



Newsletter

ISSUE 2 | August 2025



From the Mayor's Desk

A Look Back and Forward as We Start the New Financial Year

As we come out of a fairly frosty winter, it's that time again—the end of the financial year. It's the period when Council reflects on the past 12 months and prepares to move forward with a fresh new budget.

I'm pleased to report that our operating expenditure (excluding depreciation) for the year totalled \$10.46 million, representing 99% of our 2024–25 operating budget. This shows we've lived within our means—always a critical measure of responsible governance. However, one disappointing area was the overrun in spending due to vandalism, particularly to public toilets. There is no place for this kind of anti-social behaviour in our municipality. With recent investments, such as the new toilet and amenities block at Chauncy Vale Reserve, it's essential that we, as a community, work together to protect and respect our public infrastructure. Please do what you can to discourage and report vandalism.

Budget and Rates Update

While a rate rise is never welcome news, it is a reflection of Council's commitment to developing and expanding community facilities and services. In comparison with other Councils across the State, our 3.5% increase is among the lowest.

Additionally, Council is required to collect two State Government charges:

- Fire Service Levy, which has increased by 3.24% to \$296,700;
- Waste Levy, a newer cost, reflects increasing expenses associated with waste management.

To illustrate, Council pays \$45.84 per tonne for landfill disposal—totalling approximately \$140,000 annually, even before including collection and transport costs. This highlights how vital it is for households to reduce waste wherever possible.

To ease the burden slightly, we are continuing our policy of a 2% discount on all rates and charges paid within 30 days of your rate notice's issue.

Recent and Upcoming Works Around the Municipality

We've made significant progress on several projects:

- Campania: New footpath, bus shelter, and hall repainting complete

- Tunnack: New kerbing and footpath works completed
- Tunbridge: Kerb replacement works underway
- Melton Mowbray: C L Batt Park at the highway junction is nearing completion, ready for the return of the heritage-listed trough
- Kempton: Construction of the Kempton – Mood Food pathway is scheduled to commence in the short-term.

Caring for Our Natural Environment

Our Natural Resources Management Unit continues to do outstanding work, particularly in weed eradication. With spring just around the corner, weed issues will re-emerge. If you spot invasive species or need help identifying them, please contact Council so we can act quickly.

Community Events: Heritage & Bullock Festival Success

We recently hosted another incredible Heritage & Bullock Festival in Oatlands, which continues to grow in popularity. Attendance rose to an estimated 7,800, up from 7,200 last year.

A heartfelt thank you to:

- Chairman Brian Fish
- Our dedicated Council officers
- The many community volunteers

Your contributions have truly put Oatlands on the Tasmanian Festivals Map.

During the Festival, I had the honour of welcoming Her Excellency, the Governor of Tasmania Barbara Baker AC, and Emeritus Professor Donald Chalmers at the official opening of the Royal Society of Tasmania's Hidden Treasures Art Exhibition, held at the Oatlands Supreme Court building.

We also celebrated the opening of a new Art Gallery at the old Parattah Railway Hotel—another win for our cultural scene.

Farewell and Thank You to Craig Whatley

Finally, I'd like to pay tribute to Mr. Craig Whatley, who retires after 36 years of dedicated service as Council's Assistant Manager Infrastructure and Works. Craig has been a pillar of our Council and community, and we extend our heartfelt thanks and best wishes for his retirement.

Thank you for your continued support as we enter a new financial year together.

Clr E Batt, Mayor

Rates Information 2025/2026

Your total Rates are made up of the General Rate and other Service Charges.

The items that appear on your rates bill are:

- General Rate
- Waste Management Charge
- Garbage Collection (if applicable); and
- the State Government Fire Service Levy

How are my rates calculated?

- The General Rate is calculated based on each property's Assessed Annual Value (AAV). The AAV is determined by the Tasmanian Valuer General and is based on the estimated annual income the owner would obtain from renting the property. Your rates are calculated by multiplying the AAV by a set rate in the dollar.
- The Waste Management Charge is a standard charge levied on all rateable properties. It covers the cost of operating the Waste Transfer Stations, including the transfer and disposal of the waste and recyclables from these sites.
- The Garbage Collection charge is only applied where a service is provided to the property. The fortnightly service provides for the collection of a 240 litre general waste wheelie bin and 240 litre recycling wheelie bin.
- The Fire Service Levy is collected on behalf of the State Government. It contributes towards funding the fire service and is applied based on the relevant fire district.

Instalment Dates and Methods for Payment

- Council rates are payable in four instalments which are listed on the Notice of Rates and Charges. The various methods for payment are also shown on the Notice.

Discount

- A discount of 2.0% will apply to all rates and charges paid by 30th September 2025, being the due date of the first instalment. This discount is not applicable to rates and charges which are paid in instalments. The payment due dates will appear on the rates notice.

Late Payments

- A penalty of 5% applies to any rate or charge that is not paid on or before the date it falls due.

Interest

- In addition to the penalty, interest under section 128 of the *Local Government Act 1993* will be charged at the rate of 6.8% per annum (calculated daily).

Receive your rates notice by email

- You can now choose to receive your rates notice by email instead of by mail. This allows you to easily access, print and reprint notices, conveniently store notices electronically, and receive your notice promptly

Sign up for email notices

- You can sign up to receive your rates notice via email by visiting the Southern Midlands Council website www.southernmidlands.tas.gov.au/rates/

Transfer of Household Collection Waste Contract

Residents are advised that, commencing from 1st September 2025, Veolia will be the new Contractor responsible for the collection of household waste and recycling. This change follows the expiration of the existing Contract and the completion of a comprehensive tender process.

Please note that there will be no change to the collection days and times within the respective districts.

The Council would like to take this opportunity to thank Thorp Waste for their dedicated service over the years.

Important Reminder:

Veolia will only be responsible for collecting the 240-litre bins with red and yellow lids. All other bins are outside the scope of this contract and will not be collected by Veolia.



Thank you for your cooperation.

Spring = Weeds! Get on to them!

Keep a look out for **thistles**, especially the declared ones: Nodding, Cotton, Saffron, Californian, Stemless and Slender thistles. Variegated and Spear (Scotch) thistles are not declared, but sort them out too if you can.

Woody weeds such as Spanish heath, boneseed, brooms, gorse, hawthorn, briar rose, African boxthorn, and blackberry are flowering, or about to flower. Control before flowers set seed/fruit.

Smaller weeds such as Whiteweed, St John's wort, Patterson's curse, brassicas and Amsinckia are sprouting and growing at this time of the year.

Invasive grasses such as Serrated tussock and Chilean needlegrass will be starting to send up seed heads from now until early Summer.



Boneseed Flowers



Spanish Heath Flowers



Gorse Flowers



Amsinckia Flowers



Patterson's Curse Flowers

A Timely Reminder to Check Your Dog's Microchip Status

Following the recent closure of the HomeSafeID pet microchip registry, this is a timely reminder for all dog owners to ensure your dog is microchipped and that your contact details are up to date with a current microchip registry.

Microchipping your dog is a vital step in making sure they can be safely and quickly returned to you if they become lost. Even if your dog is already microchipped, outdated information can make it impossible for vets, shelters, or councils to contact you.

If you're unsure whether your pet's microchip is correctly registered or don't know which registry holds your information, you can check online using a national microchip lookup service like Pet Address at www.petaddress.com.au

Once you have confirmed your details are correct, please remember to notify Council as well. You can give us a call to ensure we have the correct microchip information linked to your dog's registration.

Keeping your pet's microchip details current is one of the most important things you can do as a responsible owner.

Don't Forget to Check the Chip!!!



Telstra's Satellite to Text Technology

In a remarkable step forward in technology, Telstra is excited to launch *Telstra Satellite Messaging* - the first satellite to mobile text messaging service in Australia.

Telstra Satellite Messaging will give customers the ability to send or receive a text from an outdoor location that is beyond the range of Telstra's mobile network.

It will be of particular benefit to members who live, work or travel in regional and remote parts of Tasmania. For example, Telstra Satellite Messaging is going to help a farmer in the back paddock who wants to text his family or workers, instead of having to drive back closer to the house to get reception.

The launch follows months of testing and many trials with our engineers and employees who have been using the technology right across Australia, including in some of our most remote locations, to check it is working as it should.

While the service currently supports text messaging only (emojis included!), in the future, satellite to mobile capability is expected to extend beyond text messaging to enable data and making calls.

Customers will need a compatible device to access this service at no additional cost under eligible plans.



Oatlands Village Square Project



A *big thankyou* to those members of the Community that took the time to visit the Community Consultation display of the first tranche of the Oatlands Village Square Project. It was housed in the Supreme Court building, during the eight day display period in late July.

Twenty four people took the time to complete the Survey documentation after viewing the display. There were some really meaningful comments and suggestions which have been greatly appreciated. There appeared to be a sense of excitement by many people who viewed the display, about the future of Oatlands, with the positive impact in the creation of the proposed Village Square.

Not everyone completed the Survey documentation, but they did take copies of the display for future reference. The detailed analysis of the Survey responses is the next stage, then this will be presented to the Project Steering Committee for consideration, with the summary and recommendations being worked through at a Council Workshop, then on to a formal Council meeting for further consideration and where appropriate, programing for works to be undertaken, within the framework of the Project Plan.

Upcoming Archaeological Investigations at the Baptist Cemetery, Erskine Street, Kempton

In the coming months, Council will be undertaking archaeological investigations around the small Baptist Cemetery located on Erskine Street, Kempton. These investigations are being carried out in consultation with the Regulator under the *Burial and Cremation Act 2019*.

The purpose of the work is to accurately define the boundaries of the land historically used as a cemetery. This will allow Council to identify and potentially sell excess land that is not part of the historical burial ground. Proceeds from any such sale will be directed toward funding community projects in Kempton, including the conservation and restoration of the remaining cemetery area.

The cemetery itself will remain under Council ownership. It will be retained as a publicly accessible heritage site, with restored headstones and interpretive signage to share the history of the site and the early colonial Baptist community of Kempton.



Any community members with historical information on the cemetery are urged to chat to Council's Manager Heritage Projects - Brad Williams – 0418 303 184.

CAPITAL BUDGET PROJECTS – 2025/2026

Council has allocated a total of \$6,888,929 million in Capital Works for the 2025/26 financial year. Some of this funding is financed through grants from both Federal and State Governments. This amount does not include projects that have been delayed and carried forward from the previous financial year.

ROADS PROGRAM		WALKWAYS / STREETSCAPE	
Gravel Roads – Resheeting Program	\$ 590,000	Kempton – Main Street (Southern End- 300m)	\$ 75,000
Sealed Roads – Resealing Program	\$ 300,000	Oatlands- Church Street- Design only (High Street to Esplanade)	\$ 10,000
Sealed Roads – Edge Breaks	\$ 200,000	Parattah- Streetscape (Stage 1)	\$ 50,000
Road Reconstruction Projects:		Tunnack – Streetscape (Yr 1 of 3)	\$ 100,000
Bagdad - Swan Street (700m)	\$ 160,000	RECREATION / COMMUNITY	
Tunbridge – Scott Street (3000m)	\$ 60,000	Facilities & Recreation Committee	\$ 40,000
Tunnack – Eldon Road (700m)	\$ 35,000	Building and Playground Improvements	\$ 100,000
Mangalore- Blackbrush Road (1.3km)	\$ 195,000	Campania—Flour Mill Park (Redevelopment)	\$ 68,000
Rhyndaston – Rhyndaston Road (1.35km)	\$ 202,500	Colebrook – Hall (Windows, Ramps, Doors)	\$ 10,000
Junctions / Road Realignment / Other:		Kempton – Carriage Shed (Repairs & Repainting)	\$ 11,700
Mt Seymour – Blackgate Road (Minor Seal – New 500m)	\$ 60,000	Oatlands Aquatic Centre (Learn to Swim Equipment)	\$ 2,000
Campania – Reeve Street (Reconstruct Retaining wall- union St to Lee St)	\$ 40,000	Oatlands– Aquatic Centre (Pumps, Seating & gym Equipment upgrade)	\$ 19,000
Colebrook- Coalmine Bend Road (Redirect Drainage from Train Line)	\$ 25,000	Runnymede - Recreation Ground (Pitch Renewal)	\$ 8,000
Oatlands – High Street (Traffic Islands)	\$ 45,940	Tunnack – Recreation Ground (Kiosk Removal and Toilet Block Painting)	\$ 12,000

NOTE: For a full listing of the 2025/26 Capital Expenditure Program Budget & Projects please go to:

www.southernmidlands.tas.gov.au/annual-plan-budgets/



The Southern Midlands of Tasmania is where a blend of good old fashioned values and modern ideas co-exist.
The Southern Midlands Council is a rural local government authority with approximately 3800 ratable properties and 6000 persons scattered throughout the districts.

Towns & localities include *Mangalore, Pontville, Bagdad, Broadmarsh, Elderslie, Dysart, Kempton, Melton Mowbray, Oatlands, Tunbridge, Tunnack, Parattah, Mt Seymour, Woodsdale, Levendale, Runnymede, Colebrook, Campania & Rekuna.*

CONTACT US

OATLANDS OFFICE 71 High Street, Oatlands 7120

General Managers Unit; Corporate Services, Infrastructure & Works,
Natural Resource Management, Heritage Projects.

Customer Service Opening Hours:

Monday to Friday - 9.00 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.

Phone: 03 6254 5000 (Mon-Fri 8.30am - 5.00pm)

Fax: 03 6254 5014

Email: mail@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au

Web: www.southernmidlands.tas.gov.au

KEMPTON OFFICE 85 Main Street, Kempton 7030

Development & Environmental Services and
Community & Corporate Development

Customer Service Opening Hours:

Monday to Friday - 9.00 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.

Phone: 03 6254 5050

Fax: 03 6254 5014

Email: mail@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au

Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary

345 Chauncy Vale Road, Bagdad

Phone: 03 6254 5050

Web: www.chauncyvale.com

Email: mail@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au

OATLANDS AQUATIC CENTRE 70 High Street Oatlands

Phone: 6254 5024

Email: oac@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au

Opening Hours:

Monday—Friday 7.00 a.m.—7.00 p.m.

Sat 9.00 a.m.—5.00 p.m. Sunday 10.00 a.m.—5.00 p.m.

WASTE TRANSFER STATION OPENING HOURS

OATLANDS

WASTE TRANSFER STATION

Inglewood Road, Andover
(Via Tunnack Main Road, Oatlands)

Tuesday 8.00 am - 12.00 noon
Friday 11.00 am - 3.00 pm
Saturday 8.00 am - 12.00 noon
Sunday 1.00 pm - 5.00 pm

CAMPANIA

WASTE TRANSFER STATION

Brown Mountain Road, Campania

Tuesday 1.00 pm - 5.00 pm
Thursday 1.00 pm - 5.00 pm
Saturday 1.00 pm - 5.00 pm
Sunday 8.00 am - 12.00 pm

DYSART

WASTE TRANSFER STATION

Huntingdon Tier Road, Dysart

Tuesday 1.00 pm - 5.00 pm
Saturday 1.00 pm - 5.00 pm
Sunday 1.00 pm - 5.00 pm

Service Tasmania

71 High Street, Oatlands

Phone 1300 13 55 13

Monday to Friday 11.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.

COUNCILLORS

Mayor & Councillor enquiries can be directed to
Jemma Crosswell (Executive Assistant) - 6254 5004
or via contact details below

Mayor Edwin Batt	0400 009 471	ebatt@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au
Deputy Mayor Karen Dudgeon	0428 361 807	kdudgeon@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au
Cllr Tony Bisdee OAM	0418 355 158	abisdee@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au
Cllr Robert (Bob) Campbell	03 6255 5293	rcampbell@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au
Cllr Don Fish	03 6255 5157	dfish@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au
Cllr Donna Blackwell	0408 146 754	dblackwell@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au
Cllr Fraser Miller	0497 611 777	fmiller@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au

AFTER HOURS

Council emergencies
please phone

0419 325 405

For all after hours
Water & Sewerage TasWater
emergencies
please phone **136 992**

For all after hours
Tasmanian Gas Pipeline
emergencies
please phone **1800 195 666**

For all road issues relating to
the **Midland Highway,**
Mudwalls Road or Tunnack
Main Road please phone
Dept. of State Growth
on **1300 139 933**