a significant land holding in the Southern Midlands municipality. The existing quarry and the proposed extension is situated on Certificates of Title 113533/1 and 175080/ (PID 9196051), although the entirety of the site is comprised in additional titles: 113533/3, 175080/1, 113531/1 113532/1 234138/1 and 176812/2. The site description, as detailed in the proposal documents, is replicated below, and is more fully documented in pages 8-10 of the exhibited documents.

2. Site Description

2.1 Site Description

The site is the existing Stonehenge Quarry on land at 1114 Stonehenge Road, Stonehenge located approximately 15km NE of Tunnack. The site location is shown in Fig 2 below.

The site and surrounding land is developed for agriculture, predominantly dry-land grazing of stock.

The site has a southerly aspect rising from the north bank of the Little Swanport River which passes across the southern boundary, elevating from 260-300m AHD.

A substantial dam (Dam ID 8292) was constructed and the water impoundment on the Little Swanport River (to the west) provides irrigation water to irrigated land further upstream.

In terms of Land Use Classification (LUC), the Dept. NRE Derwent Series map identify the site as LUC 5 being '*land unsuited to cropping and with slight to moderate limitations to pastoral use.*'

Access to the quarry is achieved via existing arrangements with Swanston Road approximately 650m east of its intersection with Stonehenge Road. Swanston Road is a Council maintained, unsealed gravel road typical of the district and is maintained and sheeted in aggregate sourced from Stonehenge Quarry.

Listmap shows the location of the mining lease as demonstrated in Figure 1 below:



Figure 1. Location of Stonehenge Quarry within Mining lease 1977P/M (source: Listmap)

The entirety of the property and surrounding titles are zoned agriculture pursuant to the Tasmanian Planning Scheme maps:



Figure 2: Agriculture Zone (Source Listmap)

Key site infrastructure includes an internal access road and a gated junction to Swenston Road.

The application is supported by an Natural Values Assessment (NVA) (EcoTas, March 2025) and a Noise Impact Assessment (NIA) (NVC, Aug 2025), which form part of the Environmental Effects Report (EER) provided to the EPA for assessment.

The NIA predicts daytime noise levels at the nearest sensitive premises to be compliant or within 1 dB of the Quarry Code of Practice criterion (45 dBA), with simple stockpile repositioning achieving 43 dBA.

The NVA indicates no threatened flora/fauna in the affected area, with preservation buffers around hollow-bearing trees and grassy white gum woodland. Traffic is expected to increase from ~334 to ~2,140 annual heavy vehicle movements (≈8/day on average, up to 20/day for short periods).

The following codes are exempt from planning authority assessment:

Code	Reason for Exemption / Clause
Natural Assets Code	Level 2 Activity (C7.4.1(b))
Attenuation Code	Level 2 Activity (C9.4.1 (a))
Landslip Hazard Code	Existing mining lease in force (C15.4.1(b))

Impacts relating to the above have been considered by the EPA and where necessary addressed in the Environmental Assessment Report (Attachment B).

BACKGROUND

A Level 1 permit for the Quarry was first approved by Southern Midlands Council on 5th May 2015 (DA 2014/95). This application elevates the operation of the quarry to Level 2, requiring administration by the Environment Protection Authority pursuant to Schedule 2 of the Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994 (EMPCA). As such the application has been referred to the EPA for assessment, pursuant to s25(1) of EMPCA, and public exhibition has occurred in accordance with the EPA’s requirements as well as the LUPAA Regulations 2024.

PROPOSAL

Southern Midlands Council seeks approval to increase extraction and processing at the existing Stonehenge Quarry from 5,000m³/year (with 1,000m³ processing limit) to 20,000m³/year for both extraction and processing (approx. 32,000 tonnes). Due to the intensification of the Extractive Industry use, the quarry will be reclassified as a Level 2 Activity under Schedule 2 of EMPCA. The proposal includes expansion of the disturbance footprint from 1.78 ha to 2.68 ha immediately, with a total disturbance over the life of 3.01 ha. Mitigation to manage sediment and dust is also proposed.



Figure 3: Site plan showing existing side and proposed expansion area.

PLANNING SCHEME ASSESSMENT

Compliance with Applicable Standards:

- 5.6.1 *A use or development must comply with each applicable standard in the State Planning Provisions and the Local Provisions Schedules.*
- 5.6.2 *A standard is an applicable standard if:*
- (a) *the proposed use or development will be on a site within:*
 - (i) *a zone;*
 - (ii) *an area to which a specific area plan relates; or*
 - (iii) *an area to which a site-specific qualification applies; or*
 - (b) *the proposed use or development is a use or development to which a relevant applies; and*
 - (c) *the standard deals with a matter that could affect, or could be affected by, the proposed use or development.*
- 5.6.3 *Compliance for the purposes of subclause 5.6.1 of this planning scheme consists of complying with the Acceptable Solution or satisfying the Performance Criterion for that standard.*
- 5.6.4 *The planning authority may consider the relevant objective in an applicable standard to determine whether a use or development satisfies the Performance Criterion for that standard.*

Determining applications (clause 6.10.1):

- 6.10.1 *In determining an application for any permit for use or development the planning authority must, in addition to the matters required by section 51(2) of the Act, take into consideration:*
- (a) *all applicable standards and requirements in this planning scheme; and*
 - (b) *any representations received pursuant to and in conformity with section 57(5) of the Act,*
- but in the case of the exercise of discretion, only insofar as each such matter is relevant to the particular discretion being exercised.*

Use Class

The Use Class is categorised as Extractive Industry under the Scheme. The substantial intensification of the proposed extractive use means the proposal is inconsistent with clause 7.2.1 of the Scheme and as such the application is deemed to be Discretionary pursuant to the Use Table 21.2 for the Agriculture Zone.

As the proposed intensification of use is discretionary, it must then be consistent with the purpose of the zone:

- 21.1.1 To provide for the use or development of land for agricultural use.
- 21.1.2 To protect land for the use or development of agricultural use by minimising:
 - (a) conflict with or interference from non-agricultural uses;
 - (b) non-agricultural use or development that precludes the return of the land to agricultural use; and
 - (c) use of land for non-agricultural use in irrigation districts.

21.1.3 To provide for use or development that supports the use of the land for agricultural use.

The proposal is consistent with the zone purpose statements, given that the extractive industry use will not materially conflict with existing agricultural operations and will maintain sufficient land area to support the continued or future agricultural use of the land.

Compliance with Performance Criteria

The proposal meets the Scheme’s relevant Acceptable Solutions with the exception of the following.

Clause 21.3.1 A1/P1 Discretionary Uses

Objective:	
That uses listed as Discretionary: (a) support agricultural use; and (b) protect land for agricultural use by minimising the conversion of land to non-agricultural use	
Acceptable Solution	Performance Criteria
A1 No Acceptable Solution	P1 A use listed as Discretionary, excluding Residential or Resource Development, must be required to locate on the site, for operational or security reasons or the need to contain or minimise impacts arising from the operation such as noise, dust, hours of operation or traffic movements, having regard to: (a) access to a specific naturally occurring resource on the site or on land in the vicinity of the site; (b) access to infrastructure only available on the site or on land in the vicinity of the site; (c) access to a product or material related to an agricultural use; (d) service or support for an agricultural use on the site or on land in the vicinity of the site; (e) the diversification or value adding of an agricultural use on the site or in the vicinity of the site; and (f) provision of essential Emergency Services or Utilities.

There is no acceptable solution, therefore assessment against the performance criteria is relied upon.

The proposed intensification of the use is to expand access to an existing quarry on the land contained within mining lease 1977P/M. The quarry is accessed via a Council maintained road, which is preserved using product from the quarry. The mining lease encompasses approximately 8 hectares of the 2,583-hectare farm (0.3%), and therefore has a negligible impact on the agricultural use of the land.

The expansion of the existing quarry is the preferred option, which allows product to be extracted and used within close proximity to the roads being maintained with the product,

thereby reducing cartage travel times and consequently transport emissions across the municipality.

Separately, the proposal provides opportunity for diversification for the land owner, ensuring that ongoing agricultural use can be supported through additional revenue.

Accordingly, the PC is satisfied.

Clause 21.3.1 A2/P2 Discretionary Uses

Objective:	
That uses listed as Discretionary: (a) support agricultural use; and (b) protect land for agricultural use by minimising the conversion of land to non-agricultural use	
Acceptable Solution	Performance Criteria
A1 No Acceptable Solution	P2 A use listed as Discretionary, excluding Residential, must minimise the conversion of agricultural land to non-agricultural use, having regard to: (a) the area of land being converted to non-agricultural use; (b) whether the use precludes the land from being returned to an agricultural use; (c) whether the use confines or restrains existing or potential agricultural use on the site or adjoining sites.

There is no acceptable solution, therefore assessment against the performance criteria is relied upon.

The proposal seeks to expand the area of disturbance for the quarry from 1.78ha to 3.01ha (an increase of 1.23ha), within the approved mining lease 1977P/M, comprising 10ha total. This equates to 31% of the total mining lease area and 0.3% of the agricultural use.

Following cessation of the extractive industry, the quarry is required to be remediated, and the EPA has included conditions regarding remediation in its approval (refer Annexure B). This will allow the land to be used by the owners for agricultural use. Therefore, the intensification of the quarry within the existing mining lease is not expected to significantly confine or restrain existing or potential agricultural use on the site or adjoining site, given limited land area identified for conversion.

Accordingly, the PC is satisfied

Clause 21.3.1 A3/P3 Discretionary Uses

Objective:	
That uses listed as Discretionary: (a) support agricultural use; and (b) protect land for agricultural use by minimising the conversion of land to non-agricultural use	
Acceptable Solution	Performance Criteria
A3 No Acceptable Solution	P3 A use listed as Discretionary, excluding Residential, located on prime agricultural land must:

	<p>(a) be for Extractive Industry, Resource Development or Utilities, provided that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) the area of land converted to the use is minimised; (ii) adverse impacts on the surrounding agricultural use are minimised; and (iii) the site is reasonably required for operational efficiency; or <p>(b) be for a use that demonstrates a significant benefit to the region, having regard to the social, environmental and economic costs and benefits of the proposed use.</p>
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There is no acceptable solution, therefore assessment against the performance criteria is relied upon.

As noted earlier in this assessment, the proposal is for an existing approved Extractive Industry Use. The application seeks to expand the area of disturbance for the quarry from 1.78ha to 3.01ha (increase of 1.23ha) within the approved mining lease 1977P/M (10ha total), equating to 31% of the total approved mining lease area. The extent of the mining lease equates to 0.3% of the farm, thereby allowing agricultural use of the site to continue unimpeded.

Expansion of the quarry provides for operational efficiency, by providing access to a resource which is within close proximity to the roads that the product is used to maintain.

The land is not identified as significant agricultural land (being identified as NRE class 5 under the Classification Land Capability maps). NRE Class 5 land is identified as:

*" ... unsuitable for cropping, although some areas on easier slopes may be cultivated for pasture establishment or renewal and occasional fodder crops may be possible. The land may have slight to moderate limitations for pastoral use. The effects of limitations on the grazing potential may be reduced by applying appropriate soil conservation measures and land management practices."*¹

The material obtained from the quarry will benefit the municipality, being used through the region to update Council's rural road network, whilst the convenient location of the quarry within the road network assists to reduce impacts such as cartage travelling times and transport emissions.

Accordingly, the PC is satisfied.

C2.6.2A1.1 / P1 – Design and Layout of Parking Areas

Objective:	
That parking areas are designed and laid out to provide convenient, safe and efficient parking.	
Acceptable Solution	Performance Criteria
A1.1 Parking, access ways, manoeuvring and circulation spaces must either:	P1 All parking, access ways, manoeuvring and circulation spaces must be designed and

¹ Grose CJ (Ed) 1999, Land Capability Handbook. Guidelines for the Classification of Agricultural Land in Tasmania. Second Edition., Department of Primary Industries Water and Environment, Tasmania, Australia. Retrieved from https://nre.tas.gov.au/Documents/Land_Cap_Revised-handbook.pdf

<p>(a) comply with the following:</p> <p>(i) have a gradient in accordance with Australian Standard AS 2890 - Parking facilities, Parts 1-6;</p> <p>(ii) provide for vehicles to enter and exit the site in a forward direction where providing for more than 4 parking spaces;</p> <p>(iii) have an access width not less than the requirements in Table C2.2;</p> <p>(iv) have car parking space dimensions which satisfy the requirements in Table C2.3;</p> <p>(v) have a combined access and manoeuvring width adjacent to parking spaces not less than the requirements in Table C2.3 where there are 3 or more car parking spaces;</p> <p>(vi) have a vertical clearance of not less than 2.1m above the parking surface level; and</p> <p>(vii) excluding a single dwelling, be delineated by line marking or other clear physical means; or</p> <p>(b) comply with Australian Standard AS 2890- Parking facilities, Parts 1-6.</p> <p>A1.2 Parking spaces provided for use by persons with a disability must satisfy the following:</p> <p>(a) be located as close as practicable to the main entry point to the building;</p> <p>(b) be incorporated into the overall car park design; and</p> <p>(c) be designed and constructed in accordance with Australian/New Zealand Standard AS/NZS 2890.6:2009 Parking facilities, Off-street parking for people with disabilities.35</p>	<p>readily identifiable to provide convenient, safe and efficient parking, having regard to:</p> <p>(a) the characteristics of the site;</p> <p>(b) the proposed slope, dimensions and layout;</p> <p>(c) useability in all weather conditions;</p> <p>(d) vehicle and pedestrian traffic safety;</p> <p>(e) the nature and use of the development;</p> <p>(f) the expected number and type of vehicles;</p> <p>(g) the likely use of the parking areas by persons with a disability;</p> <p>(h) the nature of traffic in the surrounding area;</p> <p>(i) the proposed means of parking delineation; and</p> <p>(j) the provisions of Australian Standard AS 2890.1:2004 - Parking facilities, Part 1: Off-street car parking and AS 2890.2 -2002 Parking facilities, Part 2: Off--street commercial vehicle facilities.</p>
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The applicant suggests an informal parking arrangement, taking into account the variability in the operation of the quarry. When operating, 5 employees will be required on site which requires 3 car parking spaces pursuant to C2.5.1. The operation of the quarry will provide access to approximately eight (8) vehicle per movements per day. Staff parking will be contained within the quarry floor, away from the operating machinery, similar to existing arrangements.

The EPA's conditions contained within the Environmental Assessment Report (refer Annexure B) include requirements for restricted speeds throughout the site and on roads accessing the activity area (40km/h), as well as placing a restriction on when

cartage by heavy vehicles can be undertaken (daylight hours). Speed limits on the quarry floor are further reduced to 20km/hour.

Council's Manager of Infrastructure and Works has been consulted. That officer has provided conditions for the design and maintenance of parking areas on site.

It is therefore considered that convenient, safe and efficient parking can be provided on site, and that the performance criteria can be satisfied with conditions.

Clause C3.5.1 A11.1-A1.5 / P1

Objective:	
To minimise any adverse effects on the safety and efficiency of the road or rail network from vehicular traffic generated from the site at an existing or new vehicle crossing or level crossing or new junction.	
Acceptable Solution	Performance Criteria
<p>A1.1 For a category 1 road or a limited access road, vehicular traffic to and from the site will not require:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) a new junction; (b) a new vehicle crossing; or (c) a new level crossing. <p>A1.2 For a road, excluding a category 1 road or a limited access road, written consent for a new junction, vehicle crossing, or level crossing to serve the use and development has been issued by the road authority.</p> <p>A1.3 For the rail network, written consent for a new private level crossing to serve the use and development has been issued by the rail authority.</p> <p>A1.4 Vehicular traffic to and from the site, using an existing vehicle crossing or private level crossing, will not increase by more than:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the amounts in Table C3.1; or (b) allowed by a licence issued under Part IVA of the Roads and Jetties Act 1935 in respect to a limited access road. <p>A1.5 Vehicular traffic must be able to enter and leave a major road in a forward direction.</p>	<p>P1 Vehicular traffic to and from the site must minimise any adverse effects on the safety of a junction, vehicle crossing or level crossing or safety or efficiency of the road or rail network, having regard to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) any increase in traffic caused by the use; (b) the nature of the traffic generated by the use; (c) the nature of the road; (d) the speed limit and traffic flow of the road; (e) any alternative access to a road; (f) the need for the use; (g) any traffic impact assessment; and (h) any advice received from the rail or the road authority

Table C3.1 prescribes the acceptable increase in annual average daily traffic to and from the site (total of ingress and egress) as:

Location of vehicular traffic	Amount of acceptable increase in annual average daily traffic to and from the site (total of ingress and egress)	
	Vehicles up to 5.5m long	Vehicles longer than 5.5m long
Vehicle crossing on major roads and private level crossings	10% or 10 vehicle movements per day, whichever is the greater	10%
Vehicle crossings on other roads	20% or 40 vehicle movements per day, whichever is the greater	20% or 5 vehicle movements per day, whichever is the greater

The application proposes an increase in vehicle movements from which will average approximately 8 vehicle movements per day. However at certain times of the year production scheduling may demand up to 20 vehicle movements per day, consistent with the current Level 1 activity.

The Applicant has provided justification against the performance criteria, as outlined in the exhibited documents, noting that essentially the number of vehicle movements per day is not increasing, however the number of days the quarry is operating is increasing each year. The road is maintained by Council, with the increase in traffic being generated in order to provide materials for roads within the municipality. The EPA have included conditions to reduce the speed of vehicles accessing the site to 40km/h. Council’s Manager of Infrastructure and Works has provided conditions in relation to maintenance of the site

Accordingly, the PC can be satisfied.

Referrals

Development Engineering

Council's Manager Infrastructure and Works has provided conditions in relation to parking and maintenance of the site.

Environmental Protection Authority

The application was referred to the EPA pursuant to s 25(1) of the Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994. That Authority has provided an Environmental Assessment Report (attachment B) and conditions to be affixed to the recommended permit, if approved. Conditions include limitations in relation to quantities to be produced, the extent of the activity area, dust suppression, decommissioning and rehabilitation of the quarry site, environmental risks and management, noise emissions, operating hours and stormwater management.

Representations

No objections were received during the statutory public exhibition period between 15th January 2025 and 30th January 2026 (which was extended by one day for the Australia Day public holiday), however one submission was received. That submission identified the intensification of the site as being suitable for a Nature Positive Enhancement Opportunity.

The matters raised in the submission do not fall within the assessment by the Planning Authority under the LUPAA, as remediation is overseen by the EPA. That authority has included conditions for remediation of the quarry site to be included in any permit issued.

It is recommended that the submission be considered by Council outside of this assessment, and the focus of a separate discussion by Council with land owners/relative parties and the EPA.

CONCLUSION

The proposal for **Extractive Industry (increase in production to Level 2 activity) at 1114 Stonehenge Road, Stonehenge in Tasmania** satisfies the relevant provisions of the Tasmanian Planning Scheme – Southern Midlands, and as such is recommended for approval.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT: Pursuant to the *Tasmanian Planning Scheme – Southern Midlands*, Council approve application DA DA2500146 for Extractive Industry (increase in production to Level 2 activity) at 1114 Stonehenge Road, Stonehenge in Tasmania, for the reasons outlined in the officer’s report and a permit containing the following conditions be issued:

General

- (1) The use or development must be carried out substantially in accordance with the application for planning approval, the endorsed drawings and with the conditions of this permit and must not be altered or extended without the further written approval of Council.
- (2) This permit shall not take effect and must not be acted on until 15 days after the date of receipt of this permit unless, as the applicant and the only person with a right of appeal, you notify Council in writing that you propose to commence the use or development before this date, in accordance with Section 53 of the Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993.

Parking and Access

- (3) The internal access road, parking and associated turning, loading and unloading areas servicing the development must be designed and constructed to the satisfaction of Council’s General Manager and must include:
 - a) adequate turning space on site to allow vehicles to enter and leave the site in a forward direction;
 - b) an all-weather pavement; and
 - c) stormwater drainage.
- (4) All areas set aside for parking and associated turning, loading and unloading areas and access must be completed prior to cartage of any materials extracted pursuant to the approved quarrying activity and must continue to be maintained to the satisfaction of Council’s General Manager.

Environmental Protection Authority

- (5) The person responsible for the activity must comply with the conditions contained in Schedule 2 of Permit Part B, which the Board of the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) requires the planning authority to include in the permit, pursuant to section 25(5) of the Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994.

THE FOLLOWING ADVICE APPLIES TO THIS PERMIT:

- A. This permit does not imply that any other approval required under any other legislation or by-law has been granted.

- B. This planning approval shall lapse at the expiration of two (2) years from the date of the commencement of planning approval if the development for which the approval was given has not been substantially commenced. Where a planning approval for a development has lapsed, an application for renewal of a planning approval for that development shall be treated as a new application.

DECISION

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

THAT THAT: Pursuant to the *Tasmanian Planning Scheme – Southern Midlands*, Council approve application DA DA2500146 for Extractive Industry (increase in production to Level 2 activity) at 1114 Stonehenge Road, Stonehenge in Tasmania, for the reasons outlined in the officer's report and a permit containing the following conditions be issued:

General

- (1) The use or development must be carried out substantially in accordance with the application for planning approval, the endorsed drawings and with the conditions of this permit and must not be altered or extended without the further written approval of Council.
- (2) This permit shall not take effect and must not be acted on until 15 days after the date of receipt of this permit unless, as the applicant and the only person with a right of appeal, you notify Council in writing that you propose to commence the use or development before this date, in accordance with Section 53 of the Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993.

Parking and Access

- (3) The internal access road, parking and associated turning, loading and unloading areas servicing the development must be designed and constructed to the satisfaction of Council's General Manager and must include:
 - a) adequate turning space on site to allow vehicles to enter and leave the site in a forward direction;
 - b) an all-weather pavement; and
 - c) stormwater drainage.
- (4) All areas set aside for parking and associated turning, loading and unloading areas and access must be completed prior to cartage of any materials extracted pursuant to the approved quarrying activity and must continue to be maintained to the satisfaction of Council's General Manager.

Environmental Protection Authority

- (5) The person responsible for the activity must comply with the conditions contained in Schedule 2 of Permit Part B, which the Board of the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) requires the planning authority to include in the permit, pursuant to section 25(5) of the Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994.

THE FOLLOWING ADVICE APPLIES TO THIS PERMIT:

- A. This permit does not imply that any other approval required under any other legislation or by-law has been granted.
- B. This planning approval shall lapse at the expiration of two (2) years from the date of the commencement of planning approval if the development for which the approval was given has not been substantially commenced. Where a planning approval for a development has lapsed, an application for renewal of a planning approval for that development shall be treated as a new application.

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	✓	

12.2 Subdivisions

Nil.

12.3 Municipal Seal (Planning Authority)

Nil.

12.4 Planning (Other)

Nil.

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

DECISION

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

THAT Council break for morning tea at 10.52 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 Council reconvene at 11.15 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	✓	

13. OPERATIONAL MATTERS ARISING (STRATEGIC THEME – INFRASTRUCTURE)

13.1 Roads

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

Nil.

13.2 Bridges

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

Nil.

13.3 Walkways, Cycle Ways and Trails

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

Nil.

13.4 Lighting

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

Nil.

13.5 Buildings

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

Nil.

13.6 Sewer / Water and Energy

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

Nil.

13.7 Drainage

Strategic Plan Reference 1.7

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

Nil.

13.8 Waste

Strategic Plan Reference 1.8

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

Nil.

13.9 Information, Communication Technology

Strategic Plan Reference 1.9

Improve access to modern communications infrastructure.

Nil.

13.10 Officer Reports – Infrastructure & Works

13.10.1 Manager – Infrastructure & Works Report

Author: MANAGER INFRASTRUCTURE & WORKS (DAVID RICHARDSON)

Date: 19 MARCH 2026

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

Roads Program

1. **Maintenance Grading:** Ongoing maintenance grading works will continue throughout the municipality.
2. **Pothole Repairs:** Both sealed and unsealed roads are being addressed for pothole repairs as resources permit.
3. **Culvert Cleaning & Drainage Works:** Drainage and culvert cleaning activities are underway in various locations. These works will continue as weather conditions allow.
4. **Annual Resealing** programme has been completed.
5. **Roads** Gravel re-sheeting works will continue where required.

Current Capital Works

1. **Mood food to Kempton walkway** has commenced construction and will continue.
2. **Campania Football Club change rooms are underway.** Works are progressing well. Works on a retaining wall around the oval and stormwater works have commenced and almost completed.

Parks and Reserves

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

Bridge Works

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

Building Services Unit

1. **Council Building Maintenance:** Ongoing maintenance works have been carried out on various council buildings and will continue.
2. **Construction of Campania Football Club Change room additions:** Construction work has advanced, painting, plumbing and electrical works are almost completed.

3. **Ceiling Repair at Roche Hall:** Repair works are in progress and will continue as resources allow.

Planned Works

1. **Road Maintenance:**
 - Drainage and pavement repairs on various roads.
 - Edge break repairs across various roads.
 - Guidepost replacement has been completed on 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. **Parattah Main road** Commence kerb and footpath replacement works.
6. **Tree Removal** Back Woodsdale Road.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE TO MANAGER, INFRASTRUCTURE & WORKS

Clr D Fish – commented on fuel price increases and the impact these may have on Council's works programme.

Manager Infrastructure & Works advised that price increases are already being notified by suppliers, particularly for road maintenance and construction type materials (i.e. bitumen etc.)

Clr B Campbell – noted that guidepost replacement has been completed on various roads.

Manager Infrastructure & Works confirmed that this forms part of an ongoing programme undertaken as resources permit.

Clr B Campbell – High Street, Oatlands – Footpaths – advised that community members have expressed a preference for sandstone- coloured finish.

Deputy Mayor K Dudgeon – Nala Road – Bridge (vicinity of the football ground) – raised concerns regarding potholes on the bridge approaches.

Manager Infrastructure & Works to inspect and take appropriate action.

Deputy Mayor K Dudgeon – Bagdad Primary School – noted the initial site works associated with property acquisition and car park development. Acknowledged the high standard of works and improved appearance.

Mayor E Batt – Campania Recreation Ground – confirmed that a fence / barrier is to be constructed along the top of the newly constructed retaining wall; confirmed that the temporary security fencing will be removed prior to the commencement of games at the ground.

Mayor E Batt – Kempton Stormwater Management Plan – discussion in relation to the ‘choke’ points that are identified in the Stormwater Management Plan and the proposed works to address these issues.

RECOMMENDATION

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

DECISION

Moved by Clr B Campbell, seconded by Clr D Blackwell

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

CARRIED

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

14. OPERATIONAL MATTERS ARISING (STRATEGIC THEME – GROWTH)

14.1 Residential

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

Nil.

14.2 Tourism

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

Nil.

14.3 Business

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

Nil.

14.4 Industry

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

Nil.

15. OPERATIONAL MATTERS ARISING (STRATEGIC THEME – LANDSCAPES)

15.1 Heritage

Strategic Plan Reference – Page 22

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

15.1.1 Heritage Project Program Report

Author: MANAGER HERITAGE PROJECTS (BRAD WILLIAMS)

Date: 25 MARCH 2026

DETAIL

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

- This month's Artist in Residence is Michelle Ball, a painter from NSW. Michelle is known for her paintings based on themes of history and care for the Australian bush. Drawing & painting will be her daily activity with a focus on endangered flora and fauna of the area.
- Researching and planning Heartlands through Broadmarsh, a collaboration with HHRTA to promote tourism in the Southern Midlands via 2 bus tours on the 28th March.
- Community consultation for interpretation panel for Bagdad.
- Installation of the C.L. Batt Park interpretation panels at Melton Mowbray.
- Approval received from the Regulator of the Burial and Cremation Act for archaeological works relating to potential re-delineation of the Baptist Cemetery in Erskine Street Kempton.
- Further review of the Local Heritage Precinct provisions in the Southern Midlands Local Provisions Schedule and consultation with other council heritage officers and planners for a submission to the State Planning Office regarding issues with the State Planning Provisions of the Local Historic Heritage Code.
- Internal workshop to update Council's Risk Register.

RECOMMENDATION

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

DECISION

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

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

CARRIED

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

15.2 Natural

Strategic Plan Reference – page 23/24

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

15.2.1 NRM Unit – General Report

Author: NRM UNIT MANAGER (MARIA WEEDING)

Date: 17 MARCH 2026

DETAIL

- Lake Dulverton – Elgin & Associates monitored the water quality in Lake Dulverton for just over a month. The real time monitoring device has now been removed. Elgin will provide a report in the coming weeks. The Midlands Water Scheme winter take period water has just commenced,(1st March). Water is being placed in to the Lake at the rate of 1 ML per day. This means the water quality is likely to begin improving with the new fresh water. The Consultants from Elgin may take an additional reading later in March to capture the early effects of the new water upon the water quality readings.
- Maria did a detailed analysis of the rainfall and evaporation rates for Lake Dulverton over since 2010. There is a current trend of low rainfall combined with high evaporation rates. This is evidenced in the currently dry Natural Zone area of the Lake. This 189 Ha area had only minimal water over a short period in the winter months resulting from direct overhead rainfall. In the same period, there was no natural run off water inflow from the broader catchment area.
- Maria and Helen replaced the door access system into the shower block. Luckily we had a new replacement on hand. The new coded access system was reprogrammed and is now working. It seems that the door access system that had failed had been out of operation for a few days – which reflected on the lower amount collected for the shower fees over the week.
- Maria and Helen spent time repainting a number of black steel posts that is associated with the current Lake interpretation signage, and also repainting the silhouettes along the walking track. All badly needed painting. There is still a little bit more painting to be done on some signage posts in Callington Park.
- Helen has set up the road traffic counter traffic for placement on Buckland Road in the next day or so.
- The possible playground equipment items for the Kempton Playground have been mocked up into various design configurations by a playground consultant. The next step will be consultation with Kempton school/youth.
- Helen and Maria have been working on identifying the placements and requirements for the dog signage to go around the Lake. The posts have been ordered and the detailed signage has also been ordered.

Weeds Officer Report, Mary Smyth

16th February – 16th March 2026

Enquiries/feedback

An Oatlands resident queried me regarding a weed that had come up in her veggie patch, and she brought a sample in to the office the following week. It was Blackberry nightshade, a common nuisance in gardens.

Another Oatlands resident emailed me regarding scattered boxthorn seedlings under pines along her street. I have perused the site: a bit of cutting and pasting coming up!

Site visits

Watered the Pound seedlings once over this reporting period. The Latham's snipes were still there in the swampy ground next door.

Assisted Maria and Helen with weeding a very short stretch of the Lake Dulverton path near the distillery.

Assisted Maria and Helen with de-heading and controlling an isolated patch of cumbungi on the far side of Lake Dulverton, and then removed all seed heads of a cluster of cumbungi off Interlaken Road (controlling postponed due to time constraints).

Communication

Coordinating contractor African lovegrass control (for the remainder of this financial year) along Brighton Road, Pontville. Sandy Leighton (former SMC weeds officer, now working for North Barker) has kindly offered to show me ALG in situ: I need more experience with this grass as I find it very difficult to identify, especially when it does not have seed present. Did a bit of research on residual herbicides for Cameron, but this is not my field of expertise, so I contacted an agronomist who sent me some excellent suggestions.

Spent a bit of time cleaning up emails as my inbox is almost full again.

Wrote an article for Southern Midlands Regional News on the Boxthorn rust fungus biocontrol programme.

Weeds Action Fund (WAF) Stage 3

No contractor activity yet for 2026, but I did do one site visit myself where I walked over the core zone only, and netted a total of 11 small Stemless thistle seedlings. A very pleasing result. Awaiting rains before further follow-up.

Related and extra-curricular activities

Dropped off 10 bags of weed seeds to the depot for deep burial. This material was collected over the past 12 months or so.

Whilst returning to work after an appointment, I detoured to a landscaping supplies place near the airport and discovered a single Spanish broom plant flowering away on the side of the road. I had personally not come across this particular plant before, and the next time I was in the area, I dug it out! That second visit to the area coincided with another find nearby: a smallish, single pampas grass flowering away on a bit of wasteland. I was able to cut and bag the flowers, and I will contact the local council to control this plant.

Attended the first webinar detailing the release programme for Boxthorn rust fungus biocontrol in Tasmania. Interested parties are encouraged to help spread the fungus, and I have been busy scoping out potential sites (mostly around Tunbridge).

Am continuing to water (in my own time) the new trees in Tunbridge Park.

Had a bit of time to peruse the Tasmanian Weeds Facebook, the best place to find out what's happening around the state.

Chauncy Vale weeds

Three separate visits this month. I had intended to finish up for a few months on Friday 6th February BUT I stumbled across yet another Californian and Scotch thistle hotspot, on the flats between the start of the Guvy's Lagoon track and Browns Caves Rivulet. The heart of this CT infestation contained plants that were so tall (2m tall) and dense that I strongly suspect this is the 'ground zero' site for all the downstream CTs, and possibly a good proportion of the Scotch thistles too. A thistle haven, unknown and ignored for years. Unfortunately, many of the CTs had flowered and set seed, and both male and female plants were present, so the seeds will be fertile. Nevertheless, every single CT that could be controlled was hit over a couple of visits.

Continuing to liaise with Ben from the committee for him to tackle the odd thistle on steeper sites. Contacted three separate drone companies to scope out potentially using drones on the White valerian patches, and the cliff face slender thistles. Information forwarded to Wendy and Jo for possible budgetary consideration.

337 certificate enquiries

Only four properties processed over the last month.

Weed of the Week

Cumbungi, serrated tussock, blackberry and common tansy all displayed at the end of the entrance hall in the Oatlands offices since the last report.

RECOMMENDATION

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

DECISION

Moved by Clr D Fish, seconded by Clr D Blackwell

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	✓	

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.

15.4.1 Flour Mill Park Redevelopment Project

Author: DEPUTY GENERAL MANAGER (ANDREW BENSON)

Date: 18 MARCH 2026

Attachment(s):

Flour Mill Park Concept Design Report

ISSUE

Consideration of the final report, including Community Feedback on the Flour Mill Park Concept Design Project, at Campania.

BACKGROUND

Council considered this issue in the October 2025 Council meeting and an extract of that meeting is included for reference:

EXTRACT Council Minutes from the 22 October 2025

15.4.1 *Flour Mill Park Redevelopment Project*

Author: DEPUTY GENERAL MANAGER (ANDREW BENSON)

Date: 13 OCTOBER 2025

Attachment(s):

Flour Mill Park Concept Design Report

ISSUE

Consideration of the final report, including Community Feedback on the Flour Mill Park Concept Design Project, at Campania.

BACKGROUND

In September 2024, Recreation/Landscape Architects, Inspiring Place were contracted to undertake the following tasks as part of the re-development of Flour Mill Park in Campania;

- 1. Undertake Community and Stakeholder engagement, including with the Campania District School;*
- 2. Undertake a Consultation Survey;*
- 3. Consider the Opportunities along with Constraints emanating from 1 and 2 above;*
- 4. Consideration of the design principals of the site, whilst understanding the current and future uses of the site;*
- 5. Develop a draft Concept Plan for the site; and*
- 6. Following feedback from Council and the Community deliver a Final Concept Report.*

At the May 2025 Council Workshop a review of the draft Concept Design Plan prepared by Inspiring Place was undertaken. There was wide ranging discussion about the site and the recommendations that Inspiring Place had put forward. Discussion also covered the Mill building which is owned by the Department of Education, Children and Young People (DECYP), and how that could be used in conjunction with the Park. Following investigation with DECYP it was noted that the building is used every day for school activities and therefore would not be available to provide any ancillary uses in respect of the Flour Mill Park.

DETAIL

Council were supportive of the draft Concept Design and requested Community feedback. That feedback has been included below.

Community feedback schedule		
Project: Flour Mill Park		
Date: 24.07.25		
Item	Community feedback 22.07.25	Inspiring Place feedback 24.07.25
Beven Family		
Implementation Plan: <i>stage 6; upgrade path network, lighting and fencing</i>	A. Are there any more details available regarding the style of fencing, how it will be fenced, parameters around the park, certain play zones and car park? Just wondering for a security, safety and access perspective.	Flour Mill Park is currently at the concept design stage where further details will be provided at the next stage on fencing, playspace, carparking etc. All details will be conscious of the security, safety and access needs for this site in accordance to Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design principles
<i>"Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) has been addressed for Flour Mill Park to address previous incidents of serious vandalism, misconduct and misuse. Natural surveillance has been adopted to maximise visibility throughout Flour Mill Park. This is through minimising obstructions and clear sightlines through the proposed park facilities for crime prevention."</i>	B. Can this paragraph please be explained more plainly - how will the landscape change and does this involve lighting for safety and security and assume it does not involve the use of cameras, but rather ensuring the trees and shrubs are manicured and maintained for better vision across the park space.	Lighting is proposed to primary pathways with controlled and limited operational hours during the evening. Use of cameras are not proposed at this stage. Existing trees and mass planting within Flour Mill Park will be reviewed for safety and surveillance. This includes pruning lower tree branches and tall shrubs to provide clear surveillance for users throughout the park. New planting will be considerate of safety and security
	C. With x2 turf kick around spaces (number 24 on the map), is there consideration to have one of these areas zoned off for a dog run, or are there any other proposals to have a space in Campania for one? If this were to be considered, perhaps the space where the current tennis court is would be better than the space near the Flour Mill/ pump track.	The dog park wasn't referenced as a priority during the consultation phase, however can potentially be addressed in Flour Mill Park. However, there should be consideration as to existing dog facilities within Council LGA as well as the needs within the park for the community.
	D. Are there details available that disclose the size of the area that the combined space of junior and youth play spaces, adventure and nature play and fitness equipment take up? It appears on the map to be quite close together, with a lot of "green" natural parkland with trees between this zone and the half basketball court. Is there a reason as to why this might be tightly consolidated to this one area? I note the reference to the scale at the bottom of page 13, although would be interested in more details.	The playspace has 2 main areas being junior and youth. These zones are located adjacent to each other for families and groups of people who may have children of varying ages. The playspace has been located amongst existing trees providing natural shade and integrating existing nature play opportunities. It is also located adjacent to the junior pump track, for ease of supervision for families. Area size can be confirmed in the following project stages after further design development. The fitness equipment is retained in place and nominated to be upgraded in the future. The half basketball court is creating a distinct youth precinct with supporting facilities, occupying the existing hardstand space of the existing tennis courts with upgraded surfacing materials.

Kobi Rybak – for the Campania Community Group		
	A. Overall, the plans are a welcome addition to the Campania community. The design includes a broad range of ideas for individuals and groups who may access the park, including younger children and adolescents. It would be good to ensure that any design includes access for those with disabilities and the elderly population	Inclusivity and accessibility has been considered during the concept design with a considered approach to access and circulation, disabled parking and the provision of accessible amenities for people of all abilities. Further design development will be undertaken at a later stage of the project
	B. - The park and grounds need to be well lit for security purposes and have structures which prevent vehicles from entering which may cause potential damage to property (ie fence or bollards). A gated fence would also ensure young children do not venture onto the road.	Primary access paths are proposed with controlled lighting with timed operational hours during the evening. Vehicle entry control will be detailed in the following project stage, for example retention of the large existing boulders along the car park edge. A playground fence and gate could be considered in the next project phase, particularly for the junior play area
	C. - Please ensure there are plenty of rubbish/ recycling bins and dog waste bags and bins	Noted, locations and quantities to be addressed at the next project phase
	D. - Sun safety is important so please ensure plenty of areas available with covering (for bad weather also)	3x picnic facilities are provided in the park with an all weather shelter The playspace location is proposed amongst existing mature trees providing natural shade
	E. - Consider incorporating 'train/railway' themed play equipment to link with Campania heritage; also link some of the town's history in with the park (eg 'history walk' around the perimeter of the park)- ties in with the heritage interpretation aspect of the design.	Flour Mill Park presents a great opportunity for heritage interpretation, with many ideas listed on page 11 of the Concept Design Report. Further design development on heritage will be undertaken at a later stage of the project
	F. - As the park will be a staged project, please consider seeking feedback along the way from primary stakeholders.	Noted, for Council to address during the project staging.
Campania District School		
	A. The concept designs for the Flour Mill look all good with the school.	Noted
Campania Community Hall Committee		
	A. President Robin Howlett and his Committee are very happy with the design	Noted

From the four sets of feedback, it is noted that two groups, ie the Campania District School and the Campania Committee Hall Committee (immediate neighbours to the Park) are happy and supportive of the design.

Design Consultants, Inspiring Place have commented on the Community Feedback and observed that most of the matters raised by the Community Feedback were matters that will be able to be addressed as Council travel the implementation / construction phases over the next few years. However, one of the matters that was raised by the Beven Family was that of an Off-Lead Dog Park and it is considered that Council could turn its mind to that matter now, if it had a mind to do so. If Council did wish to progress this matter, a Community Survey could be undertaken in Campania to seek interest in the concept of an Off-Lead Dog Park. There is a viable location on the site that could fit at the southernmost end of the park.

CONCLUSION

There has been a comprehensive process of Community Consultation, from the very beginning of the project, through to the final Concept Design Plans. The end product is a

design that has merit and can meet the Community needs for a number of years to come, with a regular commitment by Council through an annual budget allocation.

Human Resources & Financial Implications – Funds included in the 2025/2026 budget for the old tennis court removal, plus the construction of a half basketball court, overlaid with a pickle ball court.

Community Consultation & Public Relations Implications – Extensive Community Consultation has been undertaken throughout the project.

Policy Implications - Nil.

Priority - Implementation Time Frame – Implementation from the 2025/26.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council:

- 1. Adopt the Concept Design Report as prepared by Inspiring Place;**
- 2. Proceed with the implementation of the Concept Design;**
- 3. Note the Community Feedback; and**
- 4. Implement a Community Consultation process to explore the notion of an Off-Lead Dog Park in Flour Mill Park.**

DECISION

Moved by Clr F Miller, seconded by Clr D Fish

THAT:

- 1. Council defer a decision on the Flour Mill Park Redevelopment Plan pending advice or a response from the Department of Education regarding the Flour Mill Park building, and the possibility that Council could fund the construction of an alternate facility within the School property that could accommodate the current uses; and**
- 2. Such an approach could enable the subsequent purchase of this Flour Mill Park building by Council, noting that this concept would be subject to the preparation and consideration of a Business Plan.**

CARRIED

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

END OF EXTRACT Council Minutes from the 22 October 2025

DETAIL

Given Council have further explored the two items within the decision from the October 2025 Council meeting, Council has not as yet adopted the Concept Design Report, including the community consultation as detailed within the Report which was developed by Inspiring Place.

Whilst there was a budget allocation in the 2025/26 budget and that some exploration has been undertaken in respect of a potential location for an ‘Off-lead Dog Park’, no funding has been spent on project implementation and it is appropriate that the Concept Design Report be adopted by Council prior to any works being undertaken.

Human Resources & Financial Implications – Funds were included in the 2025/2026 budget for the old tennis court removal, plus the construction of a half basketball court, overlaid with a pickle ball court.

Community Consultation & Public Relations Implications – Extensive Community Consultation has been undertaken throughout the project.

Policy Implications - Nil.

Priority - Implementation Time Frame – Implementation from the 2025/26.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. **Adopt the Concept Design Report as prepared by Inspiring Place;**
2. **Proceed with the implementation of the Concept Design;**
3. **Note the Community Feedback; and**
4. **Implement a Community Consultation process to explore the notion of an Off-Lead Dog Park in Flour Mill Park.**

DECISION

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

THAT Council:

1. **Adopt the Concept Design Report as prepared by Inspiring Place;**
2. **Proceed with the implementation of the Concept Design;**
3. **Note the Community Feedback; and**
4. **Implement a Community Consultation process to explore the notion of an Off-Lead Dog Park in Flour Mill Park.**

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	✓	

15.5 Regulatory (Public Health)

Strategic Plan Reference 3.5

Monitor and maintain a safe and healthy public environment.

Nil.

15.6 Regulatory (Animals)

Strategic Plan Reference 3.6

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

15.6.1 Animal Management Report

Author: ANIMAL MANAGEMENT OFFICER (RACHEL COLLIS)

Date: 18 MARCH 2026

Enclosure(s)

Animal Management Statement 2026

ISSUE

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

The purpose of the report is twofold:

1. To inform both Council and the community of infringements issued by Council Officers in relation to Animal Management for the period March; *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 Clr B Campbell, seconded by Deputy Mayor K Dudgeon

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

CARRIED

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

ENCLOSURE

Agenda Item 15.6.1

Reporting period: 18 February 2026 - 18 March 2026

Category/Area	Andover	Antill Ponds Woodbury	Baden	Mt Seymour Whitefoord	Bagdad	Broadmarsh Elderslie	Campania	Colebrook	Dysart	Jericho	Kempton	Lemont	Pawtella	York Plains	Levendale Runnymede	Mangalore	Melton	Mowbray	Oatlands	Parattah	Rekuna Tea Tree	Rhyndaston Tiberias	Stonehenge Swanston	Stonor	Tunnack	Tunbridge	Woodsdale	Reporting Period Total	2025-2026	
Failing to ensure dog is not at large																												0	2	
Dog attacking person or animal causing non serious injury																										1		1	3	
Dog attacking causing serious injury																												0	0	
Dog attacking animal causing serious injury or death																												0	2	
Dog - Impounded																												0	12	
Reclaimed dogs																												0	11	
Adopted/Dogs Home																												0	1	
Euthanised																												0	0	
Lost dogs reported																					1							1	9	
Barking complaints																												0	11	
Animal Welfare																												0	8	
Cat complaints received																												0	2	
Stock on roads							1				3																	4	17	
Impounded livestock																												0	2	
Infringement Notices Issued																												0	3	
Written letter - various matters					1			2																				3	28	
Patrolled Areas					1		4	6										1	2							1		15	125	
Poultry complaints received							1															1						0	0	
Kennel Licence - active						1																						1	3	
TOTAL																														

Registered 2025-2026 YTD	1722
Pending 2025-2026	19
Licences	67

15.7 Environmental Sustainability

Strategic Plan Reference 3.7

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

Nil.

16. OPERATIONAL MATTERS ARISING (STRATEGIC THEME – COMMUNITY)

16.1 Community Health and Wellbeing

Strategic Plan Reference 4.1

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

Nil.

16.2 Recreation

Strategic Plan Reference 4.2

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

16.2.1 Oatlands Aquatic Centre – Coordinators Report

Author: OATLANDS AQUATIC CENTRE COORDINATOR (ADAM BRIGGS)

Date: 16 MARCH 2026

ISSUE

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

DETAIL

The purpose of the report is twofold:

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

FINANCIAL REPORTING

**OATLANDS AQUATIC CENTRE - 2025/26 OPERATING EXPENDITURE
TO 28 FEBRUARY 2026**

INCOME		Annual Budget 2025/26	Actual Feb 2026	Budget Feb 2026	Actual YTD to 28 Feb 2026	Actual YTD to 28 Feb 2025	% Annual Budget 2025/26
Admission Fees		\$235,000	\$32,455	\$19,583	\$191,081	\$135,081	81.3%
Sale of Goods		\$15,000	\$2,080	\$1,250	\$12,031	\$12,176	80.2%
Charging Station Energy Use Reimbursement		\$20,000	\$11,603	\$5,000	\$16,700	\$15,177	83.5%
Sub-Total		\$270,000	\$46,139	\$25,833	\$219,811	\$162,434	81.4%

EXPENDITURE		Annual Budget 2025/26	Actual Feb 2026	Budget Feb 2026	Actual YTD to 28 Feb 2026	Actual YTD to 28 Feb 2025	% of Budget 2025/26
Salaries (incl. On-Costs)		\$495,348	\$44,452	\$38,104	\$352,006	\$320,833	71.1%
Operating Costs - Other		\$279,563	\$26,152	\$21,213	\$238,937	\$215,900	85.5%
Total Expenditure		\$774,911	\$70,604	\$59,317	\$590,943	\$536,733	76.3%

Budgeted Deficit		-\$504,911	-\$24,465	-\$33,484	-\$371,132	-\$374,300	73.5%
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Group Bookings & Programs – February (18/2/26 - 15/3/26):

Event / Booking	School / Group	Participation Numbers
Physio Rehab Sessions	Annabel Butler – Physiotherapist	8 individual bookings
GYM / Lane Hire	Centre Fitness Classes – GYM & Pool	6 Aqua Aerobic classes 4 GYM classes 120 participants
GYM / Lane Hire	Corumbene Program – GYM & Pool	4 pool individual bookings 4 GYM individual bookings 16 participants
Lane Hire	Hobart Revival Centre – Church Group	20 participants
Centre Hire	St Paul's Catholic School	25 participants
Centre Visits	Birthday Party's	2 individual booking 44 participants
Centre Hire	Education Department – Swansea Primary	50 participants
Centre Visits	St Francis School	12 participants
Centre Visits	Fitness Passport	28 participants (February)
Lane Hire	SouthCentral Workforce Network - Lifeguard Course	12 participants
Centre Hire	Education Department – Bagdad Primary & Campania District LTS Program	66 participants (Bagdad) 56 participants (Campania)
Lane Hire	Midlands Swimming Club	8 individual bookings

USAGE FOR THE PERIOD 19/1/2026 – 17/2/2026
PAID UPFRONT

Type	Units
Gym & Classes	
Gym Class Pass 10 Sessions	7
PAYG – Gym Class	23
PAYG – Gym (16 years)	23
PAYG – Gym (Concession)	9
Gym/Pool Combo	
Gym/Pool Pass 10 Sessions (16 years)	3
Gym/Pool Pass 10 Sessions (Concession)	5
PAYG – Gym/Pool Combo (17 years)	0
PAYG – Gym/Pool Combo (Concession)	0
Learn to Swim	
Term 1 Program, 2026 Enrolments (Currently)	174
Pool	
Upfront 6 Months Pool Membership (17 +)	1
Upfront 6 Months Pool Membership (Concession)	1
Upfront 6 Months Pool Membership (Family)	0
PAYG – Pool (4 years and under)	139
PAYG – Pool (5-16)	259
PAYG – Pool (17)	311
PAYG – Pool (Concession)	228
PAYG – (Family)	32

DIRECT DEBITS – Current Numbers

Type	Units
DD Pool/Gym	12
DD Gym	15
DD 6 Months Pool – 17 years +	4
DD 6 Months Pool – Child/Concession	19
DD 6 Months Centre – Family	3
DD Learn to Swim Lessons	19

Grant Applications & General Information

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

- Veteran Wellbeing Voucher Program:**
 Oatlands Aquatic Centre has signed up to be a provider for a State Government funded Program providing eligible Veterans the ability to access 2x \$100.00 vouchers to be put towards Club/Centre Membership costs over a financial year period. These vouchers will be suitable for GYM/Pool 10 Visit Cards or memberships. The program is now live and the Centre is a registered provider venue.

Human Resources & Financial Implications – Refer above detail.

Community Consultation & Public Relations Implications – Not applicable.

Policy Implications – N/A

Priority - Implementation Time Frame – Not applicable.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the information be received and noted.

DECISION

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

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	✓	

16.3 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.

16.7.1 Australian Electoral Commission – Proposed Redistribution of Tasmania’s Electoral Divisions (February 2026)

Author: GENERAL MANAGER (TIM KIRKWOOD)

Date: 19 MARCH 2026

Enclosure(s):

Draft Submission to the Australian Electoral Commission

Report – Proposed redistribution of Tasmania’s electoral divisions (previously circulated)

ISSUE

Council is requested to consider and endorse the draft submission prepared in response to the Australian Electoral Commission’s (AEC) draft report on the proposed redistribution of Tasmania’s federal electoral divisions.

BACKGROUND

The Australian Electoral Commission has released a draft report outlining the proposed redistribution of Tasmania’s electoral divisions.

As outlined in the report summary, the Redistribution Committee proposes changes to four of Tasmania’s five electorates to ensure balanced representation over time, in accordance with the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918*.

An extract from the report is provided below.

Key elements of the proposed redistribution

In meeting the requirements of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* (the Electoral Act), the Redistribution Committee for Tasmania is proposing changes to 4 of Tasmania’s 5 electorates to balance representation over the longer term:

- The electorate of **Braddon** remains unchanged, reflecting its stable enrolment and strong, clearly defined communities of interest.
- The electorate of **Bass** gains the localities of Blackstone Heights and Prospect Vale from the electorate of Lyons, aligning these communities more closely with Launceston’s urban, economic and service networks.
- Southern Tasmanian electorates are reshaped to deliver contiguous, logical boundaries, grounded in geography and community connections.
 - The electorate of **Franklin** gains the local government areas of Brighton, Glamorgan Spring Bay, Sorell and Tasman, strengthening its south-eastern coherence and resolving its non-contiguity.
 - The electorate of **Clark** becomes Australia’s southern-most electorate, taking in the Huon Valley local government area and the remainder of Kingborough local government area, better reflecting how communities connect and travel across the region.

– The electorate of **Lyons** is reshaped to become a smaller, mainly south central electorate gaining Glenorchy local government area and losing most of the east coast local government areas.

- Geographic separation within electorates is removed, with the River Derwent forming a clear and recognisable boundary.
- Every electorate includes an urban or regional centre, strengthening access and representation.

Importantly, these proposed changes meet the numerical requirements of the redistribution quota and projected enrolment quota for Tasmania.

Proposed electorate names

The Redistribution Committee proposes retaining the current names of all of Tasmania's 5 electorates. The Committee considered changes to the names of the electorates of Clark and Franklin, given it has proposed significant elector and geographic changes. The Committee was not persuaded that alternative names presented in public submissions demonstrated sufficient connection to the reconfigured electorates. The Committee therefore invites further public feedback and name suggestions for consideration by the augmented Electoral Commission.

DETAIL

This matter was considered at the Council Workshop held on 10 March 2026, where it was resolved to present a formal position for Council consideration at this meeting and to prepare a submission to the AEC.

Council is requested to review the enclosed draft submission and consider its endorsement, subject to any amendments.

Human Resources & Financial Implications – Not applicable.

Community Consultation & Public Relations Implications – To be considered.

Policy Implications – N/A

Priority - Implementation Time Frame – Consultation closes on 27 March 2026.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT:

- a) **The information be received; and**
- b) **Council, subject to any amendments, endorse the submission to the Australian Electoral Commission.**

DECISION

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

THAT:

- a) The information be received; and
- b) Council endorse the submission to the Australian Electoral Commission which is to be signed by Mayor Batt.

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	✓	



SUBMISSION (DRAFT) PREPARED IN RESPONSE TO THE AUSTRALIAN ELECTORAL COMMISSION'S DRAFT REPORT ON THE PROPOSED REDISTRIBUTION OF TASMANIA'S FEDERAL ELECTORAL DIVISIONS

Introduction

Southern Midlands Council appreciates the opportunity to provide comment on the proposed redistribution of Tasmania's federal electoral divisions.

Council notes that the draft plan will move 113,884 electors (27.56% of electors) into different electorates and recognises the importance of electoral boundaries that reflect communities of interest, regional relationships, and effective representation.

In this context, Council supports:

- the retention of Glenorchy City Council within the Division of Clark;
- the inclusion of Derwent Valley Council within the Division of Clark; and
- the retention of Brighton Council within the Division of Lyons.

Maintaining these arrangements reflects the distinct metropolitan and regional communities of interest for the reasons as outlined below.

1. Community of Interest – Glenorchy and the Hobart Metropolitan Area

The City of Glenorchy is predominantly a metro local government area and forms a core part of the Greater Hobart metropolitan region. Residents share strong social, economic and transport connections with Hobart.

These connections include:

- integrated urban transport networks
- shared employment and education catchments
- access to regional health and community services; and
- coordinated planning and infrastructure delivery across the metropolitan area.

ABS Census 2021 *Journey to Work Data* shows 59.5% of Glenorchy residents work outside the municipality, with Hobart being the primary destination for 9,271 people (39.3%.)

Including Glenorchy within Lyons would weaken representational coherence for a community whose issues – urban renewal, housing supply, congestion, and service delivery – are closely aligned with those of metropolitan Hobart. It would also risk splitting communities of interest and local government areas across multiple electorates.

Retaining Glenorchy within the Division of Clark recognises these metropolitan linkages and ensures representation aligns with the interests and priorities of the Greater Hobart urban community.

2. Community of Interest – Greater Hobart and Derwent Valley corridor

The Derwent River corridor provides a defining geographic and economic link between Hobart, Glenorchy, and the Derwent Valley.

While Glenorchy is clearly part of the Hobart metropolitan area, the Derwent Valley also maintains strong and increasing connections to this urban system, including:

- commuting patterns into Hobart and Glenorchy;
- shared access to education, health, and retail services;
- transport linkages along the Lyell Highway corridor; and
- increasing population movement and lifestyle-driven migration from urban to peri-urban areas.

These trends demonstrate that the Derwent Valley is not solely a rural hinterland, but increasingly part of a functional Greater Hobart region.

Including the Derwent Valley within the Division of Clark reflects this evolving and integrated community of interest.

3. Community of Interest – Brighton and Southern Midlands

Direct reference is made to the opinion piece published in *The Mercury* on 17 March 2026, authored by Brighton Mayor Leigh Gray.

Southern Midlands Council strongly supports the sentiments expressed in that article, including the following:

“Brighton’s identity remains closely connected to its rural and regional history. Brighton is a hub for its subregions of Southern Midlands and Central Highlands and is where many from those communities come for education, shopping, medical services and sport. Indeed we often undertake joint actions and programs, such as our Southcentral Jobs-Hub and sub-regional infrastructure planning.”

These observations highlight Brighton’s important role as a regional service centre and its strong functional connections with neighbouring rural municipalities, including the Southern Midlands and Central Highlands.

The article further notes that this role would be significantly diminished if Brighton were to be included within the Division of Franklin. Such a change would create an electoral

disconnect between Brighton and the rural and regional communities that rely upon it and with which it maintains strong social, economic, and service-based relationships.

Maintaining Brighton within the Division of Lyons ensures that these established regional linkages are preserved and that representation continues to reflect the shared interests of these interconnected communities.

4. Local Government, Regional Planning & Economic Connections.

Council's across southern Tasmania frequently collaborate on regional matters, including infrastructure planning, land use planning (Southern TAS Regional Land Use Strategy), emergency management, economic development and environmental management. Many Councils also participate in resource sharing arrangements.

Electoral boundaries that align with the natural metropolitan and regional divisions, as well as physical features, support clearer representation and stronger advocacy at the federal level.

The relationships between Glenorchy and the Derwent Valley include:

- shared infrastructure pressures (particularly transport and housing)
- economic interdependence, including tourism and service industries
- coordinated planning considerations across the Greater Hobart region (via STRLUS)

A single federal electorate encompassing these interconnected areas would support more coherent advocacy for regional infrastructure investment and regional priorities

The River Derwent remains a defining physical feature that has shaped, and continues to shape, patterns of settlement, communication, and travel across the region.

5. Clarity and Stability for Communities

Maintaining stable electoral boundaries where possible helps minimise confusion for residents, community organisations, and businesses. Continuity of representation also supports effective working relationships between elected representatives, Councils, and regional stakeholders.

Retaining Glenorchy within Clark and including the Derwent Valley within Clark promotes this stability while recognising the evolving relationship between metropolitan and peri-urban communities.

Conclusion

Southern Midlands Council supports the retention of:

- the retention of Glenorchy City Council within the Division of Clark;
- the inclusion of Derwent Valley Council within the Division of Clark; and

- the retention of Brighton Council within the Division of Lyons.

Numerical feasibility and projected enrolment quota and parameters aside, these arrangements reflect the natural metropolitan and regional communities of interest within southern Tasmania and support effective representation of both urban and regional communities.

Additionally, population projections indicate that the Derwent Valley Council's population is expected to grow between 12,300 and 13,500 by 2046, with recent trends already demonstrating strong growth. Including the Derwent Valley within Clark would achieve a more balanced distribution of growth areas across the electorate.

16.8 Safety

Strategic Plan Reference 4.8

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

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

Author: GENERAL MANAGER (TIM KIRKWOOD)

Date: 18 MARCH 2026

Enclosure(s):

Proposed Subdivision Plan (3 Sites)

ISSUE

Council to make a formal decision regarding its intention to sell the following parcels of land, noting that the existing station buildings are owned by the Tasmania Fire Service (albeit on Council owned land):

- Colebrook Fire Station (part of the Colebrook Recreation Ground)
- Parattah Fire Station (part of the Parattah Recreation Ground); and
- Tunnack Fire Station (separate property adjacent to the Tunnack Recreation Ground)

BACKGROUND

The Tasmanian Fire Service has requested Council's support to secure ownership of the land on which these Stations are situated. Ownership of the land would enable TFS to undertake upgrades and improvements to the facilities and ensure their continued operation into the future.

TFS has advised that, in the absence of land ownership or secure long-term tenure (e.g. via a lease), it is not prepared to invest further in these facilities.

It is noted that a lease for a term greater than 10 years over part of a property would trigger subdivision requirements under planning legislation. As the fire stations at Colebrook and Parattah occupy part of larger recreation grounds, entering into a long-term lease is not feasible. This constraint limits Council's ability to provide TFS with the level of tenure security required, other than through subdivision and title transfer.

DETAIL

Council, at its meeting held 24 February 2026, resolved as follows:

"THAT:

- a) *The information be received;*
- b) *Council respond to the Fire and Emergency Services Commissioner with an offer to sell all three parcels of land for a total consideration of \$130,000.*

This offer being subject to the following conditions:

- o *Council securing marketable Certificates of Title following completion of the subdivision approval process;*

- *Compliance with section 178 of the Local Government Act 1993, including completion of the statutory public notification and objection process for the sale of public land; and*
 - *Each party engaging their own legal representative and bearing their respective legal costs associated with the transaction.*
- c) *THAT Council confirm that the net sale proceeds from each of the respective properties will be reinvested in the local communities. The initial property valuations will be used as the basis for apportionment (i.e. Colebrook – 48.2%; Parattah - 21.4%; and Tunnack – 30.4%), taking into account costs associated with the sale of each property and the amount for relocation of the infrastructure at Tunnack.”*

This offer was referred to the Tasmania Fire Service (TFS). While formal confirmation of acceptance is not expected until 27th March 2026, TFS representatives have indicated that the necessary internal approvals are likely to be granted.

Subject to receipt of this final confirmation, Council must now:

- Formal resolve its intention to the sell the land as required under section 178 of the *Local Government Act 1993*; and upon completion of this process
- Proceed with submitting subdivision development applications to create separate Titles for the Colebrook and Parattah Stations; and

Section 178 of the Act provides the following:

178. Sale, exchange and disposal of public land

(1) *A council may sell, lease, donate, exchange or otherwise dispose of public land owned by it in accordance with this section.*

(2) *Public land that is leased for any period by a council remains public land during that period.*

(3) *A resolution of the council to sell, lease, donate, exchange or otherwise dispose of public land is to be passed by an absolute majority.*

(4) *If a council intends to sell, lease, donate, exchange or otherwise dispose of public land, the general manager is to–*

(a) publish that intention on at least 2 separate occasions in a daily newspaper circulating in the municipal area; and

(ab) display a copy of the notice on any boundary of the public land that abuts a highway; and

(b) notify the public that objection to the proposed sale, lease, donation, exchange or disposal may be made to the general manager within 21 days of the date of the first publication.

(5) *If the general manager does not receive any objection under [subsection \(4\)](#) and an appeal is not made under [section 178A](#) , the council may sell, lease, donate, exchange or otherwise dispose of public land in accordance with its intention as published under [subsection \(4\)](#) .*

(6) *The council must –*

- (a) consider any objection lodged; and
- (b) by notice in writing within 7 days after making a decision to take or not to take any action under this section, advise any person who lodged an objection of –
 - (i) that decision; and
 - (ii) the right to appeal against that decision under [section 178A](#) .

- (7) The council must not decide to take any action under this section in respect of land if –
 - (a) any objection lodged under this section in respect of the land is being considered; or
 - (b) an appeal made under [section 178A](#) , in respect of the land, has not yet been determined; or
 - (c) the action is in contravention of a determination made in respect of an appeal under [section 178A](#) in respect of the land.
- (8) “

In addition to the above, section 177 of the Act applies more generally to the sale and disposal of land – refer following:

“177. Sale and disposal of land

- (1) A council may sell, lease, donate, exchange or otherwise dispose of land owned by it, other than public land, in accordance with this section.
- (2) Before a council sells, leases, donates, exchanges or otherwise disposes of any land, it is to obtain a valuation of the land from the Valuer-General or a person who is qualified to practise as a land valuer under [section 4 of the Land Valuers Act 2001](#).
- (3) A council may sell –
 - (a) any land by auction or tender; or
 - (b) any specific land by any other method it approves.
- (4) A council may exchange land for other land –
 - (a) if the valuations of each land are comparable in value; or
 - (b) in any other case, as it considers appropriate.
- (5) A contract pursuant to this section for the sale, lease, donation, exchange or other disposal of land which is public land is of no effect.
- (6) A decision by a council under this section must be made by absolute majority.’

Council has previously been informed that subdivision proposal plans have been prepared for each of the three sites (attached) and government valuations have been obtained.

Government Valuations

- Colebrook Fire Station
Proposed Area: 1,010 sqm
Government Valuation: \$135,000
- Parattah Fire Station
Proposed Area: 858 sqm
Government Valuation: \$60,000
- Tunnack Fire Station

Proposed Area: 916 sqm
Government Valuation: \$85,000

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

Community Consultation & Public Relations Implications – All three parcels of land are classified as ‘Public land’ under the *Local Government Act 1993*.

As such, Council is required to:

- Advertise its intention to sell the land on at least two occasions in a daily newspaper;
- Provide the public with a minimum 21-day period to lodge written objections; and
- Consider any submissions received before making a final decision.

Compliance with this process ensures procedural fairness and transparency, and provides the community with a formal opportunity to comment on the proposed sale.

Priority - Implementation Time Frame – pending Council decision.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT:

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

DECISION

Moved by Clr B Campbell, seconded by Clr D Blackwell

THAT:

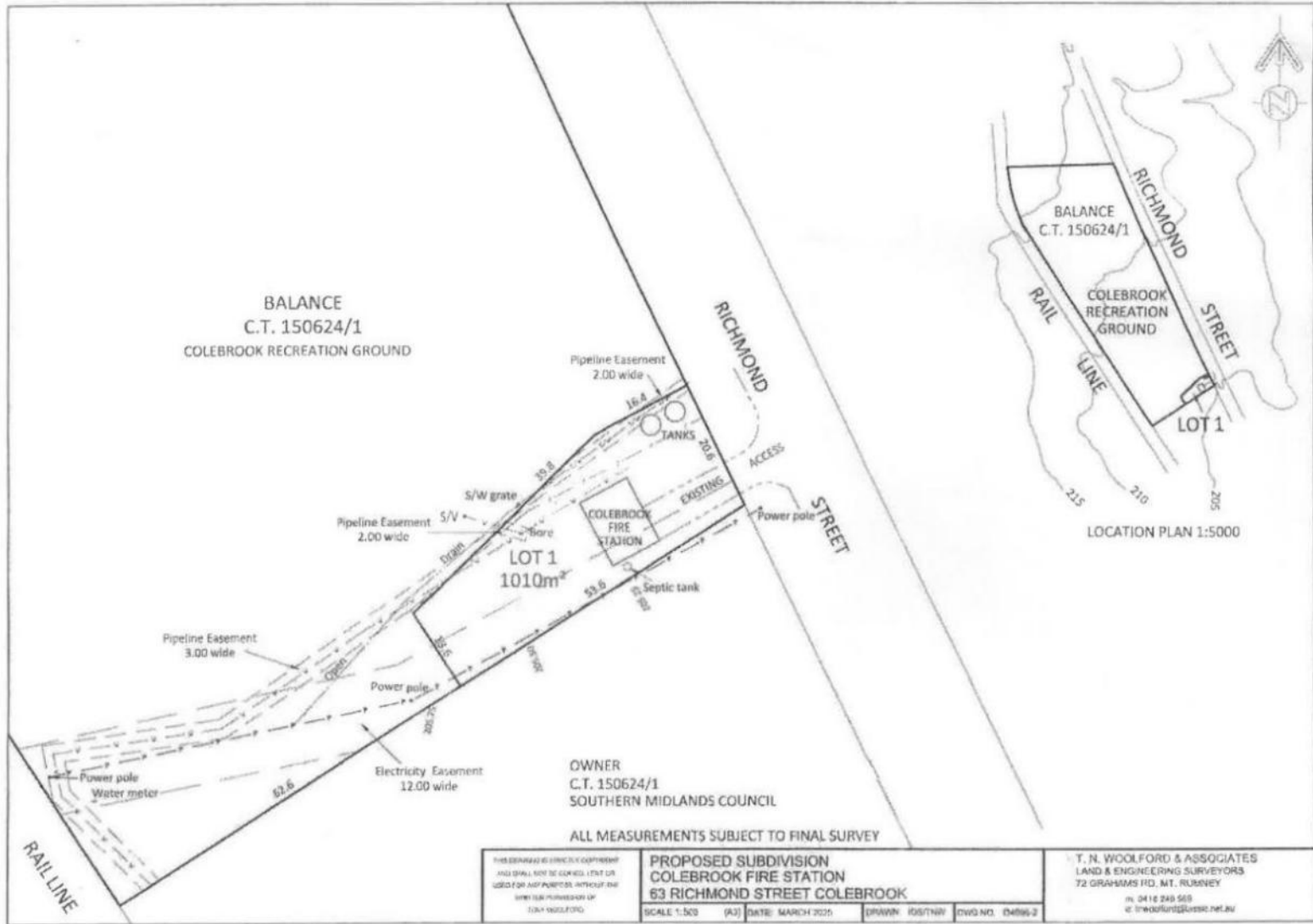
- a) The information be received;
- b) Subject to receiving final confirmation of acceptance of the offer by the Tasmania Fire Service, Council, in accordance with section 178 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, resolve by absolute majority to sell the three parcels of land to the Tasmanian Fire Service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

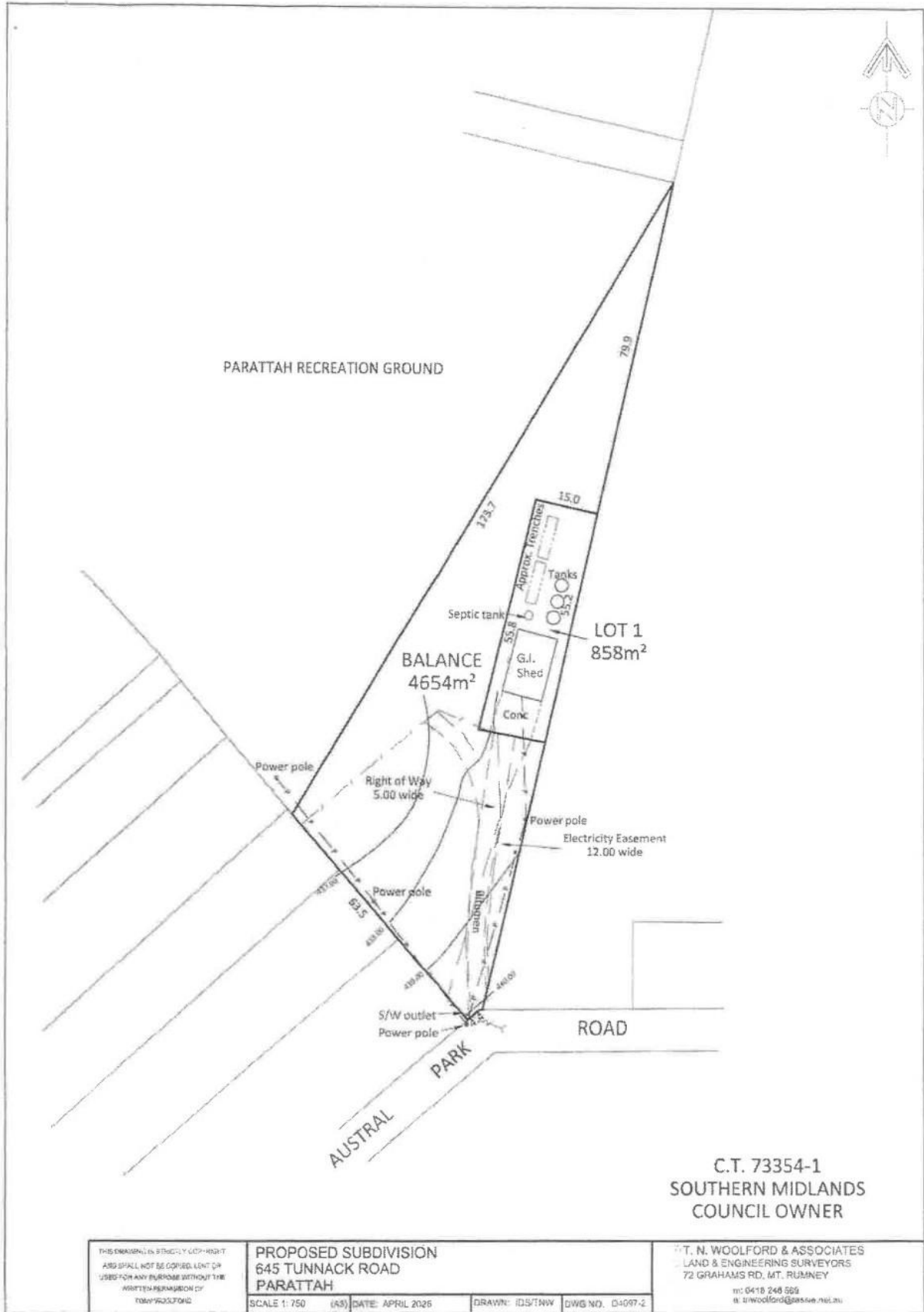
CARRIED

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	✓	

ENCLOSURE

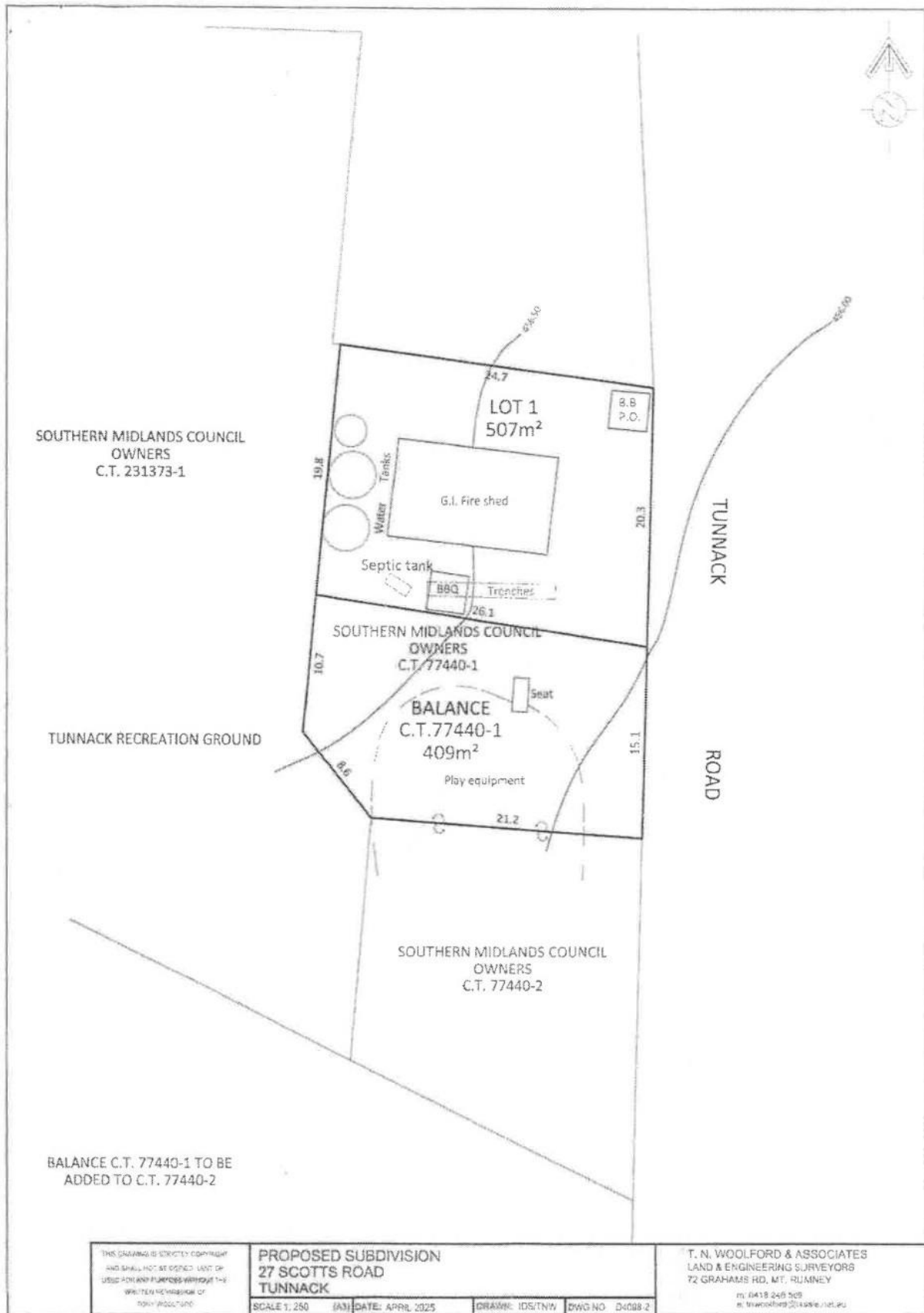
Agenda Item 16.8.1





C.T. 73354-1
 SOUTHERN MIDLANDS
 COUNCIL OWNER

<small>THIS DRAWING IS STRICTLY COPY-RIGHT AND SHALL NOT BE COPIED, LENT OR USED FOR ANY PURPOSE WITHOUT THE WRITTEN PERMISSION OF TONY WOOLFORD</small>	PROPOSED SUBDIVISION 645 TUNNACK ROAD PARATTAH			<small>T. N. WOOLFORD & ASSOCIATES LAND & ENGINEERING SURVEYORS 72 GRAHAMS RD, MT. RUMNEY m: 0418 246 565 e: t.woolford@sessie.net.au</small>	
	<small>SCALE 1:750 (A3)</small>	<small>DATE: APRIL 2026</small>	<small>DRAWN: IDS/TNW</small>	<small>DWG NO. D4097-2</small>	



16.9 Consultation & Communication

Strategic Plan Reference 4.8

Improve the effectiveness of consultation & communication with the community.

16.9.1 Tunbridge Town Hall – Update

Author: GENERAL MANAGER (TIM KIRKWOOD)

Date: 18 MARCH 2026

Enclosure(s):

Minutes of the Community Meeting Held 5 February 2026

ISSUE

To provide Council with an update following the Community Meeting held on 5 February 2026 regarding the future of the Tunbridge Town Hall, and following the initial report provided to the Council Meeting held on 24 February 2026.

BACKGROUND

Council has been provided with the Minutes of the Community meeting held on 5 February 2026 (enclosed). A follow-up report was subsequently presented to the Council Meeting held on 24 February 2026.

At that meeting, Council resolved:

“THAT Council:

- a) Receive and note the Minutes of the Community Meeting held 5th February 2026; and*
- b) Note that further updates will be presented to Council regarding the progression of discussions and actions required to determine a way forward for the Tunbridge Community Club Inc. to assume responsibility for the management of the Tunbridge Town Hall.”*

DETAIL

As outlined in the February report, several key matters require resolution:

- Identification of any Trust documentation, if it can be located;
- Integration of management and governance arrangements, including the conduct of AGM's and regular meetings, and the winding up of Tunbridge Town Hall Inc. as an incorporated body;
- Consolidation of financial records into a single set of accounts;
- Insurance requirements, including legal obligations and appropriate coverage (e.g. public liability; volunteer insurance; building and contents etc.).

Council's heritage officers have undertaken investigations to locate any relevant documentation (including a Trust document). To date, this research has not identified any material of assistance.

The Tunbridge Town Hall is a privately owned facility and is not owned by the Southern Midlands Council. It is currently managed by a community based Management Committee. Ownership is recorded as “Trustees Tunbridge Hall”, with no further detail or individual names identified.

The entity ‘Tunbridge Town Hall Inc.’ is incorporated under the *Associations Incorporations Act 1964*; however its current status has not been confirmed with the Department of Justice (Consumer Building and Occupational Services).

The most recent ‘Annual Return of Association’ was submitted in September 2023 following the conduct of the Annual General Meeting held on 30 August 2023. This related to the period ending 30 June 2023. The Constitution, last updated on 3 December 2004, is largely based on the Model Rules for an association with some minor amendment.

Importantly, the Constitution does not include provisions for winding up the Association, nor for leasing the facility as an interim arrangement.

Proposed Course of Action

It is proposed that:

- An Annual General Meeting be convened in accordance with the Constitution to appoint a new Management Committee.

Comments:

- a) Consistent with the outcomes of the Community Meeting, it is desirable that the new Management Committee include existing members of the Tunbridge Community Club Inc., along with other community members who expressed an interest in being a member of any future management structure.
- b) Once appointed, a new Management Committee can assume immediate responsibility for management of the Hall.

- Following this, the new Management Committee could undertake amendments to the Constitution:
 - Enabling the leasing of the Hall to a third party (i.e. Tunbridge Community Hall Inc.); and
 - Facilitate improved governance and operational arrangements.

A lease arrangement could include provisions requiring the lessee to insure the building, enabling consolidation of insurance coverage under the Club’s arrangements.

Once established, the Tunbridge Hall could effectively be managed by a sub-committee of the Tunbridge Community Club Inc., allowing for streamlined financial management and reporting.

Ownership Considerations

While the preferred long-term outcome would be the transfer of ownership of the Town Hall to the Tunbridge Community Club Inc., this is not currently feasible due to the inability to identify the legal entity or persons with authority to dispose of the property.

As previously discussed with the community, an alternative pathway may involve Council commencing to rate the property. The property is currently treated as exempt from rates as a community facility.

Under the *Local Government Act 1993*, if rates remain unpaid for a period of at least three years, Council may initiate a process to either sell the land or seek transfer of ownership.

The transfer process requires application to the Minister where, after reasonable inquiry, the owner or their whereabouts cannot be identified. This process is complex and includes notification requirements to any parties with a registered interest in the land, which may extend to beneficiaries of relevant estates.

Should ownership ultimately transfer to Council, the property could then be transferred to the Tunbridge Community Club Inc., or alternatively, sold with any net proceeds (in accordance with Council policy) reinvested into the Tunbridge community.

Human Resources & Financial Implications – Council will need to continue to provide assistance to work with the interested parties to implement the above action plan. Whilst this may include the need to seek legal advice and direction, an estimated cost is unknown at this stage.

Community Consultation & Public Relations Implications – Council is primarily acting as the facilitator as the Tunbridge Town Hall is a privately owned facility (not Council owned).

Policy Implications – Not applicable.

Priority - Implementation Time Frame – As soon as practicable.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT:

- a) The information be received and noted;
- b) Council endorse the proposed course of action; and
- c) Council, working in conjunction with the Tunbridge Community Club Inc., proceed to convene an Annual General Meeting of the Tunbridge Town Hall Inc. for the purposes detailed in this report.

DECISION

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

THAT

- a) The information be received and noted;
- b) Council endorse the proposed course of action; and
- c) Council, working in conjunction with the Tunbridge Community Club Inc., proceed to convene an Annual General Meeting of the Tunbridge Town Hall Inc. for the purposes detailed in this report.

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 16.9.1

Community Meeting

Thursday 5th February 2025

MINUTES

Minutes of the Community Meeting held 5th February 2026 at the Tunbridge Community Hall (99 Main Road, Tunbridge) commencing at 5.30 p.m.

Meeting commenced at 5.30 p.m. and Mayor Batt welcomed all attendees.

1. Present:

Julie Wholohan, Mary Smythe, Roger Dudgeon, Garth Denne, Rodney Hazelwood, Lorraine Hazelwood, Richard Gardner, Rebecca Lovell, Paul Worldon, Scott Worldon, Dawn Farrelly, Cherie Triffitt, and Bree How.

Council Representatives: Mayor Edwin Batt, Deputy Mayor Karen Dudgeon, Cllr A E Bisdée OAM, Cllr Don Fish and Tim Kirkwood (General Manager)

2. Apologies:

Liam Lawrence; Marian Dalton, Jason Farrelly, Heather Butler.

3. Background / Purpose:

The Southern Midlands Council is facilitating a Community Meeting to discuss the future of the Tunbridge Community Hall (Town Hall).

The Tunbridge Town Hall is a privately owned facility (not Council owned) and in the past, has been managed by a community based Management Committee.

Property Details: Property ID 5846865 - Certificate of Title – Unknown (an area of 662 m²).

The owners are listed as: Trustees Tunbridge Hall – no further detail or individual names listed.

It is apparent that a number of the current Committee members are unable to continue their involvement with the Hall. The purpose of this meeting is to:

1. confirm the community's interest in continuing to maintain this facility; and
2. identify person(s) that may be prepared to nominate and form a new Management Committee that can be responsible for managing the Hall and overseeing its future operations.

4. Current Status:

The 'Tunbridge Town Hall Inc.' is an incorporated body under the *Associations Incorporations Act 1964* although its current status has not been confirmed with the Department of Justice (Consumer Building and Occupational Services).

The most recent 'Annual Return of Association' was submitted in September 2023 following the conduct of the Annual General Meeting held 30th August 2023. This related to the period ending 30 June 2023.

The Rules of the Association are mainly based on the Model Rules for an association with some minor amendment. The latest copy of the Constitution held by the Department of Justice is date stamped 3rd December 2004.

Financials:

There is one Commonwealth Bank Account in the name of the Tunbridge Town Hall Inc.

Current balance unknown.

General:

No detailed historical research has been undertaken and community members present may have some knowledge in terms of past documentation (e.g. Trust Document etc.)

Based on preliminary research through the *Land Information System Tasmania*, an actual Title is not shown for the property.

Those present at the meeting acknowledged the information provided.

5. Business:

5.1 To confirm the community's interest in continuing to maintain this facility Mr Richard Gardner, in his capacity as President of the Tunbridge Community Club Inc., advised the meeting that the Community Club Management Committee would be willing to consider a proposal to assume responsibility for managing the Tunbridge Town Hall.

This arrangement would involve the establishment of a sub-committee, with a preference for including other members of the community to provide additional capacity and support for the effective management of the Hall.

It was acknowledged that the interested parties, with assistance from Council, would need to consider the 'mechanics' to achieve this outcome and report back accordingly.

Key matters to address include:

- Provisions of the Trust document, if it can be located;
- Integration of management and governance arrangements, including the conduct of AGM's and regular meetings, and the winding up of Tunbridge Town Hall Inc. as an incorporated body;
- Consolidation of financial records into a single set of accounts;
- Insurance requirements, including legal obligations and appropriate coverage (e.g. public liability; volunteer insurance; building and contents etc.).

5.2 To identify person(s) that may be prepared to nominate and form a new Management Committee that can be responsible for managing the Hall and overseeing its future operations.

The current Constitution provides for a Committee of at least eight persons, which include:

- The Office Bearers – being Chairperson; Vice Chairperson; Secretary and Treasurer; and
- Four or more General Members to be elected at the Annual General Meeting.

There are no membership provisions within the Constitution.

Any resident of the Southern Midlands is entitled to attend the Annual General Meeting and is entitled to vote. A quorum at the AGM shall comprise at least 5 residents of the Southern Midlands.

Depending on the outcome of this discussion, the intent would be to encourage those persons that express an interest in forming a new Management Committee to convene a follow-up meeting and:

- Review the Constitution and its provisions;
- Conduct an Annual General Meeting; and
- Confirm a way forward.

In relation to the establishment of a sub-committee, and the desire to involve members of the community, Julie Wholohan, Cherie Triffitt and Awn Farrelly expressed their interest in participating on the sub-committee.

6. Other Business:

a. What happens in the event that there is lack of interest?

From a Council perspective, the Parattah Jubilee Hall is recognised as a community facility and is exempt from annual rates and charges.

If the facility ceases being used as a community 'place of assembly' then the most practical way to address the future ownership and realise some value for the community is to commence rating the property.

Based on the assumption that the rates would remain unpaid for at least 3 years, the *Local Government Act 1993* provides a process to either sell the property or transfer of ownership to Council.

The latter process involves applying to the Minister for an order that the land be transferred to the council if it is not possible after reasonable inquiry to identify the owner of the land or the whereabouts of the owner. This is not a simple process as it does require Council to notify any person that has a registered interest in the land and this may extend to the beneficiaries of the estates of the owners listed above.

Following transfer of ownership, the property would then be sold and (based on Council policy) any net proceeds would be reinvested in the Parattah community.

Those present at the meeting acknowledged the information provided.

Final Notes:

- A follow-up community meeting will be held once an implementation plan has been prepared, noting that this meeting may also be convened as an Annual General Meeting of the Tunbridge Town Hall Inc.;
- If convened as an AGM, this would provide an opportunity to appoint a Management Committee empowered to make decisions on behalf of the Tunbridge Town Hall Inc.
- Reference was also made to the Hub Group, which is planning the establishment of a Community Garden, located in Tunbridge Park opposite the Hall.

7. Meeting Closure:

Meeting closed at 6.15 p.m.

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 Policy Review – Volunteer Policy

Author: MANAGER COMMUNITY & CORPORATE DEVELOPMENT (WENDY YOUNG)

Date: 17 MARCH 2026

Attachment(s):

Draft Volunteer Policy, Children Safety & Wellbeing Policy, Code of Conduct for Workers

PURPOSE

The Southern Midlands Council values the contribution of volunteers and that volunteers are a vital part of connecting and contributing to our communities and are relied upon to strengthen support services and program delivery, as well as drive a range of community activities and help out in time of need.

BACKGROUND

Council has maintained a Volunteer Policy since 2013. Recent changes in workplace health and safety legislation, child safety standards, and risk management practices, necessitated a review and update.

A draft of the amended Policy was submitted to the Council Meeting held 28th January 2026. The following decision was recorded:

“THAT:

- 1. Council receive and note the report;*
- 2. The Policy be amended to incorporate the requirements associated with a person being required to have a current ‘Working with Vulnerable People’ registration; plus having completed the National Child Safeguarding Training (where applicable); and*

Subject to any further amendments, the ‘Volunteer Policy’ (as amended) be submitted for formal adoption at the March 2026 Council meeting.

DETAIL

Based on the above decision, minor amendments have been made to the draft Policy, noting the following comments.

As part of Council’s volunteer induction process, the Children Safety & Well-being Policy is provided. In addition, a Vulnerable People registration is required for volunteers who work directly with children.

Under the *Child & Youth Safe Organisation Act 2023* the definition of a worker is:-

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

Guidance from the Department for Education, Children and Young People (DECYP) also provides clarity regarding external organisations and visitors attending DECYP sites:

If DECYP children and young people are visiting an external organisation, including sporting venues, external site staff and external bus drivers supporting associated travel do not need to complete DECYP Safeguarding training.

Instead, DECYP workers arranging the visit must follow the requirements of DECYP’s relevant policies and procedures. This includes undertaking risk assessments and ensuring all adults are fully supervised by DECYP workers who have undertaken their Safeguarding training.

Visitors attending a DECYP site who will only have incidental contact with children and young people **may** not need to complete Safeguarding training.*

**Incidental contact means when a person works at the same place of work as a child or young person but does not provide services to them. An example of incidental contact is a guest speaker presenting in front of a school and then leaving. More than incidental contact would be if the guest speaker then joins the students in small groups for discussions*

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council:

- 1. Receive and note the report; and**
- 2. Subject to any further amendments, adopt the ‘Volunteer Policy’.**

DECISION

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

THAT Council:

- 1. Receive and note the report; and**
- 2. adopt the ‘Volunteer Policy’.**

CARRIED

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

17.1.2 Policy Review – Financial Hardship Assistance Policy

Author: SENIOR FINANCE OFFICER (MANDY BURBURY)

Date: 20 MARCH 2026

Attachment(s)

Draft Revision – Financial Hardship Assistance Policy

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is formally adopt the amended version of the Financial Hardship Assistance Policy. The review was limited to removing references to the coronavirus pandemic while maintaining the original intent, objectives, and principles of the previous Policy.

BACKGROUND

This policy has tabled at the February 2026 Council Meeting.

No further changes or amendments have been identified.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council:

1. **Receive and note the report; and**
2. **Subject to any further amendments, adopt the Financial Hardship Assistance Policy.**

DECISION

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

THAT Council:

1. **Receive and note the report; and**
2. **adopt the ‘Financial Hardship Assistance Policy’.**

CARRIED

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

17.1.3 Policy Review - Enforcement Policy

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

Date: 18 MARCH 2026

Attachment(s):

Enforcement Policy (existing)

Compliance and Investigation Procedure Policy (proposed)

ISSUE

The existing Enforcement Policy was formally adopted by Council in June 2011 (decision No. **C/11/06/108/10602**).

Policies are generally reviewed every 3-5 years and subsequently this Policy is overdue for a review.

The Policy provides a framework for Council's enforcement activities and its purpose includes:

1. convey communication to the broader Community
2. to provide consistency in enforcement action in matters of non-compliance;
3. to ensure transparency, procedural fairness and natural justice principles are applied; and
4. to ensure that enforcement action is proportionate to the alleged offence in each case.

Proposed Policy

The proposed draft policy seeks same but adopts a risk based approach such that Council can prioritise limited resources towards the most significant issues, ensuring the most effective use of time, cost, effort and overall resources.

It details investigation procedures, including proactive monitoring, reactive investigation, and resource allocation.

The proposed Policy is considered to be a step away from Council's traditional enforcement policy and provides the following advantages:

- **Fairness and equity:** The policy commits to acting in accordance with the principles of natural justice and the rule of law, ensuring consistent and impartial treatment for all parties.
- **Transparency:** The policy provides a clear outline of how the council conducts compliance and enforcement activities, which builds public trust and accountability.
- **Proactive and reactive approach:** The policy covers both proactive monitoring and reactive investigation, allowing the council to address issues before they become major problems as well as respond to public complaints.
- **Emphasis on voluntary compliance:** It prioritizes seeking voluntary compliance first, which is often less costly and time-consuming than legal action, while still maintaining the option to escalate if necessary.

- **Informed decision-making:** The policy ensures that information collected during investigations is stored and used to inform strategic decisions and the allocation of future resources.
- **Cooperation:** It encourages where required inter-agency cooperation and information sharing with other government bodies, which helps achieve common compliance goals more effectively.

In addition, the policy also defines the roles of authorised officers and elected members in compliance and enforcement, while underscoring the principles of natural justice and voluntary compliance.

Human Resources & Financial Implications – Applicable to all staff in their undertaking

Community Consultation & Public Relations Implications – N/A

Policy Implications – Policy document.

Priority - Implementation Time Frame – Immediate.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council:

1. **Receive and note the report; and**
2. **Council consider the draft ‘Compliance and Investigation Procedure Policy’ (as a substitute for the Enforcement Policy), and subject to any amendments, be submitted for formal adoption at the April 2026 Council Meeting.**

DECISION

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

THAT Council:

1. **Receive and note the report; and**
2. **Council consider the draft ‘Compliance and Investigation Procedure Policy’ (as a substitute for the Enforcement Policy), and subject to any amendments, be submitted for formal adoption at the April 2026 Council Meeting.**

CARRIED

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

17.1.4 Policy Development - Junior Mayor/Deputy Mayor Program Policy

Author: MANAGER COMMUNITY & CORPORATE DEVELOPMENT (WENDY YOUNG)

Date: 6 MARCH 2026

Attachment(s):

Draft Junior Mayor/Deputy Mayor Program Policy

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's endorsement and adoption of a Junior Mayor and Deputy Mayor Program Policy, which establishes a structured framework to support youth leadership, civic engagement, and participation in local government.

BACKGROUND

Council has identified the importance of encouraging young people to engage with civic processes and develop leadership skills. The Junior Mayor and Deputy Mayor Program has been developed to provide students with opportunities to learn about local government, represent youth perspectives, and participate in civic and community activities.

The proposed policy formalises the program by outlining eligibility criteria, roles and responsibilities, selection processes, term of appointment, and code of conduct.

Council maintains several policies to promote and protect the safety and wellbeing of children and young people. These include the Children Safety and Wellbeing Policy, Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy, Mandatory Reporting Policy, and the expectations outlined in the Code of Conduct for Workers. In addition, all workers, including Councillors, are required to hold a valid Working with Vulnerable People registration.

An extract from the Code of Conduct for Workers:-

6.10 Child and Youth Safe Organisation

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

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

- (h) *Physical and online environments promote safety and wellbeing while minimising the opportunity for children and young people to be harmed.*

These requirements are also supported through Council's induction process, where workers are informed of their responsibilities regarding child safety and mandatory reporting obligations.

Council's responsibilities are further governed by the *Child and Youth Safe Organisations Act 2023*, the *Child and Youth Safe Organisations Framework*, and the *Child and Youth Safe Standards*. Under Schedule 2 of the Act, councils are specifically identified as entities required to comply with these standards from 1 January 2024.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council:

1. **Receive and note the report; and**
2. **Subject to any further amendments, adopt the Junior Mayor/Deputy Mayor Program Policy.**

DECISION

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

THAT Council:

1. **Receive and note the report; and**
2. **adopt the Junior Mayor/Deputy Mayor Program 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	✓	

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 – acknowledged Mia Barwick’s selection in the Australian Under 19’s Cricket Team, and her participation in the Grand Final, won by North Hobart for the third consecutive year. A letter of congratulations to be sent to Ms Barwick.

Deputy Mayor K Dudgeon – acknowledged that the Levendale Cricket Club won the Oatlands District Cricket Association Grand Final, noting that the event was extremely well attended.

Deputy Mayor K Dudgeon – attended the Highland Gathering at Oatlands on Saturday 21st March 2026, representing Mayor Batt in performing the official opening. Commended Deputy General Manager Andrew Benson and other council employees for their assistance leading up and during the event.

Clr D Blackwell – informed the meeting that the ‘Heartlands Tour’ event, facilitated by the Heritage Highway Tourism Region Association, will be held at Broadmarsh on Saturday 28th March 2026. Noted that bookings are very strong in advance of the event.

Clr B Campbell – attended the Woodsdale Museum Family Day and the Oatlands Highland Gathering.

17.2.3 Local Government Association of Tasmania – General Meeting (To be held 10th April 2026)

Author: GENERAL MANAGER (TIM KIRKWOOD)

Date: 17 MARCH 2026

ISSUE

Council to consider Motions which have been submitted for consideration at the Local Government Association of Tasmania's General Meeting scheduled for the 10 April 2026.

BACKGROUND

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

DETAIL

The Association has submitted the following Motion, and there is one Motion from the City of Hobart.

1. City of Hobart – Second Generation Rodenticides

Decision Sought

That Tasmanian councils cease using second-generation rodenticides at council facilities if they are still being used.

That Tasmanian councils be encouraged to engage with their communities to encourage avoidance of second-generation rodenticides, identified by the word 'poison' on packaging as opposed to 'caution'

Background Comment

The City of Hobart does not use second-generation rodenticides in its facility bait boxes and understands that other councils around the country also avoid its use.

There is currently a national campaign being undertaken to ban second-generation rodenticides as they are deadly to birds of prey and other wildlife that eat both live prey and carrion. Stricter use guidelines have been proposed, but councils could act immediately to cease their use and encourage awareness throughout the community.

The Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) has "concluded that the way products containing second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides (SGARs**) are currently used is creating current risks to *non-target animals, including native wildlife.

This conclusion has led the APVMA to propose suspending SGAR products so that stricter controls around their use can be implemented quickly.

The controls on use that could be put into place during a suspension are designed to remove the most likely routes of native wildlife exposure, to manage the risks while the review is finalised.

The suspension of SGARs, if enacted, would occur as soon as possible after the end of a six-week consultation with the product registration holders and state and territory governments.

If the suspension goes ahead, SGAR products could still be used, but only in accordance with the enforceable new instructions, conditions and use patterns that will apply nationally."

Support for the City's motion will ensure a consistent, statewide approach to rodent management to ensure best practice and alignment across jurisdictions.

SMC Comments:

Based on research undertaken, which includes details contained within a recent communication from TasWaste South, Council should support this motion recognising that there are alternative products available that do not have the potential to impact on pets; wildlife and other animals etc.

2. West Tamar Council – Changing Local Government's role in delivering immunisation programs

Decision Sought

That LGAT advocates for the following:

1. That the Tasmanian Government remove or modify section 57 of the *Public Health Act 1997* which requires Councils to develop and implement an approved program for immunisation in its municipal area.
2. That the Tasmanian Department of Health take primary responsibility for delivery of school-based immunisation programs in Tasmania.
3. That Section 57 (1) if not removed be replaced with:

"A Council may develop and implement an approved program for immunisation in its municipal area by liaising with the Tasmanian Health Service who is required to carry out school-based immunisation programs statewide."

Background Comment

Under section 57 of the *Public Health Act 1997*, a council must develop and implement an approved program for immunisation in its municipal area.

"57. Council immunisation programs

(1) A council must develop and implement an approved program for immunisation in its municipal area.

(2) The Director may require a council to provide any information the Director determines relating to its immunisation program."

For most councils this includes delivering the National Immunisation Program (NIP) to high school students. This is the School-Based Immunisation Program (SBIP). Some councils also deliver community immunisation clinics.

Delivering an immunisation program is a specialised activity, requires the employment or contracting of nurse immunisers or health professionals, and the management of specialised medical processes including administering vaccines, managing adverse reactions and the storage and transport of vaccinations.

Victoria and Tasmania are the only States where local Councils deliver school based immunisation programs. All other States coordinate this function through State government departments.

The Tasmanian Department of Health is considered to be best placed to manage the resourcing and risks associated with implementing an immunisation program across the state, including school-based immunisation programs.

This is especially the case as the State Government has implemented its school nurse program. Now that a school nurse program has been implemented it is Council's belief that running school immunisation programs should no longer be a requirement and that Council can and should be able to choose to opt in to providing these programs when and if it believes that it is appropriate to doSMC Comments:

SMC Comments:

The motion is self-explanatory and warrants support.

Local Government Environmental Health resources are already extremely limited, with officers responsible for a wide range of statutory functions. In regional areas, these constraints are even more pronounced.

While local government can continue to play a valuable supporting role – primarily through community engagement and local co-ordination, such as the use of social media – the primary responsibility should rest with the State.

Human Resources & Financial Implications – Refer comment provided.

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

Priority - Implementation Time Frame – LGAT General Meeting scheduled for the 10 April 2026.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council:

Consider its position in relation to each of the Motions submitted to the Local Government Association of Tasmania for consideration at its General Meeting to be held 10 April 2026.

DECISION

Moved by Clr D Fish, seconded by Clr B Campbell

THAT, as an outcome of discussions, Council note the following in relation to each Motion submitted to the Local Government Association of Tasmania for consideration at its General Meeting to be held 10 April 2026.

- 1. City of Hobart – Second Generation Rodenticides – Support**
- 2. West Tamar Council – Changing Local Government's role in delivering immunisation programs – Support**

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	✓	

17.2.4 Local Government – Reform to Councillor Numbers and Allowances (Information Only)

Author: GENERAL MANAGER (TIM KIRKWOOD)

Date: 20 MARCH 2026

ISSUE

To inform Council that the Tasmanian Government has determined its final position on proposed reforms to councillor numbers and allowances.

BACKGROUND

Council has previously considered and provided comment in response to the Discussion Paper published in September last year.

This review related to a key recommendation of the *Future of Local Government Review*.

The Minister, at that time, 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 Tasmanian Government has determined a final reform position. A letter received from the Minister for Local Government (Hon Kerry Vincent MLC), provides the following summary (dot points shown in italics):

- *All Councils having either nine or seven elected members. Unless specified councils formally request they adopt a five-member model. These will be under new statutory provisions to be included in the Local Government Act 1993.*

The Southern Midlands Council was not impacted by this reform and did not provide comment.

- *Retention of the proposed six allowances categories and the minimum 14.25 per cent allowance increase*

As a general response, the Southern Midlands Council commented that it was 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. The approach is based on sound reasoning, removes subjectivity from the process, and provides consistency across the sector.

- *Inclusion in the council scoring methodology of the total number of rateable properties and total length of council roads, which includes unsealed roads.*

Southern Midlands Council's position - refer above comment.

- *The reform proposal remaining cost neutral. Net savings at the state-wide level are estimated at approximately \$85,000. Fourteen of councils will now incur small costs, up from seven under the initial proposal.*

While the reforms were intended to be cost neutral (i.e. across the entire sector), in the case of Southern Midlands Council, the proposed reforms are not cost neutral given that there is no reduction in the number of elected members to offset the increase in remuneration.

- *No new statutory superannuation or quorum management provisions*

Council acknowledged that the superannuation component is currently included in the total allowance and is not an additional payment.

- *Legislating the methodology in a schedule of the Local Government Act 1993 for future numbers and allowances reviews, with a statutory requirement to routinely apply the methodology every four years.*

Council was fully supportive of creating a sustainable model for regular reviews of councillor numbers and allowances every four years.

- *Creating a head of power for the Governor, by order and on the recommendation of the Minister, to adjust Councillor numbers in accordance with future reviews, streamlining future application of the framework methodology.*

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

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.

Policy Implications – Policy position.

Priority - Implementation Time Frame – The Government intends to deliver the reforms through enabling legislation changes in the current Local Government Amendment (Targeted Reform) Bill process. This will allow changes to be considered by Parliament and, if supported, delivered in time to commence from the 2026 local government elections.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the information be received and noted.

DECISION

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

THAT the information be received and noted.

CARRIED

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

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 28 February 2026)

Author: FINANCE OFFICER (MANDY BURBURY)

Date: 5 MARCH 2026

ISSUE

Provide the Financial Report for the period ending 28th February 2026.

BACKGROUND

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

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

DETAIL

The enclosed Report incorporates the following: -

- Statement of Comprehensive Income – 1 July 2025 to 28 February 2026.
- Operating Expenditure Report – 1 July 2025 to 28 February 2026.
- Capital Expenditure Report – 1 July 2025 to 28 February 2026.
- Cash Flow Statement – 1 July 2025 to 28 February 2026.

OPERATING EXPENDITURE (OPERATING BUDGET)

Overall operating expenditure to end of February was \$6,594,164, representing 87.8% of the Year to Date Budget.

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

Strategic Theme - Infrastructure

Nil.

Strategic Theme – Growth

Sub-Program – Business - expenditure to date (\$267,713 – 126.9%). Additional expenditure relates to a higher than anticipated value of private works (offset by an increase in private works income).

Strategic Theme – Landscapes

Nil.

Strategic Theme – Community

Nil.

Strategic Theme – Organisation

Nil.

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE PROGRAM

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

Legend – Source and completion deadlines for grant funded projects

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

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Financial Report be received and the information noted.

DECISION

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

THAT the Financial Report be received and the information noted.

CARRIED

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

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
for the period 1 Jul 2025 to 28 Feb 2026

	Annual Budget \$	Year to Date Actual \$	%	Comments
Income				
Rates	7,810,961	7,849,583	100.5%	Includes Interest & Penalties on rates
User Fees (refer Note 1)	1,536,868	1,271,033	82.7%	Includes Private Works
Interest	520,000	321,413	61.8%	
Government Subsidies	11,700	0	0.0%	Heavy Vehicle Licence Fees
Other (refer Note 2)	332,400	140,697	42.3%	Includes TasWater Distributions
Sub-Total	10,211,930	9,582,725	93.8%	
Grants - Operating	4,744,884	1,815,508	38.3%	
Total Income	14,956,813	11,398,233	76.2%	
Expenses				
Employee benefits	-6,024,988	-3,229,525	53.6%	Less Roads - Resheeting (Capitalised)
Materials and contracts	-4,195,550	-3,080,777	73.4%	Less Roads - Resheeting (Capitalised), Includes Land Tax & Private Works
Depreciation and amortisation	-4,738,700	-3,154,806	66.6%	Percentage Calculation (year-to-date)
Finance costs	-2,223	-2,223	100.0%	Interest
Contributions	-296,700	-148,350	50.0%	Fire Service Levies
Other	-184,841	-133,288	72.1%	Audit Fees and Councillor Allowances
Total expenses	-15,443,002	-9,748,969	63.1%	
Surplus (deficit) from operations	-486,189	1,649,263	-339.2%	
Grants - Capital (refer Note 3)	1,064,853	1,999,736	187.8%	
Sale Proceeds (Plant & Machinery)	0	264,977		
Sale Proceeds (Land & Buildings)	0	1		
Sale Proceeds (Other Assets)	0	5,244		
Net gain / (loss on disposal of non-current assets)	0	0		
Surplus / (Deficit)	578,664	3,919,222	677.3%	

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
for the period 1 Jul 2025 to 28 Feb 2026

NOTES	Annual Budget \$	Year to Date Actual \$	%	Comments
1. Income - User Fees				
- All other Programs	1,176,420	937,633	79.7%	
- Private Works	360,449	333,400	92.5%	
	<u>1,536,868</u>	<u>1,271,033</u>	82.7%	
2. Income - Other				
- TasWater Distributions	182,400	83,600	45.83%	
- Public Open Space Contributions	150,000	0	0.00%	
- Stormwater Headworks	0	20,000		
- Blue Gum Rovers donation to Tunnack Rec. Ground	0	595.00		
- JLT Group Interest Disbursement	0	1,578		
- Insurance Recoveries	0	8,292		
- Campania Halls Committee Contribution to External Painting	0	15,000		
- Colebrook Hall Committee Closure of Bank Account	0	3,510		
- Woodsdale Cemetery Committee Closure of Bank Account	0	8,121		
	<u>332,400</u>	<u>140,697</u>	42.3%	
3. Grants - Capital				
- Aust Govt (Roads To Recovery)	1,064,853	1,012,500	95.08%	
- Aust Govt (LRCI Phase 4)	0	629,654		Final Instalment
- State Govt (VRUP Round 1)	0	14,410		Campania Pedestrian Railway Crossing (Final Instalment)
- State Govt (VRUP Round 1)	0	29,308		Campania Reeve Street West (Final Instalment)
- State Govt (VRUP Round 1)	0	18,129		Campania Reeve Street East (Final Instalment)
- State Govt (VRUP 2025)	0	14,310		Campania Reeve Street- Hall Ln to Lee St (First Instalment)
- State Govt (EID Tag Rebate Scheme)	0	1,425		75% Rebate on eID Reader
- Local Govt. Assoc. Tas. (Open Spaces Program)	0	280,000		Campania Recreation Ground (Changeroom Upgrade)
	<u>1,064,853</u>	<u>1,999,736</u>	187.79%	
4. Grants - Operating				
- FAGS 2024/25	4,744,884	1,810,173	38.15%	
- State Govt (Resilience & Recovery Grant)	0	5,335		Southern Midlands Farmers Group Drought Resilience (Establishing Governance)
	<u>4,744,884</u>	<u>1,815,508</u>	38.3%	

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

PROGRAM	ACTUAL (to 28 Feb 26)	BUDGET (to 28 Feb 26)	YTD VARIANCE	YTD %	FULL YEAR BUDGET - INC. GRANTS & OTHER
INFRASTRUCTURE					
Roads	931,839	1,197,350	265,510	77.8%	4,410,593
Bridges	34,329	69,458	35,129	49.4%	653,390
Walkways	170,453	180,555	10,103	94.4%	273,165
Lighting	49,051	62,624	13,573	78.3%	93,936
Public Toilets	76,770	92,940	16,170	82.6%	140,739
Stormwater	4,279	23,720	19,441	18.0%	89,081
Waste	906,470	1,043,227	136,756	86.9%	1,592,340
Information, Communication	-	13,333	13,333	0.0%	20,000
INFRASTRUCTURE TOTAL:	2,173,191	2,683,207	510,016	81.0%	7,273,244
GROWTH					
Residential	-	-	-	-	-
Tourism	23,923	34,143	10,219	70.1%	41,276
Business	267,713	211,038	-56,676	126.9%	316,556
Industry	-	-	-	0.0%	-
GROWTH TOTAL:	291,636	245,180	- 46,456	118.9%	357,832
LANDSCAPES					
Heritage	243,121	339,927	96,806	71.5%	501,173
Natural	159,773	181,847	22,074	87.9%	257,515
Cultural	507	10,667	10,160	4.8%	16,000
Regulatory - Development	572,700	722,047	149,347	79.3%	1,101,058
Regulatory - Public Health	8,448	17,453	9,005	48.4%	26,180
Regulatory - Animals	79,955	92,365	12,409	86.6%	140,975
Environmental Sustainability	-	3,333	3,333	0.0%	5,000
LANDSCAPES TOTAL:	1,064,505	1,367,639	303,134	77.8%	2,047,901
COMMUNITY					
Community Health & Wellbeing	194,862	253,697	58,835	76.8%	378,545
Recreation	900,442	890,059	-10,383	101.2%	1,256,464
Access	-	-	-	0.0%	-
Volunteers	21,325	40,000	18,675	53.3%	45,000
Families	-	6,667	6,667	0.0%	10,000
Education	-	-	-	0.0%	-
Capacity & Sustainability	43,239	45,503	2,265	95.0%	55,505
Safety	5,171	13,300	8,129	38.9%	19,950
Consultation & Communication	1,589	17,133	15,544	9.3%	25,700
LIFESTYLE TOTAL:	1,166,628	1,266,359	99,731	92.1%	1,791,164
ORGANISATION					
Improvement	44,588	87,598	43,010	50.9%	131,397
Sustainability	1,622,500	1,634,096	11,597	99.3%	3,445,765
Finances	231,116	229,350	-1,766	100.8%	395,700
ORGANISATION TOTAL:	1,898,203	1,951,044	52,841	97.3%	3,972,862
TOTALS	\$6,594,164	\$7,513,430	\$919,266	87.8%	\$15,443,003

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE PROGRAM 2025-26
As at 28 February 2026

		BUDGET \$	EXPENDITURE \$	BALANCE \$	COMMENTS	COMPLETION DEADLINE
INFRASTRUCTURE						
ROAD ASSETS						
Resheeting Program	Roads Resheeting	590,000	263,382	326,618		
Reseal Program	Jericho - Jericho Road (1500m)	45,000	0	45,000	Roads to Recovery \$45,000	30 June 2026
	Kempton - Cliftonvale Road (1500m)	65,000	24,360	40,640	Roads to Recovery \$65,000	30 June 2026
	Oatlands - High Street (500m)	55,000	714	54,286	Roads to Recovery \$55,000	30 June 2026
	Oatlands - Interlaken Road	25,000	23,100	1,900		
	Woodbury - Glenmore Road (Two Sections 1700m)	47,000	42,543	4,457	Roads to Recovery \$47,000	30 June 2026
	Woodbury - Woodbury Road (500m)	35,000	43,736	-8,736		
	Woodsdale - Woodsdale Road	48,000	31,298	16,702	Roads to Recovery \$48,000	30 June 2026
	Tunbridge - Scott Street (300m)	40,000	31,796	8,204	Originally in Reconstruct & Seal \$60K	
Sealed Edge Breaks	Sealed Road Edge Breaks Program	200,000	as below	86,794		
	<i>Broadmarsh - Elderslie Road</i>		0			
	<i>Campania - Brown Mountain Road</i>		2,167			
	<i>Campania - Native Corners Road</i>		9,473			
	<i>Colebrook - Eldon Road</i>		22,276			
	<i>Colebrook - Franklin Street</i>		1,000			
	<i>Elderslie - Elderslie Road</i>		16,962			
	<i>Jericho - Lower Marshes Road</i>		3,552			
	<i>Rhyndaston - Rhyndaston Road</i>		11,500			
	<i>Stonor Road - Stonor</i>		32,860			
	<i>Woodsdale - Woodsdale Road</i>		13,416			
Reconstruct & Seal	Bagdad - Swan Street (700m)	137,000	136,881	119	Roads to Recovery \$137,000	30 June 2026
	Tunnack - Eldon Road (700m)	110,000	113,529	-3,529	Roads to Recovery \$110,000	30 June 2026
	Woodsdale - Woodsdale Road (dig-out)	23,000	28,758	-5,758	Roads to Recovery \$23,000	30 June 2026
Construct & Seal	Mangalore - Blackbrush Road (1.3km section starting from seal Mangalore end)	195,000	200,222	-5,222	Roads to Recovery \$195,000	30 June 2026
	Rhyndaston - Rhyndaston Road (1.35km of 2.7km starting at railway line)	202,500	199,399	3,101	Roads to Recovery \$202,500	30 June 2026
Minor Seals (New)	Mt Seymour - Blackgate Road (500m between end of seal & dust suppressant)	85,000	93,277	-8,277	Roads to Recovery \$85,000	30 June 2026
	Oatlands - Bentwick Street	20,000	0	20,000	Budget c/f	
Other Works	Bagdad - School Road (Traffic & Safety Improvements)	69,000	545	68,455	VRUP Funding \$34,430	30 April 2026
	Campania - Car Park Improvements	100,000	72,481	27,519	\$60K Budget C/F WIP \$72,112	
	Campania - Reeve Street (Reconstruct Retaining Wall - Union St to Lee St)	40,000	0	40,000		
	Campania - Structure Plan - Town Gateway and Streetscape	40,000	0	40,000	Budget C/F	
	Colebrook - Coalmine Bend Road (Redirect Drainage from Train Line - Piping)	25,000	25,807	-807		
	Oatlands - Hasting Street Junction	15,000	14,761	239	WIP \$959	
	Oatlands - High Street (Traffic Islands)	45,940	384	45,556	VRUP Funding \$22,300 RTR \$23,640	30 June 2026
	Tunbridge - Main Street (Kerb & Gutter Renewal)	40,000	46,290	-6,290	WIP \$4186.12	
		2,297,440	1,506,469	790,971		

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE PROGRAM 2025-26
As at 28 February 2026

		BUDGET \$	EXPENDITURE \$	BALANCE \$	COMMENTS	COMPLETION DEADLINE
WALKWAYS	Footpaths - General Streetscapes	45,959	0	45,959		
	Bagdad - Midland Highway Pathway (Primary School north to Community Club)	240,000	250,366	-10,366	Election Commitment - \$150,000 WIP \$1,130	2 March 2026
	Campania - Reeve Street (Hall St to Lee St)	57,740	128	57,612	VRUP Funding \$28,620	30 June 2026
	Colebrook - Richmond Road (Asphalting)	4,041	4,041	0	Funded from footpaths general budget	
	Kempton - Burnett Street to Mood Food	425,565	178,749	246,816	Better Active Transport \$278K WIP \$5332	30 June 2026
	Kempton - Main Street (Southern End 300m)	75,000	741	74,259		
	Oatlands - Church Street (High St to Esplanade both sides - Design Only)	10,000	0	10,000		
	Oatlands - Church Street (Sth Parade to William St - north. side - Footpath - 130 m)	30,000	27,237	2,763	Budget C/F	
	Parattah - Streetscape (Stage 1)	50,000	417	49,583		
	Tunnack - Streetscape (Year 1 of 3)	100,000	73,251	26,749	WIP \$73,042	
		1,038,305	534,929	503,376		
PUBLIC TOILETS	General Public Toilets - Upgrade Program	14,616	0	14,616	Budget c/f	
	Colebrook - History Room Toilets (Replace Septic Tank)	10,000	9,830	170		
		24,616	9,830	14,785		
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	40,456	9,544	WIP \$456	
	Oatlands - High Street / Church Street Jct (Pipe Replacement)	15,000	14,946	54		
	Oatlands - High Street /Wellington Street Jct (New Pit)	4,000	3,973	27		
	Oatlands - Queen Anne St (Pipe into existing Drain)	35,000	21,696	13,304		
		165,625	81,072	84,553		
WASTE	Wheelie Bins and Crates	10,000	20,398	-10,398		
		10,000	20,398	-10,398		
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		

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE PROGRAM 2025-26
As at 28 February 2026

		BUDGET	EXPENDITURE	BALANCE	COMMENTS	COMPLETION
		\$	\$	\$		DEADLINE
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	8,904	-424	Saluting Their Service Grant \$7,480	30 April 2025
	Oatlands - Callington Mill - Structural Repair & External painting	80,000	0	80,000	\$40K Budget C/F	
	Oatlands - Court House (Wall Stabilisation)	15,000	13,019	1,981	WIP \$4,764	
	Oatlands - Gaolers Residence (Chimney Capping & Fireplace Repairs)	5,000	866	4,134	Budget C/F	
	Oatlands - Gaolers Residence (Lighting & Hanging System Upgrade)	5,000	973	4,027		
	Oatlands - Gaolers Residence (Wingwall)	23,000	657	22,343	Budget C/F	
	Oatlands - Heritage Buildings (Security Upgrades)	10,000	108	9,892		
	Oatlands - Heritage Collections Store	10,000	3,700	6,300	WIP \$3,700	
	Oatlands - Roche Hall (Building Improvements for PRISM)	144,161	53,805	90,356	\$90K Budget C/F WIP \$19,644 \$5,839 to Portable Stage	
	Oatlands - Roche Hall Forecourt (Interps - Planning Condition of Approval)	40,000	7,820	32,180	WIP \$7,820	
		380,686	94,152	286,534		
NATURAL						
	Campania - Bush Reserve / Cemetery	300,000	106,677	193,323	WIP \$93,346	
	Chauncy Vale - Day Dawn Cottage Improvements	12,000	10,311	1,689	WIP \$8,557	
	Chauncy Vale - Toilet & Interps Upgrade	100,000	69,397	30,603	Election Commitment \$80,000 WIP \$22,570	30 June 2026
		412,000	186,385	225,615		
REGULATORY						
- DEVELOPMENT						
	Master / Structure Plans (Bagdad / Mangalore / Campania)	50,000	150,712	-100,712	Includes Flour Mill Park Master Plan	
	Kempton Council Chambers - Structural Damage	0	16,650	-16,650	External Contractor Liable for damage	
	Kempton - Council Chambers (Office Furniture & Equipment)	7,025	0	7,025		
	Property Purchase - 10 Barrack Street, Oatlands (Police Residence)	530,000	0	530,000	Budget C/F	
	Oatlands - Stanley Street Master Plan	20,000	172	19,828	Budget c/f WIP \$172	
		607,025	167,533	439,492		
PUBLIC HEALTH						
	Woodsdale Cemetery - Memorial Wall	0	1,845	-1,845	Offset by Committee Contribution	
		0	1,845	-1,845		
ANIMAL CONTROL						
	Oatlands - Off-Lead Dog Park	35,000	1,947	33,053	WIP \$1,947	
	Electronic Identification Stick Reader	1,900	1,900	0	NRE Grant \$1,425	
		36,900	3,847	33,053		

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE PROGRAM 2025-26
As at 28 February 2026

	BUDGET	EXPENDITURE	BALANCE	COMMENTS	COMPLETION
	\$	\$	\$		DEADLINE
COMMUNITY					
RECREATION					
Facilities & Recreation Committee	4,475	0	4,475	Budget \$40,000 (projects funded as below)	
Building Upgrades (Sites determined following inspections)	50,000	0	50,000		
Playground Upgrades (inspections)	50,000	0	50,000		
Bagdad - Bagdad Community Club (Precinct Plan & Property Transfer)	111,000	95,003	15,997	\$35K Budget c/f WIP \$95,003	
Bagdad - Bagdad Community Club (Redevelopment)	0	50,931	-50,931	WIP \$49,706	
Bagdad - Bagdad Community Club (Sports Pavilion)	0	222,416	-222,416	WIP \$211,856 Subject to Funding	
Bagdad - Bagdad Community Club (Multi-purpose Sports Hall)	0	252,160	-252,160	WIP \$252,160 Subject to Funding	
Bagdad - Bagdad Community Club (Oval Relocation)	0	26,500	-26,500	WIP \$25,500 Subject to Funding	
Bagdad - Bagdad Community Club (Wastewater System)	200,000	2,266	197,734		
Bagdad - Bagdad Community Club (OAC Building - New electrical connection)	0	5,300	-5,300	Funded from cash trf - Bagdad CC Committee	
Bagdad - Iden Road Park Development	75,000	0	75,000	Budget C/F	
Bagdad - Acquisition 1689 Midland Highway Bagdad	0	317,553	-317,553	Funding not allocated	
Campania - Flour Mill Park (Redevelopment)	68,000	0	68,000		
Campania - Hall (External Painting)	36,800	41,470	-4,670	WIP \$39,696	
Campania - Recreation Ground (Electronic Scoreboard)	47,875	50,165	-2,290	WIP \$48,043	
Campania - Recreation Ground (Landscaping & Tiered Seating)	270,000	79,027	190,973	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	715,502	384,499	LGAT Open Space \$40K / SMC - \$700K WIP	
Colebrook - Hall (Windows, Ramps, Double Doors)	10,000	0	10,000		
Kempton - Carriage Shed (External Repair & Repainting)	11,700	0	11,700		
Kempton - Recreation Ground (Site Dev) (Boundary Fence)	24,250	14,118	10,132	Budget c/f WIP \$14,118	
Kempton - Recreation Ground (Cricket Net, basket ball / pickle ball court)	80,000	100,581	-20,581	Active Tas - Election Commitment WIP \$2,886	30 June 2026
Melton Mowbray - Streetscape Works (Trough / Shelter etc)	90,000	108,882	-18,882	\$60K Budget C/F WIP \$85,022	
Oatlands - Aquatic Centre (Outdoor Area Seating)	4,000	1,874	2,126		
Oatlands - Aquatic Centre (Learn to Swim Equipment)	2,000	553	1,447		
Oatlands - Aquatic Centre (Gymnasium Equipment Upgrade)	3,005	1,047	1,958		
Oatlands - Aquatic Centre (Defibrillator)	1,995	1,995	0	Funded from Gym Equipment Budget	
Oatlands - Aquatic Centre (Female Change Rooms / Shower Cubicles)	10,000	0	10,000		
Oatlands - Aquatic Centre (Pump Replacement)	10,000	0	10,000		
Oatlands - Gay Street, Hall (Air Lock & Heating)	40,000	14,432	25,568	\$30K of Budget C/F WIP \$14,432	
Oatlands - Gay Street, Hall (Kitchen Floor Repairs / Underpinning)	8,000	0	8,000		
Oatlands - Midlands Community Centre (External Painting - Front of Building)	8,000	0	8,000	Budget C/F	
Oatlands - Old Swimming Pool (Staged demolition)	62,889	4,521	58,368	Balance Budget C/F	
Oatlands - Recreation Ground (Redevelopment)	0	174,791	-174,791	Subject to Funding WIP \$172,521	
Oatlands - Recreation Ground (Electronic Scoreboard)	55,145	22,075	33,070	AFL grant pending, OFC Contribution, SMC \$30K	
Parattah - Recreation Ground (Reglaze Windows)	2,724	2,724	0	Funded from Facilities & Rec Committee Budget	
Runnymede - Recreation Ground (Pitch Renewal)	8,000	8,258	-258		
Tunbridge - Tunbridge Park (Tree Planting)	2,802	2,802	0	Funded from Facilities & Rec Committee Budget	
Tunnack - Recreation Ground (Kiosk Removal)	8,000	0	8,000		
Tunnack - Recreation Ground (Toilet Block Painting)	4,000	0	4,000		
Woodsdale Recreation Ground	45,000	0	45,000	Budget C/F	
Water Bottle Refill Stations	7,980	0	7,980	Budget C/F	
	2,539,389	2,316,943	222,446		

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE PROGRAM 2025-26
As at 28 February 2026

		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	
	Portable Stage	15,884	17,370	-1,486	Council Decision, small grant & PRISM funding	
		89,132	67,379	21,752		
SAFETY	Sale of Fire Sheds to Crown	0	1,579	-1,579	Expenses offset by income from sale	
		0	1,579	-1,579		
ORGANISATION						
SUSTAINABILITY	WiFi Equipment	7,000	0	7,000	Budget C/F	
	Council Website Upgrade	40,000	13,260	26,740	Budget C/F	
	Communications Link Upgrade	5,000	0	5,000		
	Computer / Network Upgrades	18,000	2,135	15,865		
	Oatlands - Town Hall (Office Furniture & Equipment)	7,500	0	7,500		
	Oatlands - Town Hall (Replacement Heat Pump)	5,500	7,666	-2,166		
	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	
		483,000	40,856	442,144		
WORKS	Kempton - Works Depot (Toilet / Shower Upgrade)	30,000	0	30,000		
	Kempton - Works Depot (Security Cameras)	5,000	0	5,000		
	Oatlands - Works Depot (Sump Pump)	1,400	1,399	1	Budget from Minor Plant	
	Minor Plant Purchases	10,600	4,085	6,515		
	Radio System	5,000	220	4,780		
	Plant Replacement Program					
	Heavy Vehicles - Gross Amount	889,370	435,330	454,040		
	(Trade Allowance - \$254K)					
	Light Vehicles - Gross Amount	515,179	265,525	249,654		
	(Trade Allowance - \$299K)					
		1,456,549	706,559	749,990		
GRAND TOTALS		9,542,666	5,782,061	3,760,606		

Southern Midlands Council
Minutes – 25th March 2026

CASH FLOW 2025/2026	INFLOWS (OUTFLOWS) July 2025 \$	INFLOWS (OUTFLOWS) Aug 2025 \$	INFLOWS (OUTFLOWS) Sep 2025 \$	INFLOWS (OUTFLOWS) Oct 2025 \$	INFLOWS (OUTFLOWS) Nov 2025 \$	INFLOWS (OUTFLOWS) Dec 2025 \$	INFLOWS (OUTFLOWS) Jan 2026 \$	INFLOWS (OUTFLOWS) Feb 2026 \$	INFLOWS (OUTFLOWS) Mar 2026 \$	INFLOWS (OUTFLOWS) Apr 2026 \$	INFLOWS (OUTFLOWS) May 2026 \$	INFLOWS (OUTFLOWS) Jun 2026 \$	INFLOWS (OUTFLOWS) (Total 2025/26) \$
Cash flows from operating activities													
Payments													
Employee costs	(654,876)	(424,204)	(370,607)	(391,754)	(369,294)	(585,181)	(334,843)	(352,509)					(3,483,267)
Materials and contracts	(987,152)	(399,774)	(459,970)	(353,322)	(310,386)	(391,272)	(267,707)	(406,616)					(3,576,199)
Interest	(2,223)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					(2,223)
Other	(28,004)	(82,892)	(68,686)	(161,851)	(55,689)	(119,697)	(79,937)	(36,570)					(633,327)
	<u>(1,672,254)</u>	<u>(906,870)</u>	<u>(899,264)</u>	<u>(906,927)</u>	<u>(735,369)</u>	<u>(1,096,150)</u>	<u>(682,487)</u>	<u>(795,694)</u>	0	0	0	0	<u>(7,695,016)</u>
Receipts													
Rates	722,648	431,037	2,387,961	589,319	921,681	321,995	812,600	292,190					6,479,432
User charges	1,376,627	109,039	268,268	172,447	110,902	142,440	501,484	81,729					2,762,937
Interest received	33,066	36,362	50,568	34,958	21,740	38,895	40,575	65,248					321,413
Subsidies	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					0
Operating Grants	0	603,391	5,335	0	603,391	0	0	603,391					1,815,508
Other	70,371	159,430	49,262	53,844	23,639	39,782	145	19,514					415,987
	<u>2,202,712</u>	<u>1,339,260</u>	<u>2,761,394</u>	<u>850,568</u>	<u>1,681,354</u>	<u>543,112</u>	<u>1,354,805</u>	<u>1,062,072</u>	0	0	0	0	<u>11,795,277</u>
Net cash from operating activities	530,458	432,390	1,862,130	(56,360)	945,985	(553,038)	672,318	266,378	0	0	0	0	4,100,261
Cash flows from investing activities													
Payments for property, plant & equipment	(197,080)	(549,583)	(616,036)	(368,073)	(512,545)	(943,380)	(181,300)	(535,391)					(3,903,388)
Proceeds from sale of property, plant & equipment	32,932	35,131	0	164,541	24,545	13,073	0	1					270,223
Proceeds from Capital grants	0	0	0	0	14,410	1,689,591	1,425	14,310					1,719,736
Proceeds from Investments	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					0
Payment for Investments	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					0
	<u>(164,148)</u>	<u>(514,453)</u>	<u>(616,036)</u>	<u>(203,532)</u>	<u>(473,590)</u>	<u>759,284</u>	<u>(179,875)</u>	<u>(521,080)</u>	0	0	0	0	<u>(1,913,430)</u>
Net cash used in investing activities	(164,148)	(514,453)	(616,036)	(203,532)	(473,590)	759,284	(179,875)	(521,080)	0	0	0	0	(1,913,430)
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
	<u>(109,510)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(109,510)</u>
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)	1,246,095	(259,891)	472,395	206,246	492,443	(254,702)	0	0	0	0	2,077,321
Cash at beginning of reporting month	11,895,902	12,152,702	12,070,639	13,316,734	13,056,842	13,529,237	13,735,483	14,227,926	0	0	0	0	11,895,902
Cash at end of reporting period	12,152,702	12,070,639	13,316,734	13,056,842	13,529,237	13,735,483	14,227,926	13,973,224	0	0	0	0	13,973,224

18. MUNICIPAL SEAL

Nil.

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

Nil.

RECOMMENDATION

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

DECISION

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

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

Matter	<i>Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015 Reference</i>
<i>Closed Council Minutes - Confirmation</i>	17(2)
<i>Applications for Leave of Absence</i>	17(2)(h)(i)
<i>Audit Panel Minutes</i>	17(2)(h)
<i>General Manager Briefing</i>	17(2)(a)

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

DECISION

Moved by Clr B Campbell, seconded by Clr D Blackwell

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

CARRIED

DECISION (MUST BE BY ABSOLUTE MAJORITY)		
Councillor	Vote FOR	Vote AGAINST
Mayor E Batt	✓	
Deputy Mayor K Dudgeon	✓	
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 2025, the details of the decision in respect to this item are to be kept confidential and are not to be communicated, reproduced or published unless authorised by Council.

Item considered in Closed Session in accordance with Regulation 17(2) of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025.

20.2 Applications for Leave of Absence

In accordance with the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025, the details of the decision in respect to this item are to be kept confidential and are not to be communicated, reproduced or published unless authorised by Council.

Item considered in Closed Session in accordance with Regulation 17(2)(h)(i) of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025.

20.3 Audit Panel Minutes

20.3.1 Audit Panel Receipt of Minutes

In accordance with the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025, the details of the decision in respect to this item are to be kept confidential and are not to be communicated, reproduced or published unless authorised by Council.

Item considered in Closed Session in accordance with Regulation 17(2)(h) of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025.

20.3.2 Audit Panel Endorsement of Recommendations

In accordance with the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025, the details of the decision in respect to this item are to be kept confidential and are not to be communicated, reproduced or published unless authorised by Council.

Item considered in Closed Session in accordance with Regulation 17(2)(h) of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025.

20.4 General Manager Briefing

In accordance with the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025, the details of the decision in respect to this item are to be kept confidential and are not to be communicated, reproduced or published unless authorised by Council.

Item considered in Closed Session in accordance with Regulation 17(2)(a) of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council move out of “Closed Session”.

DECISION

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

THAT Council move out of “Closed Session”.

CARRIED

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

OPEN COUNCIL MINUTES

21. CLOSURE

The meeting closed at 12.50 p.m.