



LAUNCESTON CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL AGENDA

**COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY 12 MAY 2014**

LAUNCESTON CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL AGENDA

Monday 12 May 2014

Notice is hereby given that the Ordinary Meeting of the Launceston City Council will be held at the Council Chambers -

Date: 12 May 2014

Time: 1.00 pm

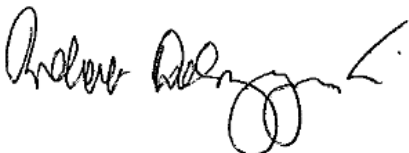
Section 65 Certificate of Qualified Advice

Background

Section 65 of the Local Government Act 1993 requires the General Manager to certify that any advice, information or recommendation given to council is provided by a person with appropriate qualifications or experience.

Declaration

I certify that persons with appropriate qualifications and experience have provided the advice, information and recommendations given to Council in the agenda items for this meeting.



Robert Dobrzynski
General Manager

LAUNCESTON CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL AGENDA

Monday 12 May 2014

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1 OPENING OF MEETING - IN ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

2 DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS

3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That the Minutes of the meeting of the Launceston City Council held on 28 April 2014 be confirmed as a true and correct record.
2. That the Minutes of the meeting of the Launceston City Council held on 28 April 2014 in closed session be confirmed as a true and correct record.

4 DEPUTATION

Nil

5 ANSWERS FROM PREVIOUS PUBLIC AND ALDERMEN'S QUESTION TIME

Meeting Date and Item No.	File No.	Question	Answer	Officer Responsible
28 April 2014 10.1		<p>Question by Alderman Ball:</p> <p>Regarding the advertising of Launceston City/Events project, can Council provide a report/update regarding the project? Noted Production Company was contracted to capture events and moments around the City</p>	<p>Response at meeting: This question was taken on notice</p> <p>Further reply: The Council currently engage Southern Cross TV in an ongoing program to capture footage of events for council use in particular the 3 minute vignette that is used for tourism and events promotion.</p> <p>Events are also advertised through the data screens at the Visitor Information centre and on Destination Facebook site.</p>	Michael Stretton

Meeting Date and Item No.	File No.	Question	Answer	Officer Responsible
			<p>In addition, in partnership with Tourism Tasmania and Tourism Northern Tasmania, the Council is encouraging all event organisers to enter their events through the Australian Tourism Data Warehouse (ATDW). We in turn are entering into a contract with Choosevent to manage and enter local content via the ATDW. Our own staff will have the ability to enter information on our own behalf or that of third parties. Links to Choosevent will appear on our own websites. We anticipate this happening over the next couple of months.</p>	

6 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

8 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE MAYOR**8.1 Mayor's Announcements****FILE NO:** SF2375

Tuesday 29 April

Officiated at Turning of the Sod - Recycling Centre and Resale Shop

Attended Uniting AgeWell Board's Annual Visit to Tasmania Luncheon

Friday 2 May

Attended Launceston Flood Authority Tour of the Tamar with Gregory Andrews, Assistant Secretary for the Environment and Sarah Meredith (Advisor to Greg Hunt, Federal Minister for the Environment)

Attended Trevallyn Bowls & Community Club Presentation Night & Dinner

Monday 5 May

Attended Targa Tasmania Official Welcome Party

Wednesday 7 May

Attended Ambulance Tasmania Regional Awards & Recognition Ceremony

Thursday 8 May

Attended Austral Bricks Official Launch

Attended UTAS Opening of Student Accommodation - Newnham Apartments

Officiated at Civic Reception for UTAS Northern Health Initiative and welcome of new Provost, Professor Mike Calford to the Launceston Community

Attended Ambre Hammond Piano Recital

Friday 9 MayAttended Clifford Craig Charity Gala Ball - "A Right Royal Affair"

9 ALDERMEN'S/DELEGATES' REPORTS

10 QUESTIONS BY ALDERMEN

13 NOTICES OF MOTION - FOR CONSIDERATION

13.1 Notice of Motion - Alderman Sands - CH Smith Building

FILE NO: SF5547 / 18870

AUTHOR: Alderman Sands

GENERAL MANAGER: Robert Dobrzynski (General Manager)

DECISION STATEMENT:

To consider a Notice of Motion from Alderman Sands regarding the CH Smith Building site.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL CONSIDERATION:

N/A

NOTICE OF MOTION:

That Launceston City Council engage with the Tasmanian Heritage Council, Brile Investments and others, to find a solution to the stalled development of the lower Charles Street site.

REPORT:

Alderman Sands will speak to this motion.

Background information provided by Alderman Sands:

Since 1988, this site has been a wasteland on the major approach to the City of Launceston, we as a Council need to have urgent discussions with the owner of the site, Brile Investments, to hopefully find a solution to the ongoing problem that has stifled the progress of this site.

We also need to have an urgent discussion with the Heritage Council to hopefully have the site removed from the Tasmanian Heritage Register.

13.1 Notice of Motion - Alderman Sands - CH Smith Building...(Cont'd)

For 25 years this site has been an eyesore and direct action and involvement needs to occur to enable Brile or some other developer to take over the site and build a structure that will eliminate the obvious eyesore that Launceston people have endured for the past 25 years.

Buildings that have been empty for decades are in great danger of becoming structural wrecks as this particular building has and we as a Council have an obligation to the citizens of this city to bring about change.

The Heritage Council does not have the finance to fix and preserve the building, and it would be fair to say that the present owner is financially challenged to ever complete the task.

With a modern day approach to building practices it is more affordable to bring life back to the site, with a brownfield backdrop rather than with a fragile façade that is in danger of total collapse.

We have seen the results of a fatal wall collapse in Melbourne that was only three metres high, this building façade is probably eight to ten metres high. With high winds and adverse conditions it is in danger of total collapse.

We should for all concerned fence off the boundary walls to eliminate the risk.

Officer Comments - Michael Stretton

Council staff have been in recent contact with the developers and can advise that heritage is not proving to be an impediment to the progression of the development. The main impediment has been the securing of tenants for the development, which has been influenced by the residual impacts of the global financial crisis. The developers have always been accepting of the need to preserve the building's heritage character and in actual fact the heritage facade is a strong element of the development and is a major factor for the proposed anchor tenant.

13.1 Notice of Motion - Alderman Sands - CH Smith Building...(Cont'd)

In respect to the perceived safety concern from the building, I can advise that there is no evidence to suggest that there are problems in respect to the stability of the building. The only stability issue relates to the old Cordial factory building in Canal Street and this has been suitably retained and fenced (see photo). Accordingly, there does not appear to be any additional safety issues which require action by the Council.



STRATEGIC DOCUMENT REFERENCE:

N/A


BUDGET & FINANCIAL ASPECTS:

N/A

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:

The officer has no conflict of interest in this item.

I certify that I have reviewed and approved this advice and recommendation.


Robert Dobrzynski: General Manager

13.2 Notice of Motion - Alderman McKendrick - Meeting with State Cabinet

FILE NO: SF5547

AUTHOR: Alderman McKendrick

GENERAL MANAGER: Robert Dobrzynski (General Manager)

DECISION STATEMENT:

To consider a Notice of Motion from Alderman McKendrick to write to the State Government to initiate coordination and collaboration with LCC Aldermen and State Government in relation to the future of the City of Launceston

PREVIOUS COUNCIL CONSIDERATION:

N/A

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Mayor write to The Honourable Will Hodgman, Premier of Tasmania inviting the State Government Cabinet to meet with Alderman of the City of Launceston at the Town Hall to discuss collaboration and coordination on priority matters relating to the future prosperity of the City

REPORT:

Officer Comments - Robert Dobrzynski (General Manager)

The proposed motion is self-explanatory and consistent with the Council's strategic objectives to advocate its priorities to government.

STRATEGIC DOCUMENT REFERENCE:

N/A

13.2 Notice of Motion - Alderman McKendrick - Meeting with State Cabinet...(Cont'd)


BUDGET & FINANCIAL ASPECTS:

N/A

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:

The officer has no conflict of interest in this item.

I certify that I have reviewed and approved this advice and recommendation.


Robert Dobrzynski: General Manager

DIRECTORATE AGENDA ITEMS**14 DEVELOPMENT SERVICES****14.1 Community Grants (Round 3) 2013/2014****FILE NO:** SF5954**AUTHOR:** Angela Walsh (Grants & Sponsorship Officer)**DIRECTOR:** Michael Stretton (Director Development Services)

DECISION STATEMENT:

To respond to requests for Community Grants.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL CONSIDERATION:

N/A

RECOMMENDATION:

That the following recipients receive the recommended grant amounts:

No	Request	Details	Score	Requested	Recommend	Page #
1	Self Help Workshop Inc.	Governance Workshops for Community Organisations (July 2014 - January 2015)	97%	\$5,000	Approval \$5,000	2 - 12
2	Choir of High Hopes	Choir of High Hopes - Travel Assistance for Program Development	91%	\$1,200	Approval \$1,200	13 - 22
3	Northern Tasmanian Netball Association	Young Leaders Program (2014/2015 Netball Season)	91%	\$5,000	Approval \$5,000	23 - 33
4	Australian Youth Climate Coalition	Launceston Climate Leadership Project (June 2014 - October 2014)	86%	\$4,700	Approval \$4,700	34 - 45

14.1 Community Grants (Round 3) 2013/2014...(Cont'd)

No	Request	Details	Score	Requested	Recommend	Page #
5	Lady Gowrie Tasmania Inc.	Parenting Sessions (1 July 2014 - 30 June 2015)	76%	\$5,000	Approval \$3,750	46 - 56
6	The Tasmanian Writers' Centre	Conversations & Writing Support Program 2014 (1 July - 31 December 2014)	51%	\$5,000	Approval \$2,500	57 - 68

REPORT:

The total requests received for Community Grants Round 3 2013/2014 (including individuals/teams/groups) is \$26,750.

Based on the assessment results, the recommended allocation of funds for Round 3 2013/2014 is \$23,000 (including \$850 for individuals/teams/groups).

The Assessment Panel has assessed each application against the assessment criteria (detailed below). The full details of each request are set out in a separate report which has been distributed to Aldermen together with an analysis of the projects/activities and their respective scores.

The normal distribution of funds (according to score) is as follows:

81 - 100%	=	100% of requested funds
61 - 80%	=	75% of requested funds
50- 60%	=	50% of requested funds
< 50%	=	No funding provided

All applications have been assessed using the following criteria:

Individual/Team/Group Applications

Individual/team/group grants will be provided if you are a young person 18 years or under living in the Launceston Municipal area, who have been selected to represent Australia, Tasmania or Northern Tasmania.

14.1 Community Grants (Round 3) 2013/2014...(Cont'd)

In accordance with the Community Grants (Individual/Team/Group) Policy the following individuals/teams/groups have been approved for funding:

Ashley Draper - Highland Dance Championships - Scotland	\$200
Nicholas Laycock - U20 Men's Australian Junior Basketball Championships	\$100
Jordan Talbot - Asics Aust. Little Athletics Championships	\$100
Tasmanian State Junior Vigoro Team (7 members)	\$300
Revved Up - Brooks High School F1 in Schools Team (3 members)	\$150
Total	\$850

Organisation Applications**Mandatory Requirements:**

- Community benefit must be the primary purpose of the project/activity
- Project/activity is held within the Launceston Municipal area
- Must respond to one or more priorities identified in the Launceston's Vision 20/20 and/or Preferred Futures and Action Plans in the Launceston Community Plan
- A detailed budget must be included with the application
- A risk management plan (for the project/activity) must be included with the application

Assessment Points

- Aims and outcomes that benefit the Launceston community and are achievable
- Project plan demonstrates good organisational planning for the project/activity
- Budget for project/activity is realistic and includes evidence of self-support (i.e. fundraising, sponsorship, use of volunteers, in-kind support, etc)
- Merits of the project/activity for the Launceston community

ECONOMIC IMPACT:

Approval of the recommended grants will result in a positive economic impact to those individuals/teams/groups and organisations by providing funds that will enable them to undertake their project or activity.

14.1 Community Grants (Round 3) 2013/2014...(Cont'd)

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT:

Approval of the recommended grants will have minimal impact on the environment.

SOCIAL IMPACT:

Approval of the recommended grants will provide a number of valuable social impacts for our community. It will encourage physical activity for young people, community arts and personal development programs as well as providing educational opportunities.

STRATEGIC DOCUMENT REFERENCE:

Community Plan
Vision 2020

BUDGET & FINANCIAL ASPECTS:

Available Funds	\$27,550
Amount recommended this Round	
• Individuals/Teams/Groups - \$850	
• Organisations - \$22,150	\$23,000
Balance	\$4,550
Remaining Rounds 2013/2014	N/A

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:

The author has no conflict of interest in this item.

I certify that I have reviewed and approved this advice and recommendation.


Michael Stretton: Director Development Services

14.2 Review of Tamar NRM**FILE NO:** SF3419**DIRECTOR:** Michael Stretton (Director Development Services)

DECISION STATEMENT:

To determine the Council's preferred funding model for Tamar NRM

PREVIOUS COUNCIL CONSIDERATION:

SPPC - 5 May 2014 - Item 4.3

Council - 29 April 2013 - Item 14.3 the Council resolved to:

Undertake a review of the roles, responsibilities and expectations of both Tamar NRM and the Council during 2013/14 to ensure that there are synergies between the two organisations that are providing the Council with sufficient benefits and value to justify the Council's ongoing contribution.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Council:

- 1) Notify Tamar NRM that its 2014/15 contribution will be \$117,100; and
- 2) Prior to deciding upon its 2015/16 contribution hold discussions with Tamar NRM, West Tamar Council, George Town Council and NRM North to resolve the future funding and governance model for Tamar NRM. The Council's preferred future model includes:
 - a. The formation of a representatives group comprising two representatives from each of the three Councils and, possibly NRM North, which is reported to by the Tamar NRM Management Group. The two representatives from each Council should be an elected member and a suitably qualified professional employee. The composition of the Management Group would be altered to remove the Council representatives;
 - b. A requirement for the Management Group to prepare and submit to the Councils (or Representatives' Group) the following documents for endorsement each year:
 - i. a Strategy; and
 - ii. an Annual Plan with respect to the forthcoming financial year; and
 - iii. a Council contributions budget with respect to the forthcoming financial year.

14.2 Review of Tamar NRM...(Cont'd)

And further, that the Management Group present annually to the council on achievements against the Annual Plan and Strategy and the proposed annual plan for which funding is being sought.

- c. a population based Council funding model for Tamar NRM; and
 - d. a requirement that over the next two years Tamar NRM move towards funding its own on-costs and/or the other two Councils making an annual contribution towards the housing of the organisation.
-

REPORT:

Following Council's decision at its meeting on Monday 29 August 2013, a review has been completed to examine the roles, responsibilities and expectations of both Tamar NRM and the Council to ensure that there are synergies between the two organisations and that Tamar NRM is providing the Council with sufficient benefits and value to justify the Council's ongoing contribution.

The review has involved an assessment of Tamar NRM's annual reports and budgets over the past 3 years, meetings with the Tamar NRM Executive Officer and President, meetings with West Tamar Council and George Town Council discussions with NRM North's CEO, research into relevant finance and governance models, workshops with Aldermen and the preparation of a report making recommendations for Council consideration.

Background

Tamar Natural Resource Management (Tamar NRM) is an independent not-for-profit natural resource management group which brings together a wide range of community, landcare, education, business, local and state government representatives and is built upon a strong history of landcare and grass-roots involvement in environmental and agricultural issues in the Tamar Region.

The group was formed in 1998 to prepare the Tamar Region Natural Resource Management Strategy ('the Strategy') as a case-study for the development of a regional approach to natural resource management in Tasmania. The Strategy was first developed in 1999 and has subsequently been updated in 2001, 2007 and 2012.

14.2 Review of Tamar NRM...(Cont'd)

Tamar NRM focuses on co-ordination, pooling of resources and working together to address the priority issues and actions defined in the Strategy. The activities are principally aimed at enhancing rural and urban community involvement in natural resource management and forming positive community, government, business and industry partnerships in a pro-active, non-confrontational and non-political manner. This includes practical activities in the areas of ecological sustainable development, agricultural sustainability, environmental management and community capacity building.

Since the end of 2000 Tamar NRM has attracted over \$6M of funding into the Region to implement a range of projects. Some projects are directly managed by Tamar NRM or as part of a consortium. This includes activities in the areas of:

- On-ground landcare works;
- Community and landholder education, awareness and training;
- Knowledge (resource condition studies and management planning);
- Co-ordination, management, monitoring and evaluation; and
- Support to the wider NRM network in the Northern Tasmanian region.

The organisation's annual budget is around \$350,000 and includes four (4) staff members (Executive Officer, Office Manager and 2 part-time NRM Facilitators). Additionally, Tamar NRM has an extensive volunteer network with some 31 volunteer groups comprising approximately 310 volunteers.

Tamar NRM's Performance

In 2013/14 Launceston City Council contributed \$137,100 in direct funding to Tamar NRM as well as in-kind support for housing the organisation (including human resource management, Information technology, records management, risk management and Workplace Health and Safety costs (etc.)).

The following table includes some key indicators which demonstrate that the Council is receiving a good level of return for its investment in terms of the projects and services delivered by Tamar NRM. Attachment 1 provides an overview summary of the projects delivered by Tamar NRM over the past three years. Whilst it is noted that the funding received from Federal and State Governments has reduced over the past three years, since the end of 2000 Tamar NRM has value added the Council's contribution by attracting over \$6M of Federal and State funding into the Region to implement a range of projects.

14.2 Review of Tamar NRM...(Cont'd)

	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
REVENUE				
Grants	121,408	36,615	25,400	22,300
Interest	7,498	11,123	8,749	5,680
Local Government Contribution	131,000	146,900	161,590	177,749
NRM North Contribution	122,308	159,428	126,016	138,379
Other revenue	2,373	4,382	6247	333
Gift Donations	150	150	-	
TOTAL REVENUE	384,735	358,798	327,001	344,441
EXPENSES				
Salaries & On-costs	230,045	245,500	247,189	258,895
Honorarium	4,807	5,192	5,000	5,000
Implementation & Operations	107,934	119,451	96,783	91,536
Bank fees	61	70	65	16
Audit fees	1,500	1,500	1500	1,500
TOTAL EXPENSES	344,347	371,713	350,537	356,947
Surplus/(Deficit)	40,388	(12,915)	(23,536)	(12,506)
LCC Contribution	\$100,000	\$110,000	\$121,000	\$133,100
Projects from which LCC received direct value and benefit from its contribution		Forming Partnerships to Eradicate Boneseed and Bridal Creeper in the Tamar Valley	Forming Partnerships to Eradicate Boneseed and Bridal Creeper in the Tamar Valley	Gambusia Control Project
		Gambusia Control Project	Gambusia Control Project	NRM Facilitator
		Optimise Your Hot Water Service (and Reduce your Costs)	NRM Facilitator	Perennial pastures
		Sustainable Living Working Group	Sustainable Living Working Group	Sustainable Farming
		Weeds Working Group	Weeds Working Group	Sustainable Living Working Group
		Tamar Talks	Tamar Talks	Weeds Working Group
				Tamar Talks

14.2 Review of Tamar NRM...(Cont'd)

It is clear that Tamar NRM delivers projects in functional areas which the Council does not have the resources to deliver. These areas include weed management, pest management, farm land management, cat management and to a lesser extent, coastal management. Additionally, because of Tamar NRM's focus on direct 'on-the-ground' delivery of services, the organisation is having a tangible impact in Launceston and if these services were not being delivered there would be pressure on the Council to assume a service delivery role. This said, however, it is clear from the Council's review that Tamar NRM's projects do not necessarily accord with the Council highest priority areas and that there is scope for more targeted work to be undertaken within the Launceston Municipal Area to assist the Council in meeting its strategic objectives. This may be in areas such as community sustainability, pest control and weed management (etc.). Accordingly, it is considered that the Council needs to have a more formalised role in the approval process for the Tamar NRM operational plans each year to enable it to communicate its expectations to the organisation to ensure that it is delivering on the Council's strategic objectives and priorities. This is discussed further in the Governance Model section of the report.

The Tamar NRM Management Committee is cognisant of the need to ensure that the member Councils are receiving good value for their investment in the organisation, and is currently seeking to develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Council to provide more certainty and clarity around the roles, responsibilities and expectations of the two organisations. Given that there are many groups and organisations operating within the NRM sphere in Northern Tasmania, including the Council, it is important to ensure that there is no duplication of efforts between organisations and that the Council is receiving sufficient benefits and value to justify its ongoing contribution to Tamar NRM. Accordingly, the MOU between Tamar NRM and the Council is considered to be a significant step forward and it is recommended that this be pursued.

Governance Model

Tamar NRM currently operates under a constitution which establishes the Tamar Region Natural Resource Management Strategy Reference Group Inc. Association, known as Tamar NRM. The objects and purpose of the Association is to:

14.2 Review of Tamar NRM...(Cont'd)

1. *'to conserve and protect the natural environment of the Tamar Region by:*
 - a. *carrying out, supporting and/or assisting with on-ground works that address priority environmental management and sustainability issues within the Tamar Region; and*
 - b. *carrying out, supporting and/or assisting with studies, research and projects to improve our knowledge of the natural environment and natural resources of the Tamar Region and to facilitate practices of sustainable development and planning;*
2. *to oversee the development and implementation of the Tamar Region Natural Resource Management Strategy*
3. *consistent with our vision that the Tamar Region be an attractive and prosperous place to live and work based on a healthy environment, to carry out activities that promote effective natural resource management in the Tamar Region in a proactive, non confrontational and non-political manner that can include, but not be limited to –*
 - a. *providing high level advice and support to the Member organisations, individuals and community groups on matters relevant to the management of natural resources in the Tamar Region;*
 - b. *organising and delivering community educational and awareness programmes pertinent to achieving improved natural resource management, environmental management and sustainability outcomes within the Tamar Region;*
 - c. *providing opportunities, support mechanisms and/or resources to enhance rural and urban community capacity to participate in natural resource management practices, activities and projects;*
 - d. *forming positive community, government, business and industry partnerships for the purposes of attracting resources for natural resource management activities in the Tamar Region';*

The affairs of the Association are managed by a management group which consists of a representative from each of the Councils together with other stakeholders who are elected at the annual general meeting of the Association. The management group:

- *'may exercise all the powers and perform all the functions of the Association, other than those powers and functions that are required by these rules to be exercised by general meetings of members of the Association; and*
 - *has power to do anything that appears to the management group to be essential for the proper management of the business and affairs of the Association'.*
-

14.2 Review of Tamar NRM...(Cont'd)

The Council is currently represented by one member on the Management Group, however, it is considered that having a Council representative on the Management Group is a poor governance process as it creates conflict, increases the potential for pecuniary interests and provides for limited oversight by the Council. Accordingly, it is recommended that a new Governance model be created whereby the Management Group reports to a representatives group comprising two representatives from each of the three Councils and possibly from NRM North as the major funders of the organisation. The two representatives from each Council should be an elected member and a suitably qualified professional employee. The composition of the Management Group would then need to be altered to remove the Council representatives.

Accordingly, it is recommended that the Council hold discussions with Tamar NRM with a view to altering the governance arrangements to reflect the above mentioned. It is further recommended that the governance arrangements require that the management group prepare and submit to the Councils (or Representatives' Group) the following documents for endorsement each year:

- (a) a strategy; and
- (b) an Annual Plan with respect to the forthcoming financial year; and
- (c) a Council Contributions Budget with respect to the forthcoming financial year.

Funding Model

There is currently no formal funding agreement between the Council and Tamar NRM, despite the fact that the Council has housed and funded the group since its formation in 1998. A review of Council records has identified that:

- The original hosting arrangements were developed during the original NHT Grant that enabled the formation of the Tamar Region Natural Resource Strategy and catered for the housing of the project manager for the development of the strategy; and
- In 2000 the Tamar NRM management committee developed a MOU which was intended to be signed by the 3 member Councils, however, this never occurred.

There is no basis for the current structuring of the Local Government contribution to Tamar NRM. The Council has contributed around 75% of the Local Government contribution since 2003, while the West Tamar Council has contributed between 12-14.4% and Georgetown Council between 9.16 -10.89%.

14.2 Review of Tamar NRM...(Cont'd)

Prior to 2003 the funding levels were 55%, 25% and 20% respectively, however, in 2003 the Council resolved to increase its contribution from \$27,000 to \$90,000 on the basis that the two other Councils in the Tamar make the same commitment. A review of the records indicate that while the Council's contribution increased by \$27,000 to \$90,000 in 2003/04, the West Tamar Council's contribution only increased from \$10,000 to \$15,000 and Georgetown Council's contribution increased from \$7,500 to \$12,000.

	Launceston	West Tamar Council	Georgetown
2000/2001	\$22,000	\$10,000	\$8,000
2001/2002	\$22,000	\$10,000	\$7,500
2002/2003	\$27,000	\$10,000	\$7,500
2003/2004	\$90,000	\$15,000	\$12,000
2004/2005	\$90,000	\$15,000	\$12,000
2005/2006	\$90,000	\$15,000	\$12,000
2006/2007	\$90,000 (+\$19,137 in kind)	\$15,000	\$12,000
2007/2008	\$100,000 (+\$19,137 in kind)	\$19,000	\$12,000
2008/2009	\$100,000 (+\$31,794 in kind)	\$19,000	\$12,000
2009/2010	\$100,000 (+\$31,794 in kind)	\$19,000	\$12,000
2010/2011	\$110,000 (+\$37,234 in kind)	\$20,900	\$16,000
2011/2012	\$121,000 (+\$38,351 in kind)	\$22,990	\$17,600
2012/2013	\$133,100 (+\$39,500 in kind)	\$25,289	\$19,360
2013/14	\$137,100 (in kind unavailable)	\$26,100	\$19,950

It is clear from this table that the lack of a formalised funding model has led to inequity between the funding provided by the three Councils. Accordingly, moving forward it will be important to adopt a formalised funding model which provides more equity and consistency between the Councils and Tamar NRM. It is considered that a population-based model of funding would provide an equitable and consistent approach. It is therefore recommended that a population based Council funding model be adopted for Tamar NRM.

14.2 Review of Tamar NRM...(Cont'd)

The current populations of the three municipal areas are as follows:

	Population	%
Launceston City Council	67,190	69.35
West Tamar Council	22,787	23.52
George Town Council	6,906	7.13
Total	96,883	100

Based on the 2013/14 Council contribution, a population based funding model would result in the following changes;

	LCC	WT	GT	Total
Current funding	\$ 137,100	\$ 26,100	\$19,950	\$183,150
Population based funding	\$127,014	\$43,077	\$13,059	\$183,150
Difference	(\$10,086)	\$16,977	(\$6,891)	-

In addition to the direct funding, the Council contributes approximately \$40K of in-kind costs for office accommodation, human resource management, Information technology, records management, risk management and Workplace Health and Safety costs (etc.). Neither Tamar NRM, West Tamar Council nor George Town Council contribute to these on-costs.

14.2 Review of Tamar NRM...(Cont'd)

The Council has completed a benchmarking exercise with two similar sized Tasmanian organisations which identified that the \$40K on-costs calculated by LCC is a fair and reasonable figure:

	Organisation 1	Organisation 2
Rent	\$12,000.00	\$30,000.00
Parking	\$1,000.00	Nil
Repairs & maintenance	\$2,000.00	\$1,500.00
Electricity	\$1,000.00	\$7,500.00
Postage	\$2,880.00	\$1,800.00
Insurance	\$7,500.00	\$16,100.00
Cleaning	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Finance /Risk /WHS/ HRM/ IT	\$10,000.00	\$7,800.00
TOTAL	\$37,380.00	\$65,700.00

It is considered that Tamar NRM needs to be moving towards funding its own on-costs and/or that the other two Councils need to be making a contribution towards the housing of the organisation. It is recommended that this be phased in over the next two years and to this end it is recommended that the Council reduce its 2014/15 contribution to Tamar NRM by \$20,000 comprising \$10,086 in direct costs (based on the basis of population served) and \$9,914 in on-costs.

ECONOMIC IMPACT:

N/A

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT:

Tamar NRM makes a valuable contribution to the preservation and/or enhancement of the environment through its various natural resource management activities.

14.2 Review of Tamar NRM...(Cont'd)

SOCIAL IMPACT:

Tamar NRM facilitates community involvement in natural resource management and provides valuable community and landholder education, awareness and training.

STRATEGIC DOCUMENT REFERENCE:

Strategic Plan Priority Area 1: Natural Environment - Goal: Sustainable management of natural resources, parks and recreational areas.

BUDGET & FINANCIAL ASPECTS:

Discussed within the report.

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:

The officer has no conflict of interest in this item.

I certify that I have reviewed and approved this advice and recommendation.


Michael Stretton: Director Development Services

TAMAR NRM PROJECTS and ACTIVITIES SUMMARY 2010/11 TO 2012/13

Project/Action	Project Carried out in LCC?	Project of benefit to LCC?	Comment
2012/13			
Gambusia Control Project	No	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gambusia is a pest fish impacting the Tamar and this project has sought to control the impact which benefits the entire benthic ecosystem.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developed a 'living with Gambusia' strategy Conducted annual distribution survey 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed revegetation works to Gambusia infested channels at Tamar Island Wetlands, Tranquillity Gardens and Windermere 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertook fencing works to limit public access to Gambusia infested waters at Tamar Island and at Windermere 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Removed over 20,000 Gambusia 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developed targeted education packs for teachers 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conducted field trips and talks to 4 local school groups (200 students) 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community displays held at world wetland day and AMC Open Day, Science week and IFS open day (900 attendees) 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project featured in the examiner, City Park Radio and Win Television news. 			
NRM Facilitator – Tamar (funded by NRM North)	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revegetation works conducted within LCC Information sessions provided within LCC School presentations provided within LCC Tree planting carried out at UTas Launceston also benefits from the efforts to control Boneseed along the West Tamar Highway.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perennial pastures project – Organised and held information field days (25 attendees) 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Managed large fencing and revegetation project with landholders 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide information to the public regarding weeds 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assisted property owner with planning vegetation management and plant selection for streamside planting in spring 			

Project/Action	Project Carried out in LCC?	Project of benefit to LCC?	Comment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Held planting morning with students of Youngtown Primary School and residents of Glenara Lakes retirement complex. Planted 70 native plants into three beds 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitated Boneseed eradication on West Tamar Highway 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conducted a sea spurge demonstration day at Weymouth for coastal community residents 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Site visit with landowner at Deviot to provide advice on Boneseed, Rice Grass and erosion 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hillwood garden club – presentation on weeds 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Redbill point tree planting day – 400 plants installed 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 x presentations for Scotch Oakburn College on Tasmania ecosystems – Vegetation of Tasmania. 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Queechey High School – Boneseed control activity – 130 year 10 students 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UTAS – tree planting day – 250 plants installed 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weed managers forum – 30 attendees 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Boneseed control along 15km of the West Tamar Highway 			
<p>Perennial pastures</p>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identified a demonstration site comprising 1.5ha of rundown pasture. Undertook renovation. An on-site field day and pasture management workshop held in June 2013 for 25 participants. 	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Site identified in Windermere and project is open to farmers within LCC to improve knowledge and practices.

Port Dalrymple – a three session classroom and practical field day to encourage students to learn about coastal native birds	No	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sessions attended by LCC students
Sustainable Farming – developed Farm Trials Catalogue website which is a resource and farm management tool for local farmers.	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resource is available to farmers within LCC to improve knowledge and practices
Facilitated the George Town Coastal Management Committee (George Town Coastal Management Plan)	No	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focused on the George Town coastal area with really no benefits derived by LCC
Facilitated the Sustainable Living Working Group	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The group provides education and direct action on matters such as sustainable housing, sustainable living, urban farming, introduction to permaculture. Sustainable August benefits LCC
Facilitated the Weeds Working Group	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group continues to undertake a weed eradication program with infestations addressed as they are identified.
Tamar Talks	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Talks held at the Tramsheds. The talks improve community knowledge and information on NRM matters.
2011/12			
Forming Partnerships to Eradicate Boneseed and Bridal Creeper in the Tamar Valley	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bridal Creeper spraying included Hillwood area The weed management commercials aimed at increasing community knowledge on Bridal Creeper and Boneseed management Information packages available to LCC residents
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Updated the Tamar Valley Weed Strategy website</i> 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Conducted Boneseed Workshop to increase community awareness through identification and education</i> 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Developed weed management commercials (Bridal Creeper & Boneseed) which aired on WIN TV</i> 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Sprayed Bridal Creeper in Greens Beach, Kayena/Drumstick Island, Little Swan Point and Hillwood</i> 			

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developed Bridal Creeper and Boneseed information packages 			
Gambusia Control Project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual distribution survey conducted Over 40,000 Gambusia removed from infested areas in the Tamar Valley Interactive awareness raising field trips and talks given to 7 local schools – 330 students Community displays held at World Wetland Day and G'day with over 480 attendees 	No	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gambusia is a pest fish impacting the Tamar and this project has sought to control the impact which benefits the benthic ecosystem. School children from LCC attended field days and LCC schools provided with talks
NRM Facilitator – Tamar (Funded by NRM North) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed the 'Increased coastal community engagement' project including, removal of 10Ha of weeds from Coastal areas, revegetation of 1,500 native species, upgrade of 5km of walking track Assisted 7 local schools with environmental school grant applications Managed the Perennial Pastures Project - trials held on 3 properties, two field days held for 35 participants Contributed to demonstration day on Blackberry spraying and best practice control at Weymouth for coastal community residents Supported clean up Australia day activities with Bellingham Progress Association Tree planting day at UTAS, Newnham Creek Organisation of Soil Health and Soil Carbon workshop Presentation on Tasmanian Ecosystems to Scotch Oakburn College 	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revegetation works conducted within LCC Information sessions provided within LCC School presentations provided within LCC Tree planting carried out at UTAs Revegetation works at Youngtown Primary School LCC school presentations

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitated Small Holding – Property Management Planning workshop in Exeter 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planting Field and Paint Our Trailer days 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 250 native trees and shrubs planted by 23 students from Youngtown Primary school 			
Reducing the Feral Cat Population in the Tam O'Shanter Area			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The development of expertise in this area will be of benefit to LCC if applied to areas with the Launceston municipal area.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distributed information on responsible cat ownership, how to protect your cat from disease 	No	No	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Held feral cat workshop 			
Facilitated the George Town Coastal Management Committee (George Town Coastal Management Plan)	No	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focused on the George Town coastal area with really no benefits derived by LCC
Facilitated the Sustainable Living Working Group	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The group provides education and direct action on matters such as sustainable housing, sustainable living, urban farming, introduction to permaculture. Sustainable August benefits LCC
Facilitated the Weeds Working Group	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group continues to undertake a weed eradication program with infestations addressed as they are identified.
Tamar Talks	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Talks held at the Tramsheds. The talks improve community knowledge and information on NRM matters.
2010/11			
Feral Cat management in Weymouth and Bellingham Area			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The development of expertise in this area will be of benefit to LCC if applied to areas with the Launceston municipal area.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of information on responsible cat ownership, how to protect your cat from disease 	No	No	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Held feral cat workshop 			

<p>Forming Partnerships to eradicate Boneseed and Bridal Creeper in the Tamar Valley</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updated the Tamar Valley Weed Strategy Website Conducted Bridal Creeper Workshop Removed Boneseed and Bridal Creeper infestations 	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weedmercials developed Removal of Boneseed and Bridal Creeper infestations as identified Workshops available to LCC residents
<p>Gambusia Control Project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Treated all known Gambusia infestations in closed water bodies Completed annual distribution survey Removed over 40,000 Gambusia from infested areas Interactive awareness raising field trips and talks were given to 6 local school groups 	No	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gambusia is a pest fish impacting the Tamar and this project has sought to control the impact which benefits the benthic ecosystem. School children from LCC attended field days and LCC schools provided with talks
<p>Increase Coastal Community Engagement Participation and on-going action within the Tamar Estuary and Coastal Regions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seven coastal communities removed 13.05 hectares of weeds and replanted 1,500 native species within these communities Conducted 2 propagation workshops Provided educational information and activities 	No	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project focused exclusively on coastal communities
<p>Perennial Pastures Demonstration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project was successful in raising awareness amongst local land managers to the techniques involved to achieve success for sustainable pastures. 	No	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The subject sites were in the Pipers River area, however, Launceston based land managers participated in this project and benefited from the knowledge and experience gained.

<p>Optimise Your Hot Water Service (and Reduce your Costs)</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project was carried out exclusively within the Launceston Municipal area.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>A household sustainability agent was contracted to visit a pre-selected street in the twenty suburbs of Launceston to meet and inform householders about the benefits of conserving energy – 48 householders participated in the project</i> 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Information was provided offering practical and immediate beneficial services</i> 			
<p>Facilitated the George Town Coastal Management Committee (George Town Coastal Management Plan)</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>No</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focused on the George Town coastal area with really no benefits derived by LCC
<p>Facilitated the Sustainable Living Working Group</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The group provides education and direct action on matters such as sustainable housing, sustainable living, urban farming, introduction to permaculture. Sustainable August benefits LCC
<p>Facilitated the Weeds Working Group</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group continues to undertake a weed eradication program with infestations addressed as they are identified.
<p>Tamar Talks</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Talks held at the Tramsheds. The talks improve community knowledge and information on NRM matters.

14.3 Northern Regional Planning Initiative - Future Governance Model**FILE NO:** SF5038**DIRECTOR:** Michael Stretton (Director Development Services)

DECISION STATEMENT:

To consider a proposed future governance model for the Northern Regional Planning Initiative.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL CONSIDERATION:

SPPC Workshop - 5 May 2014.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Council resolves as follows:

1. The City Council believes it is in the best interests of the region to establish governance arrangements for the NRPI.
 2. However, the Council considers that it should be acknowledged there will be circumstances where priority planning considerations for a metropolitan council will potentially place the City Council at variance with other Councils within the region.
 3. In these matters, the City Council reserves unambiguously the prerogative to pursue the best interests of its residents in policy and strategic advocacy.
-

REPORT:

The Northern Regional Planning Initiative (NRPI) is a joint initiative between the Tasmanian Government, Northern Tasmania Development and the eight northern Councils to create a more consistent, contemporary planning system. The NRPI comprises three project outputs; preparation of a regional land use strategy; a regional model planning scheme; and an individual planning scheme for each Council. The NRPI was executed as a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in June 2008.

14.3 Northern Regional Planning Initiative - Future Governance Model...(Cont'd)

In accordance with the MoU, the NRPI is governed and funded by the Project Sponsors (the Tasmanian Government, Northern Tasmania Development and the eight northern Councils) who hold overall accountability for the project. The Project Sponsors appointed a Regional Planning Committee (formally the Management Committee) responsible for providing direction, guidance and support for the NRPI. The Committee is made up of a nominee of the region's Mayors, the Tasmanian Planning Commission, Northern Tasmania Development, the region's General Managers, and senior managers of the region's Councils.

Current membership of the Committee is Barry Easter (Chair, West Tamar Council), Greg Preece (Meander Valley Council), Greg Alomes (Tasmanian Planning Commission), Derek Le Marchant (Northern Tasmania Development), Des Jennings (Break O' Day Council), Rolph Vos (West Tamar Council), Duncan Payton (Northern Midlands Council), Martin Gill (Meander Valley Council), Tim Watson (Dorset Council) and Michael Stretton (Launceston City Council).

The project outputs are substantially completed with all but the Flinders Island Council's Interim Scheme declared. Following the declaration of the interim schemes, the final task in the existing MoU is to resolve and implement an ongoing regional planning governance model. This is the purpose of the attached *Future Regional Governance Proposal* (Appendix 1) that has been prepared by the Regional Planning Committee, on behalf of the NTD Local Government Committee, for the consideration of the Councils of Northern Tasmania.

It is clear that there is a need to consider the continuation of regional governance and cooperation in respect to land use planning. The original project outputs (being the NTRLUS, RMPS and Interim Schemes) will require ongoing maintenance and refinement. There is also a need for continued strategic work such as the completion of the Industrial Land Strategy that is well suited to the existing governance structures set up for the NRPI. Given the change in project context (i.e. the 'end of the beginning') it is appropriate that the Terms of Reference are reviewed at this milestone. The Terms of Reference also require amendment to reflect the additional work and to allow for the consideration of future work. Currently, the scope of this work and related funding is negotiated between the Minister, the Regional Planning Committee, Northern Tasmania Development and Councils on an annual basis.

14.3 Northern Regional Planning Initiative - Future Governance Model...(Cont'd)

Resolving ongoing governance arrangements is timely given that the NRPI now operates in a context whereby a series of relevant strategic projects (e.g. Greater Launceston Plan) are being managed through separate processes. Coordination of these related projects requires active effort and, for example, a process to accommodate the anticipation that these strategic projects will be incorporated into the NTRLUS. The NRPI requires arrangements to facilitate this expectation.

The current Regional Planning Committee is firmly of the opinion that regardless of the way in which the Tasmanian Government intends to manage land use planning in the future, this proposed regional approach is the best method of protecting and maintaining the existing work and role of Councils in planning for their local areas.

The *Future Regional Governance Proposal* proposes a more inclusive approach, that the Regional Planning Committee be comprised of one permanent representative per Council and one permanent representative of the Tasmanian Planning Commission, chaired by a nominee Mayor of the Local Government Committee. It is proposed that decisions of the Regional Planning Committee are made through a majority voting system with 1 vote per member. The TPC representative would not have a voting right.

It is at this juncture that the Launceston City Council must decide whether it wishes to commit itself to a governance model which provides each Council with equal voting rights, irrespective of the matter under consideration? Clearly as the only metropolitan Council in the Northern region, Launceston has many planning issues which are not shared by the other Council's and the proposed governance arrangements would provide regional Councils with an ability to influence and possibly control decisions made in respect to these issues. Equally, there are land use planning matters which are highly important to the regional councils, but not to Launceston. One such example was the debate over the removal of Rural Living zoned land through the interim scheme approval process. Rural Living zoned land is of high importance to the regional Councils and it was the regional position that no Council was to take any of the zoned land out of their Interim Schemes as was being requested by the Tasmanian Planning Commission. However, the Rural Living Zone was a relatively minor issue for Launceston and rather than holding up the approval of the entire Interim Scheme, the Council made the decision to depart from the regional position by removing identified rural living zoned land from the Interim scheme. This decision generated public criticism by surrounding Councils and were the Council to have been committed to a regional governance framework such as the one proposed, it would have been more difficult to depart from the regional view.

14.3 Northern Regional Planning Initiative - Future Governance Model...(Cont'd)

While it is true that the committee has worked extremely well together over the past 18 months with agreement being achieved on most planning matters, the rural living issue demonstrates that even the most collegiate of committees will have differences, particularly when there is such a stark contrast between the large City Council and the smaller regional Councils.

ECONOMIC IMPACT:

N/A

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT:

N/A

SOCIAL IMPACT:

N/A

STRATEGIC DOCUMENT REFERENCE:

Strategic Plan Priority Area 5: Governance Services.
Strategic Plan Priority Area 3: Social and Economic Environment.

BUDGET & FINANCIAL ASPECTS:

N/A

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:

The officer has no conflict of interest in this item.

I certify that I have reviewed and approved this advice and recommendation.



Michael Stretton: Director Development Services

Northern Tasmania Development
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FUTURE REGIONAL GOVERNANCE PROPOSAL

22 JANUARY 2014

For the Northern Regional Planning Initiative

Background and Current Situation

The Northern Regional Planning Initiative (NRPI) is a joint initiative between the Tasmanian Government, Northern Tasmania Development and the eight northern Councils. Its purpose is to create a more consistent, contemporary planning system. The NRPI was executed as a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in June 2008.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

The MoU requires the completion of three project outputs:

1. *Preparation of a comprehensive regional land use strategy for the region*

The Minister declared the Northern Tasmanian Regional Land Use Strategy (NTRLUS) in October 2011. On 16 October 2013 the Minister declared a revised NTRLUS, replacing the previous version.

2. *Preparation of a regional model planning scheme*

The regional model planning scheme (RMPS) was developed between 2010-2012 through negotiation with the eight Councils and the Tasmanian Planning Commission.

3. *Preparation of an individual planning scheme for each Council*

Interim planning schemes have been declared for seven of the eight northern Councils. The eighth interim scheme is expected to be submitted for declaration in early 2014.

REGIONAL PLANNING GOVERNANCE

In accordance with the MoU, the NRPI is governed and funded by the Project Sponsors (the Tasmanian Government, Northern Tasmania Development and the eight northern Councils) who hold overall accountability for the project.

The Project Sponsors appointed a Regional Planning Committee that is responsible for approving and managing work plans, funding and budgets. The Committee also provided direction, guidance and support for the project. The Regional Planning Committee is currently comprised of a nominee of the region's Mayors, the Tasmanian Planning Commission, Northern Tasmania Development, the region's General Managers, and senior managers of the region's Councils.

The MoU also provides for a Project Officer (Northern Tasmania Development) responsible for the day-to-day management of the project, and a Technical Reference Group (comprised of a planning representative from each Council) to provide professional advice. The Project Officer and Technical Reference Group are accountable to the Regional Planning Committee.

CURRENT SITUATION

Upon completion of the third project output (being the declaration of the final interim scheme), the final task in the existing MoU is to resolve and implement an ongoing regional planning governance model. It is estimated that this will occur in early 2014. When the ongoing regional model is approved and implemented by Councils and Government, the governance mechanisms applying to the project will come to an end.

It is clear that there is a need to consider the continuation of regional governance and cooperation. The original project outputs (being the NTRLUS, RMPS and Interim Schemes) will require ongoing maintenance and refinement. There is also a need for continued strategic work such as the completion of the Industrial Land Strategy that is well suited to the existing governance structures set up for the NRPI.

Given the change in project context (i.e. the 'end of the beginning') it is appropriate that the Terms of Reference are reviewed at this milestone. The Terms of Reference also require amendment to reflect the additional work and to allow for the consideration of future work. Currently, the scope of this work and related funding is negotiated between the Minister, the Regional Planning Committee, Northern Tasmania Development and Councils on an annual basis.

Resolving ongoing governance arrangements is timely given that the NRPI now operates in a context whereby a series of relevant strategic projects (e.g. Greater Launceston Plan) are being managed through separate processes. Coordination of these related projects requires active effort and, for example, a process to accommodate the anticipation that these strategic projects will be incorporated into the NTRLUS. The NRPI requires arrangements to facilitate this expectation.

Further impetus for the review of governance arrangements came from the recent C8 Summit for elected members held 25 October 2013. Attendees recognised the need to investigate future scope of regional land use planning as a means of building local and regional planning capacity. This demonstrated interest of elected members as the sum of the local government Project Sponsors validates the need to review current arrangements.

This document suggests some options for the consideration of the elected members of the northern Councils. Feedback on the options and comment on the general direction outlined is sought. The options in this paper are in an early stage of development, and a lot more detail will need to be worked through before any final position can be reached. Ultimately, it is envisaged that a proposal supported by the 8 northern Councils as Project Sponsors will be able to be put to the Minister for consideration.

Proposed regional planning governance

Proposed future arrangements are divided into two stages; an initial continuance of existing functions as at 2013-14 with minor amendments to governance composition and resolution; and an expansion of scope to build regional and local planning capacity.

STAGE 1

A continuance of the existing terms of reference (as outlined in the 2013-14 Work Plan) is proposed for the remainder of 2013-14. Briefly, these include:

- coordination of remaining draft interim schemes for declaration;
- a review of the regional model planning scheme;
- agreement on scope and procedure of review of the NTRLUS;
- completion of the Northern Tasmania Industrial Land Use Strategy (Stage 2);
- commencement of the Northern Tasmania Housing Needs Study;
- a budget session for the subsequent annual work plan;
- stakeholder information and training for the operation of declared interim schemes;
- regional standardisation of planning administration, and;
- participation in the statewide Planning Schemes Online project and Tasmanian Classification System for Activity Centres Project.

It is proposed that Project Sponsors continue to share the resourcing of this work on a negotiated basis, preferably 25-50 per cent of the annual cost provided by the Tasmanian Government.

Regional Planning Committee

On 24 August 2012 and again on 24 May 2013 for 2013-14 Local Government Committee endorsed the continuance of the current Regional Planning Committee for a period of 12 months, or until such time that a revised model is agreed upon.

As two of the eight Councils are not represented on the Regional Planning Committee, it is proposed that the Committee be expanded to include a representation of each Council in the region (1 permanent seat per Council, senior manager level minimum). This will ensure coordination of related work and a mandate to carry out work in the interests of the region. A nominee of the Local Government Committee (being a Mayor) will remain Chair of the Committee. The TPC will remain represented on the Committee (1 permanent seat for Executive Commissioner, or delegate).

All Tasmanian Government agencies and important stakeholders would be able to engage with and attend meetings of the Regional Planning Committee upon invitation from the Committee.

Decision Making

It is acknowledged that an equitable and robust mechanism to make decisions and resolve conflict is pivotal to the success of new governance arrangements. To date, major decisions have been made by the Regional Planning Committee, typically by a vote of 1 per member with majority rule. In the absence of an alternative decision making model being put forward, it is proposed that the Regional Planning Committee retain a majority voting system with 1 vote per member on the basis that it has proved to be an equitable and effective method since the project's inception. The TPC representative would not have a voting right. The Regional Planning Committee has also supported a professional independent adjudicator to resolve technical matters. In developing the RMPS, the Technical Reference Group also made decisions through a vote of 1 per member. The Minister on behalf of the State has had the final say in all circumstances.

Project Support

The Project Manager role as originally specified in the MoU has been split into two components; a Project Coordination role served by NTD (0.5 FTE), and a Planning Coordination role that is outsourced as required. Clarity is required to enable NTD to plan for project delivery capacity and budgeting purposes.

STAGE 2

The scope of proposed arrangements for Stage 2 reflects the opportunities identified in the discussion paper on future governance, engagement and resourcing on regional planning matters that was distributed to Councils on 10 March 2011. These issues were raised by elected members attending the C8 Summit in October 2013.

The rationale and options proposed in the 2011 discussion paper remain valid today. The content of the 2011 discussion paper is replicated below. It is reiterated that these proposals are suggestions in nature and require further detail to reach agreement between Project Sponsors.

Proposed objectives

- Increased local and regional control of significant development issues (principle of subsidiarity)
- Increased certainty for developers and early signals of development opportunities and risks
- Streamlined and consistent planning processes (e.g. common and/ or electronic application forms), increased planning capacity across the region and resource sharing
- Earlier and more informed engagement of key stakeholders and local communities on major planning issues
- Better co-ordination between the state and local councils in the planning and delivery of infrastructure and other state policies
- A simple mechanism for resolving contentious planning issues
- Increased independence from the political process

- Consolidation of regional planning data and knowledge (for example around population settlement issues)

How would it happen?

Through incorporation of the proposal in the regional land use strategy and subsequently by amendment to the Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993. Specific issues (such as a development proposal) could be referred to the Governance Group either by the developer, the Council, the local community or the Minister.

A New Governance Model

From a governance perspective what is needed for the next stage for land use policy development is a more structured regional based policy model where the State Government can engage directly and simultaneously with both the Region and the Local Councils on:

1. Early audit of proposed major developments
2. Review and revision of the Regional Land Use Strategy
3. Input and assessment of Projects of State Significance
4. Assessment of Interim Schemes
5. Review and revision of the regional model planning scheme
6. Building regional and local planning capacity
7. Engaging the region on significant regional planning matters
8. State/regional co-ordination of strategic and land use policy development and its implementation

It is proposed that functions 2, 3, 4, and 5 be statutory functions under LUPA (and therefore requiring amendments to LUPA) and that 1, 6, 7, and 8, be advisory functions.

Whilst the focus would be on land use policy this needs to take place in the context of the broader regional development processes now underway through Northern Tasmania Development. Collaborative projects managed by NTD provide the regional context and focus for engagement with the raft of State strategies now under development, especially Economic Development, Infrastructure and Skills. It similarly provides a context for engagement with the Commonwealth and Regional Development Australia.

COUNCIL AGENDA

Monday 12 May 2014

19 GENERAL MANAGER

19.1 China Sister City Opportunity

FILE NO: SF0175

GENERAL MANAGER: Robert Dobrzynski

DECISION STATEMENT:

Consideration of a proposal to pursue relationships between Qingyuan City and Launceston City (and region) with a view toward exploring economic, cultural and social opportunities which demonstrably provide potential for benefit to Launceston City (and region). Such exploration may also consider the desirability of ultimately entering into a Sister City relationship with Qingyuan City.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL CONSIDERATION:

N/A

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Council:

1. Responds to correspondence from the Director, Foreign Affairs and Overseas Chinese Affairs Bureau of Qingyuan City Municipality, Guangdong Province People's Republic of China indicating that the Mayor of the City of Launceston would be delighted to host the Deputy Mayor of Qingyuan City and his delegation at a Mayoral Reception and meeting with Aldermen and community dignitaries, and awaits details of arrangements for the Deputy Mayor and delegation's visit to Australia.
 2. Accepts with pleasure the generous invitation by the Mayor of Qingyuan City for a delegation of City of Launceston officials to visit Qingyuan City in order to gain a better understanding of achievements that have been made within the City and to explore opportunities for cooperation and collaboration between the two cities.
 3. Liaises with the Director, Foreign Affairs and Overseas Chinese Affairs Bureau of Qingyuan City Municipality regarding the future timing and arrangements to receive a delegation from the City of Launceston.
-

19.1 China Sister City Opportunity...(Cont'd)

4. Requests the City of Launceston Sister City Committee to consider and advise the Council upon a proposed itinerary for the delegation to visit Qingyuan City, including leveraging outcomes from the Premier's recent participation with the Prime Minister on a delegation to China and discussion with other potential stakeholders.
-

REPORT:**China Sister City Opportunity**

I have attached as Appendix 1 correspondence from Mr Adrian Wood to Council dated 20th November 2013 which has initiated consideration upon the benefits that may add value to Launceston City from an international Sister City relationship with Qingyuan.

Rather than repeat here the matters raised in the correspondence from Mr Wood the attachment clearly establishes the scope, opportunity and protocols of a Sister City relationship within China, particularly in the context of the existing relationship with Taiyuan, the capital of Shanxi Province, Northern China. Mr Wood is obviously well credentialed and experienced from his former roles to provide comprehensive advice to Aldermen on these matters. Moreover the attachment refers.

I have also attached additional correspondence (Appendix 2, Appendix 3 and Appendix 4) that has passed between the Council and Mr Wood, Mr Wood and the Foreign Affairs and Overseas Chinese Affairs Bureau of Qingyuan Municipality and finally, a copy of correspondence from the Mayor to the Bureau of Qingyuan City. These documents provide a context to discussions that have occurred to date and detail the specific nature of both Qingyuan City and its comparison to Launceston City and region.

However, I would specifically refer to Appendix 5, attached, which is a copy of correspondence recently received by the Mayor from Li Sizhen, Director, Foreign Affairs and Overseas Chinese Affairs Bureau of Qingyuan City Municipality, Guangdong Province People's Republic of China. This correspondence indicates that the Deputy Mayor of Qingyuan City is planning to lead a delegation and visit Australia this year, with a date yet to be determined. The Director undertakes to inform Council of the details in advance in order that a meeting may be arranged with the Mayor. Additionally, the Director, entrusted by the Mayor of Qingyuan City has invited a delegation of Launceston City Council officials to visit Qingyuan City in order to gain a better understanding of both the achievements that have been made within the City and to explore opportunities for cooperation and collaboration between the two Cities.

19.1 China Sister City Opportunity...(Cont'd)

Council Consideration

The Council has adopted a pragmatic approach in terms of its consideration of Sister City relationships in recent times. This is appropriate in that opportunities to pursue Sister City relationships should be firmly based upon viable potential to gain economic, social and cultural benefits that demonstrably progress the prosperity of Launceston City and its residents.

Northern Tasmania has a number of food production attributes that may have currency for promotion through cooperative dialogue with Qingyuan City. Some of these include:

- Aquaculture production
- Dairy production
- Agricultural production

All with a worldwide reputation for high quality. Whilst Northern Tasmania would not produce the scale of production to enable it to compete within commodity markets in China, the high quality niche markets sector would be attractive to the rapidly increasing middle class of China, no less so in Qingyuan City.

Tourism Tasmania is also reporting increased interest from Asia for travel to Tasmania. In this regard, Launceston and Northern Tasmania appears to be experiencing an increasing influx of Chinese and other Asian tourists. The attractions of Launceston and Northern Tasmania would appear to include:

- The Chinese history in the region
- Barnbougle and Lost Farm world class golf courses
- The fresh air, cleanliness and amenity of the City and region
- The many natural features that serve as attractions.
- Good accessibility from both Sydney and Melbourne through airport services

Similar to the invitation Launceston City Council received from the Indonesian Consul General in Melbourne to attend the Trade Expo in October 2012, these opportunities can only be appropriately assessed by being explored through accepting invitations for a delegation to attend Qingyuan City.

Attendance by delegation would achieve the level of face to face "good-faith" which is ultimately paramount to progressing productive dialogue, cooperative arrangements and exploring the potential for economic, social and cultural ties through the promotion of the "Launceston and Northern Tasmanian economic, social and cultural offering".

19.1 China Sister City Opportunity...(Cont'd)

It is considered that the Council should visit Qingyuan City following the invitation from the Mayor and explore the prospects for productive outcomes for Launceston and Northern Tasmania.

ECONOMIC IMPACT:

Consideration contained in Report

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT:

N/A

SOCIAL IMPACT:

Consideration contained in Report

STRATEGIC DOCUMENT REFERENCE:

Annual Plan 2013/14

Priority Area: 3 Social and Economic Environment

BUDGET & FINANCIAL ASPECTS:

Financial provision would be required within Council Budgets to finance a delegation to Qingyuan City.

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:

The officer has no conflict of interest in this item.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Appendix 1: Letter from Mr Adrian Wood to Launceston City Council dated 20/11/13.
 2. Appendix 2: Letter to Mr Adrian Wood from Launceston City Council dated 19/12/13.
 3. Appendix 3: Letter to Mr Adrian Wood from Qingyuan City dated 14/01/14.
 4. Appendix 4: Letter to Mr Li Sizhen, Qingyuan City from Launceston City Council dated 03/03/14.
 5. Appendix 5: Letter from Mr Li Sizhen, Qingyuan City to Launceston City Council dated 10/04/14.
-

Adrian Wood

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20 November 2013

Mayor Albert van Zetten
Launceston City Council
Town Hall,
St John Street
Launceston

Your worship

I would like present to you an opportunity of a new sister city in China for Launceston.

I have recently moved to Launceston following retirement from the NSW Government (NSW Trade & Investment in Sydney). For the last 6 years of my career I was responsible for managing the NSW Sister State relationships in China, Japan, South Korea, Indonesia, USA and Europe.

The most active relationship for NSW was with Guangdong Province, PRC which was signed in 1979. In managing this agreement I developed close links with the Guangdong Foreign Affairs Office (GDFAO). Following the establishment of NSW / Guangdong relations, Sydney and Guangzhou became sister cities in 1987. The GDFAO is interested in other cities in Guangdong Province establishing sister city relations in Australia. In this regard GDAFO has asked me to advise on a possible sister city for Qingyuan in Tasmania.

Attached is further information on this opportunity.

My first preference is for Launceston to investigate this opportunity. I am aware that Launceston has an existing sister city in China – Taiyuan and that this has been in place since 1995. However I have been advised that the PRC Central Government permits more than one city to have the same international sister city relationship. In other words 2 cities in China could have a sister city relationship with Launceston.

I have recently been appointed to the Board of Tourism Northern Tasmania, in which capacity I am keen to work towards increasing visitor numbers to our region from China. This is a further reason for presenting this opportunity to Launceston City.

I have recently discussed this matter with Alderman Tony Peck who recommended that I present this proposal to you in this manner. I appreciate that it will take some time for Council to consider this matter. I will be happy to provide further information if required and or meet with relevant Council representatives to discuss this opportunity.

Please note however that will be interstate 23 November / 3 December.

Yours faithfully



Adrian Wood

CC: The General Manager & Aldermen
Launceston City Council

China Sister City Opportunity

The Opportunity

Qingyuan City in Guangdong Province, Southern China is interested in establishing sister city relations with an Australian city. Tasmania has been identified as a State in which to explore possibilities.

The opportunity came via the Guangdong Foreign Affairs Office (GDFAO) in Guangzhou and was received by Adrian Wood, Former Senior Manager, International Business Relations, NSW Trade & Investment (NSW State Government Agency).

Background

GDFAO is the government organisation in charge of the foreign affairs of Guangdong Province and operates under the direction of Guangdong Provincial People's Government. GDFAO also represents the PRC Central Government on all foreign affairs matters in Guangdong – eg it operates a Protocol Division which manages the relationship with the foreign missions based in Guangzhou (the provincial capital).

The International Relations Division of GDFAO is responsible for the activities relating to foreign cities and regions that have relationships and cooperation links with Guangdong Province.

NSW and Guangdong have had a sister state / province relationship since 1979. It was the first such agreement between an Australian State and a Province of China and Guangdong's first international agreement.

Sydney and Guangzhou subsequently became sister cities in 1987.

Note Queensland and Guangdong have signed a cooperation agreement – similar but not a sister state agreement.

Adrian Wood managed the NSW / Guangdong relationship during his time with NSW Trade & Investment.

Qingyuan Profile:

See attached profile provided by GDFAO –English translation by GDFAO.

Considerations:

- Launceston and Taiyuan established a sister city relationship in 1995. Taiyuan, the capital of Shanxi Province, northern China.
- The Chinese Central Government permits more than one city to have the same international sister city relationship. In other words 2 cities in China could have a sister city relationship with Launceston.

Action:

- Submission to Launceston CC
- Response to GDFAO

Soaring Qingyuan

Qingyuan is located in midnorthern Guangdong with a population of 4,090,000 and land area of 19,200 km². It is the biggest prefecture-level city in Guangdong and a major centre of ethnic minorities. It administers Gaoxin district, Qingcheng district, Fogang county, Qingxin county, Lianshan Chuang and Yao Autonomous County, Liannan Yao Autonomous County and Yangshan county. It also governs Yingde city and Lianzhou city.

Qingyuan is endowed with favorable geographic location and convenient traffic condition. It is situated at the juncture of Guangdong, Guangxi and Hunan Province, so it is known as "the hub of the three provinces and the fortress of the North River". Located within the "an hour life circle" of the Pearl River delta, it is only 50km, 30km, 200km away from Guangzhou, the Baiyun International Airport, Hong Kong and Macao respectively. The Beijing-HongKong-Macao freeway, Guangzhou-Qingyuan freeway, Qingyuan-Lianzhou freeway, Beijing-Guangzhou railway, Wuhan-Guangzhou high-speed failway and the 107 national highway runs through the whole city. Guangzhou-Lechang freeway and the Erlian Haote-Guangzhou freeway are being planned and constructed. The City Light Rail will further make Qingyuan an important economic corridor connecting the Pearl River Delta and the inland market.

Qingyuan is the major grain area in Guangdong province and the export base of timber-producing, water-maintaining forests, emerging sericulture, fruit, tea, sugarcane, tobacco, herbs and anti-season vegetable. The bamboo shoots, spotted-brown chicken, black bristle geese, Yingde black tea and Lianzhou white tea are famous both at home and abroad.

Being a well-known tourist resort of south China, Qingyuan is a beautiful place which has a lot of scenic spots. The city has a number of titles, such as the excellent Chinese tourist city, the hometown of drifting, hot spring, dragon boating, chicken, black tea, cristobalite, hemp bamboo in China, as well as the "City of four-wheel drive • City of cross-country drive", "Qingyuan Hot spring Drifting - one of the top ten European favorite China's scenic spots", "the best city for living and developing in the eyes of Hong Kong, Macao and overseas Chinese", "China's most livable city", "the hometown of the renewable copper in China". With 1 national tourism county, 3 provincial tourism counties and 10 national 4A level scenic spots, Qingyuan city has the most 4A level scenic spots in Guangdong.

In recent years, Qingyuan has been sticking to a strategy of constructing "green economy, Lingnan livable city, Southern China leisure center", and has made remarkable achievements in promoting the construction of industrial park, industrialization of agriculture and development of city character and human-oriented management. The city's GDP exceeded 100 billion yuan, entering the "hundreds of billions Club" ranking. The per capita GDP exceeded 4,000 U.S. dollars, surpassing the national average. The total output value of industrial enterprises above a designated size has exceeded 300 billion yuan, and the local general budget revenue exceeded 7 billion. The city has created an economic and social development miracle.

Qingyuan actively explore innovative policies, create favorable environment and intensifies efforts for development and unswervingly focus on introducing projects, developing industries and improving industrial parks and the quality of services. With its economy continuing to grow rapidly and comprehensive economic strength increasing substantially, Qingyuan has become one of the top ten industrial cities of Guangdong, also one of the top 100 cities in China of comprehensive strength. Compared to 2005, the local general budget

revenue of 2010 increased by 4.7 times with an average annual increase of 40.6%. In addition, GDP grew by 1.9 times with an average annual increase of 23.9%. The added value of the industrial enterprises above a designated size increased by 5.5 times with an average annual increase of 45.3%. Investment in fixed assets grew by 3.4 times with an average annual increase of 34.4%. The total volume of retail sales of consumption goods grew by 1.8 times with an average annual growth of 23%. The actual utilization of foreign investment grew by 82.6% with an average annual growth of 12.8%. The total value of exports grew 1.1 times with an average annual increase of 15.6%. In terms of total economic output, its ranking among the 21 cities of Guangdong that are of or above the prefecture-level elevated dramatically. From 2005 to 2010, its ranking of GDP rose from 15th to 12th, and the local general budget revenue climbed from the 15th place to 10th. The above-scale industrial added value rose up 6 places from 13th to 7th and the investment in fixed assets increased 2 places from eight to six. The total volume of retail sales of consumption goods rose up 4 places from 18th to 14th position; the total value of exports rose up 1 place from 14th to 13th, and the actual utilization of foreign capital rose up 1 place from 11th to 10th. In the "Urban Competitive Power Blue Book" released by the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences in 2010, Qingyuan City was listed as one of the ten cities that have maintained stable growth for five consecutive years, ranking No. 2. It is ranked No. 5 on overall growth competitiveness, being the only city of Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao.

Qingyuan has achieved sound and rapid economic development through paying equal attention to economic development and transformation of economic pattern. In accordance with the strategy of "three circles and four zones", Qingyuan pushes forward the planning of major function oriented zone, enhances the development of the southern region, focuses on the development of the central region, accelerates the development of the northern region and formulates *Qingyuan Planning and Implementation Program on the Major Function Oriented Zone (2010-2020)*. Vigorously enforcing the regional development strategy, Qingyuan increases support for the northern area and ethnic minority area in policies, capital, projects and talents, achieves coordinated development among different areas of the city and realizes double-digit growth rate in recent years. Qingyuan integrates urban and rural development and promotes the construction of new rural areas to bring about remarkable changes. Qingyuan further promotes the "double shift" and formulate an idea of "undertaking the business of the Pearl River Delta, attracting investment from Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan, exploring opportunities in the neighboring provinces and the whole world" to attract investment. Since 2006, the city has introduced 2816 projects with total planned investment and actual investment of 359.2 billion yuan 97.76 billion yuan respectively. The introduction of Yunnan Copper, Dongfeng well-off, Conch Cement, Mengniu Dairy, Wong Lo Kat herbal tea companies and the other famous companies has greatly accelerated development pace of the city

Qingyuan vigorously steps up the construction and industrialization of industrial parks. In recent years, it successful established four major industrial parks—Foshan (Qingyuan) Industrial Transfer Park, Foshan Chancheng (fresh) Industrial Transfer Park, Overseas Chinese Industrial Park, Industrial Park and a number of specialized industrial park. Foshan (Qingyuan) Industrial Transfer Park is among the first group of demonstration industrial transfer park of Guangdong province. In 2010, the four industrial parks has introduced 90 projects with total investment of 12.91 billion yuan and output value of 9.89 billion yuan. Qingyuan explore innovative development strategy for the industrial parks and built up Guangdong Shunde (Yingde) Industrial Park, creating new experience for economic cooperation among different regions of Guangdong province. Qingyuan actively advances

the formation of industrial clusters for copper, ceramic, cement, refrigeration, electronics and chemical industries and has created two provincial industrial cluster upgrade demonstration zone. Qingyuan assists the development of private economy, realizing added value of 49 billion yuan which was 2.2 times that of 2005. Qingyuan built industrial zones for crystal candy orange and other four specialties, established four bases for Chinese herbal medicines and other products and introduced 98 leading agricultural enterprises above the city level. 178 agricultural organization achieved an annual sales of 6.92 billion yuan and mobilized 359,000 rural households, increasing the average annual household income by 3966 yuan. Agricultural economy continued to grow rapidly. In 2010, the added value of the primary industry registered an average annual growth of 5.2% as compared with that of 2005. Through actively stimulating consumption, in the past five years, the sales of commercial residential building increased 1.8 times, up by 22.9% on average per year. Tourists received increased 1.2 times, achieving an annual growth of 16.3%. The total revenue of tourism increased 2.3 times, up by 27.2%. In 2010, Qingyuan received 21.69 million tourists, exceeding 20 million for the first time, constituting an increase of 27.2%. Tourism revenues increased by 44.4% to 10.84 billion yuan, exceeding 10 billion yuan for the first time. Qingyuan has been vigorously advocating innovation and has set up two provincial small and medium enterprises innovation and industrialization demonstration bases. Two companies won the title of "most independently innovative enterprise in China" and two trademarks were awarded "China's well-known trademark". Currently, the city has 29 national high-tech enterprises, 42 high-tech products and 112 famous brands (trademarks) in total. In the "2010 China Economic Development Forum", Qingyuan was awarded the "2010 China's most innovative city".

Qingyuan has put great efforts to strengthen infrastructure and the development capacity. In the past five years, it has invested more than 80 billion yuan in building a number of important traffic projects, like the Qinglian Highway, Guang-Qing Highway (Qingyuan), the Wuhan-Guangzhou high-speed rail (Qingyuan), the Fengcheng Bridge, the sister bridge of the North River Bridge. It is the first mountainous city of Guangdong that has built highway to connect counties (city) and townships. Till the end of 2010, the city's highway mileage had reached 18139.5 km, 7399.8 km more than that of 2005. It accelerates and enhances the level of urbanization through carrying out ten key urban construction projects at one time and improving urban outlook, lighting, greening and sanitation conditions. As a result, the infrastructure of urban areas and counties (cities, districts) are significantly enhanced, comprehensive service capabilities greatly improved and construction land area considerably expanded. In 2010, areas of 56.8 square kilometers finished construction, 1.6 times that of 2005. The real estate industry maintains sustainable and sound development. During the "Eleventh Five-Year" period, the accumulative investment totaled 42 billion yuan, an areas of 9.06 million square meters was constructed and urban and rural per capita residential space reached 30.7 square meters and 28.7 square meters respectively. A large number of luxurious residential areas have been built, such as Bigui Park, Meilin Lake, Lion Lake, Golden Bay etc. As a result of its vigorous promotion of population concentration, urbanization rate increased by 34.9%. Qingyuan has made great efforts to modify the administrative mechanism for urban planning and construction, implement thoroughly the urban cleaning project, environment restoration project and other projects to enhance the level of city management and improve urban environment. In 2009, Qingyuan City has got the title of "China's top ten most promising city" and "China's top ten green cities".

Qingyuan vigorously strengthen culture construction to enhance its cultural soft power. To intensify its construction of public cultural service system, Qingyuan continues to improve its

cultural venues and other infrastructure facilities. Its film projection work in the rural areas is in the forefront of the province, and the farmhouse study construction has covered all administrative villages 5 years ahead of schedule. Qingyuan also focuses on establishing culture brands. It has not only been awarded the "Hometown of Chinese drifting", the "Hometown of Chinese hot spring" and other national brands, but also has witnessed the elevation of the reputation of its Lianzhou Annual International Photograph Exhibition, Yingde cristobalite cultural festival, Yangshan Quad Bike Festival and Liannan Yao Culture and Art Festival. It has made solid progress in improving these cultural industries. To actively deepen cultural reform, Qingyuan set up a minority's songs and dances company. To vigorously promote the development of education, it formulated the "Long-term Education

Reform and Development Plan in Qingyuan (2010-2020)". To increase investment in education, Qingyuan appropriates 40% of the transfer payments from the provincial government and over 10% of increase in the fiscal revenues of the city and county for educational usage. During the past five years, the high school places have increased by 24100 and the vocational (including mechanics) places grew by 45500. Qingyuan has made remarkable achievements in education with the Qingcheng District becoming the first provincial strong district in education outside the Pearl River Delta region and the Fogang County being the first strong county in education in Guangdong Province. Moreover, having reached a gross senior middle school enrollment rate of 90.64% in 2010, it has successfully universalized the senior secondary education a year ahead of time.

Sticking to the principle of people-oriented, Qingyuan actively develops various social and livelihood undertakings and increases the financial input in people's livelihood. During the "Eleventh Five-Year-Plan" period, Qingyuan invested 21.13 billion yuan in total in improving people's livelihood. The investment amounted to 6.269 billion yuan in 2010, increasing 21.4%. Qingyuan earnestly carried out the work on employment and reemployment. In the past five years, the number of new employment added up to 30.4 million, surplus labor transfers reached 624,000 man-times and 14.6 million rural labors received training for improving skills. Meanwhile, Qingyuan earnestly implements minimum social security policy and includes those indigent families with per capita income less than 1,500 yuan into its relief program. It also expands the coverage of assistance to the students in poverty. In recent four years, the City granted student aid of 138 million yuan which benefited over 130,000 students.

Qingyuan formulated the implementation measure on the pension system of the farmers who lost their land and conducted the new type of rural old age insurance pilot program to effectively expand the coverage of social insurance. It increased the investment in public health to speed up its development. Since 2007, the municipal government has appropriated 150 million yuan for the construction of sanitary facilities. Through enhancing the construction of rural health centers and community hospitals, Qingyuan continuously improves the medical conditions of the grass roots. In 2009, the medical and health organizations increased by 31% and the number of health and technical staff grew by 35% as compared with that of 2005. To earnestly promote the optimization and integration of health resources, Qingyuan formally put into use Qingyuan People's Hospital. In addition, it vigorously advances the new rural cooperative medical care. As a result, 98% of the rural residents have participated in it, realizing full coverage and effectively easing the burden of farmers. By September 2010, Qingyuan has reimbursed the farmers joining in this program for 1.107 billion yuan, benefiting 6.6 person-times. Meanwhile, it deepened the reform on health care system, implemented the basic medical system in an all-round way and stepped

up the construction of public health care system to safeguard the life security of the people. On the issue of poverty alleviation and development, Qingyuan made great efforts to ensure the benefits can go to every household and every people in poverty. As the cradle of this poverty alleviation strategy, Qingyuan is a model for the whole province. It has allocated 580million for the work and successfully created five patterns for poverty alleviation: establishment of industries, infrastructure construction, mutual aid fund, export of labor and relocation of villages. In this connection, it has made remarkable achievements:1000 projects of collective economy has been carried out in poverty-stricken villages, 50,000 households have benefited, 14,400 people have been organized to work in other places, 162,000 people successfully have shaken off poverty and the collective revenues of 769 villages (235 of which are provincial-level poor villages) have exceeded 30,000. It has launched the relocation project for the villagers living in high and cold mountainous region in order to solve the poverty issue of this region which lack basic living and production conditions in a fundamental way. Qingyuan government has invested 42.27 yuan in the three relocation pilot counties of Liannan, Yangshan and Qingxin and relocated 229 households and 1109 people. 439 houses are under constructions and 162 houses have been established. To solve the drinking water difficulty of the rural area, Qingyuan vigorously promote the infrastructure construction to ensure safe drinking water supply for the rural citizens. In consequence, 1.16 million people now have safe water to drink, finishing the task entrusted by the provincial government 3 years ahead. Meanwhile, it organized fund-raising activities which raised 230 million yuan from the society and invested all of them in the poverty alleviation project. Qingyuan conscientiously implement the policy of bringing benefits and wealth to the people, effectively increasing people's income. As compared with 2005, in 2010, the annul income of the workers at posts reached 31,217 yuan, increasing by 70.4%, the disposable income per capita of the urban residents and the net income of rural residents were 15768 yuan and 6060 yuan, increasing by 69.1% and 67.4% respectively.

Qingyuan city thinks highly of and actively promote overseas Chinese affairs. The overseas Chinese affairs departments at various levels regard supporting local development and providing service for the overseas Chinese as the foothold and starting point to safeguard the interests of the overseas Chinese. The departments actively solve all kinds of problems for the overseas Chinese and compatriots from Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan and effectively protect their legal rights. They also actively carry out the renovation of the dilapidated buildings for the overseas Chinese who returned or seek refuge in China. So far, 3000 dilapidated buildings have been renovated. In order to implement the "Heart of Overseas Chinese" residential project, the related departments have raised more than 1.4 million donations to build residential buildings for the 3 overseas Chinese tea plantations and 282 overseas Chinese families. Qingyuan deepens the reforms on overseas Chinese farms to steps up its integration process, advancing the reform and promoting the social harmony. To promote economic and social development, it vigorously push forward the work to introduce investment through the overseas Chinese, serve the overseas Chinese businessmen and enterprises and attract investment from the overseas Chinese and help them settle down. It also actively organizes performances for the overseas

Chinese and root-seeking activities for the young overseas Chinese. It vigorously conducts cultural and educational exchanges to introduce Chinese culture and the folk customs and dynamic development of Qingyuan to the world.

Looking into the future, Qingyuan government has put forward the following goals: the per capita GDP will reach or exceed the average of Guangdong province by 2020; to qualify for

a moderately prosperous society in all aspects; to basically achieve socialist modernization and to become a provincial demonstration city of coordinated development, a new growth area around pearl river delta for the high-tech industry, a leisure and livable city of south China and a satellite city of Guangzhou. Currently, under the leadership of the municipal party committee and the municipal government, sticking to the principle of freedom of thoughts and in the spirit of pioneering and enterprising, the whole city is striving to become a vanguard of fast growth and a demonstration city for sound and rapid development in order to construct a moderately prosperous society and build a happy Qingyuan.

File No: SF0175
JB:dp

19 December 2013

Mr Adrian Wood
28 Walden Street
NEWSTEAD TAS 7250
Tel: +61 3 6343 1997
Mobile: +61 414 902 450
adriananddianne@gmail.com

Dear Mr Wood

I am writing to thank you very much for your detailed correspondence of November 20th where you outlined the potential for Launceston City Council to explore developing a Sister City relationship with Qingyuan City in Guangdong Province.

I am aware that your letter is currently being considered by Launceston City Council's Sister City Committee however in the interim I wished to write to you personally to register my interest and support for Launceston to investigate this opportunity and to also thank those representatives of Qingyuan City who have expressed an interest in developing a relationship with a city such as ours.

Your comprehensive briefing note outlined the background and current status of Qingyuan City with respect to infrastructure projects, the development of industrial parks and many other strategic developments that the city has undertaken however I was particularly interested in Qingyuan's strategic approach to becoming a 'liveable city' and also its obvious credentials as both a tourism destination and a place with heritage attractions.

Launceston benefits from Tasmania's 'clean and green' brand and like Qingyuan our level of liveability was recently recognised when we were awarded 'Australia's most family friendly city 2013' by Suncorp Bank. We were also recognised by Google as Tasmania's leading e-Town as well as having our own City Park come in at number 9 out of a survey of all parks in Australia by the users of Trip Advisor.

Our built heritage is amongst the most significant in Australia and the natural attraction of our Cataract Gorge just five minutes from the city centre has received national and international acclaim.

.../2



Page 2

I have included a link here to a short promotional video by Business Events Tasmania to give a taste of Launceston and Tasmania for those who wish to view it.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CbC7cvlcuhE&feature=share&list=PLnVQ-EveWlJwrj9QhQCqddvxNucU0WVZL>

I believe the shared interests of Launceston and Qingyuan in the areas of tourism, heritage and liveability in particular, provide an excellent foundation upon which to explore the potential for us to develop a relationship with Qingyuan City and I will be advocating strongly both to the Sister City Committee as well as directly to the Mayor and General Manager, that this is a project that we engage in proactively in early 2014.

Thank you very much for the provision of such detailed information and for making Launceston City Council aware of this opportunity.

I hope that this exchange of letters might mark the beginning of a fruitful relationship and please do not hesitate to contact me further should you wish to discuss further developments.

Yours sincerely



Ald Jeremy Ball
DEPUTY MAYOR
Launceston City Council

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jeremy.ball@launceston.tas.gov.au

Appendix 3

清 远 市 外 事 侨 务 局

Dear Mr Adrian Wood,

Greetings from Foreign Affairs and Overseas Chinese Affairs Bureau of Qingyuan Municipality!

A few days ago, deputy division chief of Consulate Division in Guangdong Foreign Affairs Office (GDFAO), Mr Li Jiabin forwarded your letter to us. We appreciate the efforts you have made to help establish the sister-city relationship between Qingyuan City and Launceston City.

Located in the north-central part of Guangdong Province, China, Qingyuan is a city with a total area of 19,200 km² and a population of 4.57 million. In the ancient times, Qingyuan was known as Fengcheng, meaning the city of phoenix. First made a county in the Qin Dynasty, it is a time-honored city with more than 2,000 years of history. Moreover, it is considered as the closest garden city to Guangzhou, the capital city of Guangdong Province due to the abundant tourism resources it has like cultural heritages and scenic landscapes. Endowed with such advantages, Qingyuan City has racked up honors and awards, including “China Livable City”, “Hometown of Drifting in China”, and “City of Hot Spring in China”. In recent years, Qingyuan City has presented dynamics that is unprecedentedly strong and remarkable, trying to play a key role in the rising and prosperity of the North Region of Guangzhou. A delegation of Launceston City is always welcome to visit Qingyuan when it is

convenient to you.

It is to my knowledge that the authorities of Qingyuan government are scheduled to visit Australia in 2014. We would very much love to discuss with Launceston City about cooperation regarding economic trade, tourism, city construction, culture, education, health and so on.

I hope that we can stay in touch. Thank you again for your efforts in facilitating the establishment of the sister-city relationship between Qingyuan City and Launceston City.

Happy new year.

Yours Sincerely

Sizhen Li

Director

Foreign Affairs and Overseas Chinese Affairs Bureau of Qingyuan Municipality

Jan. 14th .2014



Appendix 4

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR OF LAUNCESTON

File No: SF0175
AvZ:dp

3 March 2014

Mr Li Sizhen
Director Foreign Affairs & Overseas Chinese Affairs Bureau
Qingyuan City
Guangdong Province
Peoples Republic of China
Email: iwp701@163.com

Dear Mr Li

Greetings from Launceston. I have recently met with Mr Adrian Wood one of our local residents, who has worked closely with the Guangdong Foreign Affairs Office on Sister State and Sister City Relationships for many years.

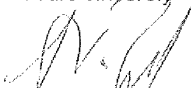
Mr Wood has passed onto Launceston City Council a copy of your letter of 14 January. I am delighted that Qingyuan City has expressed an interest in developing a relationship with Launceston. This matter is currently being considered by the Launceston City Council.

In investigating the possibility of a relationship with Qingyuan, it is important that Launceston takes into account a number of factors. These include the impact on Launceston's current relationship with Taiyuan City in Shanxi Province, the sectors and organisations within Launceston that would most benefit and the scope to include neighbouring municipal areas in a potential relationship between Launceston and Qingyuan.

You will appreciate that it will take a little time to fully investigate these matters. In the meantime we encourage Qingyuan to continue to consider the possibility of a visit to Australia in 2014. If this eventuates Launceston City Council would welcome a visit of a delegation from Qingyuan to further explore opportunities of cooperation between our two cities.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely



Albert van Zetten
MAYOR

Copy: Ms Luo Weiping, Foreign Affairs and Publicity Section
Qingyuan Municipal Foreign Affairs & Overseas Chinese Affairs Bureau
Email: iwp701@163.com



Appendix 5

清 远 市 外 事 侨 务 局

10 April 2014

Mr. Albert van Zetten
Mayor of Launceston City
Tasmania, Australia

Respected Mr. Albert van Zetten,

Greetings! It is such a great pleasure to receive your letter. Thank you very much for your precious time reading our letter given your busy schedule. Moreover, we appreciate that the sister-city relationship issue is under serious and careful consideration of Launceston City Council.

Referring to the three aspects you mentioned that Launceston City takes into consideration when deciding whether to establish sister-city relationship with Qingyuan City or not in your letter, here are my understanding for your reference.

Firstly, the establishment of sister-city relationship between Qingyuan City and Launceston City will not affect the relationship between Launceston City and Taiyuan City. On the contrary, it can be conducive to the friendly exchange among the three cities; it also enlarge our possible circle of resource sharing. In addition, it is clearly provided by the CPAFFC (Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries) that the number of sister cities does not affect the establishment of new sister-city relationship for Chinese cities.

Secondly, from the materials we got from Mr. Adrian Wood, we learned that Launceston City has been doing a fantastic job in tourism, education, livability and agriculture. We are very glad to tell you that Qingyuan City is also endowed with various advantages in these fields, which can be a good foundation for our cooperation. Therefore, we believe that the two cities can learn from each other and attain mutual improvement.

Thirdly, it is our hope that the cooperation between Qingyuan City and Launceston City can cover the surrounding areas, as well. Qingyuan City has its advantages in terms of location. It is only 60 km away from Guangzhou City, one of the world trade centers. In 2014, a package of Guangzhou-Qingyuan Cooperation Strategies have been formulated and carried out. For instance, the inter-city rail between Guangzhou and Qingyuan City will be completed and put into use in 2016, and by then 20 minutes will be enough to reach the downtown of Guangzhou from Qingyuan City.

Therefore, our sister-city relationship, if concluded, would be helpful for Launceston City if it intends to cooperate with Guangzhou. As for us, we would love to carry out exchanges and strengthen ties between Qingyuan City and the surrounding areas of Launceston City, even the whole Tasmania.

Last but not least, the deputy mayor of Qingyuan City is planning to lead a delegation and visit Australia this year, but the exact date is to be determined. I will inform you of the details in advance and discuss with you to see when it is the appropriate time for the visit. In the meantime, entrusted by the mayor of Qingyuan City, I cordially invite you with a delegation of Launceston City government officials to visit Qingyuan City so that you can better understand the achievement we have made, and then seek cooperation opportunities between the two cities. Moreover, it would be a great chance for us to further discuss the cooperation between Qingyuan City and Launceston City.

I am looking forward to meeting you.

Kind regards

Li Sizhen
Director



Foreign Affairs & Overseas Chinese Affairs Bureau of Qingyuan City Municipality
Qingyuan City, Guangdong Province
People's Republic of China
E-mail: lwp701@163.com

20 URGENT BUSINESS

That Council pursuant to Clause 8(6) of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2005,

21 INFORMATION / MATTERS REQUIRING FURTHER ACTION

Nil

22 CLOSED COUNCIL ITEM(S)

Nil

23 MEETING CLOSURE
