



SOUTHERN  
MIDLANDS  
COUNCIL



# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2011-12



## Southern Midlands Council

### Our Vision

The following vision for the Southern Midlands municipal area was developed by Councillors on the basis of the information and advice provided at community meetings.

- A community spirit based on friendliness, co-operation and self help;
- An environment which encourages local creativity, enterprise and self help;
- A diversified local economy creating employment opportunities through sustainable agriculture, heritage tourism, forestry, and viable historic towns/service centres;
- Development based on the proper management of local resources and the physical environment;
- A range and standard of services within the Southern Midlands which meet local needs and are affordable and efficient.

### Our Mission

The Mission for the corporation of Council identifies the roles and purpose of the Council. The mission was developed by Councillors and senior staff.

The Council in partnership with the community will:

- Work for the benefit of the community;
- Be forward looking and provide leadership;
- Operate as a team of Councillors and staff focused upon performance;
- Be financially responsible.

### Our Guiding Principles

The following principles or philosophies represent the beliefs and values which will guide the culture of the organisation and underpin its work towards achieving the vision and mission. Council and staff will:

- Consult and listen to our customers and employees by maintaining open communication;
- Treat people with respect and courtesy;
- Give advice to the best of our professional ability;
- Be sensitive to the needs of residents;
- Respond promptly to customers concerns and requests;
- Be fair, equitable and consistent in decisions and conduct;
- Fully utilise the expertise and resources available to Council within the organisation and the community;
- Develop the full potential of Councillors and staff;
- Operate in accordance with the "Code of Conduct" adopted by Council.

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## **Introduction**

### **The Year in Review – Mayor Anthony E Bisdee OAM**

The 2011-12 period has been another progressive year for the Southern Midlands Council.

It is very appropriate that this, being the “Year of the Farmer”, has seen construction commence on the largest ever Tasmanian Irrigation Scheme for the midlands. It is to be completed by the end of 2013. This major project will be of immense importance to the expansion of agriculture in the Southern Midlands. The scheme will provide surety of water for many of our cropping enterprises, and will enable expansion into ‘higher value’ cropping activities. I also firmly believe that new agricultural enterprises such as dairying or viticulture will develop providing significant employment opportunities in the future.

Another major project has been the construction of the Brighton / Pontville Bypass with a total estimated cost of \$191 million. Whilst not specifically in the Southern Midlands Council area, when completed it will allow commuters from within the Southern Midlands to enjoy a shorter and safer trip through to Hobart and return.

Both the Southern Midlands and Brighton Councils continue to lobby the Federal and State Governments in relation to the need to extend the bypass through to Dysart as a matter of priority. This again is critical infrastructure which would enhance the safety of motorists and mean that heavy freight vehicles travel along a ‘national highway’, as opposed to travelling through what is essentially a rural residential environment where an unacceptable number of fatalities have occurred.

Whilst the State and Federal Governments have yet to announce their forward infrastructure program(s), it will obviously depend upon the availability of funding from both levels of government. We will continue to vigorously pursue this much needed project.

At the time of writing, it is also pleasing to note that the reconstruction and widening of a section of the Colebrook Road (Mudwalls Road) has been progressed by the Tasmanian Government. When completed, it will be of great benefit not only to the local community, but to all the commuters using this very important link road. We look forward to completion of this stage, and thank the State Government for the commitment of funding to date.

### **Introduction**

## **The Year in Review – Mayor Anthony E Bisdee OAM**

In relation to local projects, the Southern Midlands Council has expended and committed significant amounts of funding to its 'Roads and Bridges Program'. These include:

- Construction of a new bridge over the Jordan River at Broadmarsh - the largest ever concrete bridge built by Council. The new bridge will replace the old wooden bridge which has reached the end of its useful life and will be demolished. Due for completion in October 2012;
- Reconstruction and sealing of the Huntingdon Tier Road (off Cliftonvale Road) to the entry to the Dysart Waste Transfer Station;
- Reconstruction and sealing of Union Street, Campania; and
- Gravel Roads – gravel re-sheeting program at a total cost of approx. \$440,000.00.

Funds have also been allocated to upgrading (and maintaining) Council owned buildings. One major project, which was partly funded by grants received from the Australian and Tasmanian Government, was the extension and upgrade to the Oatlands Memorial Library building (now called the Midlands Memorial Community House). This has provided MILE Inc. with permanent offices and meeting rooms for its vast range of activities and outreach programs; and the Bargain Centre (which operates from within the old library section) now has a permanent home.

Council also secured ownership of a building at Colebrook which accommodates the Colebrook Online Access Centre. Ownership was transferred from the State Government at minimal cost, albeit under certain terms and conditions. Again, this secures a premises for the Access Centre which provides a valuable service to the community on a voluntary basis.

The Campania Community Hall also received a 'face lift' to coincide with its 100 years celebration. External painting was completed, with the exception of the roof, which was deferred pending improvements in the weather. It was certainly my pleasure to attend the Dinner held to celebrate the Hall's Centenary, and the Secretary (Mrs Jean Howlett) and the whole committee are to be commended for a most enjoyable and successful event.

In terms of other infrastructure projects, they include:

- Construction of a bike jump track at Flour Mill Park, Campania - for the young enthusiastic ones. This being the second track built by Council (first at Kempton) as they are proving to be very popular with the young members of our communities. It is very pleasing to see these facilities being used and enjoyed.



### Introduction

#### The Year in Review – Mayor Anthony E Bisdee OAM

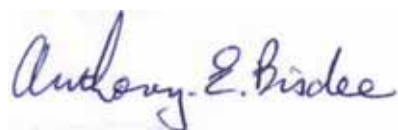
- Stormwater system upgrades and extensions – e.g. Franklin Street, Colebrook and Louisa Street, Kempton.
- Gaolers Residence, Oatlands - major restoration program which will be completed next year. The area around the old gaol site has been excavated and displayed for the public to explore and appreciate.
- ‘Commissariat’ building at 77 High Street, Oatlands - purchased by Council recognising the heritage significance of this property. Council is to seek grant funding to restore/conservate this property.

Overall, our heritage program continues to attract a considerable amount of publicity. A highly successful ‘archaeology dig’ was organised by Council’s Manager – Heritage Projects (Brad Williams), with a group of archaeology students attending from throughout Australia. The ‘dig’ was concluded with an open day which attracted many visitors to Oatlands.

I am also extremely pleased to report that the History Book entitled ‘The Southern Midlands – A History’ was completed and published in the latter part of the reporting period. The Author, Dr Alison Alexander, is to be congratulated for producing such a well researched and quality history book. It is most gratifying to see our rich history and stories of past pioneers recorded in such a comprehensive manner. The book is to be officially launched in October 2012.

In conclusion I wish to acknowledge the employees of the Southern Midlands Council for their hard work and commitment to providing a high quality service to the ratepayers and residents of the Southern Midlands Council. The General Manager, Tim Kirkwood, and staff at both the Kempton and Oatlands Offices are dedicated to providing an efficient and responsive service.

On behalf of myself and wife Sue, my fellow Councillors and all the staff of the Southern Midlands Council I extend to everyone the compliments of the season and wish you a happy and safe Christmas and a prosperous New Year.



Clr Tony Bisdee OAM  
Mayor

## Overview

### General Manager – Tim Kirkwood



This Annual Report is one of four major documents produced by Council each year to ensure public accountability. They are the:

- Strategic Plan;
- Annual Operational Plan;
- Annual Budget; and
- Annual Report and Financial Statement.

All of these documents are available to the public.

The *Local Government Act 1993* requires Council to provide a summary of the Operational Plan for the year including performance in respect of targets set for the period.

The following section of the Annual Report details the key achievements during the 2011-12 reporting period.

The format of the Annual Report is consistent with the respective Strategic Themes contained in Council's Strategic Plan:

- Infrastructure
- Growth
- Landscapes
- Lifestyle
- Community; and
- Organisation.

As mentioned in previous reports, whilst preparation of the Annual Report can be a time consuming exercise, it is highly gratifying to document the achievements that have been made during the reporting period.

The need for local government reform has again been raised during the course of the year. This discussion is closely associated with issues around the long-term sustainability and financial viability of Councils. Whilst this is a matter that local government has always been prepared to address, evidenced through the investigation conducted by the Southern Tasmanian Council's Association entitled 'Independent Review of Structures for Local Governance & Service Delivery in Southern Tasmania'; and the Local Government Association of Tasmania's 'Local Government Financial and Asset Reform Project', it will no doubt be an ongoing issue.



## Overview

### General Manager – Tim Kirkwood

In relation to the latter project being coordinated by the LGAT, this has been an ideal project to assist Council progress with the preparation of Asset Management Plans (AMP's) for all key asset types, with significant progress being made during the reporting period. The financial projections resulting from these AMP's, will then be incorporated into the Long Term Financial Management Strategy and provide a clear understanding of Council's financial position, including its ability to manage assets on a sustainable basis. These documents will be finalised during the 2012/13 financial year, acknowledging the need for regular review and update.

I take this opportunity to thank the Mayor and Councillors for their support during the year and I wish to acknowledge and express my appreciation to all employees for their commitment, dedication and assistance which has been provided in a professional, efficient and timely manner.






Tim Kirkwood  
General Manager

## Council Committee Structure

THE COUNCILLORS	Council & Committee Membership
 <p><b>Mayor Tony E Bisdee OAM</b> "Kelstock" Melton Mowbray Ph. 62 591 128</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Council</li> <li>◆ Australia Day Awards (Chair)</li> <li>◆ Callington Mill Steering Committee (Chair)</li> <li>◆ Enterprise Bargaining / Award Consultative Committee (Chair)</li> <li>◆ Little Swanport Water Management Plan Committee (Proxy)</li> <li>◆ Southern Tasmania Council Association</li> <li>◆ Southern Tasmania Weeds Strategy Steering Committee (Chair)</li> <li>◆ Tunnack Recreation Ground Management Committee (Chair)</li> <li>◆ Southern Tasmania Water &amp; Sewerage Corporation – Owners Representatives Committee (proxy)</li> </ul>
 <p><b>Deputy Mayor John L Jones OAM (November 2011)</b> <b>Clr J L Jones OAM (November 2011 onwards)</b></p> <p>"Grangeside House" 27 Main Road Kempton Ph. 62 591 223</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Council</li> <li>◆ Australia Day Awards (Proxy until Nov 2011)</li> <li>◆ Blue Place Management Committee (Proxy)</li> <li>◆ Enterprise Bargaining / Award Consultative Committee (Proxy until Nov 2011)</li> <li>◆ Jordan Area Fire Management Committee (Proxy)</li> <li>◆ Oatlands Recreation Ground Management Committee (Proxy until Nov 2011)</li> <li>◆ Southern Midlands Heritage Project Steering Committee</li> <li>◆ Southern Midlands Facilities &amp; Recreation Committee (Proxy)</li> <li>◆ Southern Tasmania Council Association (Proxy until Nov 2011)</li> <li>◆ Southern Waste Strategy Authority (Proxy)</li> <li>◆ Oatlands Court House/ Gaol Working Group</li> </ul>

## Council Committee Structure

 <p><b>Clr. A R (Tony) Bantick</b> 19 East Bagdad Road Bagdad Ph. 62 686 277</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Council</li> <li>◆ Jordan Area Fire Management Committee</li> <li>◆ Chauncy Vale Management Committee (Proxy)</li> </ul>
 <p><b>Clr. Colin J. Beven</b> Hall Street Campania Ph. 62 604 157</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Council</li> <li>◆ Campania Halls Management Committee</li> <li>◆ Campania Recreation Ground Management Committee (Chair)</li> <li>◆ Colebrook Hall Committee (Chair)</li> <li>◆ Parattah Railway Restoration Management Committee (Proxy)</li> <li>◆ Southern Midlands Recreation Committee (Chair)</li> </ul>
 <p><b>Clr Bob Campbell</b> Inglewood Road, Andover Ph. 62 555 232</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Council</li> <li>◆ Heritage Centre Management Committee (Proxy)</li> <li>◆ Little Swanport Catchment Committee (Proxy)</li> <li>◆ New Pool Project Steering Committee (Proxy)</li> <li>◆ Parattah Progress Association (Proxy)</li> <li>◆ Oatlands Community Hall Management Committee (Proxy)</li> <li>◆ Woodsdale Hall Management Committee (Proxy from November 2011)</li> </ul>
 <p><b>Clr Marie J. Connors</b> 5 Erskine Street Kempton Ph. 62 593 095</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Council</li> <li>◆ Community Advisory Committee (MMPHC) – (Proxy until November 2011)</li> <li>◆ Southern Midlands Heritage Project Steering Committee (Proxy)</li> <li>◆ Southern Midlands Facilities &amp; Recreation Committee</li> <li>◆ Tunnack Recreation Ground Management Committee</li> </ul>

## Council Committee Structure



**Clr Donald F. Fish**  
 "Ashgrove"  
 766 Inglewood Road Andover  
 Ph. 62 555 157

- ◆ Council
- ◆ Dulverton Area Fire Management Committee
- ◆ Lake Dulverton / Callington Park Management Committee (Chair)
- ◆ Oatlands Community Hall Management Committee
- ◆ Oatlands Recreation Ground Management Committee
- ◆ Parattah Progress Association
- ◆ Parattah Railway Restoration Management Committee
- ◆ Southern Midlands Facilities & Recreation Management Committee
- ◆ Municipal Disaster Management Committee (Emergency Management Planning Committee) (Proxy)
- ◆ Oatlands Community Men's Shed (Proxy)
- ◆ Little Swanport Catchment Committee – from Nov 2011
- ◆ Little Swanport Water Management Plan Committee – from Nov 2011



**Clr Alexander O. Green**  
 "Wattlebanks"  
 248 White Kangaroo Road  
 Campania  
 Ph. 62 604 153

- ◆ Council
- ◆ Campania Halls Management Committee (Proxy)
- ◆ Campania Recreation Ground Management Committee (Proxy)
- ◆ Chauncy Vale Management Committee (Chair)
- ◆ Colebrook Halls Committee (Proxy)
- ◆ Coal River Area Fire Management Committee (Proxy)
- ◆ Dulverton Area Fire Management Committee (Proxy)
- ◆ Heritage Centre Management Committee (Chair)
- ◆ Southern Waste Strategy Authority from November 2009

## Council Committee Structure



**Clr Mark Jones OAM until  
November 2011**

**Deputy Mayor Mark Jones  
OAM from November 2011**

74 Esplanade  
Oatlands  
Ph. 62 540 074

- ◆ Council
- ◆ Lake Dulverton / Callington Park Management Committee (Proxy)
- ◆ Municipal Disaster Management Committee (Emergency Management Planning Committee)
- ◆ New Pool Project Steering Committee
- ◆ Oatlands Community Men's Shed
- ◆ Australia Day Awards (Proxy from Nov 2011)
- ◆ Enterprise Bargaining / Award Consultative Committee (Proxy from Nov 2011)
- ◆ Oatlands Recreation Ground Management Committee (Proxy from Nov 2011)
- ◆ Southern Tasmania Council Association (Proxy from Nov 2011)
- ◆ Southern Midlands Facilities & Recreation Committee – from November 2011
- ◆ Woodsdale Hall Management Committee – from November 2011



**Clr H M Scott OAM – Retired  
November 2011**

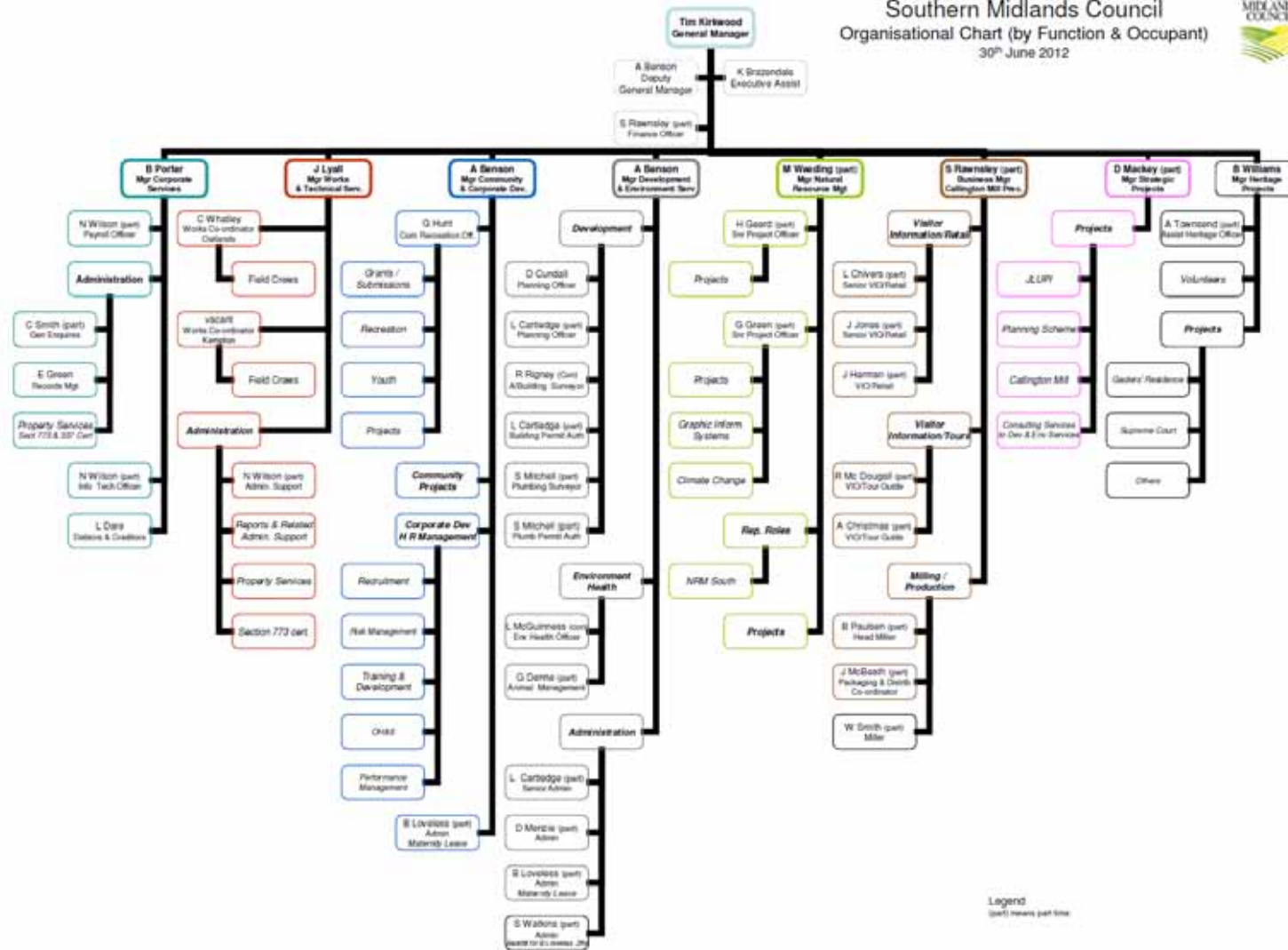
2476 Woodsdale Road  
Woodsdale  
Ph. 62 546 153

- ◆ Council
- ◆ Community Advisory Committee (MMPHC)
- ◆ Little Swanport Catchment Committee
- ◆ Little Swanport Water Management Plan Committee
- ◆ Oatlands Community Hall Management Committee (Proxy)
- ◆ Southern Midlands Recreation Committee Recreation Ground Management Committee (Proxy)
- ◆ Woodsdale Hall Management Committee

# Annual Report 2011-2012



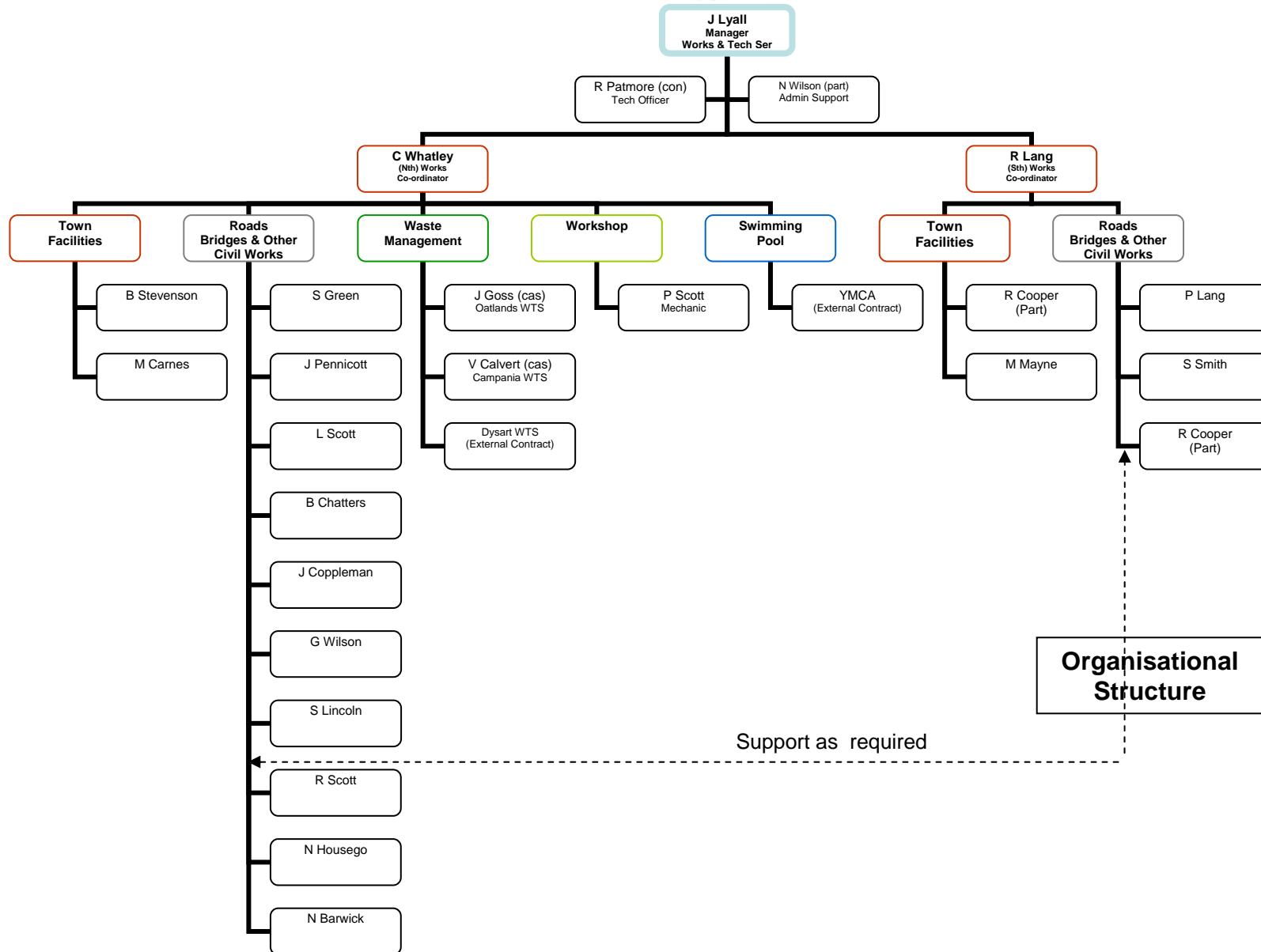
## Southern Midlands Council Organisational Chart (by Function & Occupant) 30<sup>th</sup> June 2012



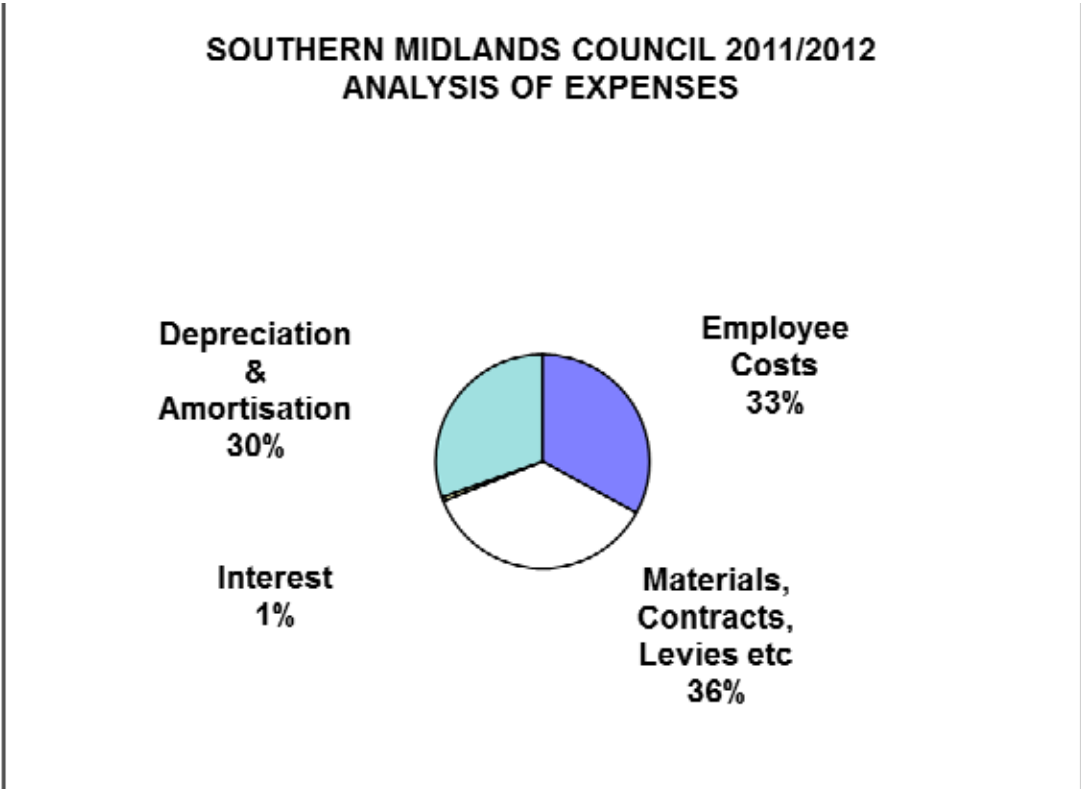
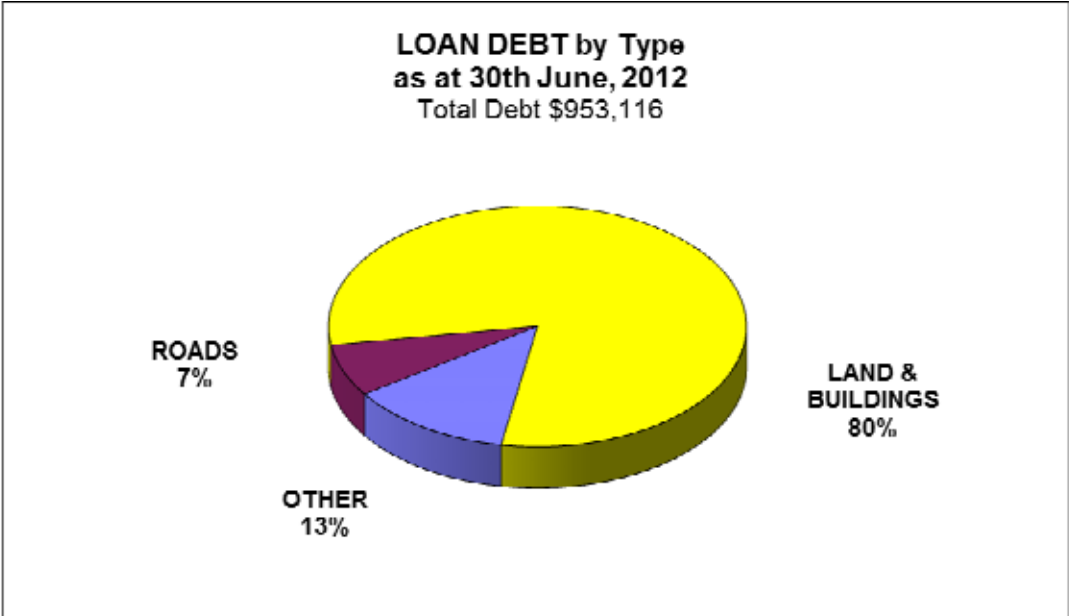




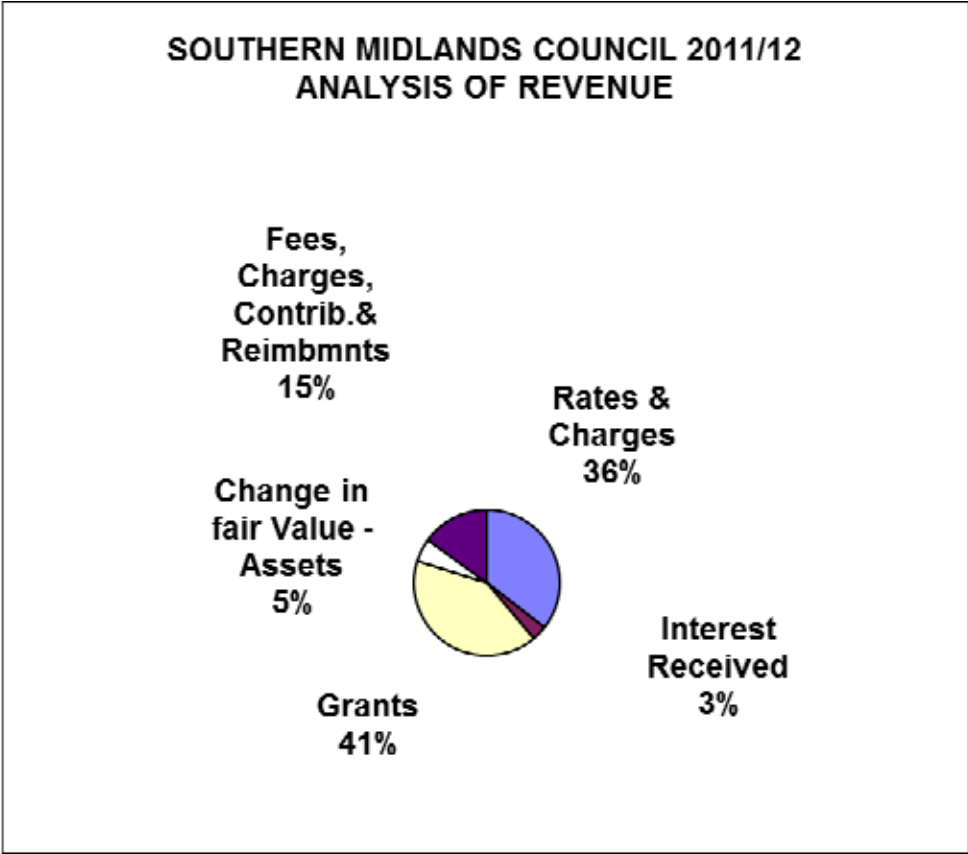
# Annual Report 2011-2012



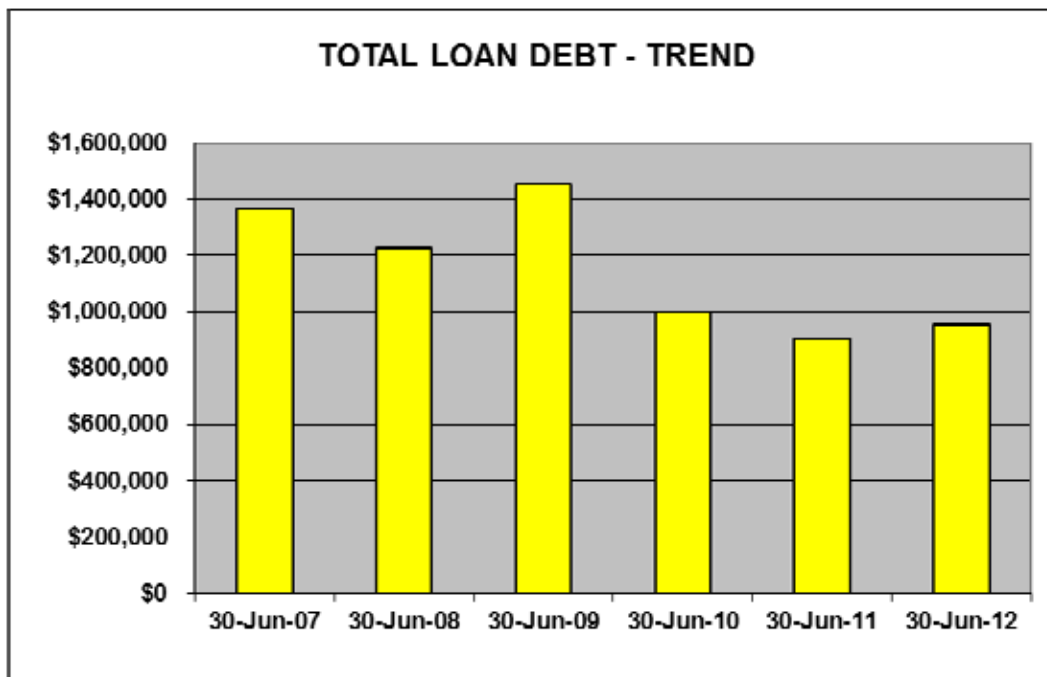
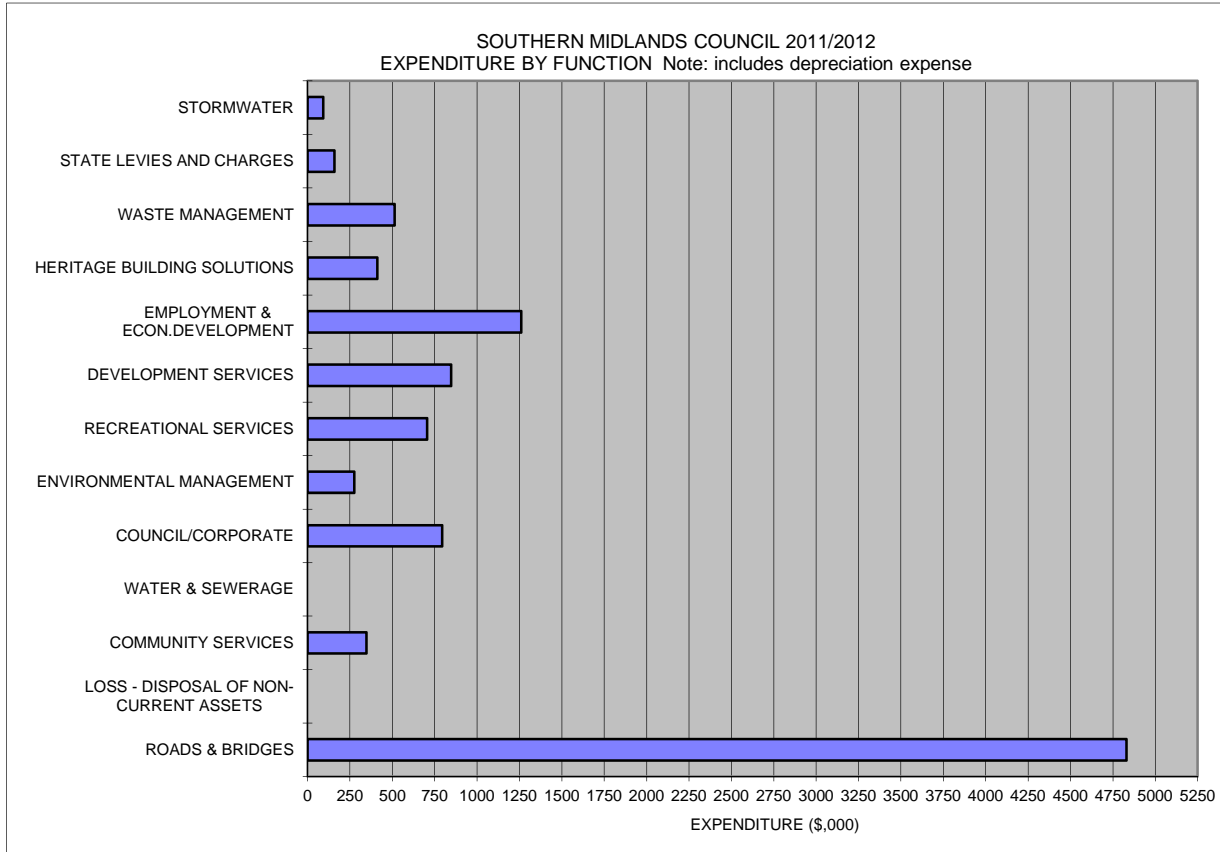
## Statistics



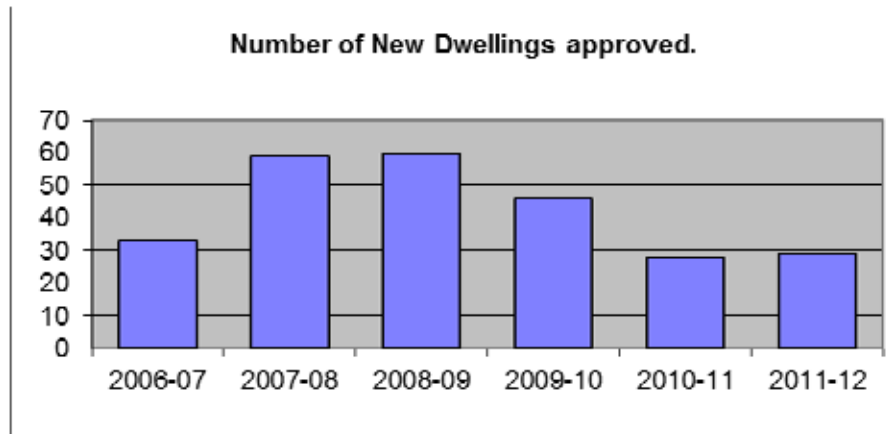
# Statistics



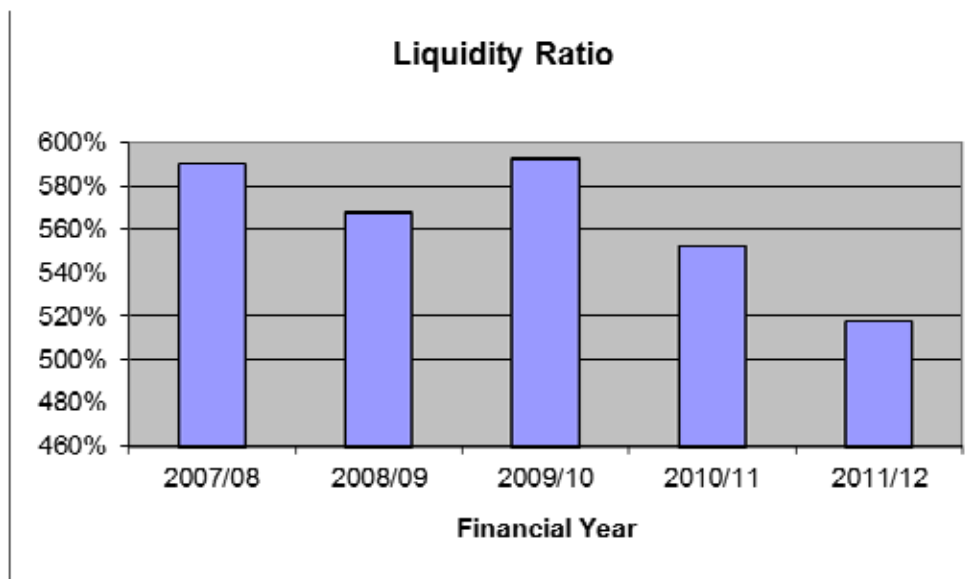
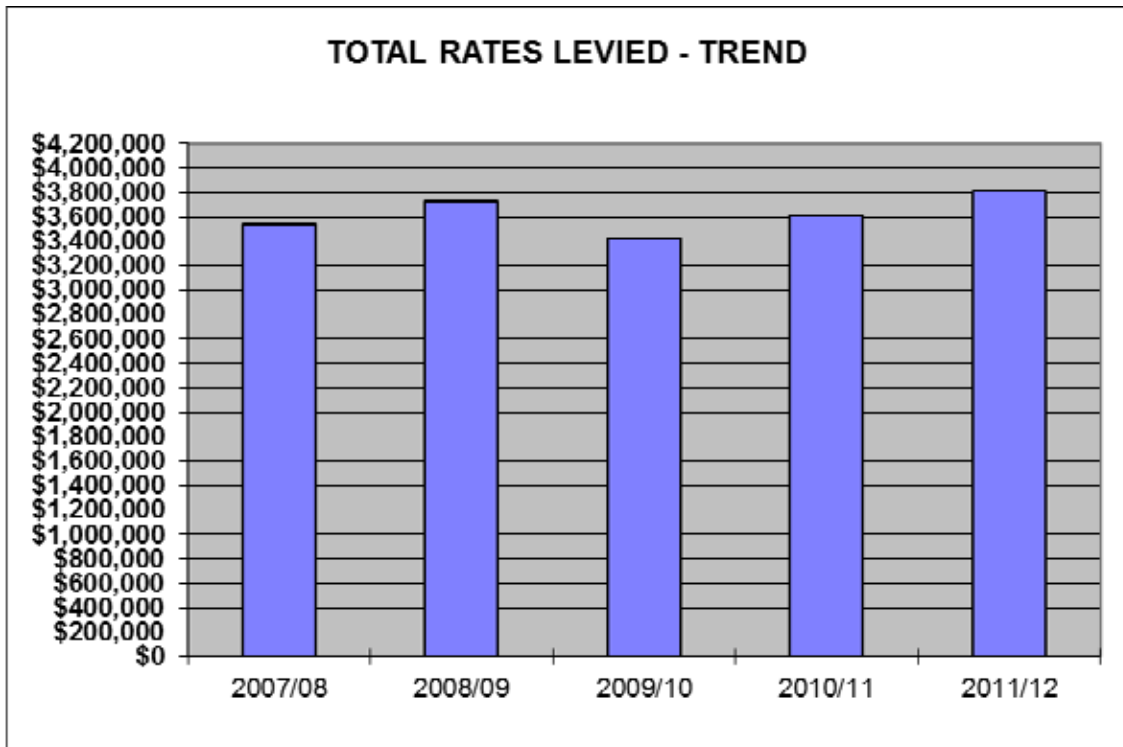
# Statistics



## Statistics



## Statistics





## Reporting on the 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

### STRATEGIC THEME: INFRASTRUCTURE

### 2011-12 Achievements

#### 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

#### Roads

#### *What are we aiming to achieve over the five year period*

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

#### **Key actions:**

- Continue to seek opportunities to increase funding for road maintenance and construction from Commonwealth and State Governments.
- Seek new, cost effective sources of road materials suitable for road maintenance.
- Continue to work with the Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources to improve the safety of the Midland Highway.
- Continue to focus on road drainage and road widening as key elements of road maintenance.
- Ensure that appropriate sight distances are maintained for key transport routes, through effective roadside vegetation management / road realignment.
- Continue a program of regular safety audits of roads.
- In partnership with the State Government examine the issue of reserved roads and their impact on fire and weed management.
- In partnership with the community and the State Government, undertake highway beautification works, noise attenuation mounding and the development of a walkway path, for the township of Kempton.
- Continue to work with the Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources to improve the safety of junctions with State maintained roads.

*The total road length for the municipal area is 803 kilometres, which are classified as following:*

- 30 klms – Urban Sealed
- 13 klms – Urban Unsealed
- 153 klms – Rural Sealed
- 607 klms – Rural Unsealed

*Approximately \$1,545,000 (excluding depreciation) was expended on the maintenance of roads within the municipal area.*

*Capital expenditure totaled \$1,075,000 which included:*

- \$439K on resheeting unsealed roads;
- \$414K on reconstruction and resealing roads – Brown Mountain Road, Stonor Road, Huntington Tier Road and Woodsdale Road.
- \$34K on road safety improvements, including corner realignments and installation of guard rails.

*Council continues to work with the Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources (DIER) to address a number of road safety issues, and undertake other initiatives aimed at improving both state and local road networks.*

*The Australian Government has legislated to extend the Roads to Recovery Program through to the end of 2018-19. This provides an additional annual grant that Council can utilise for road and bridge construction projects.*

## Reporting on the 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

### STRATEGIC THEME: INFRASTRUCTURE

### 2011-12 Achievements

#### 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

#### Bridges

#### *What are we aiming to achieve over the five year period*

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

#### **Key actions:**

- Continue the current program of bridge maintenance, including the monitoring and consideration of new construction methods for the replacement of timber bridges, including Council's desire to replace timber bridges with concrete bridges.

There are 152 bridges and major culverts within the municipal area, with a total deck area of 8,214 m<sup>2</sup>.

Approximately \$58,400 (excluding depreciation) was expended on the maintenance of bridges within the municipal area. This is a substantial reduction from the previous year, as last year's expenditure included considerable costs associated with the loss of three bridges due to flooding and the need to construct temporary crossings.

A total of \$339,000 was expended on capital renewals, which included:

- Levendale Back Road Bridge - \$56,900
- Eddington Road (Bagdad Rivulet) Bridge - \$86,150
- Inglewood Road (2 Bridges) – total of \$80,900
- Mosquito Valley Road Bridge - \$19,100
- White Kangaroo Road Bridge - \$57,500

The Southern Midlands Council continues to engage AusSpan to undertake six-monthly inspections of all its bridge assets on an ongoing basis. These inspections provide Council with forward maintenance and capital works programs on a priority basis.

## Reporting on the 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

### STRATEGIC THEME: INFRASTRUCTURE

### 2011-12 Achievements

#### 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

#### Walkways & Trails

#### ***What are we aiming to achieve over the five year period***

Maintenance and improvement of the standard and safety of walkways and pedestrian areas.

#### **Key actions:**

- Prepare a forward capital upgrade program for existing walkways and pedestrian areas.
- Determine priorities for extensions to existing walkways and pedestrian areas.
- Identify and develop new cycleways, walkways and pedestrian areas.
- Develop a Trails Strategy for the Southern Midlands.

*Funds allocated to prepare design plan(s) for the construction of new footpaths in Reeve Street, Campania and Swan Street, Bagdad.*

*The former railway line bridge at the Hawthorn Bay section of the Dulverton Walkway was fully restored with the stonework repaired and new bridge timbers placed. Volunteers planted approximately 150 Poa grasses and 150 Tussocks on some fragile soil banks.*

*Fencing along the Dulverton Walkway track was completed for landholdings at Hawthorn Bay through to Bellevue on Tunnack Road. 970 metres of track was established together with sections of new fencing at the two properties prior to Parattah where the track terminates. Gravel was placed along 1800m of the track. In March 2012, four culvert crossings on the track that were severely damaged by floods in June 2011 were stabilised by placing concrete to the surface to cope with future flooding events. Directional signage and information marker pegs were placed. An information brochure was developed, published and is now available for users of the track.*

*Formal agreements with 7 landholders adjacent to the track were finalised during the year. Track work completed by mid-December 2011 and available for use by the general public.*

## Reporting on the 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

### STRATEGIC THEME: INFRASTRUCTURE

### *2011-12 Achievements*

#### 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

#### Lighting

#### ***What are we aiming to achieve over the five year period***

Improve lighting for pedestrians.

#### **Key actions:**

- Develop a program for upgrading lighting in areas of community need in accordance with the Australian Lighting Standard.
- Continue the underground of power and the establishment of heritage street lighting in High Street Oatlands.

*Final completion of Stage 4 of the Oatlands High Street Underground Power Project at a total cost of \$336,500. Of this amount, Council secured \$270,000 from the State Government under the Urban Renewal and Heritage Fund.*

*This stage extends from Church Street to approximately 200 metres south of Wellington Street.*

*Additional street lighting has been approved / provided in accordance with Council's Street-lighting Policy.*



## Reporting on the 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

### STRATEGIC THEME: INFRASTRUCTURE

### *2011-12 Achievements*

#### 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

#### Sewers

#### *What are we aiming to achieve over the five year period*

Increase the number of properties that have access to reticulated sewerage services.

#### **Key actions:**

- Investigate the future demand for sewerage services in areas zoned for the future residential, commercial and industrial development.

*Full transfer of water and sewerage assets, liabilities and staff to the newly established regional corporations took place on 1 July 2009. From that date, responsibility for the provision of water and sewerage services moved from local councils to three new regional water and sewerage corporations (trading as Southern Water).*

*Net assets (sewerage and water) of \$11.311 million transferred to Southern Water, which represented an ownership interest of 1.2 % (based on the 2009 Draft Treasurer's Returns Allocation Order).*

*Council's share of the total net assets has increased to \$13.847 million as at 30 June 2012 (\$13,817 million as at 30 June 2011). This represents an ownership interest of 1.50%.*

#### Water and Sewerage – Ongoing Reform

*The future structure of Water and Sewerage continues to be debated. This is aimed at ensuring the long-term stability of the sector, and that the community receives full value from its investment in water and sewerage.*

*Essentially, a model is being sought which provides local government full ownership and control. At this stage of the debate, a single statewide corporation has been identified as being the preferred option to provide this outcome and achieve long-term sustainability with improved financial performance. Local Government has generally agreed to the proposed governance arrangements for the new Corporation and is negotiating with the State Government.*

## Reporting on the 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

### STRATEGIC THEME: INFRASTRUCTURE

### *2011-12 Achievements*

#### 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

#### Water

***What are we aiming to achieve over the five year period*** *Refer above comments – Sewers Program.*

Increase the number of properties that have access to reticulated water.

#### ***Key actions:***

- Ensure that there is an ongoing replacement and upgrading of reticulation mains throughout the municipality.
- Ensure that there is a design and construction of a new and larger reservoir for the Colebrook water scheme.
- Ensure that there is an upgrade of the reticulated water supply in the Mangalore and Tea Tree Road areas.
- Investigate the future demand for reticulated water services in areas zoned for future residential, commercial and industrial development.



## Reporting on the 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

### STRATEGIC THEME: INFRASTRUCTURE

### 2011-12 Achievements

#### 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

#### Irrigation

#### **What are we aiming to achieve over the five year period**

Increase access to irrigation water within the municipality.

#### **Key actions:**

- Seek partnerships that expand the availability of water for irrigation within the municipality.
- Support and lobby for the implementation of the 'Midlands Water Scheme'.
- Facilitate the expansion of "on-farm" storages.
- Encourage the adoption of water conservation practices.

*Tasmania Irrigation (TI) continues to progress the 38,500 ML Midlands Irrigation Scheme - Arthurs Lake pipeline.*

*In May and June 2011, Initial Class water sales occurred, (available to only landholders in the water district). 22,600 ML were sold to landholders across the Northern and Southern Midlands Municipalities. A further 6000ML was subsequently sold to open class/investors. The total sales of 28,600 meant the scheme had reached the threshold sales requirement under the business case model, thus allowing for the scheme to proceed.*

*All Federal, State and Local Government approvals for the scheme were signed off. In early 2012 Tasmania Irrigation engaged contractors to undertake the construction of the 110Km pipeline works. The first construction works are expected to commence Sept / October 2012.*

*Council has been active in supporting the scheme with Southern Midland's Council officers continuing to attending meetings of the Midlands Water Group and the Arthurs Pipeline Regional Representative Group (APRRG).*

*Council is providing support to the Dept of Primary Industries, Water and Environment (DPIPWE), Tasmanian Institute of Agricultural research (TIAR) and the Dept of Economic Development (DED), to deliver the 'Wealth from Water' program. The program aims to assist farmers with developing their businesses to include an irrigation component as part of their farming practices. The project will assist with information on soil, climate and crop type's suitability, plus markets and business planning support. Tunbridge through to Mt Seymour areas are covered under the program.*

## Reporting on the 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

### STRATEGIC THEME: INFRASTRUCTURE

### 2011-12 Achievements

#### 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

#### Drainage

#### **What are we aiming to achieve over the five year period**

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

#### **Key actions:**

- Continue to program capital works that improve the effectiveness of the storm-water drainage systems in the towns in the municipality.
- Research best-practice methods for the disposal of stormwater, that is applicable to country towns and rural living.
- Encourage the adoption of water conservation practices.
- Adopt 'Water Sensitive Urban Design Principles' where appropriate.

A total of \$37,800 was expended on capital works during 2011-12. Projects included:

- Stormwater system upgrade – Campania (\$5,500)
- Franklin Street, Colebrook – improved drainage system (\$10,600)
- Louisa Street, Kempton – upgraded system (and connectivity) to service new subdivision(\$21,700)

Council continues to appraise and monitor an emerging new method to cope with stormwater; 'Water Sensitive Urban Design', which provides more opportunity for rain water to soak into the local water table. A number of examples in other locations in Southern Tasmania are being reviewed to understand the level of success of the method and the ongoing maintenance costs, which are thought to be higher than for traditional stormwater treatments.

The need for Stormwater gross pollutant traps have also been identified, the requirement of which is being incorporated in planning conditions for subdivisional development.

#### Waste

#### **What are we aiming to achieve over the five year period**

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

#### **Key actions:**

- Continue to be an active participant in the Southern Waste Management Authority.
- Continue to review the on-going operational arrangements for waste management.

Council operates three waste transfer stations, as well as providing a kerbside garbage collection (using mobile garbage bins), and kerbside recycling service, throughout the municipality.

## Reporting on the 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

### STRATEGIC THEME: INFRASTRUCTURE

### 2011-12 Achievements

#### 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

#### Waste (Continued)

- In conjunction with the Waste Advisory Council seek to identify suitable markets for recyclable products.

*Council continues to be represented on the Southern Waste Strategy Authority (SWSA), which includes representatives from all 12 southern Tasmanian Councils, with Clr Alex Green being the current chair of the Authority.*

*Following a review of waste management arrangements in Tasmania, SWSA continued to build support for the introduction of a compulsory waste levy in Tasmania. The Local Government Association of Tasmania (with the support of SWSA) is involved in ongoing negotiations with the State Government to implement this levy as legislative change is required. The proposal involves the introduction of a statutory waste levy of \$10 per tonne to be collected via public and private landfills. The funding to be allocated on the basis of 20% to regional waste bodies; 10% to the EPA and 70% to the Waste to Resources Funding Pool.*

#### Information, Communication Technology

#### ***What are we aiming to achieve over the five year period***

Improve access to modern communications infrastructure.

*Council continued to lobby the Australian Government to focus on the provision of cost effective broadband and mobile telecommunications across the municipal area.*

#### **Key actions:**

- Seek opportunities to facilitate the provision of cost effective broadband and mobile telecommunications access across the municipality.
- Seek opportunities to ensure the continuation and maintenance of land-line and public telephone services.
- Assess opportunities of wireless networks &/or other related technologies.

*Additional communication towers have been erected throughout the municipal area to address 'black-spot' areas.*

## Reporting on the 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

### STRATEGIC THEME: INFRASTRUCTURE

### *2011-12 Achievements*

#### 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

#### Signage

#### *What are we aiming to achieve over the five year period*

Signage that is distinctive, informative, easy to see and easy to understand.

#### **Key actions:**

- Implement the signage strategy for the Southern Midlands.

*Ongoing assessment of signage requirements aimed at meeting the objective of signage that is distinctive, informative, easy to see and easy to understand.*

*A considerable investment has been made in respect to signage for Oatlands and as well as the Callington Mill Precinct, with the erection of additional signage planned for 2012-13.*

#### Public Amenities

#### *What are we aiming to achieve over the five year period*

Develop a policy framework along with design guidelines for public amenities.

#### **Key actions:**

- Develop the policy and implement the framework along with the design guidelines for public amenities in the Southern Midlands.

*Policy and design guidelines previously adopted for public amenities.*

*Public amenities are located at Oatlands (2 sites), Kempton (2 sites), Campania, Colebrook and Tunbridge (rear of Community Hall). Public amenity locations are shown on Council's website.*

## Reporting on the 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

### STRATEGIC THEME: **GROWTH**

### **2011-12 Achievements**

#### 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

#### Residential

#### ***What are we aiming to achieve over the five year period***

Increase the resident, ratepaying population in the municipality.

#### **Key actions:**

- Seek opportunities to increase the number of subdivisions providing affordable land in areas that can utilise the existing water, sewer and road infrastructure.
- Investigate the potential of under-utilised Commonwealth, State and Local Government owned land for use and/or development.
- Investigate and pursue innovative responses to residential developments.

*In the 2011 Census there were 6,049 persons usually resident in the Southern Midlands.*

*98 Development Applications and 14 Subdivision / Boundary Adjustment Applications, along with 67 Building Applications (dwellings and other buildings/additions) were processed / issued during the 2011/2012 reporting period*

*A paper titled "Guidelines for Understanding and Reinforcing Village Character in the Southern Midlands" was developed to influence developers when designing subdivisions to ensure that they adopt a design concept that is consistent with Council's views in respect to the character of our villages.*

*The sub-regional "Land Use Strategy 2008" prepared by Pitt & Sherry in conjunction with Parsons Brinckerhoff (as part of the Joint Land Use Planning Initiative, (JLUPI), indicates that the Southern Midlands has experienced a small, and slowing population increase in recent years. Projections suggest that this slow increase will continue in the forecasting period assuming growth factors remain unchanged. However, it is further recognised that the advent of the Intermodal Freight Hub and anticipated associated development at Bridgewater will result in a significant boost in demand in the Bagdad-Mangalore-Dysart-Kempton corridor.*

*The second phase of the JLUPI project was completed in 2010/2011. This included the Bagdad-Mangalore Structure Plan and an overall Settlement & Open Space Strategy for the four-Council sub-region which incorporates local plans for the municipality's major towns. These foreshadow future changes to land use zoning intended to be implemented in the next planning scheme.*

*Most towns in the municipal area retain sufficient undeveloped land zoned for residential development.*

## Reporting on the 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

### STRATEGIC THEME: **GROWTH**

### **2011-12 Achievements**

#### 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

#### Tourism

#### **What are we aiming to achieve over the five year period**

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

#### **Key actions:**

- Implement the Callington Mill Master Plan & the restoration of the Callington Mill to full operations.
- Seek opportunities to support the development and growth of motor-home tourism.
- Seek opportunities to further develop the Callington Mill Precinct as well as the Military Precinct.
- Support the development of the Pugin Trail.
- Work in partnership with other State and Regional organisations, such as Totally South and the Heritage Highway Tourism Region Association.
- Review the Southern Midlands Tourism Plan in light of recent tourism development.
- Support the ongoing development and deliver services by the Heritage Highway Visitor Information Centre.
- Identify opportunities and activities to pursue the Tourism Tasmania Regional Marketing Strategy.

*Tasmanian Visitor Survey statistics indicate total visitation to Oatlands decreased marginally to 89,934 persons during 2011-12 (93,946 in 2010/11). This is consistent with the general downturn in the tourism industry, but visitation is still substantially above previous years.*

*The demographics of visitors show that Oatlands is most popular with holidaying interstate visitors in the older age brackets.*

*Statistics also show that there is good growth in the number of persons 'stopping' in Oatlands, as opposed to just passing through.*

*Approximately 53,000 visitors were recorded through the Callington Mill Visitor Centre during 2011-12.*

*In terms of regional tourism, progress has been made to establish a new regional body 'Destination South'. This follows the demise of Totally South. Council received briefings in relation to the proposed direction and activities of the new organisation.*

*During 2011/2012, Tourism Tasmania completed its Heritage Tourism Strategy. This strategy will be reviewed to identify any opportunities that may exist to further tourism development in the region.*



## Reporting on the 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

STRATEGIC THEME:  
**GROWTH**

### **2011-12 Achievements**

2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

**Tourism (Continued)**

*Council continues to support the Heritage Highway Tourism Region Association and provided a contribution of \$12,000 in 2011-12.*

*The Association has two main purposes:*

- To facilitate sustainable and profitable business opportunities through the provision of a series of distinct visitor experiences, by engaging all communities in the development of their individual and complementary identities*
- To maximise business for the region's tourism industry, to build demand for core services, to develop, to develop new marketing segments and to raise demand for tourism and other businesses in the region.*



## Reporting on the 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

### STRATEGIC THEME: **GROWTH**

### **2011-12 Achievements**

#### 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

#### Business

#### **What are we aiming to achieve over the five year period**

Increase the number and diversity of business in the Southern Midlands.

Increase employment within the municipality.

Increase Council revenue to facilitate business activities.

*On-going operation of the Southern Midlands Council owned entities associated with the Centre for Colonial Heritage Conservation and Restoration:*

- a) *Heritage Building Solutions Pty Ltd - a proprietary company which operates the 'Services Arm'; and*
- b) *Heritage Education and Skills Centre Ltd - a company limited by guaranteed to operate the 'Education Arm'.*

#### **Key actions:**

- Continue to facilitate and be actively involved in the development of new business opportunities.
- Continue to provide support to businesses within the municipality to help ensure their long-term viability.
- Seek opportunities to support the development of affordable temporary accommodation for seasonal and other workers.
- Pursue the establishment of regional or statewide facilities that can take advantage of the municipality's central location and the accessibility of road and rail facilities.
- Identify opportunities associated with the gas pipeline project.
- Develop and provide incentives to businesses to establish in the Southern Midlands, or for local businesses to expand.

*The purpose of the respective Companies are as follows:*

#### *Heritage Building Solutions Pty Ltd*

*To commercially provide building services, primarily to the heritage property sector and to conserve and renovate heritage property for re-use.*

#### *This includes:*

- *Conservation & Restoration Building Works;*
- *Professional Services Brokering;*
- *Heritage Building Redevelopment;*
- *Building services to Southern Midlands Council;*
- *Commercial building services;*
- *Production of architectural fittings; and*
- *Joinery workshop production items.*

#### *Heritage Education and Skills Centre Ltd*

*To promote and facilitate the conservation and restoration of heritage properties and the development and the application of associated knowledge and skills.*

## Reporting on the 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

### STRATEGIC THEME: **GROWTH**

### *2011-12 Achievements*

#### **Business ( Continued)**

- Identify and examine possible uses for investment ready land as potential development sites including working in partnership with the State Government to review the future options within the municipal boundaries.
- Develop and maintain infrastructure critical for the establishment and retention of businesses.
- Develop opportunities and practices in a range of business activities centred on the unique competitive advantage of assets in the Southern Midlands

*This includes:*

- *Education and training - Apprentice and post trade training; Field work and structured experience; Property owner training; Professional training; and Visitor education.*
- *Research into - Conservation & Restoration Techniques; Building re-use technologies and best practice; Heritage/Archaeology; and Interpretation.*
- *Funding Heritage conservation and restoration activities – sourcing external funds and gifts”*

*In 2011-2012 Council successfully obtained a grant from the Department of Economic Development Tourism and the Arts for matching funding to undertake a municipal economic development strategy. This will be undertaken in the 2012-2013 financial year. It will, amongst other matters, provide recommendations for real actions Council can pursue to facilitate development based on the municipal area’s unique competitive advantages.*

## Reporting on the 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

STRATEGIC THEME:

**2011-12 Achievements**

**GROWTH**

2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

Industry

***What are we aiming to achieve over the five year period***

*See comments provided under "Irrigation" Program.*

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

*In 2011-2012 Council successfully obtained a grant from the Department of Economic Development Tourism and the Arts for matching funding to undertake a municipal economic development strategy. This will be undertaken in the 2012-2013 financial year. It will, amongst other matters, provide recommendations to ensure the organisation does all it can as both a Council and as a Planning Authority to leverage the maximum economic benefit from the Midlands Water Scheme for the municipality as a whole.*

***Key actions:***

- Develop opportunities that enhance Southern Midlands role as a focal point for rural activity.
- Seek opportunities to establish and expand sale-yards and abattoirs.
- Support traditional rural industries and the concept of "right to farm".
- Work in partnership with the State Government to establish a truck wash facility to support the agricultural community.
- Seek opportunities to facilitate the provision of accommodation for seasonal workers.
- Continue implementation of the Southern Midlands Weed Management Strategy as it relates to agricultural land.
- Facilitate the development of value adding opportunities in the rural sector through high production agriculture.
- Encourage and facilitate innovation in the rural sector.
- Facilitate traditional skills development I heritage and allied industries.

## Reporting on the 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

### STRATEGIC THEME: **GROWTH**

### **2011-12 Achievements**

#### 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

#### Integration

#### **What are we aiming to achieve over the five year period**

The integrated development of towns and villages in the Southern Midlands.

#### **Key actions:**

- Scope, develop and implement the Oatlands Development Strategy as a model that can be used for other towns and villages.
- Ensure that, through effective strategic planning, community benefit from development of the Bagdad-Mangalore Bypass is maximised.
- Maximise the opportunities presented through the sub regional Joint Land Use Planning Initiative (JLUPI) and the development of a new Planning Scheme.

*Refer comments provided under "Business" re: the Oatlands Development Strategy.*

*Recommendations from the final Bagdad-Mangalore Structure Plan (BMSP) and the broader Settlement and Open Space Strategy, completed in 2010-11 were incorporated into the drafting of the new Southern Midlands Planning Scheme. The BMSP provides a detailed spatial strategy for the area up until the Bagdad-Mangalore Bypass is constructed, and an outline for development in the valley following construction.*

*The Settlement Strategy provides a range of recommendations for other major towns in the municipality.*

*The draft scheme is also being progressed in line with the Southern Tasmania Regional Land Use Strategy and the Regional Model Planning Scheme. In 2012-2013 the public will be provided with an opportunity to provide comment on the draft scheme, prior to its finalisation and submission to the Minister for the State's consideration.*

*Council established a 'Midlands Multi-Purpose Reference Group' consisting of representatives from the Department of Health and Human Services, Tas Ambulance, Oatlands District Homes Association, and the MMPHC Community Advisory Committee. The aim was to prepare a development concept for the 'MMPHC precinct'. The group's recommendations were subsequently endorsed by Council.*

## Reporting on the 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

### STRATEGIC THEME: LANDSCAPES

### 2011-12 Achievements

#### 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

#### Heritage

#### ***What are we aiming to achieve over the five year period***

Maintenance and restoration of significant heritage structures.

Retain the heritage values of towns within the municipality.

#### **Key actions:**

- Implement the Callington Mill Master Plan.
- Work in Partnership with the State Government to ensure the strategic long-term management of publicly owned heritage sites.
- Support and facilitate investment in the Heritage Skills Centre in Oatlands
- Facilitate and investigate opportunities for assisting custodians of heritage structures in preserving significant heritage assets.
- Seek to accelerate the process of moving the swimming pool from the gaol.
- Undertake the continuing development of the Oatlands Military Precinct.
- Continue the under-grounding of power in Oatlands.
- Continue to improve the streetscapes of the towns of the Southern Midlands.
- Implementation of the Southern Midlands Heritage Plan.

*Implementation of the Southern Midlands Historic Heritage Strategy 2009-13 is progressing, in most instances ahead of targets. That document is to be reviewed in early 2013 to set targets for the following five year and to align with the new strategic plan.*

*The interpretation fit-out of the Oatlands Gaoler's Residence is nearing completion and a major wall restoration project is about to be commenced (as partly funded by the Australian Government).*

*A volunteer program continues to run at the Oatlands Supreme Court House, with community use of that building on-going.*

*Council has purchased the 1827 Oatlands Commissariat and a conservation management plan is being developed to guide its restoration, interpretation and use.*

*The Centre for Heritage at Oatlands – Heritage Education and Skills Centre has been running its pilot year of courses with good attendance.*

*A successful archaeological excavation program was run at the Oatlands Gaol and Callington Park Tannery in conjunction with several mainland universities.*

*Planning for a replacement Oatlands pool is progressing.*

*Investigations into Southern Midlands convict sites is being undertaken through a scoping project and on-site investigations have been undertaken at the Spring Hill and Picton Road Stations and the Spring Hill probation Station.*

## Reporting on the 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

STRATEGIC THEME:  
**LANDSCAPES**

### ***2011-12 Achievements***

2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

**Heritage (Continued)**

*The Southern Midlands Heritage Project implementation (update of statutory registers and heritage provisions) is continuing in conjunction with the STCA and Heritage Tasmania.*

*Significant progress has been made on the management of Council's heritage collection, with assistance through Arts Tasmania's Roving Curator Program and the appointment of a part-time heritage collection officer. A temporary collection store has been established in the Oatlands Gaoler's Residence.*

*Council has also continued to participate in regional efforts to develop a region-wide planning scheme heritage code (previous State work to develop a state-wide code has ceased), the review of the Historic Cultural Heritage Act 1995 and the Aboriginal Relics Act 1975.*

*For further detail on the achievements of the SMC Heritage Program, see the Heritage Program annual report at <http://www.southernmidlands.tas.gov.au/heritage-program-strategy/>*



## Reporting on the 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

### STRATEGIC THEME: LANDSCAPES

### 2011-12 Achievements

#### 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

#### Natural

#### ***What are we aiming to achieve over the five year period***

Identify and protect areas that are of high conservation value.

Encourage the adoption of best practice landcare practices.

#### **Key actions:**

- Continue implementation of the Southern Midlands Weed Management Strategy.
- Implement and monitor the Lake Dulverton Management Strategy and Action Plan including renewal of licence.
- Review and update the Campania Bush Reserve Management Plan.
- Continue to implement agreed Bush-care, River-care and Catchment Management Plans for the Municipality.
- Continue to implement agreed Bushcare, Rivercare and Catchment Management Plans for the Municipality.

*There is an ongoing commitment to managing weeds on roadsides, quarries and public reserves, with a focus on gorse and broome. Independent spraying contractor engaged.*

*The outbreak of Serrated Tussock at Spring Hill continues to be actively managed by the landholders involved. There have not been any other sites in the Southern Midlands recorded with Serrated Tussock to date.*

*The Lake Dulverton Management Strategy and the Lake Dulverton Action Plan 2008 continue to be implemented. Mahers Point cottage restoration is continuing. The State Government confirmed an allocation of 215ML of water to be made available for Lake Dulverton through the Midlands Water Scheme. The water will not be available until the scheme is completed in 2014.*

*The Southern Midlands Bushcare Strategy (SMBS) continues to remain relevant, with funding secured to further implement bush conservation in identified high priority vegetation corridors. Australian Government funds of \$766,400 were secured from the Clean Energy Future: Biodiversity Fund. The project, in partnership with NRM Sth, Natural Resource Planning (NRP), Understorey Network and Central Highland Council, will focus on landscape connectivity guided by the NRP Regional Ecosystem Model. The project commenced in June 2012.*

*Best Practice Landcare information continues to be promoted, with information and research literature being available and distributed to many landholders upon contact with the Landcare office.*



## Reporting on the 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

STRATEGIC THEME:  
**GROWTH**

### **2011-12 Achievements**

2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

**Natural (Continued)**

*Council continues to support the Midlands Tree Committee in implementing Landcare works (revegetation and remnant bush conservation) as per the Southern Midlands Bushcare Strategy). 4000 native plants, together with 10,000 tree stakes, 4000 mulch mats and tree bags were distributed to around 30 landholders in July 2011. The purchase of these material was made possible through funding secured by the Midlands Tree Committee.*

*Officers from the Council's NRM/Landcare Unit continue to participate in the development of the Macquarie Catchment Water Management Plan being developed by the Department of Primary Industries Parks Water and Environment. Officers are also involved in the development of Biodiversity Conservation Offset Guidelines, a project being co-ordinated by the Southern Tasmanian Councils Association.*

*The expanded Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary at Bagdad continues to be managed by Council via a community Management Committee that includes a representative from the Tasmanian Land Conservancy, (TLC). Previously, through a partnership with the TLC, funding was obtained from the Australian Government to purchase an area of approximately 400 hectares along the northern border of the sanctuary. This land also forms a corridor with the nearby Alpha Pinnacle Conservation Area, thereby essentially tripling the size of the contiguous protected lands at Bagdad.*

## Reporting on the 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

### STRATEGIC THEME: LANDSCAPES

### 2011-12 Achievements

#### 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

#### Cultural

#### ***What are we aiming to achieve over the five year period***

Increase the retention, documentation and accessibility of the aboriginal, convict, rural and contemporary culture of the Southern Midlands.

#### ***Key actions:***

- Identify and document the cultural heritage of the Southern Midlands.
- Develop and implement an Arts Strategy for the Southern Midlands.
- Develop a documented history of the Southern Midlands.

*Council is continuing to update its database of locally significant heritage places for the municipality, in readiness for the new draft planning scheme which is to be completed in 2012/13. The outputs of the 2007 heritage project between Council and Heritage Tasmania provides a substantial number of recommendations to inform updates to both the State and local heritage registers, including both individual places and precincts/landscapes.*

*Council advertised in its quarterly newsletter for interested parties to nominate for the Working Group to develop an Arts Strategy for the Southern Midlands. A number of persons nominated and the first meeting was held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2012. The working group agreed that the aim of the Arts Strategy will be achieved through;*

1. *Building appreciation and expression of the Arts;*
2. *Identifying and building the capacity of the Arts;*
3. *Improving advocacy, informing policy and identifying strategic priorities for the Arts;*
4. *Providing a forum to support the Arts;*
5. *Identifying and responding to emerging issues in the Arts space;*
6. *Facilitating partnerships with social and private opportunities; and*
7. *Recognising, celebrating and promoting the uniqueness of the Southern Midlands.*

## Reporting on the 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

**STRATEGIC THEME:**  
**LANDSCAPES**

**2011-12 Achievements**

**2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan**

**Cultural (Continued)**

*Dr Alison Alexander has continued to gather information and images from a range of persons within the Southern Midlands to capture and document the cultural and social historical context of the Southern Midlands, in the book which is currently in print production, titled "The Southern Midlands – A History". Funding was gratefully received from the State Government to progress the publication. The book will be launched by His Excellency, The Hon Peter Underwood AC, Governor of Tasmania in October 2012.*

*Pursuant to the recommendation in the JLUPI Bagdad/Mangalore Structure Plan and the Heritage Management Plan, Council continued its investigation of the creation of a heritage landscape precinct in the lower Mangalore and Pontville district, based around Shene, in conjunction with neighbouring Brighton Council. The outputs of this process are intended to be implemented through the new planning schemes for the two Councils.*

## Reporting on the 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

### STRATEGIC THEME: LANDSCAPES

### 2011-12 Achievements

#### 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

#### Regulatory

#### **What are we aiming to achieve over the five year period**

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

#### **Key actions:**

- Make use of the Joint Land Use Planning Initiative (JLUPI) strategy to develop a Planning Scheme for the Southern Midlands that reflects community and Council aspirations and aligns to the strategic direction of the Council.
- Ensure that new State policies are appropriately incorporated within Council's Planning Schemes.
- Process building and plumbing applications in a timely manner and monitor compliance with the relevant legislation.

*Two new State policies known as Planning Directive 3 & Planning D4 in relation to residential development have been included in the existing Southern Midlands Planning Scheme 1998. Other State policies will be included in the new planning scheme*

*98 Development Applications and 14 Subdivision / Boundary Adjustment Applications, along with 67 Building Applications (dwellings and other buildings) were processed / issued during the 2011/2012 reporting period. 84 Plumbing Permits were issued during the period.*

*During 2011-12 Council continued to fully engage with the Southern Tasmania Regional Planning Project and the State's broader planning reform initiative. The first of the two major outputs of this project, the Southern Regional Land Use Strategy was completed in September 2011 and formally declared by the Minister in October 2011. Since then Southern Midlands, along with the other Councils in the region, have been collectively working on the model planning scheme provisions for the region. It is under this project that the new planning scheme for the Southern Midlands will now be developed, with a core of regionally consistent provisions.*

*Whilst the Regional Strategy now provides a degree of high level common direction, Southern Midlands remains well positioned to include its local-level planning scheme content having completed a range of local level strategic planning work through the 'Joint Land Use Planning Initiative (JLUPI)', which was completed in 2009-10, with final documents endorsed in 2010-11. This has provided detailed strategic planning in key locales and includes structure plans for major townships and the Bagdad-Mangalore corridor – the municipality's major growth area located on the periphery of greater Hobart.*

## Reporting on the 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

### STRATEGIC THEME: **LANDSCAPES**

### **2011-12 Achievements**

#### 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

#### Climate Change

#### **What are we aiming to achieve over the five year period**

Develop strategies to support the address issues of Climate Change and alternative energy use in the Southern Midlands.

#### **Key actions:**

- Implement initiatives that are focused on supporting the community in maximising the funding opportunities/benefits of climate change initiatives provided by Government and related organisations.
- Participate in and contribute to regional forums in relation to the impacts of climate change in the Southern Midlands.

Program achievements are listed under the following:

#### **Energy audits & efficiency measures**

*Southern Midlands Council's Climate Change Action Plan was updated in 2012. The Action Plan includes the following elements in relation to energy efficiency:*

- *Energy auditing (tracking electricity and fuel usage, and associated emissions, across all council functions on a quarterly basis).*
- *Energy efficiency (using data collected in energy auditing to guide actions that can effectively reduce energy usage and fuel consumption).*
- *Community programs such as energy efficiency advice and information sessions.*

*Council made solid progress with energy efficiency in 2011-12 cutting energy consumption by a total of 6% across all operations. While overall electricity consumption fell by 6%, total cost for electricity (\$114,000) was up by 11% from the previous year. Had Council maintained electricity consumption at the same level as the previous year, the annual bill would have amounted to \$121,000, amounting to a minimum saving of \$7,000 for the year.*

*Improvements in energy efficiency at both the Oatlands and Kempton offices were partly attributed to improved awareness by staff on energy efficiency matters, together with an incentive offered by management to improve performance.*

## Reporting on the 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

STRATEGIC THEME:  
**LIFESTYLE**

**2011-12 Achievements**

2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

**Climate Change (Continued)**

*Continuing improvement in performance is an on-going aspiration. Initiatives commenced towards the end of 2011-12 which will be reported upon in 2012-13 include: efficiency auditing for the Oatlands Gaolhouse and the Central Tasmanian Tourism Centre; retrofit of the Town Hall, Oatlands to improve the energy efficiency of the premises. This work is part funded by a grant received from the Australian Government's Community Energy efficiency Program (CEEP) (\$26,000), together with a contribution of \$15,000 from Council. Once completed, the work is expected to result in reduction in energy usage of 20,000 kilowatt hours per year, or the equivalent of nearly \$5,500 year in energy costs.*

**Community climate change grants**

*Council was successful in a grant application to the Australian Government's Community Energy efficiency Program (CEEP) (\$26,000). The grant funds will be utilised to retrofit the Town Hall for energy efficiency as outlined above. The bulk of the Project work will be conducted in 2012-13.*

*Project work under another grant from the State Government's Climate Connect Program was commenced in June 2011 and completed in June 2012. Project activities largely focused on breaking down barriers that prevent effective action being taken on climate change by providing the community with information, tools and incentives. Community seminars were delivered across the municipality by energy efficiency specialist Dr John Todd. Incentives were provided to all Project participants to stimulate new ways of thinking about energy use, climate change and to motivate behaviour change. Action planning, derived from professional audits conducted for Southern Midlands Council and Levendale School formed the foundation of actions to address climate change.*



## Reporting on the 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

### STRATEGIC THEME: LIFESTYLE

### **2011-12 Achievements**

#### 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

#### Climate Change (Continued)

#### **Climate Change Adaptation Plan development & completion**

*Southern Midlands Council's Climate Change Adaptation Plan was produced through the Regional Councils Climate Adaptation Project (RCCAP) with the majority of the staff engagement and Plan Drafting occurring in 2011-12. The Climate Change Adaptation Plan was submitted for endorsement to the Council meeting in May 2012.*

*A foundation of the Plan was detailed modelling conducted by scientists from the Climate Futures for Tasmania Project. A municipal-scale climate change profile covering, temperature, rainfall, and extreme events (out to 2100), was prepared specifically by Council and provided a key basis for the 'risk management' approach presented in the adaptation plan.*

*Council's Climate Change Adaptation Plan incorporates:*

- modelled climate change conditions for the municipality to 2100;*
- identified risks to Council business posed by the modelled conditions;*
- rating of identified risks in a manner consistent with the International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO) 31000:2009 Standard for Risk Management;*
- identification of adaptation options for each of Council's business areas to treat 'priority' rated risks;*
- advice on the legal implications of managing risks associated with climate change;*
- a prioritisation schedule for implementation of actions; and*
- a stakeholder section identifying potential collaborative opportunities in managing climate change impacts.*



## Reporting on the 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

STRATEGIC THEME:  
**LANDSCAPES**

### **2011-12 Achievements**

2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

Climate Change (Continued)

#### **Community energy efficiency initiatives**

*The following community initiatives were undertaken in 2011-12:*

- *Council's Home Energy Assessment Toolkit (HEAT toolkit) was available as a take-home kit enabling residents to undertake their own home energy use appraisals.*
- *Community seminars were conducted on: household energy efficiency; and projected impacts of climate change in the Midlands (based upon outcomes from Climate Futures for Tasmania).*
- *Provision of advice to residents on energy efficiency and solar technology options.*
- *Update of web resources, including information for residents on local effects of climate change, solar hot water systems and photovoltaic systems.*

**Waste to energy initiative** – *a proposal was developed to efficiently utilise Council's 'green waste' to produce renewable energy products and possibly biochar. Grant funds will be sought from the Southern Waste Strategy Authority in conjunction with Brighton Council when the opportunity arises to progress appropriate technology to process green waste into the value-added products.*

**Support scientifically informed strategic NRM projects** *as opportunities arise. Focus on landscape ecology, including protection of important remnants, connectivity and weed management. Council's Biodiversity Fund Grant project Bushlinks500 will seek to engage landholders in opportunities to trade carbon in the biodiverse plantings.*

## Reporting on the 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

### STRATEGIC THEME: LIFESTYLE

### 2011-12 Achievements

#### 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

#### Youth

#### ***What are we aiming to achieve over the five year period***

Increase the retention of young people in the municipality.

#### ***Key actions:***

- Facilitate a mentoring and leadership program in partnership with the schools in the Southern Midlands.
- Develop youth programs that cover employment and training as well as being linked to social, recreational and entertainment activities.
- Continue to identify and respond to the need for facilities for families with children (family day care, day centres).
- In Partnership with the State Government investigate ways to enhance the delivery of youth services in the Southern Midlands.
- Respond to and monitor the recreation needs of the young people of the Southern Midlands.

*On-going implementation of the Youth Policy provides the framework for participation and engagement with our young people.*

*Council has continued to provide very successful School Holiday Programs during the year which attracted funding contributions from the SM Rural Primary Health Service, and Communities for Children.*

*Council continues to be a Member of the Youth Network of Tasmania.*

*Council continues to be an active member of Reclink, an organisation that promotes youth based recreation & arts activities. This has also been an award winning relationship*

*The Mobile Skate Park which Council purchased through the Australian Government's stimulus package (Regional & Local Community Infrastructure Program) has continued to be extremely popular with the young people throughout the Southern Midlands. This is due to the rotational roster that has been established. Council was successful with the Medibank Active Tasmania Awards this year in winning the innovation award category for the Mobile Skate Park*

*Council continues to expand its youth development networks to include surrounding local authorities.*

*A film production project for young people at our District High Schools was supported by Southern Midlands Council and the Central Highlands Council; it was titled "In the Bin". The students were required under expert tutelage to develop the concept, write the script, act the parts and film it as well. The festival of all the films was held at Bothwell Town Hall and was a great success.*

## Reporting on the 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

STRATEGIC THEME:  
**LANDSCAPES**

### **2011-12 Achievements**

2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

**Youth (Continued)**

*As mentioned in a previous report, Council officers developed a discussion paper on antisocial behaviour, following that a number of exciting initiatives have been created in consultation with the Community as a positive response to this issue. This then gave rise to a Council facilitated project called Imagine Campania, which was a meaningful engagement with the residents of Campania. This has seen the establishment by local residents of a youth group that now has a membership of some 75 young people along with the establishment of Imagine Campania Inc. A dirt jump park was identified as a need in the area by the young people and Council went about making it happen. It set aside \$14,000 and was successful with a grant application from Sport & Recreation Tasmania. The Hon Rebecca White MP cut the ribbon to open the finished facility.*

*In the vein of working with the Community and younger people, Council along with the SM Rural Primary Health Service have supported a project called BREATH at the Oatlands District High School. The Co-ordinator, Pete Baldwin and Principal Geoff Williamson agree that the project has been extremely beneficial to years 9 and 10 at the school. BREATH is another way in which Council can assist in facilitating greater engagement with the young people in our community.*

## Reporting on the 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

### STRATEGIC THEME: LIFESTYLE

### 2011-12 Achievements

#### 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

#### Aged

#### ***What are we aiming to achieve over the five year period***

Improve the ability of the aged to stay in their communities.

#### ***Key actions:***

- Facilitate assistance for the aged to stay in their own homes, or with the support of a dependant carer & Support Organisations in independent living units.
- Provide continuing support to the Midlands Multi-Purpose Health Centre (MMPHC)
- Provide support for and where appropriate facilitate the meaningful social engagement of older members of our community.

*A number of dwelling units are continuing to be approved and built to provide a mix of housing stock for older Southern Midlands' residents. This will allow them to reside in their rural environment close to their families rather than being forced to move to an urban unit complex.*

*Council is represented on the MMPHC Community Advisory Committee, being an advisory body to the Centre's management. Its role is to consult with the Community and provide input into the services delivered from the Centre. Council officers continue to work with the Community Advisory Committee in a range of roles.*

*The continued development of the Community Men's Shed - Oatlands has provided a valuable extension of service / engagement options for aged members of our Community.*

*The Wooddale Men's Shed continues to be a highly engaging facility for older folk in the area*

*Rural Alive & Well Inc also continues to provide valuable services in the region. RAW was a project that started its existence as part of the Community & Corporate Development business unit of the SM Council.*

## Reporting on the 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

### STRATEGIC THEME: LIFESTYLE

### *2011-12 Achievements*

#### 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

#### Children & Families

#### ***What are we aiming to achieve over the five year period***

Ensure that appropriate childcare services, as well as other family related services, are facilitated within the Community.

#### ***Key actions:***

- Review the adequacy of current childcare facilities (i.e. location, accessibility and number of placements).
- Take appropriate action to address any shortfalls identified in the provision of family related services across the Southern Midlands.

*The Southern Midlands Council is not directly involved in the provision of childcare services. It provides operational subsidies to the Station Child Care Centre and the Bagdad Community Child Care Centre both of which operate within the municipal area.*

*The Council also contributes to the Brighton Council for managing the family day care service that caters for the Southern Midlands.*

*Council has worked with and supported the Communities for Children program, being run by the schools in the region.*

*The Imagine Campania project certainly drew upon the 'Children and Families' segment of the Campania area when developing the Community engagement strategy for the project.*

## Reporting on the 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

### STRATEGIC THEME: LIFESTYLE

### 2011-12 Achievements

#### 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

#### Volunteers

#### ***What are we aiming to achieve over the five year period***

Encourage community members to volunteer.

#### ***Key actions:***

- Ensure that there is support and encouragement for volunteering.
- Facilitate training programs aimed at providing volunteers with the necessary skills.
- Continue to support volunteers and their respective community groups through the Southern Midlands Community Small Grants Program.
- Work with Volunteering Tasmania to develop policies and frameworks that support volunteering throughout the Southern Midlands.

*The Southern Midlands Community Small Grants Program was introduced by Council in 2007-08. The Program provides \$20,000 per annum (through one round) for Community groups to apply for up to \$3,000 to undertake projects.*

*In the seventh round (September 2011), eighteen applications were received. Grants totalling \$20,000 were approved against a total request of \$46,932 (total value of projects - \$108,450).*

*The community volunteer based, Horse-drawn Heritage Project at Kempton has moved forward with the construction of a Coach House on the site. Volunteer participation in this activity is still languishing and requires some strong 'community drivers' to participate in this project.*

*The former Oatlands Memorial Library is completed as a redeveloped "hub" for volunteer services in the Southern Midlands. Its new name is the Midlands Memorial Community Centre. Part funding was received by the Department of Economic Development, as well as from the Australian Government. The Centre is abuzz with activity, with the facility also including the Bargain Centre. This has been a tremendous investment in our Community from Council's perspective when we see the work that Di Swan and her team accomplish from that Centre.*

*Council held a very successful BBQ event at the Kempton Recreation Ground in May 2012 as part of Volunteers week. This was a recognition of our valuable volunteers who are at the core of so many activities and events in the Southern Midlands.*

## Reporting on the 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

### STRATEGIC THEME: LIFESTYLE

### *2011-12 Achievements*

#### 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

#### Access

#### ***What are we aiming to achieve over the five year period***

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

#### ***Key actions:***

- Be an advocate for improving transport services for those in need within the Community.
- Prepare and implement an access plan to meet the requirements of the DDA. (possibly across DV, CH, BC, & SM)
- Encourage organisations in the Southern Midlands to adopt the 'Access Card' system.

*Council continues to make available a bus to the Midlands Multi-Purpose Health Centre for client transport.*

*The Recreation Committee has now had a name change to be the Facilities & Recreation Committee; this formally recognises the contribution that this Committee will have as the group responsible for the DDA requirements across Council. Early planning is in place to ensure that a wide Community consultation process takes place and that the existing arrangements are built upon through a comprehensive strategy which will be put in place in a timely manner to address disability and inclusion in our region.*



## Reporting on the 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

### STRATEGIC THEME: LIFESTYLE

### 2011-12 Achievements

#### 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

#### Public Health

#### *What are we aiming to achieve over the five year period*

Monitor and maintain a safe and healthy public environment.

#### **Key actions:**

- Continue to provide school immunisation programs.
- Continue to register and monitor food premises.
- Continue to ensure waste water is effectively disposed of.
- Encourage health professionals, including doctors and nurses, to move to the Southern Midlands.
- Provide continuing support to the Midlands Multi-Purpose Health Centre (MMPHC).
- Continually raise the awareness of Notifiable Diseases in the community.

*Immunisation Programs conducted for children in Grades 6 and 10 at Oatlands, Kempton, Bagdad, Campania and Levendale schools in association with Council's Medical Officer of Health.*

*Oatlands Swimming Pool water quality tested in accordance with the Public Health Act – Water Quality Guidelines during the summer season.*

*Food premises and Places of Assembly monitored and licensed in accordance with statutory requirements.*

*Relevant legislative requirements are specified in:*

- *Food Act 2003*
- *Food Safety Standards*
- *Public Health Act 1997 and associated Guidelines.*

*Statutory licences issued for:*

- *Food Premises – 52*
- *Places of Assembly – 18*
- *Water Carriers – 0 Note: there are 5 carriers licensed (licences renewable every three years).*
- *Special Event Licences – 9*
- *Private Water Licences – 0*

## Reporting on the 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

### STRATEGIC THEME: LIFESTYLE

### 2011-12 Achievements

#### 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

#### Recreation

#### *What are we aiming to achieve over the five year period*

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

#### **Key actions:**

- Continue to Implement the Southern Midlands Recreation Plan.
- Identify opportunities to work in partnership with the Community to improve recreational services and activities.
- Seek opportunities to develop a Regional Aquatic Centre to replace the existing Oatlands Municipal Pool.
- Review the Tasmanian Trails Strategy to identify opportunities for the Southern Midlands.

*Following the adoption of the Southern Midlands Recreation Plan (SMRP) in 2006, recommendations are progressively being refined and developed.*

*The SMRP identified that a sport and recreation facilities master plan be adopted for each of the municipality's major towns and villages. The subsequent Campania Sport & Recreation Facilities Master Plan 2007 continued to be developed and refined in 2010-2011 through the Imagine Campania initiative. The Plan is due for review in 2012-13.*

*Development of the Mangalore Recreation Ground horse arena has been completed; this is a component of the Mangalore/Bagdad Sport & Recreation Facilities Master Plan. The Plan also included a redesign of the playground and drainage work to be completed.*

*The Memorandum of Understanding that Council entered into with the Bagdad Community Club, in recognition of the valuable services and resources provided to community members, continues to be a tangible manner in which Council can add value in the area.*

*Council works very closely with Reclink who facilitate a range of programs and activities throughout the Greater Hobart region. Popular activities include the annual Youth League Football. Southern Midlands' strong partnerships with Reclink and its surrounding Councils has provided a great vehicle for youth engagement through this award winning activity*

*Midlands Aquatic & Recreation Centre – an alternative concept design was prepared during the reporting period, with the aim of reducing the overall capital development cost to between \$4 to \$5 million dollars. Council continues to lobby both Australian and Tasmanian Government representatives to secure funding for the project.*

## Reporting on the 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

### STRATEGIC THEME: LIFESTYLE

### 2011-12 Achievements

#### 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

#### Recreation (Continued)

*The intention is to progress with the preparation of a development application.*

*The projects identified in the Australia Government's second stimulus package, (R&LCIP – Round 2) have been completed:*

- 1. Extensions and alterations to the old Oatlands Memorial Library building, know as the MILE / Community House (\$45,000);*
- 2. The design and construction of a home for the horse drawn carriages at Kempton (\$45,000); and*
- 3. Restoration of the old Kempton Watch House, adjacent to the Council Chambers (\$25,000) (this was part funding and the balance requires further Council funding support)*

*The projects identified in the Australia Government's third stimulus package, (R&LCIP – Round 3) were also completed during the year.:*

- 1. Dulverton Corridor Walkway Stage 3 \$25,000 (part funded by Sport & Recreation Tasmania)*
- 2. Bagdad Walking Path (\$10,000)*
- 3. Woodsdale Recreation Ground Upgrade \$27,000*
- 4. Flour Mill Park Redevelopment \$26,000*
- 5. Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary – Day Dawn Cottage Refurbishment \$17,000*
- 6. Melton Mowbray Park Shelter \$6,000 (with approval from the funding body this project was moved from Melton Mowbray to Station Park in Kempton)*
- 7. Restoration of Tunbridge Coaching Monument \$10,000*

## Reporting on the 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

**STRATEGIC THEME:  
LIFESTYLE**

***2011-12 Achievements***

**2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan**

**Animals**

***What are we aiming to achieve over the five year period***

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

*1,893 Dogs were registered, and 29 Kennels licensed in the 2011-12 financial year.*

*Council carried out and finalised a comprehensive review of its Dog Management Policy adopted in 2009. This process involved extensive community consultation.*

***Key actions:***

- Continue dog control, regulatory, licensing and educational programs.
- Continue to conduct a public awareness / education program that informs the Community of the need to contain livestock and the associated legal requirements.
- Continue to provide and maintain stock pounds.

## Reporting on the 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

### STRATEGIC THEME: LIFESTYLE

### 2011-12 Achievements

#### 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

##### Education

#### ***What are we aiming to achieve over the five year period***

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

#### ***Key actions:***

- Develop partnerships increasing educational opportunities within the Southern Midlands for the entire community, as well as recognising the principles of the "Child at the Centre" framework.
- Develop a supportive framework for the school to work transition of young people in our community.
- Provide meaningful and informed input to education processes and systems.
- Provide heritage skills learning opportunities.

*Council continues to work with the education sector to provide valuable Community and professional officer support to the schools in the Southern Midlands.*

*Council convened a Working Group, consisting of two representatives from each of the five schools within the municipal area, to address and respond to a Discussion Paper prepared by the 'School Viability Reference Group' established by the Education Department. The purpose of this paper was to seek input into the development of criteria that can be used to assess individual schools viability. A response was prepared and subsequently presented to the Reference Group.*

*The Centre for Heritage and Conservation Restoration at Oatlands will provide numerous educational opportunities relative to heritage projects and activities.*

*Council's Imagine Campania project continues to focus on the educational hub at Campania as a key component of its Community engagement and development strategy*

##### Retention

#### ***What are we aiming to achieve over the five year period***

Maintain and strengthen communities in the Southern Midlands.

#### ***Key actions:***

- Increase the ability of the ageing population to remain in their communities.
- Increase the opportunities for young people to remain in, or return to, the local communities they grew up in.

*Council works very effectively with Community groups and organisations to assist in building their capacity in delivering a wide range of service/support throughout the Southern Midlands.*

## Reporting on the 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

### STRATEGIC THEME: **COMMUNITY**

### **2011-12 Achievements**

#### 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

#### Capacity & Sustainability

#### ***What are we aiming to achieve over the five year period***

Build the capacity of the Community to help itself and embrace the framework & strategies articulated by the Social Inclusion Commissioner to achieve sustainability.

#### **Key actions:**

- Support community groups who wish to run and/or develop community based facilities.
- Support community groups who wish to run and/or develop community based events.
- Continue to provide funding opportunities for community groups through the Southern Midlands Community Small Grants Program.
- Provide support to community groups to access grants from a wide range of sources.
- Provide support to the community groups in their establishment and ongoing development.
- Provide support to the community in addressing major impacts that affect the ability of the community to work cohesively together.

*Council works closely with a number of community based organisations and groups, and provides both 'in-kind' and financial assistance to run community events and activities. It also has a primary role in building their capacity, through good governance and strategic planning support.*

*The on-going support of the Community Men's Shed is one practical example of this Community capacity building approach. Council are also part of the State Men's Shed Association and support a volunteer from our shed to be an office bearer on the Association*

*Council has an extensive database for the majority of Community groups. Grant alerts from external organisations are circulated to all database members to ensure that they are able to determine their applicability*

*Council in partnership with Midlands Initiative for Local Enterprise Inc (MILE) have completed the extension and alterations to the old Oatlands Library building to provide a focal point/location for a range of community based activities and services. The Bargain Centre has consolidated itself into the centre which was brought about by having to exit the Callington Mill site due to the site's redevelopment. This has worked well for all concerned and continues to provide a valuable service to the community.*

*'Midlands Matters' the service provider and community group networking meetings on a monthly basis are adding significant value to the community and continue to be strongly supported.*

## Reporting on the 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

STRATEGIC THEME:  
**COMMUNITY**

### ***2011-12 Achievements***

2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

**Capacity & Sustainability (Continued)**

*Council works with and supports Family Fun Days, and similar Community engagement activities in partnership with Communities for Children, the Rural Primary Health Service and other valued service providers in the region.*

*Council continues to provide an operating subsidy to the Southern Midlands Community Radio Station Inc. This followed a review conducted early in the reporting period. The outcome of this review demonstrated renewed community support and interest.*



## Reporting on the 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

### STRATEGIC THEME: **COMMUNITY**

### **2011-12 Achievements**

#### 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

#### Safety

#### **What are we aiming to achieve over the five year period**

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

#### **Key actions:**

- Continue to support the development of Community based policing initiatives such as "Neighbourhood Watch".
- Work in partnership with the Police to reduce the incidence of crime in the Southern Midlands.
- Maintain a Southern Midlands Emergency Management Plan and review every two years.
- Convene the Disaster Management Committee twice per year.
- Continue to support the Road Accident Rescue Unit in partnership with the State Emergency Service.
- In partnership, develop a Community Safety Committee.

*The Southern Midlands Road Rescue Unit had 479 call-outs involving 278.25 operational hours during the 2011-12 period. This is a decrease in the number of incidents (49 incidents in 2010-11) but an increase in operational hours (192 operational hours in 2010/11) during the prior period. The Unit, which has three rescue vehicles, continues to operate from both Oatlands and Kempton.*

*The Southern Midlands Emergency Management Planning Committee met on two occasions to review and prepare a new Southern Midlands Emergency Management Plan (based on a template developed by the State Emergency Service).*

*Mr Tim Kirkwood and Mr John Lyall were re-appointed to the positions of Municipal Emergency Management Coordinator and Deputy Municipal Emergency Management Coordinator respectively by the Minister for Emergency Services under the Emergency Services Act 2006. The appointments are for a period of five (5) years.*

*The Oatlands based Ambulance continues to operate in accordance with the Deed of Agreement between the Tasmanian Ambulance Service, the Department of Health and Human Services (Primary Health) and the Southern Midlands Council.*

*Council developed and adopted new guidelines and procedures for the issuing of Fire hazard Abatement Notices issued under the Local Government Act 1993.*

## Reporting on the 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

### STRATEGIC THEME: **COMMUNITY**

### **2011-12 Achievements**

#### 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

#### Consultation

#### **What are we aiming to achieve over the five year period**

Improve the effectiveness of consultation with the Community.

#### **Key actions:**

- Continue to schedule Council meetings in the various districts of the municipality.
- Develop a Community Consultation Strategy.

*Four (4) Ordinary Meetings of Council were held in the following areas during the summer period:*

*Bagdad, Campania, Tunbridge and Tunnack.*

*Council officers have developed a consultation policy and associated information that will be the benchmark for community consultation.*

#### Communication

#### **What are we aiming to achieve over the five year period**

Improve the effectiveness of communication with the Community.

#### **Key actions:**

- Continue to issue the quarterly Council newsletter for residents and ratepayers.
- Continue to develop and maintain an “up-to-date” website.
- Embrace innovative approaches to improving communications e.g. Community radio and ‘New Media’.

*Four newsletters were issued during 2011-12.*

*Council has fully developed its new website ( [www.southernmidlands.tas.gov.au](http://www.southernmidlands.tas.gov.au) )*

*This was identified as a major priority over this year as a core component of Council’s Business Process Improvement Strategy.*

*The Community & Corporate Development business unit, as well as other business units, have worked with Mid FM Community Radio in providing content and interviews on topical matters of interest to the community.*

## Reporting on the 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

### STRATEGIC THEME: ORGANISATION

### 2011-12 Achievements

#### 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

#### Improvement

#### **What are we aiming to achieve over the five year period**

Improve the level of responsiveness to Community 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 IT systems.

Develop an overall Continuous Improvement Strategy and framework.

#### **Key actions:**

- Maintain a comprehensive automated work order/public enquiry system as well as a complaints system.
- Improve and maintain the Council web site.
- Maintain an up to date profile of the municipal area to assist in identifying community needs.
- Establish an efficient and effective Intra-net.
- Maintain an effective staff performance appraisal system that provides staff with recognition for their achievements.
- Maintain a regular communication briefing to all staff from the General Manager.
- Develop and implement a project plan for the upgrading of the Council asset management system.

*The work order / public enquiry system has been automated with the new Records Management system.*

*Council has fully developed its new web site [www.southernmidlands.tas.gov.au](http://www.southernmidlands.tas.gov.au). This was identified as a major priority over this year as a core component of Council's Business Process Improvement Strategy.*

*The new website handles this requirement at a number of levels, from local information through to ABS data.*

*The staff performance appraisal system developed last year, now known as Council's Development Review process continues to be a useful mechanism.*

*Regular staff briefings are conducted at all Council locations.*

*Through this year Council has purchased and implemented a computerised asset management system for the Transport Infrastructure components of Council's asset base.*

*The comprehensive maintenance management system that was developed for Council halls and recreation grounds will be transferred to Council's new Asset Management software system during 2012/13.*

*The Geographical Information System (GIS) data held by Council has continued to be improved in association with the user interface. This is system now integrates with the asset management system as well as Council finance system. Achievements include:*

- *Drafting of new Planning Scheme GIS layers.*

## Reporting on the 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

### STRATEGIC THEME: **ORGANISATION**

### **2011-12 Achievements**

#### 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

#### Improvement (continued)

- Develop a strategy to increase the user-friendliness of the finance module.
- Identify new IT training needs of staff and seek opportunities to enhance their skills.
- Establish a business process improvement program. Prepare a discussion paper and policy recommendations in relation to Continuous Improvement and Quality Assurance across all of Council

- *All GIS data layers were updated and made available on everyone's desktop through Exponaire (implemented by Insight GIS).*
- *New high resolution aerial imagery data for Southern Midlands towns (STCA initiative).*
- *A new Service Level Agreement on data transfer with the State Government drafted.*
- *Involvement at Regional GIS forums and meetings (with Insight GIS and with the STCA).*

*A Business Continuity Policy is under development in case disaster recovery becomes an issue for Council.*

*These system improvements have been core components in Council's Business Process Improvement Program*

*Council's new information communication systems have required new skill sets to be established by Council team members*

*Council established its Business Process Improvement program, where staff assess the efficiency and effectiveness of Council's information communications technology and making recommendations on "working smarter". This is part of Council's drive to deliver cost effective services by constantly reviewing operating activities.*

*This process identified three major information, communication technology improvements to Council's operating systems, all of which have been implemented during this year with tremendous success, namely:*

1. *Upgrading of the Records Management system*
2. *Purchase of an Asset Management system*
3. *Major upgrade of Council's web site with revised site architecture.*

## Reporting on the 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

### STRATEGIC THEME: ORGANISATION

### 2011-12 Achievements

#### 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

#### Sustainability

#### *What are we aiming to achieve over the five year period*

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 maintain and improve the level of statutory compliance of Council operations.

Ensure that suitably qualified and sufficient staff are available to meet the community's needs.

Work co-operatively with State and Regional organisations.

Minimise Councils exposure to risk.

#### **Key actions:**

- Establish an appropriate quality assurance system for Council.
- Review the appropriateness of employing entry level employees through formal training arrangements.
- Monitor the need for a new Oatlands Works Depot.
- 

*The corporation is made up of nine Councillors elected by ratepayers and residents of the municipal area. Elections are held every two years with half the Councillors retiring at each election. Elections for the position of Mayor and Deputy Mayor are held at the same time every two years. The next election is scheduled for October 2013.*

*Council holds monthly ordinary meetings on the fourth Wednesday of the month.*

*In accordance with the Local Government 1993, Council reviewed its Strategic Plan – revised Plan entitled 'Strategic Plan 2010 to 2015.*

*Council continuously monitors its risk exposure in both day to day activities as well as on a project by project basis.*

*The Southern Midlands Code of Conduct for councillors is a statement and public declaration of the standard of behaviour that Councillors have agreed should be demonstrated, and which the community can expect to be demonstrated, when they are carrying out their roles and functions as elected community representatives.*

*Council actively participates in both regional and sub-regional forums. The Southern Tasmanian Council's Authority (STCA) represents all 12 southern Tasmanian Councils and undertakes a range of activities on behalf of the region. One of the most significant projects completed by the STCA during the course of the year was the 'Independent Review of Structures for Local Governance & Service Delivery in Southern Tasmania'. This was funded by a Commonwealth grant under the Local Government Reform Fund.*



## Reporting on the 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

### STRATEGIC THEME: ORGANISATION

### 2011-12 Achievements

2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan  
Over the next five years Council will:

#### Sustainability (continued)

#### Key Strategies and actions:

- Review the risks associated with the current accommodation at Oatlands.
- Implement the staged re-development of the Kempton Council Chambers and administrative offices.
- Develop a program of education and training to support elected members in the role.
- Develop a program of training for staff to ensure that they have the training and skills they need to undertake their jobs.
- Identify opportunities for resource sharing with other Councils.
- Identify and implement working relationships with the Councils in our sub region across a wide range of operational and support areas.
- Undertake an annual 'in-house' review of statutory compliance, including a review of delegations.
- Review staffing levels at performance appraisal time.
- Continue to participate in State and Regional forums, including the Southern Tasmanian Councils Board, LGAT, as well as others.
- Implement a Risk Management Strategy and work within the framework of the Civic Mutual Plus (CMP) risk management model.

*Risk Management - Staff continue to invest considerable time and effort in implementing Council's Risk Management Strategy. Regular inspections of Council assets are undertaken to identify (and rectify) any potential risks. Suitability assessments have been undertaken of all Council's sporting grounds and facilities.*

*Staff development is a key strategy in continuing to provide exceptional service to our clients. Whilst the training budget is quite small it continues to be invested in a wise and timely manner across the spectrum of Council's responsible areas.*

*Elected members have participated in a number of workshops to increase skills and knowledge to support them in their role (e.g. LGAT workshops, 'in-house' workshops).*

## Reporting on the 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

### STRATEGIC THEME: ORGANISATION

### 2011-12 Achievements

#### 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan

#### Finance

#### *What are we aiming to achieve over the five year period*

Maintain current levels of community equity.

Major borrowings for infrastructure will reflect the intergenerational nature of the assets created.

Council will retain a minimum cash balance to cater for extraordinary circumstances.

Operating expenditure will be maintained in real terms and expansion of services will be funded by re-allocation of service priorities or an increase in rates.

Sufficient revenue will be raised to sustain the current level of community and infrastructure services.

*The 2011-12 General Purpose Financial Statement forms part of this Annual Report. An unqualified Audit Report has been issued by the Tasmanian Auditor General.*

*Total equity increased by \$495K, primarily due to a revaluation of non-current assets (i.e. bridges) which increased asset values by \$522K.*

*The preparation of Asset Management Plans has been a priority, with the initial plan relating to Transport Infrastructure nearing completion. An Asset Management Plan for Buildings is the remaining focus in 2012/13.*

*The financial components of these Plans will be integrated into Council's Long Term Financial Management Strategy. This will provide a clear understanding of Council's financial position and its ability to manage its assets on a sustainable basis.*

#### **Key actions:**

- Fund depreciation at 50% to 60% until 2006/07 then aim to increase this level thereafter.
- Implement the Southern Midlands Council Financial Management Strategy.
- Seek opportunities to develop and sell Council land.
- Allow for the acquisition or disposal of land where it is in the public interest and where there is a demonstrated community benefit.
- Maximise the opportunities for Council to invest in opportunities that support this Strategic Plan.



## Reporting on Legislative Requirements

In alphabetical order, following are the reports that Council is required to provide under various legislation for the 2011/2012 financial year:

### **Allowances and Expenses Statement**

(Under the *Local Government Act 1993*)

In 2011/2012 Council provided allowances and reimbursements for reasonable expenses to the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors. This included telephone rental, telephone calls and travelling.

Allowances \$110,637

Expenses \$22,024

### **Attendance at Council and Council Committee Meetings Statement**

(Under the *Local Government Act 1993*)

Twelve (12) regular Council meetings were held during the year, not including the Annual General Meeting which was held on the 12<sup>th</sup> of December 2011.

There were seven (7) meetings of Council's Southern Midlands Recreation Committee, being the only Council Committee established in accordance with section 23 of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

	<b>Ordinary Council Meetings Held</b>	<b>Ordinary Council Meetings Attended</b>	<b>Special Meeting</b>	<b>Annual General Meeting</b>	<b>Southern Midlands Recreation Committee Meetings Held</b>	<b>Southern Midlands Recreation Committee Meetings Attended</b>
Mayor Tony Bisdee OAM	12	10	N/A	1	N/A	N/A
Deputy Mayor John Jones OAM (to Nov 2011)	4	4	N/A	0	N/A	N/A
Deputy Mayor Mark Jones OAM (from November 2011)	8	8	N/A	1	1	1
Clr A R Bantick (from Nov 2011)	8	8	N/A	1	N/A	N/A
Clr Colin Beven	12	12	N/A	1	3	3
Clr Bob Campbell	12	11	N/A	1	N/A	N/A
Clr Marie Connors	12	11	N/A	0	3	3
Clr Don Fish	12	11	N/A	1	3	3
Clr Alex Green	12	12	N/A	1	N/A	N/A
Clr M Jones OAM (to Nov 2011)	4	4	N/A	0	N/A	N/A
Clr J L Jones OAM (from Nov 2011)	8	7	N/A	1	N/A	N/A
Clr H M Scott OAM (to Nov 2011)	4	3	N/A	0	2	2

## Reporting on Legislative Requirements

### Contracts

In accordance with Section 23(5) of the *Local Government (General) Regulations 2005*, Council is required to report on contracts for the supply or provision of goods and services in excess of \$100,000 (excl. GST) entered into during the year to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2012.

Contactor Name & Address	Description of Contract	Value of Contract (excl. GST)	Period of Contract (plus extension options if applicable)
Andrew Walters Construction	Road pavement rehabilitation / stabilisation	\$274,278	N/A
Roadways Pty Ltd	Sealing Program 2011-12	\$167,180	N/A
William Adams	Caterpillar Grader	\$336,329	N/A
CJD Equipment	Mitsubishi Truck	\$176,900	N/A

### Donation of Land Statement

(Under the *Local Government Act 1993*)

Section 72 (1) (da) requires Council to report on details of any land donated by Council during the year.

Council made no such donations of land.

### Enterprise Power Statement

(Under the *Local Government Act 1993*)

Section 72 (1) (ca) requires Council to provide a statement of activities and performance of the Council in relation to any activity undertaken pursuant to section 21 of the *Local Government Act 1993* 'Enterprise Powers'.

During 2010/11, the Southern Midlands Council established two separate entities associated with the creation of the Centre for Colonial Heritage Conservation and Restoration:

- c) a proprietary company which will operate the 'Services Arm' – Heritage Building Solutions Pty Ltd – commenced operation 19/7/10; and
- d) a company limited by guaranteed to operate the 'Education Arm' – Heritage Education and Skills Centre Ltd – commenced operation 28/7/2010.

The purpose of the respective Companies are as follows:

#### Heritage Building Solutions Pty Ltd

To commercially provide building services, primarily to the heritage property sector and to conserve and renovate heritage property for re-use.

This includes:

- Conservation & Restoration Building Works;
- Professional Services Brokering;
- Heritage Building Redevelopment;
- Building services to Southern Midlands Council;
- Commercial building services;
- Production of architectural fittings; and
- Joinery workshop production items.

## Heritage Education and Skills Centre Ltd

To promote and facilitate the conservation and restoration of heritage properties and the development and the application of associated knowledge and skills.

This includes:

- Education and training - Apprentice and post trade training; Field work and structured experience; Property owner training; Professional training; and Visitor education.
- Research into - Conservation & Restoration Techniques; Building re-use technologies and best practice; Heritage/Archaeology; and Interpretation.
- Funding Heritage conservation and restoration activities – sourcing external funds and gifts”

The financial performance of these entities are reported in the set of Financial Statements.

## Remuneration Statement

(Under the *Local Government Act 1993*)

The following table provides the remuneration for those positions designated by Council as senior positions, as required under the *Local Government Act 1993*. The positions of General Manager, Manager – Development and Environmental Services, Manager – Community and Corporate Development, Manager – Works and Technical Services and Manager – Corporate Services have been defined as senior positions by the Southern Midlands Council.

Remuneration Band	Number of Positions
\$ 71,000 - \$ 90,000	2
\$ 91,000 - \$110,000	0
\$111,000 - \$130,000	2
\$131,000 - \$150,000	1

## Reporting on Community Involvement

### 2011/2012 Grants and Assistance

<b>Recipient</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Brighton Family Day Care	Administration of FDC Service Ann Grant 2011/2012	\$ 5,000.00
Ms Emma Groves	Under 15 Rep State Netball Team Perth WA	\$ 100.00
Emma Watkins	Rep Australian Darts Championships Devonport	\$ 100.00
Aurora/Sale Yards	Power Charges 16/04 to 18/07/11	\$ 75.72
MILE	Jericho volunteer fire SMC small grant Sep 10	\$ 2,272.73
Bagdad Community Club	Small Community Grants Sep 2010 Bagdad Hist Society	\$ 670.00
Tas Heritage Highway Tourism Region	Council Allocation 2011/2012	\$ 12,000.00
Broadmarsh/Elderslie Progress Assoc	50% Remission Public Liability Insurance 10/11	\$ 294.04
Broadmarsh/Elderslie Progress Assoc	50% Remission Public Liability Insurance 11/12	\$ 304.17
Joshua Hazelwood	Financial Assistance National Shearing Ch/Ships	\$ 150.00
Oatlands District Football Assoc	ODFA Sponsorship 2011	\$ 95.00
MILE	Campania High School Grant 2010	\$ 1,890.91
Green Ponds Assoc	SMC Community Small Grant March 2009	\$ 938.00
Imagine Campania	SMC Small Community Grant	\$ 2,000.00
MILE	Festival Support 2011	\$ 909.09
MILE	SMC Small Community Grant	\$ 1,818.18
MILE	SMC Small Community Grant	\$ 2,272.73
St John's Ambulance	SMC Small Community Grant	\$ 2,272.73
Wildcare Inc	SMC Small Community Grant	\$ 909.09
Wildcare Inc	SMC Small Community Grant	\$ 2,272.73
MILE	SMC Small Community Grant	\$ 2,722.73
Central Hawks Football Club	SMC Small Community Grant	\$ 1,181.82
Oatlands District High School	Annual Donation 2011 Secondary	\$ 100.00
Oatlands District High School	Annual Donation 2011 Primary	\$ 50.00
Kempton Primary School	Annual Donation 2011	\$ 50.00
Bagdad Primary School	Annual Donation 2011	\$ 50.00
Levendale Primary School	Annual Donation 2011	\$ 50.00
Campania District High School	Annual Donation 2011 Secondary	\$ 100.00
Campania District High School	Annual Donation 2011 Primary	\$ 50.00
Levendale Cricket Club	Financial Assistance 2011/2012	\$ 400.00
Campania District High School	SMC Community Small Grant	\$ 1,454.55
Heart Foundation	Donation of Call Out Fee SES Rd Crash Rescue	\$ 200.00
Able Australia	SMC Small Community Grant	\$ 1,363.64
Brighton Show	Pet Parade	\$ 10.00

## Reporting on Community Involvement

### 2011/2012 Grants and Assistance

Recipient	Description	Amount
MILE	Operating Funding 2011/2012	\$ 4,545.45
Colebrook Golf Club	Coal River Classic 2011/2012	\$ 200.00
Colebrook Golf Club	Coal River Classic 2010/2011	\$ 200.00
Ryan Woodford	Australian Internat Futsal Rep UK	\$ 200.00
Mr Luke Foster	Tas Rep Water Polo U/14 WA	\$ 100.00
Zoe Horgan	Rep U13 State Girls Soccer Team	\$ 100.00
Micaela Maui	Gymnastics Championships State Rep	\$ 100.00
MILE	Parterre Gardens Support Funding	\$ 363.64
Broadmarsh/Elderslie Progress Assoc	SMC Small Community Grants	\$ 2,272.73
Bagdad Child Care Centre	Child Care Funding 2011/2012 Financial Year	\$ 4,250.00
The Station Child Care Centre	Child Care Funding 2011/2012 Financial Year	\$ 5,750.00