



Newsletter

ISSUE 2 | August 2026

From the Mayor's Desk

The composition of the Southern Midlands Council is set to change with Local Government elections to be held this October. I wish all the candidates well. A new council should be able build on a great set of finance numbers. Responsible financial management has underpinned our last four years. Great credit must be given to Tim Kirkwood - General Manager, and his team, in delivering underlying surpluses of \$135k, \$89k, \$275k over the last three years. Council has \$16.1m in cash and investments and no debt. So there is a very steady basis for going forward after the elections.

Recently, the Heritage and Bullock Festival was held in Oatlands. It has been reported some 8000 people attended over the two days. The streets were buzzing! There was a wonderful atmosphere right across the town.

I was so proud of our council staff and all the volunteers, committee members, exhibitors, stallholders, performers, community groups, sponsors and supporters who made this possible. The warmth and welcome shown to our visitors was just terrific.



Photo by Jenny Petersen

Whilst council has 814 kilometres of its own roads to care for and make safe, some roads within the municipality are beyond our jurisdiction, particularly the Midlands Highway. Despite this, council has consistently battled the State Government to make safer the Mood Food section of the highway at Kempton. At last there has been a pleasing development.

Council has received advice from Building Tasmania's Transport Group which confirms that the

speed limit on a 630-metre section of the Midland Highway covering the Mood Food service station in Kempton will be changed from 110 km/h to a safer 90 km/h.

This news is extremely welcome as the reduced speed limit will help reduce the risk of crashes and give road users more time to react to oncoming traffic or traffic turning in and out of the Mood Food service station.

This section of the Highway has a terrible crash history over numerous years and whilst this is not the ultimate solution, it is hoped that will see a dramatic reduction in the number of crashes and also the severity of these crashes.

The new speed limit will come into effect once the new speed limit signs have been installed, which is expected to be Monday 17 August 2026.

The sting in the tail for my last contribution to this newsletter is to report on a 5% rate increase. It is a moderate rise in the context of some councils reporting rises twice as steep and lower than the CPI increase. This will provide council with an operating budget of approximately \$16million, a third of which ratepayers will be pleased to know is expended on the maintenance and renewal of our roads and bridges.

Clr E Batt, Mayor



Household Hazardous Waste Collection

taswastesouth.tas.gov.au/hmw

Safely dispose of
unwanted flammable, toxic
or corrosive chemicals at
our **free drop-off days!**

Oatlands Recreation Ground, High Street, Oatlands
Saturday, 12 September 9am – 11.30am

Central Highlands Council Bothwell Depot,
Alexander Street, Bothwell
Saturday, 12 September 1pm – 3.30pm



TasWaste South is supported
by the Tasmanian Waste and
Resource Recovery Board,
which is funded by the
Tasmanian Government.



TasWaste
South

Local Government Elections 2026

Passionate about your community and ready to make a difference?

Local government elections are happening this October across all 29 Tasmanian councils.

If you're considering nominating for councillor, mayor or deputy mayor, now is the perfect time to learn what's involved.

The Local Government Association of Tasmania has released a Candidate Handbook covering eligibility, the nomination process and campaigning. It's a great place to start.

Download it from the LGAT website: <https://www.lgat.tas.gov.au/council-elections>

Election Timetable - Key Dates:

Notice of Elections	5 th September 2026
Candidate Nominations Open	7 th September 2026
Candidate Nominations Close	21 st September 2026
Nomination Period	7 th – 21 st September 2026
Polling Period (at least)	5 th – 27 th October 2026
Closing Day	27 th October 2026

Local Government Elections Enrolment

Two ways to enrol

To vote in a local government election, you must be correctly enrolled on the state roll *or* on a general manager's roll in our municipal (local government) area.

Rolls will close at 6 p.m. Thursday 10 September 2026.

The state roll

If you are currently on the electoral roll for state and federal elections you are automatically enrolled to vote in a local government election, in the municipal area in which your enrolled address is located.

Voting in local government elections is compulsory and you must be enrolled if you are an Australian citizen who is 18 years or older.

Enrolment on the state roll is managed by the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC). Visit the AEC website if you need to enrol to vote. You can also check you enrolment online and update your details. If you need an enrolment form mailed to you, phone on free call **1800 801 701**.

Your enrolment form or updated details must be received **before the close of rolls for an election or poll**.

General Managers' rolls

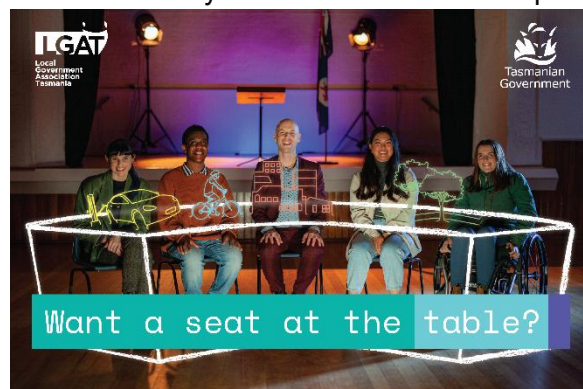
Each local council maintains a list of people who are eligible to vote even if they don't live in that municipal area. You may be eligible to be on a general manager's roll if:

- you own or occupy land in a municipal area different from where you are enrolled on the state electoral roll, or
- you are the nominated representative of a corporate body which owns or occupies land in the municipal area.

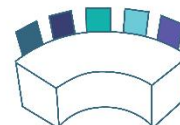
To enrol under these special provisions, you need to complete the appropriate enrolment form and return it to the general manager of the relevant council:

- [Local government enrolment form for owner/occupiers](#), or
- [Local government enrolment form for corporate bodies](#)

To be enrolled under these special provisions you need to ensure that the general manager for the council in which you are enrolling has your completed enrolment form **before the close of rolls for an election or poll**.



RUN FOR YOUR
LOCAL COUNCIL



Council's Food Business Renewal Process 2026–27

Over the past few months, Council's Environmental Health Team has been hard at work overseeing food safety across the community, with the annual food business registration renewal process for 2026–27 now well underway.

Businesses selling food in Tasmania are required under the *Food Act 2003* to notify their local Council of key business details. This includes the name, address and contact information of the person responsible for the food business, the types of food handled and sold, and the level of food safety training completed by staff. These details help ensure appropriate measures are in place to maintain food safety standards, minimise contamination risks, and reduce the likelihood of food-borne illness.

Once an application is received and assessed — and the risk-based category fee is paid — Council's Environmental Health Officer issues a Certificate of Registration of a Food Business. This process typically includes an inspection of the premises to confirm it meets the requirements of the Australia/New Zealand Food Standards Code. The inspection also helps clarify the level of food preparation planned, ensuring the correct risk category (low, medium or high) is applied and the appropriate annual fee is charged.

Most food businesses are required to renew their registration each year, with renewal forms issued at the end of every financial year. However, businesses assessed as handling or selling lower-risk foods may only require a once-off notification and fee. For example, businesses selling foods that do not require refrigeration, heating, cooling or further handling may receive a one-time notification letter with no ongoing annual renewal obligations.



Council's Environmental Health Team is now busy processing renewal applications and issuing Certificates of Registration for 2026–27. Keeping these records up to date supports effective communication, efficient inspections, and strong professional relationships with food business operators — all contributing to the ongoing provision of safe and suitable food across the community.

For more information about food business application forms, food safety requirements or Council's new Food Safety Policy, visit Council's website:

<https://www.southernmidlands.tas.gov.au/food-businesses/>

It's rosette time!

If you haven't already done so, now is the time to get stuck into the rosette weeds: Patterson's curse, thistles, capeweed, storksbill, bristly ox-tongue, great mullein, wild mignonette, brassicas, and so on. Once they get a hold, all of the above weeds spread out horizontally, smothering other vegetation. Most of the above then send up tall flowering spikes over spring and summer, and the very best time to control them is when they are small and easy to spray with a selective broad-leaf herbicide. If you don't have many in your garden, all of the above are also very easy to remove manually (when small!). Try a good fork-end weeder and you'll never look back.

A word of caution though, regarding the perennial Californian thistle. Unlike all the other thistles in Tasmania, this one needs spraying (around November and again in March to mop up any regrowth). I get better results with a Clopyralid herbicide, rather than the Dicamba/MCPA mix which usually takes care of other thistles. Always use appropriate personal protection and include a wetting agent + dye in your herbicide mix.

And of course the spring weather means better success spraying woody weeds such as boneseed, Spanish heath, brooms, gorse, African boxthorn, blackberry, hawthorn, briar rose etc. Be sure to control any horehound in your paddocks too...

Keep up the good work!

Mary Smyth, SMC P/T Weeds Officer.



Don't let this young scotch thistle... Turn into this!!!

Rates Information 2026/2027

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 2026, 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/

2026/2027 Budget

The key features of the 2026/27 Budget estimates are:

- Total estimated operating revenue of \$15.581 million
- Total estimated operating expenditure of \$16.069 million
- Total estimated depreciation and asset write off of \$5.040 million
- Estimated net operating deficit of \$489K in comparison to the Long Term Financial Management Plan deficit of \$683K
- Total estimated capital expenditure of \$6.886 million (excluding carry forward amounts unspent)
- Total estimated capital grant funding of \$1.265 million
- Total estimated asset sales of \$775K
- New borrowings – \$530K
- Cash Reserves are forecast to increase by \$235K
- Increase in total Rates collected of \$417K – the total increase includes an increase in Waste Management Program charges (i.e. Waste Management Levy and Household Collection Charge) of \$72,000, the Fire Service Levy \$10,000, and the balance of \$336,000 resulting from a 5.0% increase in the total General Rates demanded after allowance for growth in the Rate base.

CAPITAL BUDGET PROJECTS – 2026/2027

Council has allocated a total of \$6,885,678 million in Capital Works for the 2026/27 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	\$ 800,000	Oatlands- Church Street - High Street to Esplanade	\$ 30,000
Sealed Roads – Resealing Program	\$ 450,000	Parattah - Streetscape (Stage 2)	\$ 50,000
Sealed Roads – Edge Breaks	\$ 200,000	Tunnack – Streetscape (Yr 2 of 3)	\$ 50,000
Unsealed Roads – Shouldering Program	\$ 300,000	STORMWATER / DRAINAGE	
Road Reconstruction Projects		Kempton – Erskine Street	\$ 24,000
Various Roads (as per Condition Assessment Report)	\$ 394,500	Oatlands – Queen Anne Street	\$ 30,000
Woodsdale Road (0.5kms)	\$ 1000,000	RECREATION / COMMUNITY	
Mangalore- Blackbrush Road (1.0 km)	\$ 200,000	Facilities & Recreation Committee	\$ 40,000
Rhyndaston Road (1.35 kmls)	\$ 220,000	Building and Playground Improvements	\$ 100,000
Bridge Assets		Campania – Flour Mill Park (Redevelopment)	\$ 40,000
Elderslie – Royden Road (Abutment & Foundation)	\$ 176,000	Kempton Rec Ground – Playground Development etc. (funded over 2 years)	\$ 200,000
Campania – Estate Road (Abutment & Foundation)	\$ 176,000	Levendale Park (ex School) – Playground Development	\$ 20,000
Lovely Banks Road (Culvert Extension)	\$ 30,000	Bagdad – Chauncy Vale Reserve (Walking Track improvements)	\$ 28,660
Junctions / Road Realignment / Other:		Oatlands – Lake Dulverton Foreshore / Waling Track	\$ 18,000
Campania – Car Park	\$ 13,000	Oatlands Aquatic Centre (Learn to Swim Equipment)	\$ 9,500
Kempton – Footpath Renewal	\$ 10,000	Oatlands– Aquatic Centre (Pumps, Seating & gym Equipment upgrade)	\$ 21,800
Footpaths – General	\$ 50,000	Kempton – Child Care Facility (funded over 2 years)	\$ 65,000
Oatlands – High Street	\$ 40,000		

Dog Registrations - Renewals Now Due for 2026-27

All dog owners are advised that the new dog registration year commenced on 1 July 2026.

Dog registrations are now due. Please ensure your dog's registration is renewed promptly to avoid an infringement notice.

Current fees are:

1. Dog desexed - \$42
 2. Dog non-desexed - \$55
 3. Working Dog - \$42
 4. Greyhound / Purebred Dog for breeding - \$42
- (Certification required from the Tas Canine Assoc. or Greyhound Racing Tasmania)

Council officers will be conducting property inspections over the coming weeks to identify unregistered dogs. Failure to register your dog may result in an infringement notice being issued. Please contact Council if you require assistance with your dog registration.



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 4200 rateable properties and 6700 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	For all after hours Water & Sewerage TasWater emergencies please phone 136 992
Deputy Mayor Karen Dudgeon	0428 361 807	kdudgeon@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au	
Clr Tony Bisdee OAM	0418 355 158	abisdee@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au	For all after hours Tasmanian Gas Pipeline emergencies please phone 1800 195 666
Clr Robert (Bob) Campbell	03 6255 5293	rcampbell@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au	
Clr Don Fish	03 6255 5157	dfish@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au	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
Clr Donna Blackwell	0408 146 754	dblackwell@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au	
Clr Fraser Miller	0497 611 777	fmiller@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au	

AFTER HOURS

Council emergencies
please phone
0419 325 405