



City of
LAUNCESTON

COUNCIL AGENDA

**COUNCIL MEETING
THURSDAY 27 JUNE 2024
1.00PM**

Notice is hereby given that the Ordinary Meeting of the City of Launceston Council will be held at the Council Chambers, Town Hall, St John Street, Launceston:

Date: 27 June 2024

Time: 1.00pm

Certificate of Qualified Advice

Background

To comply with section 65 of the *Local Government Act 1993* (Tas):

1. A general manager must ensure that any advice, information or recommendation given to the council, or a council committee, is given by a person who has the qualifications or experience necessary to give such advice, information or recommendation.
2. A council or council committee is not to decide on any matter which requires the advice of a qualified person without considering such advice unless -
 - (a) the general manager certifies, in writing -
 - (i) that such advice was obtained; and
 - (ii) the general manager took the advice into account in providing general advice to the council or council committee; and
 - (b) a copy of that advice or, if the advice was given orally, a written transcript or summary of that advice is provided to the council or council committee with the general manager's certificate.

Certification

I certify that:

- (i) the advice of a qualified person has been sought where required;
- (ii) this advice was taken into account in providing general advice to the council or council committee; and
- (iii) a copy of the advice, or a written transcript or summary of advice provided orally, is included with the agenda item.



**Shane Eberhardt
Acting Chief Executive Officer**

AUDIO of COUNCIL MEETINGS

An audio recording of this Council Meeting, except for any part held in Closed Session, will be made in accordance with our Council Meetings - Audio Recording Policy - 14-Plx-008.

This Council Meeting will be streamed live to and can be accessed at:
www.launceston.tas.gov.au/Council/Meetings/Listen.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME - AGENDA ITEM 8

A limit of three questions received in writing by Wednesday of the week prior to the Council Meeting are treated as Questions on Notice. Your question and an answer will be published in the Agenda of the Council Meeting. Questions may be submitted to the Chief Executive Officer at contactus@launceston.tas.gov.au, PO Box 396, Launceston TAS 7250, or Town Hall, St John Street, Launceston.

If attending the Council Meeting in person, you may ask up to three questions during Public Question Time. If accepted, your questions will be either answered at the Meeting, or Taken on Notice and answered at a later Council Meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

When attending the Council Meeting, you will be asked if you wish to comment on an item in the Agenda. Prior to debate on that Agenda Item, you will be invited by the Chair to move to the public microphone at the doors to the Council Chambers and state your name and address.

Please note the following important information:

- Each item on the Agenda includes a Recommendation prepared by a Council Officer.
- You may speak for up to two minutes, either for or against the Recommendation.
- You may not ask questions or enter into debate with Councillors or Council Officers.
- Your statement is not to be defamatory, inappropriate or abusive, or be intended to embarrass any person, including Councillors or Council Officers.
- The Chair may direct you to stop speaking if you do not follow these rules, or if your statement repeats points that have already been made.
- Audio from our Council Meetings is streamed live via YouTube.

Your respectful contribution is welcome and appreciated.

LEGISLATIVE TERMINOLOGY - GENERAL MANAGER

At the City of Launceston, the positions of General Manager Community and Place, General Manager Organisational Services, General Manager Infrastructure and Assets and General Manager Creative Arts and Cultural Services do not assume the functions and powers of the term *general manager* in a legislative sense: any legislative functions and powers to be delegated to these roles will be made by Council or the Chief Executive Officer. At the City of Launceston, the title Chief Executive Officer is a term of reference for the General Manager as appointed by Council pursuant to section 61 of the *Local Government Act 1993 (Tas)*. For the avoidance of doubt, *Chief Executive Officer* means *General Manager* for the purposes of the *Local Government Act 1993 (Tas)* and all other legislation administered by or concerning Council.

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1. OPENING OF MEETING - ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

2. MAYORAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Local Government Act 1993 (Tas) - section 48

(A councillor must declare any interest that the councillor has in a matter before any discussion on that matter commences).

4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015 - Regulation 35(1)(b)

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the City of Launceston Council held on 13 June 2024 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

5. COUNCIL WORKSHOPS

Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015 - Regulation 8(2)(c)

5.1. Council Workshops Report 13 June 2024 and 20 June 2024

FILE NO: SF4401

AUTHOR: Lorraine Wyatt (Council and Committees Officer)

GENERAL MANAGER APPROVAL: Louise Foster (Organisational Services Network)

DECISION STATEMENT:

To consider Council Workshops conducted since the last Council Meeting.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION:

Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015 - Regulation 8(2)(c)

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council, pursuant to Regulation 8(2)(c) of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015*, notes the Council Workshops conducted and attended since the last Council Meeting, for the purposes described:

1. pre-Council Workshop conducted on 13 June 2024:

New Year's Eve Event Sponsorship 2024 - 2026

Officers sought feedback from Councillors about pre-committing triennial event sponsorship support for a New Year's Eve event in 2024/2025, 2025/2026 and 2026/2027.

QVMAG Strategic Instrument Review

QVMAG sought feedback and review on the draft Strategic Instruments from Councillors.

In Attendance: Mayor Councillor M K Garwood, Deputy Mayor Councillor D H McKenzie, Councillor D C Gibson, Councillor A E Dawkins, Councillor A G Harris, Councillor T G Walker, Councillor Prof G Razay, Councillor J J Pentridge, Councillor A J Palmer, Councillor L M McMahon, Councillor S Cai and Councillor A J Britton
Apologies: Nil

2. Workshop conducted on 20 June 2024:

Protrusions over Roads and Footpaths

Council received information regarding Section 75CA of the Conveyancing and Law of Property Act 1884 which deals with certain protrusions over roads and footpaths.

Petition to Amend Sealed Plan 16-30 Waverley Road, Waverley

Council received information regarding disposal of interests in land under the Local Government Act 1993.

Northern Tasmanian Alliance for Resilient Councils

Council was updated on the Northern Tasmanian Alliance for Resilient Councils (NTARC).

Launceston Future Housing Discussion

Council discussed the future of housing supply in the municipality.

Tamar NRM (Natural Resource Management) Update

Council received an update about the Tamar NRM (Natural Resource Management)

In Attendance: Mayor Councillor M K Garwood, Deputy Mayor Councillor D H McKenzie, Councillor D C Gibson, Councillor A E Dawkins, Councillor A G Harris, Councillor T G Walker, Councillor Prof G Razay, Councillor J J Pentridge, Councillor A J Palmer, Councillor L M McMahon, Councillor S Cai and Councillor A J Britton
Apologies: Nil

REPORT:

Regulation 8(2)(c) of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015* says that the Agenda of an Ordinary Council Meeting is to include the date and purpose of any Council Workshops held since the last Meeting.

Attendance is recorded for noting and reporting in the Council's Annual Report.

RISK IMPLICATIONS:

Not considered relevant to this report.

ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT:

Not considered relevant to this report.

STRATEGIC DOCUMENT REFERENCE:

City of Launceston Corporate Strategic Plan 2014 - 2024

Strategic Priority 3: We are a progressive leader that is accountable to our governance obligations and responsive to our community.

10-Year Goal: To ensure decisions are made in a transparent and accountable way, that effectively meet our statutory obligations, support quality services and underpin the long-term sustainability of our organisation.

Focus Areas:

2. To fairly and equitably discharge our statutory and governance obligations.

BUDGET AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Not considered relevant to this report.

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:

The Author and General Manager have no interests to declare in this matter.

ATTACHMENTS:

Nil

6. COUNCILLORS' LEAVE OF ABSENCE APPLICATIONS

No Councillors' Leave of Absence Applications have been identified as part of this Agenda.

7. COMMUNITY REPORTS

(Community Reports allow an opportunity for Community Groups to provide Council with a three minute verbal presentation detailing activities of the group. This report is not intended to be used as the time to speak on Agenda Items; that opportunity exists when that Agenda Item is about to be considered. Speakers are not to request funding or ask questions of Council. Printed documentation may be left for Councillors).

No Community Reports have been identified as part of this Agenda

8. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015 - Regulation 31

8.1. Public Questions on Notice

Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015 - Regulation 31(1)

8.1.1. Public Questions on Notice - The Honourable Rosemary Armitage MLC - Shuttle Bus, Launceston Airport - 13 June 2024

FILE NO: SF6381

AUTHOR: Lorraine Wyatt (Council and Committees Officer)

APPROVER: Shane Eberhardt (Acting Chief Executive Officer)

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES:

The following question, submitted to Council on 13 June 2024 by the Honourable Rosemary Armitage MLC, has been answered by Chelsea van Riet (General Manager Community and Place).

Questions:

1. As 10% owners of the Launceston Airport, have you had any discussion with the airport regarding the cessation of the shuttle service and do you have an opinion on whether there should be a service as Hobart has a shuttle every 30 minutes?

Response:

The City of Launceston understands that the shuttle bus was operated as a private business, and its closure represents a commercial decision by the operators. A range of transport options remain available for people travelling to and from Launceston Airport, including ride-share services, taxis, and rental car options. For quick drop-offs and pick-ups, Launceston Airport offers a 30-minute free parking zone. We are hopeful that the exit of the Shuttle Bus is seen as an opportunity to introduce new transport options for Launceston Airport patrons in partnership with the airport operators.

8.1.2. Public Questions On Notice - Robin Smith - Disability Parking Permits and City Heart Strategy - 13 June 2024

FILE NO: SF6381

AUTHOR: Lorraine Wyatt (Council and Committees Officer)

APPROVER: Shane Eberhardt (Acting Chief Executive Officer)

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES:

The following questions, submitted to Council on 13 June 2024 by Robin Smith, have been answered by Shane Eberhardt (Acting Chief Executive Officer), David Mullenger (Manager Health and Compliance) and Michelle Ogulin (Manager Liveable Communities).

Questions:

1. On Council's website it says that individuals can apply for a one year temporary disability parking permit, however it is unclear if the noted additional time is free. Can Council look at the wording to provide clarity?

Response:

As per the terms set out by the Tasmanian Government, permit holders need to pay for the maximum time available in an on-street parking area to gain additional time in a parking space. For example, in a 1-hour parking space, permit holders can park their vehicle for up to 2 hours; or in a 3-hour parking space a permit holder can park their vehicle for up to 6 hours. Payment can be made via the on-street machine or the Easy Park app. The additional time in the space is free so long as the maximum time is paid for. If a partial payment is made (e.g. 30 minutes paid for in a 1-hour maximum parking area) no additional time is provided for a permit holder and the ordinary time limit applies.

In City of Launceston operated car parks, permit holders are entitled to park in the designated parking bays, however no further concessions apply.

- 2 In 2020 I asked Council about a South Korean tourist who had been living rough in the city centre. This same individual has been living rough for over 5 years on Council reserves. If the new Homelessness Statement of Commitment is adopted today, how differently will this man be treated and what can Council do for him as an example?

Response:

Council officers have been following a process outlined in the Homelessness: Statement of Commitment (the statement), namely the protocol, for many months as it has provided a dignity-first approach for council officers responding to homelessness. The adoption of the statement now formalises the dignity first approach as council's preferred method for responding to homelessness.

As with all homeless people we interact with, and which has been our approach for many months, our approach is to alert service providers to the person who is homeless so the service providers can provide the appropriate support to that person. By using this approach in the past we have successfully helped homeless people move off the street and into accommodation. To enable officers to help homeless people in our community we need information on their whereabouts so we can provide this to the service providers. The best way for officers to receive and action this information is through a customer service request or snap send solve from a member of the community.

Further, with the adoption of the statement, we will have additional budget to work towards the establishment of a by-names list which will provide additional clarity for us and service providers about who is homeless, where they are sleeping and what services they need. We anticipate creation of a by-names list will speed up how quickly homeless people can access services. The adoption of the statement will also allow officers to undertake broader education about homelessness and services available for people, including around concerns like food insecurity which can sometimes be a precursor to homelessness.

3. With reference to the City Heart Stage 2 project, is my understanding correct that the Launceston Central Bus Interchange options technical feasibility assessment, only looks at moving 50% of the buses in St John Street, on the west side between York and Brisbane Street, and not those on the other side of the street outside Cotton On, as this information is unclear in the document?

Response:

The Launceston Central Bus Interchange Options, Technical Feasibility Assessment (GHD, 2017) (<https://www.launceston.tas.gov.au/Council-Region/Reports-Plans-and-Strategies/Launceston-Central-Bus-Interchange-Assessment>), available on Council's website, was an assessment of potential issues associated with the bus stop relocation including a review of the operational feasibility of each option, the resulting transport impacts, and the design considerations required to achieve a workable solution. The report was initiated based on relocating the existing bus stop on St John Street between York Street and Brisbane Street.

A well-functioning public transport service would provide for users to easily connect with other bus services through consolidation of all bus stops into one area. What can be interpreted from the report is there is no on-street location that could facilitate consolidation of all bus transport services.

**8.1.3. Public Questions on Notice - Larissa Allan - Concern - Safety of Children
Crossing Road - George Town Road - 19 June 2024**

FILE NO: SF6381

AUTHOR: Lorraine Wyatt (Council and Committees Officer)

APPROVER: Shane Eberhardt (Acting Chief Executive Officer)

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES:

The following questions, submitted to Council on 19 June 2024 by Larissa Allan, have been answered by Michael Newby (Chief Infrastructure Officer), and Uriel Walters (Engineer - Asset Planning).

Questions:

1. There are traffic lights outside the Australian Christian College Newnham and I have witnessed many cars running orange and red lights. Why is the area around the Australian Christian College Newnham and East Tamar School not classed as a school zone before and after school?

Response:

As per the Tasmanian Speed Zoning Guidelines, a 40km/h school zone is applied at schools where a children's crossing exists, and typically extends 100m either side of the crossing. There is a school zone outside East Tamar Primary as there is a children's crossing on Hargrave Crescent near Cook Crescent. There is an existing signalised pedestrian crossing on George Town Road outside the Australian Christian College, and a similar crossing exists outside St Finn Barr's School on Invermay Road.

The Department of State Growth, who are responsible for all speed limits, children's crossings and traffic signals in Tasmania, have advised multiple times in the past that a school speed zone is not warranted in this location. This is because the signalised pedestrian crossing immediately outside the school is considered to be a sufficiently high level of provision for a pedestrian crossing facility, and the number of children crossing the road during the designated times is insufficient to warrant additional measures like a school speed zone.

2. St Finn Barr's School on Invermay Road has a school zone and George Town Road is just as busy. Can you please look into zoning and what can be done to make this area safer for the children and the community?

Response:

Council officers will continue to monitor the situation and advocate to State Growth for a school speed zone in this location, as appropriate.

8.2. Public Questions Without Notice

Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015 - Regulation 31(2)(b)

9. PLANNING AUTHORITY

Under the provisions of the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993*, Council acts as a Planning Authority in regard to items included in Agenda Item 9 - Planning Authority.

9.1. DA0202/2024 - 23 Beverley Hills Road, Newstead - Residential - Construction of an Additional Dwelling

FILE NO: DA0202/2024

AUTHOR: Catherine Mainsbridge (Senior Town Planner Development)

APPROVER: Chelsea van Riet (General Manager Community and Place)

DECISION STATEMENT:

To consider and determine a development application pursuant to the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993*.

PLANNING APPLICATION INFORMATION:

Applicant:	DCM Tas
Property:	23 Beverley Hills Road, Newstead
Zoning:	General Residential
Receipt Date:	8/05/2024
Validity Date:	13/05/2024
Further Information Request:	15/05/2024
Further Information Received:	20/05/2024
Deemed Approval:	29/06/2024
Representations:	3

RELEVANT LEGISLATION:

Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993
Tasmanian Planning Scheme - Launceston

STANDARDS REQUIRING PLANNING DISCRETION:

8.4.2 - Setbacks and building envelope for all dwellings

RECOMMENDATION:

That, in accordance with sections 51 and 57 of the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993* and the Tasmanian Planning Scheme - Launceston, a permit be granted for DA0202/2024 Residential - Construction of an additional dwelling at 23 Beverley Hills Road, Newstead, subject to the following conditions:

1. ENDORSED PLANS & DOCUMENTS

The use and development must be carried out in accordance with the endorsed plans and documents to the satisfaction of the Council unless modified by a condition of the Permit:

- a. Cover Sheet, Prepared by Design Construction Management, Drawing No. A00, Rev 2, Dated 17/02/2024.
- b. Site Plan, Prepared by Design Construction Management, Drawing No. A01, Scale 1:200@A3, Rev 2, Dated 17/02/2024.
- c. Floor Plan, Prepared by Design Construction Management, Drawing No. A02, Scale 1:100@A3, Rev 1, Dated 17/02/2024.
- d. Elevation 1 & 2, Prepared by Design Construction Management, Drawing No. A04, Scale 1:100@A3, Rev 3, Dated 17/02/2024.
- e. Elevation 3 & 4, Prepared by Design Construction Management, Drawing No. A05, Scale 1:100@A3, Rev 3, Dated 17/02/2024.
- f. Floor Plan of Existing Building, Prepared by Design Construction Management, Drawing No. A500, Scale 1:200@A3, Rev 0, Dated 17/02/2024.

2. LEGAL TITLE

All development and use associated with the proposal must be confined to the legal title of the subject land.

3. TASWATER

The development must comply with the requirements of TasWater as detailed in the form Submission to Planning Authority Notice, Reference No. TWDA 2024/00580-LCC, dated 20/05/2024 and attached to the permit.

4. HOURS OF CONSTRUCTION

- a) Unless otherwise approved in writing by the Manager Health and Compliance construction activities must only be carried out between the hours of:
 - i. Monday to Friday - 7 am to 6 pm; and
 - ii. Saturday - 8 am to 6 pm.
- b) Notwithstanding the above paragraph, construction activities must not be carried out on public holidays that are observed state-wide (Easter Tuesday excepted).

5. DRIVEWAY AND PARKING AREA CONSTRUCTION

Before the use commences, areas set aside for parking vehicles and access lanes as shown on the endorsed plans must:

- a) Be properly constructed to such levels that they can be used in accordance with the plans;
- b) Be surfaced with an impervious all weather seal;
- c) Be adequately drained to prevent stormwater being discharged to neighbouring property;
- d) Be line-marked or otherwise delineated to indicate each car space and access lanes.

Parking areas and access lanes must be kept available for these purposes at all times and maintained for the life of the development.

6. DAMAGE TO COUNCIL INFRASTRUCTURE

The developer is liable for all costs associated with the repair of damage to Council infrastructure resulting from non-compliance with the conditions of the Planning Permit and any by-law or legislation relevant to the development activity on the site. Damage may also include the undertaking of unauthorised works to Council infrastructure such as driveways, footpaths and stormwater infrastructure. The developer will also be liable for all reasonable costs associated with the enforcement of compliance with the conditions, by-laws and legislation relevant to the development activity on the site.

7. WORKS WITHIN/OCCUPATION OF THE ROAD RESERVE

All works in (or requiring the occupation of) the road reserve must be carried out in accordance with a detailed Traffic Management Plan prepared by a qualified person in accordance with the requirements of Australian Standard AS1742. A copy of such plan is to be maintained on site and available for inspection upon request by an Authorised Officer.

The explicit permission of General Manager - Infrastructure & Assets Network is required prior to undertaking works where the works:

- a. require a road or lane closure;
- b. require occupation of the road reserve for more than one week at a particular location;
- c. are in nominated high traffic locations; or
- d. involve opening or breaking trafficable surfaces.

Where the work is associated with the installation, removal or modification of a driveway or a stormwater connection, the approval of a permit for such works shall form the explicit approval.

8. APPLICATION TO ALTER A STORMWATER SERVICE

An application must be made using the Council's eServices web portal, or on the approved form, and accompanied by the prescribed fee to install a new connection, or physically remove/relocate or alter an existing service connection.

All work must be carried out by a suitably experienced contractor and in accordance with Council standards. All costs associated with these contractors are to be borne by the applicant.

9. SOIL AND WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN

Prior to the commencement of the development works the applicant must install all necessary silt fences and cut-off drains to prevent the soil, gravel and other debris from escaping the site. Additional works may be required on complex sites. No material or debris is to be transported onto the road reserve (including the nature strip, footpath and road pavement). Any material that is deposited on the road reserve as a result of the development activity is to be removed by the applicant. The silt fencing, cut off drains and other works to minimise erosion are to be maintained on the site until such time as the site has revegetated sufficiently to mitigate erosion and sediment transport.

10. CONSTRUCTION OF RETAINING WALLS

All retaining walls, above 1m, located within 1.5 metres of the property boundaries are to be designed and certified by a suitably qualified person. The design must have regard to the installation of fencing atop the retaining wall and other imposed loading in addition to site conditions on adjoining properties.

11. FACILITIES AND HIGHWAYS BY-LAW

Prior to the placement of any skip bin, security fencing, hoarding, shipping containers, site offices or amenities within a local highway, the person, corporation or other legal entity must seek and have issued a permit pursuant to the Facilities and Highways By-Law (No. 1 of 2021). The payment of the scheduled Occupation Fee (comprising a minimum base fee and a square metre weekly rate) is required prior to the occupation commencing. No occupation of the road reserve is permitted without approval.

12. STRATA LOT NUMBERS AND ADDRESSES FOR DWELLINGS

The following number and addressing is to be assigned to the development consistent with the residential addressing standard: Australian Standard AS4819:

Dwelling No	Strata Lot No.	Street Address
Existing Dwelling	1	Unit 1 / 23 Beverley Hills Road
Proposed Dwelling	2	Unit 2 / 23 Beverley Hills Road

The above addresses are to be adhered to when identifying the dwellings and their associated letterboxes.

13. DEMOLITION

The developer must:

- protect property and services which are to either remain on or adjacent to the site from interference or damage;
- not undertake any burning of waste materials or removed vegetation;
- remove all rubbish from the site for disposal at a licensed waste disposal site;
- dispose of any asbestos found during demolition in accordance with the Safe Work Australia 'How to Safely Remove Asbestos: Code of Practice, July 2020', or any subsequent versions of the document.

14. BUILDING ACT 2016 REQUIREMENTS

Prior to acting on this permit, it is recommended that an architect, a licensed building practitioner such as a building surveyor or a building designer be consulted to determine the requirements for any associated building, plumbing or demolition work under the Building Act 2016.

Notes

A. General

This permit was issued based on the proposal documents submitted for DA0202/2024. You should contact Council with any other use or developments, as they may require the separate approval of Council. Council's planning staff can be contacted on 03 6323 3000.

This permit takes effect after:

- a. The 14 day appeal period expires; or*
- b. Any appeal to the Tasmanian Civil & Administrative Appeal Tribunal (TASCAT) is withdrawn or determined; or*
- c. Any agreement that is required by this permit pursuant to Part V of the Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993 is executed; or*
- d. Any other required approvals under this or any other Act are granted.*

The permit lapses after a period of two (2) years if the development or use has not substantially commenced within that period. An extension may be granted subject to the provisions of the Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993 as amended, by request to Council.

B. Restrictive Covenants

The granting of this permit takes no account of any covenants applicable to the land. The permit holder and any other interested party, should make their own enquiries as to whether the proposed development is affected, restricted or prohibited by any such covenant.

If the proposal is non-compliant with any restrictive covenants, those restrictive covenants should be removed from the title prior to construction commencing or the owner will carry the liability of potential legal action in the future.

C. Appeal Provisions

A planning appeal may be instituted by lodging a notice of appeal with the Registrar of the Tasmanian Civil & Administrative Tribunal (TASCAT).

A planning appeal may be instituted within 14 days of the date the Corporation serves notice of the decision on the applicant.

For more information see the Tasmanian Civil & Administrative Tribunal (TASCAT) website www.tascat.tas.gov.au <<http://www.tascat.tas.gov.au>>

D. Permit Commencement.

If an applicant is the only person with a right of appeal pursuant to section 61 of the Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993 and wishes to commence the use or development for which the permit has been granted within that 14 day period, the Council must be so notified in writing. A copy of Council's Notice to Waive Right of Appeal is attached.

E. No Approval for alterations to Driveway Crossover

No approval to install a new, or alter an existing, driveway crossover in any way has been granted or is implied by the issue of this Planning Permit.

REPORT:

1. THE PROPOSAL

A second dwelling is proposed for the subject site, in front of the existing dwelling. The single storey dwelling will contain three bedrooms, one with ensuite and walk in robe, a bathroom, a two car garage with laundry, a kitchen and dining area with front terrace, a lounge room and terrace entrance. One shared visitor parking space has been provided between the two dwellings.

As the site falls away to the front of the site, the north and eastern portion of the dwelling is elevated off a brick foundation wall. The remainder and upper level is to be clad in light weight sheeting with a timber screen features. The combination gable/low skillion roof will be Colorbond finished Custom Orb sheeting.

Access to both dwellings will be via the existing access with a shared driveway along the eastern boundary.

2. LOCATION AND NEIGHBOURHOOD CHARACTER



23 Beverley Hills Road, Newstead (not to scale)

The property is located in the established residential area of Newstead. Beverley Hills Road is a cul-de-sac and is accessed off the western side of Punchbowl Road as it rises up to the south from Amy Road. Similarly the site rises from its northern frontage to the south, rising approximately 12m from the front north eastern corner to the south western corner over approximately 58.14m or 1 in 4.8m.

The site has an average depth of 53m and average width of 23.5m. The existing brick clad dwelling is located in the rear portion of the site, the setback approximately 26m from the front. The existing dwelling is two storey at the front and single storey at the rear reflecting the topography of the site. Currently the frontage is developed with a circular type drive and is otherwise grassed.

Development in the area is primarily of single dwellings with four other properties in the street supporting multiple dwellings. The rear southern neighbour is a vacant parcel of land, addressed as 8 Gallopers Rise, which is accessed off the southern section of Punchbowl Road, and where first stages of subdivision have commenced. This parcel is just below the brow of the hill from where it falls to the south.

3. PLANNING SCHEME REQUIREMENTS

The assessment against the Launceston Interim Planning Scheme 2015 is detailed in Attachment 1.

4. REFERRALS

REFERRAL	COMMENTS
INTERNAL	
Infrastructure and Assets Network	Conditions recommended.
Environmental Health	Conditions recommended.
Heritage/Urban Design	N/A
Building and Plumbing	Standard notes recommended for the permit.
EXTERNAL	
TasWater	Application referred to TasWater and conditional consent provided by Submission to Planning Authority Notice TWDA 2024/00580-LCC.
State Growth	N/A
TasFire	N/A
Tas Heritage Council	N/A
Crown Land	N/A
TasRail	N/A
EPA	N/A
Aurora	N/A

5. REPRESENTATIONS

Pursuant to section 57 of the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993*, the application was advertised for a 14 day period from 22 May 2024 to 5 June 2024. Three representations were received. The issues raised are summarised in the following table. All representations received for this application were circulated to Councillors on 20 June 2024.

<p>Issue 1 Beverley Hills Road is a cul-de-sac with limited on street parking. There are 5 spaces available in the centre of the cul-de-sac head and some people park half over the kerb. Although the development has on-site parking will the additional building add to the situation and more illegal parking as 10 residences will only have 5 on-street spaces. It is also anticipated that a further 2-4 townhouses will be proposed at 26 Beverley Hills Road in the future.</p>
<p>Response 1 Under the parking code each dwelling needs to have two onsite spaces with one visitor space required per three dwellings in a cul-de-sac. Therefore the proposal requires five spaces. As five spaces are proposed the parking meets the acceptable solution of the</p>

parking code. The provision of parking for future developments within the street will be addressed on their merits against the planning scheme provisions at the time.

Issue 2

The shadow diagrams provided indicate that the eastern wall of the neighbouring dwelling will be overshadowed of a morning in the winter. Can this be verified? The downstairs workshop will lose sunlight over the same time.

Response 2

Further diagrams have been sought to demonstrate the impact of the development on the neighbouring property. By 10am sunlight will shine into at the least the top portion of the dining room window (the window on the upper floor). This has been discussed with the applicant who acknowledges the further drawings illustrating where the shadows fall on the side wall. They also acknowledged that their home does have a number of windows at the front and rear of their home. Overshadowing impact is only considered for habitable rooms not a workshop type space.

Issue 3

There are already five multiple dwelling blocks in the street. We bought in the street on a lot of a suitable size for our lifestyle. Subdivisions have restriction on unit blocks but the street is being a suburb without any support services. The units should be in an area where people area aware units will be built.

Response 3

Some residential subdivisions, especially older ones, may have restrictions (covenants) in regards to whether multiple dwellings may be developed. While the planning scheme does not have to consider such a restriction the original subdivision also did not have such a restriction. The planning scheme allows for one dwelling per 325m² therefore two dwellings could be constructed on a site of 650m². In this case the site density is 623m² and well within the density limit.

6. CONCLUSION

Subject to the recommended conditions, it is considered that the proposal complies with the Scheme and it is appropriate to recommend for approval.

RISK IMPLICATIONS:

Not considered relevant to this report.

ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT:

The Launceston Interim Planning Scheme 2015 contains provisions intended to implement the objectives of the Resource Management Planning System. The application has been assessed using these provisions and as such the economic, environmental and social impacts have been considered.

STRATEGIC DOCUMENT REFERENCE:

Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993
Tasmanian Planning Scheme - Launceston

BUDGET AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Not considered relevant to this report.

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:

The Author and General Manager have no interests to declare in this matter.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. DA0202 2024 23 Beverley Hills Road Newstead Planning Scheme Assessment [9.1.1 - 11 pages]
2. D A 0202-2024 - 23 Beverley Hills Road Newstead - Plans to be Endorsed [9.1.2 - 6 pages]
3. D A 0202-2024 - 23 Beverley Hills Road Newstead - Shadow Diagrams [9.1.3 - 11 pages]
4. D A 0202-2024 - 23 Beverley Hills Road Newstead - Tas Water SPAN [9.1.4 - 2 pages]

9.2. PSA-LLP0019 - 325 Watery Plains Road, White Hills - Planning Scheme Amendment - Rezone from Agriculture Zone to Rural Zone

FILE NO: PSA-LLP0019

AUTHOR: Catherine Mainsbridge (Senior Town Planner Development)

APPROVER: Chelsea van Riet (General Manager Community and Place)

DECISION STATEMENT:

To decide whether to reject or agree to initiate and exhibit Amendment PSA-LLP0019 to the Launceston Local Provisions Schedule of the Tasmanian Planning Scheme.

PLANNING APPLICATION INFORMATION:

Applicant:	6ty° Pty Ltd
Address:	325 Watery Plains Road, White Hills (described as CT 106554/1, CT 232243/1 & CT208625/1)
Existing Zones:	Agriculture
Existing Codes:	7.0 Natural Assets Code 13.0 Bushfire Prone Areas Code 15.0 Landslip Hazard Code 16.0 Safeguarding of Airports Code
Existing Use:	Part cleared land with outbuilding sustaining grazing, remainder Native bushland protected by Conservation covenant C412685

RELEVANT LEGISLATION:

Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993
Tasmanian Planning Scheme - Launceston

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council, pursuant to:

1. Section 40D of the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993*, agrees to, and initiates Amendment PSA-LLP0019, to the Launceston Local Provisions Schedule, to rezone land at 325 Watery Plains Road, White Hills (described as CT 106554/1, CT 232243/1 & CT208625/1) from the Agriculture zone to Rural zone and agrees to apply the Priority Vegetation component of the Natural Values code to part of the site.
2. Section 40F of the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993*, certifies draft amendment PSA-LLP0019; and
3. Sections 40G and 40H of the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993*, determines the period for public exhibition be 28 days.

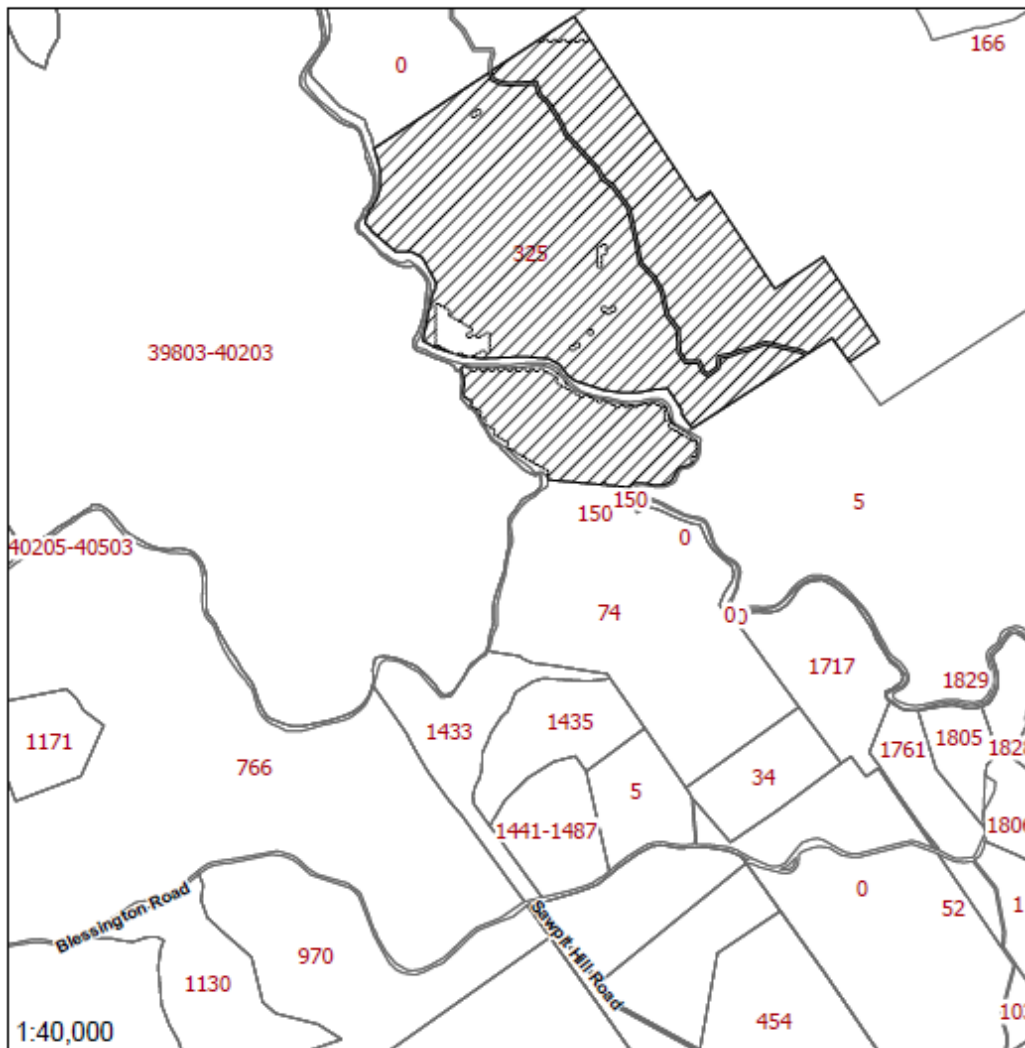
Tasmanian Planning Scheme - Launceston Amendment PSA-LLP0019

TASMANIAN PLANNING SCHEME - LAUNCESTON LOCAL PROVISIONS SCHEDULE

Amendment PSA-LLP0019

Apply the Priority Vegetation Overlay 325 Watery Plains Road
(described as CT 208625/1, CT 232243/1 & CT 106554/1)

Amend the Tasmanian Local Provisions Schedule maps as below



 Priority Vegetation Overlay

THE COMMON SEAL
of the City of
Launceston was
hereunto affixed in the
presences of: -

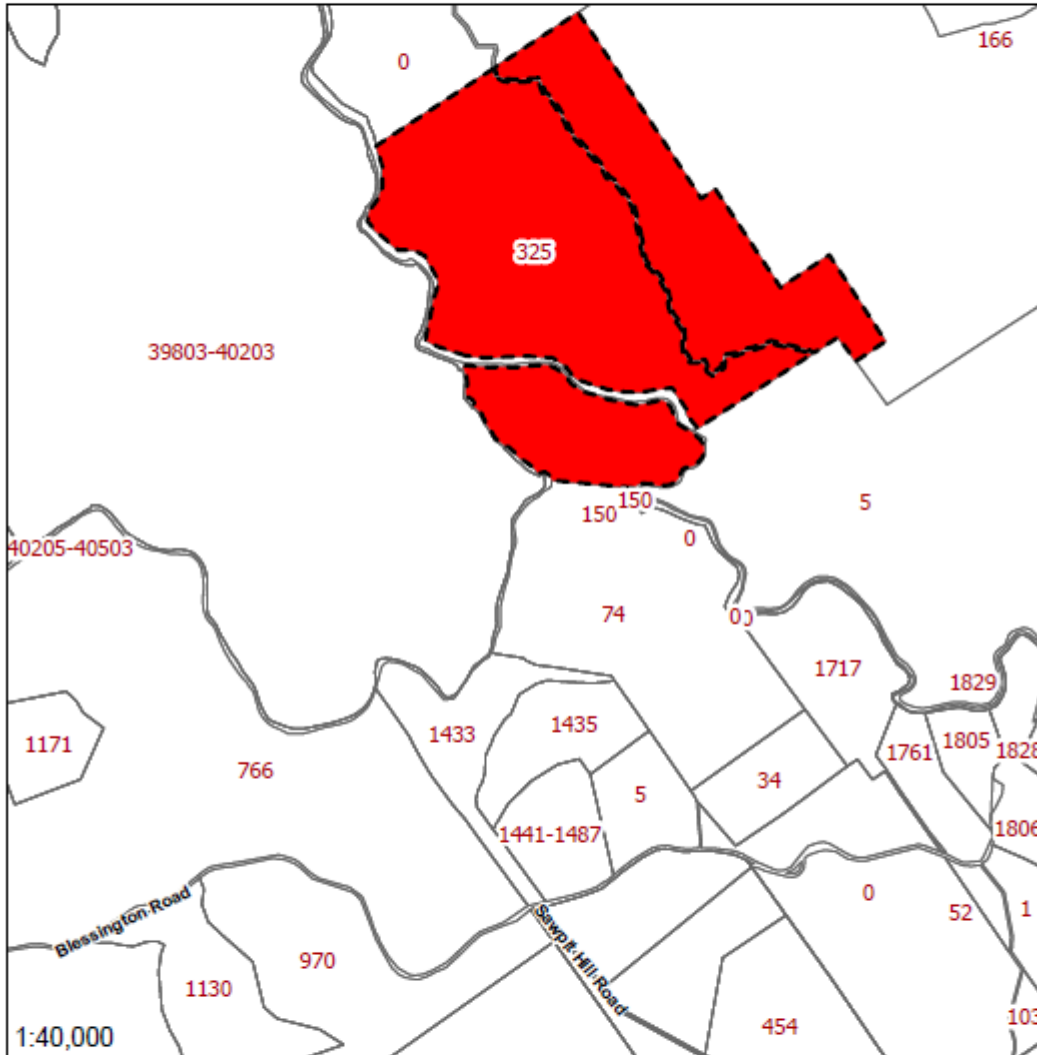
Date

Shane Eberhardt
Acting Chief Executive Officer

TASMANIAN PLANNING SCHEME - LAUNCESTON LOCAL PROVISIONS SCHEDULE
Amendment PSA-LLP0019

Rezone land at 325 Watery Plains Road (described as CT 208625/1, CT 232243/1 & CT 106554/1)
from Agricultural to Rural

Amend the Tasmanian Local Provisions Schedule maps as below



 Rural Zone

THE COMMON SEAL
of the City of
Launceston was
hereunto affixed in the
presences of: -

Shane Eberhardt
Acting Chief Executive Officer

Date

REPORT: APPLICATION FOR PLANNING SCHEME AMENDMENT

1. INTRODUCTION

The application lodged with City of Launceston is for the rezoning of land at 325 Watery Plains Road, White Hills (described as CT 106554/1, CT 232243/1 & CT208625/1) from the Agriculture Zone to Rural Zone and to apply the Priority Vegetation component of the Natural Values code to the portion of the site which is covered by a Conservation Covenant which applies to 240ha of the title.

The promoted purpose of the application is to apply the correct zoning to the land given the limited agricultural capacity of the land. The planning submission comments that the Agriculture zone was applied because it was considered as Unconstrained in the state conducted study to inform the State Planning system, '*Land Suitable for Agriculture Zone*' mapping layer. The Zone application guidelines allow for a zone change for wider strategic purposes, an important natural resource or natural asset is present on site or an agricultural assessment of the land.

An Agricultural Report, prepared by RMCG, has been submitted with the application which identifies that the land capability of the land is limited. Land capability is based a scale with Class 1 - Prime Agricultural Land. The report states that the site area consists of the following classes:

Area of land	Agricultural class
56.4ha	Class 5
378.9ha	Class 6
82.9ha	Class 7
1.9ha	unmapped (not classed)

Class 5 land is described as unsuited for cropping and slight to moderate capacity for pastoral use. Class 6 marginally suitable for grazing and Class 7 very severe to extreme limitations to use for agricultural purposes.

Visibly the land has stone and cobbles/gravel in its profile, the area free of the conservation covenant is relatively small and undulating. These characteristics result in drainage issues and likelihood of erosion.

Irrigation possibilities are also addressed with the property not able to benefit by any state initiated agricultural schemes. The nearby North Esk Irrigation Scheme is noted as already being over-allocated. In addition, the site is considered to have a limited area to both locate a dam and sustain viable levels of grazing. This is while the site does adjoin the confluence of the North Esk and St Patricks River.

The change will provide greater land use options for the portion of the site, approximately 10ha, which is not restricted by the Conservation Covenant. Given the demonstrated limited land capability the zone change would allow for other uses to be proposed on the site, including some uses being having a Permitted status in the Rural Zone rather than the Discretionary use status in the Agriculture Zone.

The application of the priority vegetation element of the Natural Values Code is facilitated by the zone change. The code is not applied to land zoned Agricultural and does apply to adjoining land zoned Rural and Environmental Management. This further protects the area of the site covered by the conservation covenant.

Council officers support the zoning change. Given the sites constraints of access, land capability and environmental constraints the change will allow greater land use options for the unprotected portion.

2. SUBJECT SITE AND SURROUNDING USES

The site of 325 Watery Plains Road contains three titles.

Title	Number	Area
CT 106554/1	0	64.75ha
CT 232243/1	325	184.5ha
CT208625/1	325	257.8ha

The site is identified with the blue line. The blue line at the base of the image is Blessington Road. The North Esk River separates the southern lot from the northern portion where it joins with the St Patricks River which continues north to form the sites western boundary.

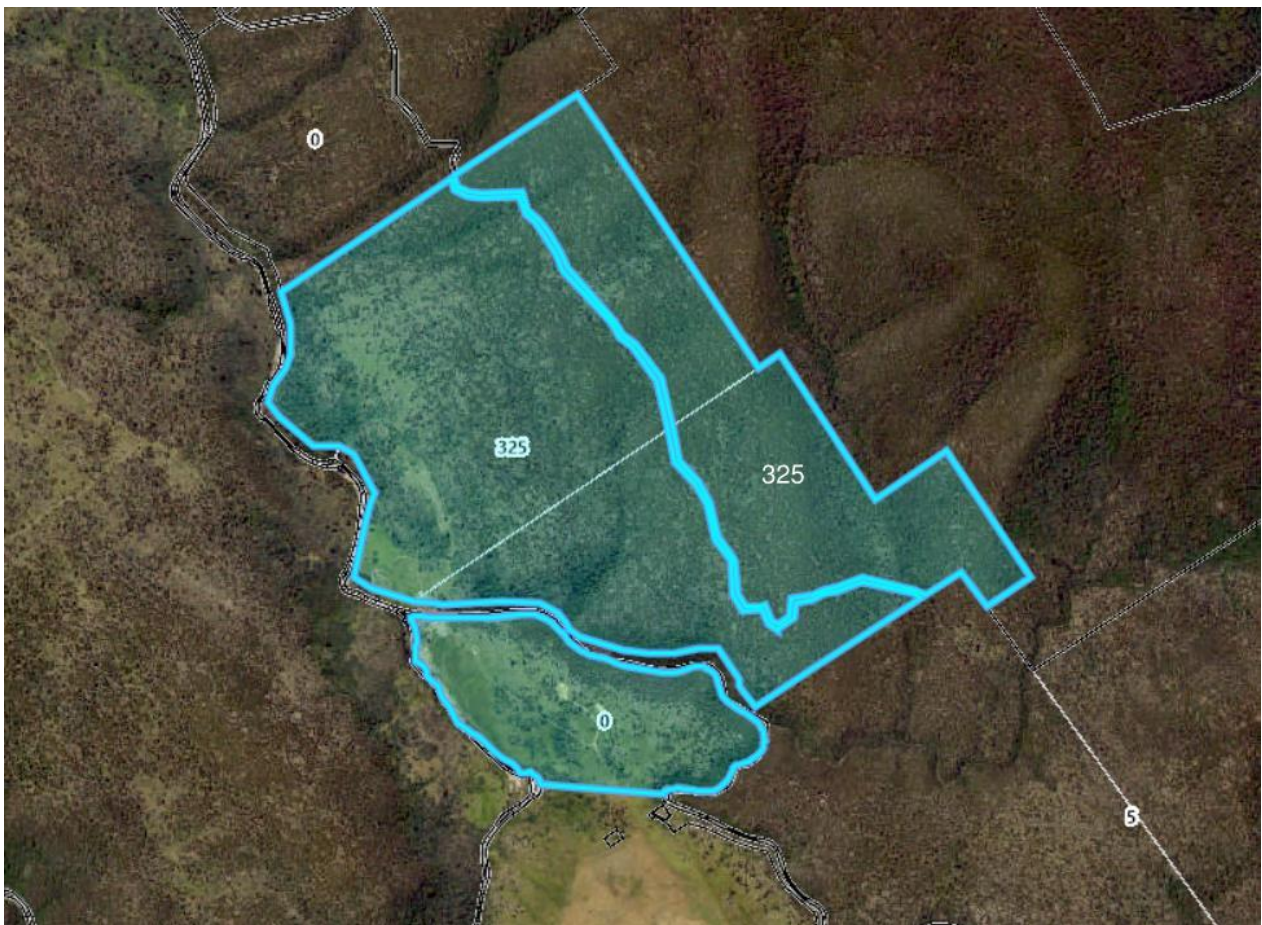


Figure 1 - Subject site aerial (source: SAM Mapping)

The southern portion of the site, numbered 0, is undulating and relatively cleared along with the south western tip of the portion of land numbered as 325. The remainder of the site rises to the north and east and is vegetated with eucalypt forest primarily *Eucalyptus amygdalina viminalis*.

Land to the north west is owned by The Crown and remains as native bushland. Other than for Taswater water reticulation infrastructure the area is relatively undeveloped.

Watery Plains Road is accessed off the northern side of Blessington Road, the site having rights of way over 34 and 74 Watery Plains Road, both sites relatively open pasture.

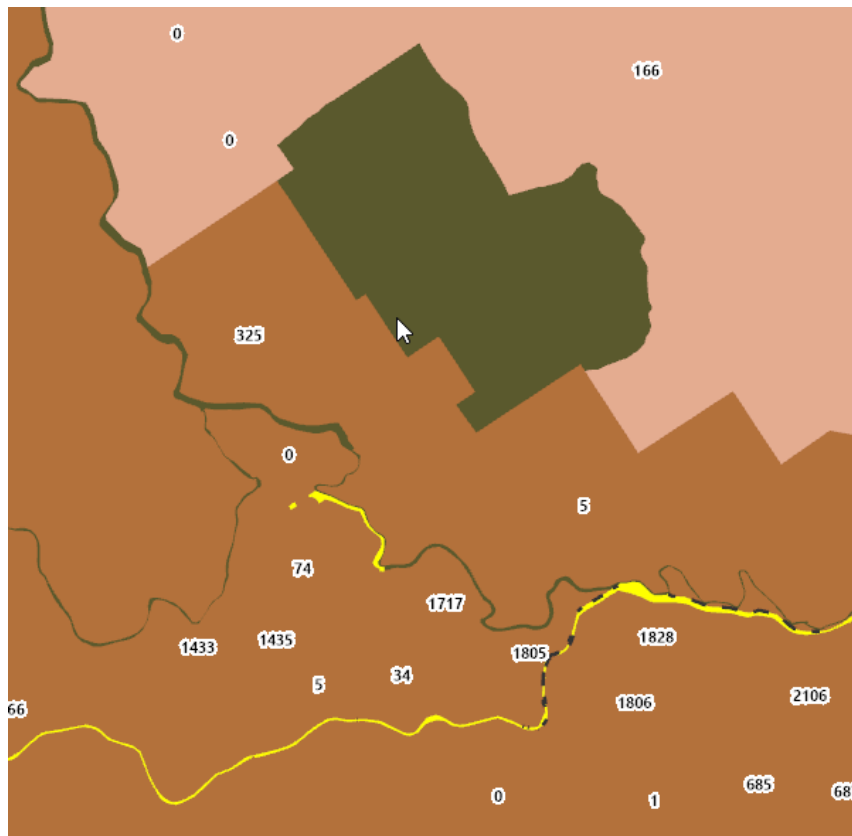


Figure 2 - Subject site and zoning (source: SAM mapping)

2.1 Heritage Values

There are no heritage listings over the site.

2.2 Scenic Values

The subject land is not burdened by any overlay.

2.3 Natural Values

The site is listed as containing priority vegetation under the Planning Scheme overlays. Land to the north and east is covered by the overlay and the proposed amendment seeks to extend the overlay.

2.4 Environmental Hazards

The site is not subject to any environmental hazards.

2.5 Bushfire

The site is covered by the Bushfire-Prone Area Code.

2.6 Flood Hazard

The area is not mapped as being flood prone but the river does flood in a large rain event and block access between the parcels.

2.7 Infrastructure

The subject site is located within an area that is serviced by reticulated sewerage, water and stormwater infrastructure.

2.8 Landslip & Slope

The site is not subject to active landslip but is mapped as low and medium risk.

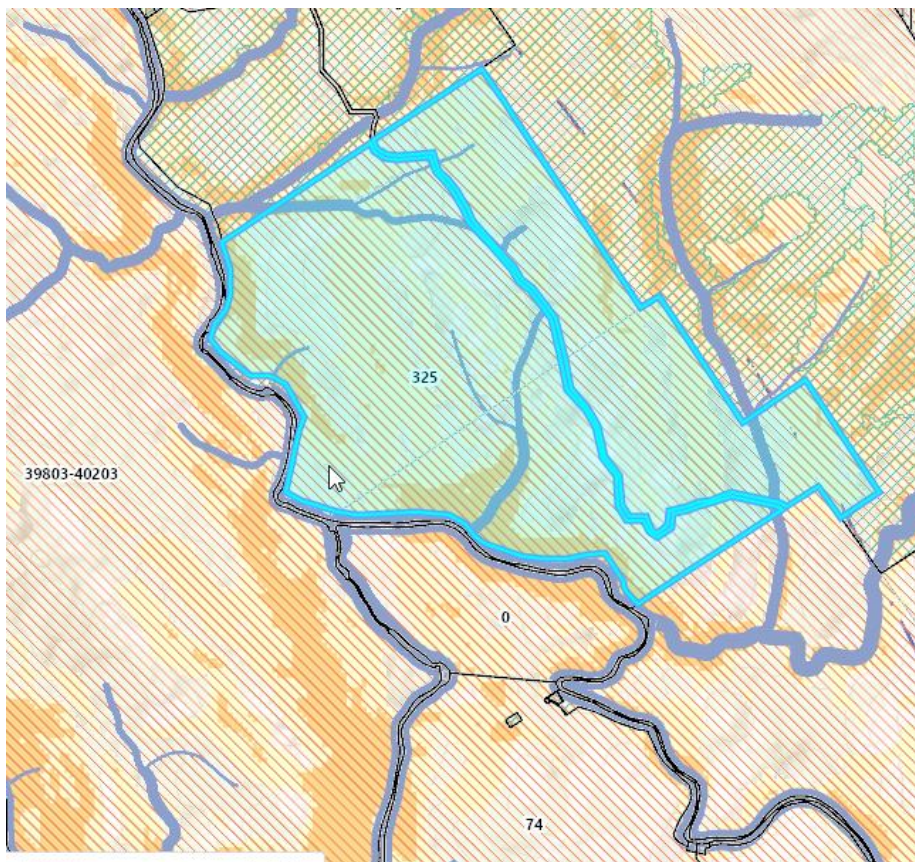


Figure 3 - Subject site and overlays of Bushfire Prone areas (stripes) and landslip (orange being medium (source: SAM mapping))

2.9 Attenuation

There are no uses in the area which will cause attenuation concerns for the proposal.

3. THE RATIONALE FOR SUPPORTING THE AMENDMENT

As part of the preparation for the Statewide Planning Scheme the then Department of Justice, Planning Policy Unit Commission undertook an Agriculture Land Mapping Project to assist Councils spatially apply the Agriculture Zone. It identified 'Land Potentially Suitable for Agriculture Zone' and 'Potential Agricultural Land Initial Analysis'. The site was described as Unconstrained and therefore the Agriculture zone was applied to the site.

Land to the west of the site is also zoned Agriculture with land to the east of the site, other than for the state forest which is zone Environmental Management, being zoned Rural.

The planning submission notes the criteria in the Zone Application Guideline AZ 6 which provides for land zoned Agriculture to be considered for an alternative zone.

AZ 6

Land identified in the 'Land Potentially Suitable for Agriculture Zone' layer may be considered for alternate zoning if:

- (a) local or regional strategic analysis has identified or justifies the need for an alternate consistent with the relevant regional land use strategy, or supported by more detailed local strategic analysis consistent with the relevant regional land use strategy and endorsed by the relevant council;*
- (b) for the identification and protection of a strategically important naturally occurring resource which requires an alternate zoning;*
- (c) for the identification and protection of significant natural values, such as priority vegetation areas as defined in the Natural Assets Code, which require an alternate zoning, such as the Landscape Conservation Zone or Environmental Management Zone;*
- (d) for the identification, provision or protection of strategically important uses that require an alternate zone; or*
- (e) it can be demonstrated that:
 - i. the land has limited or no potential for agricultural use and is not integral to the management of a larger farm holding that will be within the Agriculture Zone;*
 - ii. there are significant constraints to agricultural use occurring on the land; or*
 - iii. the Agriculture Zone is otherwise not appropriate for the land.**

The submission is therefore accompanied by an Agricultural Assessment which specifically identifies (e) as rationale as noted below:

- Soils are unknown but mainly overly Jurassic igneous rock (dolerite);
- 240ha of the site being protected by Conservation covenant and 14.1 ha containing Eastern riparian scrub (SRE) which is a threatened community under the Nature Conservation Act 2002.
- The limited land capability, noted above.
- Minimal opportunity for irrigation as the water from the North Esk River catchment is deemed to allocated and only available by trading. The site is also outside of the North Esk Irrigation Scheme although the scheme does cover the site to the south and there is an offtake pump 1km upstream so there may be some potential in the future.
- The limited area not covered by the conservation covenant for production and a dam.

A zoning change would allow for a greater range of uses for the site along with some existing Discretionary uses having a Permitted status. At the same time, the Priority Vegetation component of the Nature Assets Code is proposed to cover the site which, along with the Conservation Covenants, will limit conversion of bushland for some other purpose.

4. LAND USE PLANNING AND APPROVALS ACT 1993 REQUIREMENTS

Planning legislation in Tasmania allows the Planning Authority, to prepare a draft amendment of an LPS, in accordance with section 40D of the Act.

40D. Preparation of draft amendments

A planning authority —

- (a) must prepare a draft amendment of an LPS, and certify it under section 40F, within 42 days after receiving the request under section 37(1) to which the amendment relates, if—
 - (i) it decides under section 38(2) to prepare a draft amendment of an LPS; or
 - (ii) after reconsidering, in accordance with a direction under section 40B(4)(a), a request under section 37(1) whether to prepare a draft amendment of an LPS, it decides to prepare such an amendment; or
- (b) may, of its own motion, prepare a draft amendment of an LPS; or
- (c) must, if it receives under section 40C(1) a direction to do so, prepare a draft amendment of an LPS and submit it to the Commission within the period specified in the direction or a longer period allowed by the Commission.

4.1 Assessment Against the Objectives of the Act

Objective	Response
<i>The objectives of the resource management and planning system of Tasmania are:</i>	
<i>(a) to promote the sustainable development of natural and physical resources and the maintenance of ecological processes and genetic diversity; and</i>	The proposed zone change to Rural with an associated overlay of Natural Values - Priority vegetation will protect the values of the native bushland on site by limiting land able to be cleared and used for a future development.
<i>(b) to provide for the fair, orderly and sustainable use and development of air, land and water; and</i>	With limited opportunity to gain water rights by trading or install infrastructure to benefit from an offtake pump irrigation of the land is restricted. Due to the constraints of water, low land capability and protection of native bushland by the conservation covenants a change in zoning allows greater land use options for the remainder of the site.

<p><i>(c) to encourage public involvement in resource management and planning; and</i></p>	<p>The public will have the opportunity to comment on this proposal during the exhibition period which will run for three weeks, should the Council decide to initiate the application. The public has the opportunity to lodge a written representation to the application during the public exhibition period. The Tasmanian Planning Commission may also decide to hold a public hearing to deal with the representations if any are received.</p>
<p><i>(d) to facilitate economic development in accordance with the objectives set out in paragraphs (a), (b) and (c); and</i></p>	<p>The rezoning of the site will allow for a sustainable use and development of the southern western portion of the site. The rezoning will be in accordance with the above objectives.</p>
<p><i>(e) to promote the sharing of responsibility for resource management and planning between the different spheres of Government, the community and industry in the State.</i></p>	<p>The application was referred to TasWater. They have no formal comments for the Planning Commission in relation to the matter and would not be required at any hearing.</p>

4.2 Considerations for an amendment

Section 42(2) of the Act requires that a draft amendment to a Local Provisions Schedule meets the following LPS criteria.

34. LPS criteria

- (2) *The LPS criteria to be met by a relevant planning instrument are that the instrument*
- (a) *contains all the provisions that the SPPs specify must be contained in an LPS; and*

Response:

The proposed amendment does not alter the State Planning Provisions (SPPs) and is applying to *rezone* land from the suite of zones available under the SPPs.

- (b) *is in accordance with section 32; and*

Response:

The proposed amendment is for rezoning of land in the Launceston municipal area, as identified in the instrument of certification prepared in accordance with section 32 of *Land Use Planning Approvals Act 1993* (LUPAA).

- (c) *further the objectives set out in Schedule 1; and*

Response:

A response to the objectives is under Section 4.1 of this report.

- (d) *is consistent with each State policy; and*

Response:

A response to the state policies is provided in Section 5 of this report.

- (e) *satisfies the relevant criteria in relation to the TPPs; and*

Response:

The Tasmanian Planning policies have not been implemented.

- (f) *as far as practicable, is consistent with the regional land use strategy, if any, for the regional area in which is situated the land to which the relevant planning instrument relates; and*

Response:

A response to the objectives is under Section 6.1 of this report.

- (l) *has regard to the strategic plan, prepared under <https://www.legislation.tas.gov.au/view/html/inforce/current/act-1993-095> Local Government Act 1993(Tas), that applies in relation to the land to which the relevant planning instrument relates; and*

Response:

A response to the objectives is under Section 6.2 of this report.

- (g) *as far as practicable, is consistent with and co-ordinated with any LPS that apply to municipal areas that are adjacent to the municipal area to which the relevant planning instrument relates; and*

Response:

The adjacent municipal areas adopted the Tasmanian Planning Scheme. The proposed Amendment to the LPS will not impact the adjacent municipal areas.

- (h) *has regard to the safety requirements set out in the standards prescribed under the Gas Safety Act 2019.*

Response:

The area is not covered by the gas pipeline.

4.3 Zone Application Guidelines

Guideline No. 1 Local Provisions Schedule (LPS): zone and code application guideline paper that assists Councils in determining appropriate zoning based on set factors. The Rural Zone purpose states:

The purpose of the Rural Zone is:

- 20.1.1 To provide for a range of use or development in a rural location:
- (a) where agricultural use is limited or marginal due to topographical, environmental or other site or regional characteristics;
 - (b) that requires a rural location for operational reasons;
-

- (c) is compatible with agricultural use if occurring on agricultural land;
- (d) minimises adverse impacts on surrounding uses.

20.1.2 To minimise conversion of agricultural land for non-agricultural use.

20.1.3 To ensure that use or development is of a scale and intensity that is appropriate for a rural location and does not compromise the function of surrounding settlements.

To achieve the purpose of the zone, the following zone application guidelines need to be considered:

RZ 1 The Rural Zone should be applied to land in non-urban areas with limited or no potential for agriculture as a consequence of topographical, environmental or other characteristics of the area, and which is not more appropriately included within the Landscape Conservation Zone or Environmental Management Zone for the protection of specific values.

Response:

The land rises to the north east with three higher points at 400m AHD above 260m AHD along the river. The ground is very rocky with cobbles and gravel, has poor drainage lines and potential for erosion. The agricultural capacity of the land is limited to a cleared section at the south of the site, which is also separated by the North Esk River. The majority of the site is undulating, bushland and covered by a Conservation Covenant.

RZ 2 The Rural Zone should only be applied after considering whether the land is suitable for the Agriculture Zone in accordance with the 'Land Potentially Suitable for Agriculture Zone' layer published on the LIST.

Response:

An agricultural assessment submitted with the application substantiates that the land is at best Class 5 and has limited opportunities to suitably irrigate the land. The useable area of the site limits its viability and scale, and it is not positioned to operate in association with another property.

The report states that the site area consists of the following classes:

56.4ha - Class 5, 378.9ha - Class 6, 82.9ha - Class 7 with 1.9ha being unmapped (not classed).

Class 5 land is described as unsuited for cropping and slight to moderate capacity for pastoral use. Class 6 marginally suitable for grazing and Class 7 very severe to extreme limitations to use for agricultural purposes.

Water resources from the North Esk River are not available as the allocations are taken up with the possibility for trading in the future a possibility. Water from the North Esk Irrigation Scheme may be possible but has not been pursued.

RZ 3 The Rural Zone may be applied to land identified in the 'Land Potentially Suitable for Agriculture Zone' layer, if:

- (a) *it can be demonstrated that the land has limited or no potential for agricultural use and is not integral to the management of a larger farm holding that will be within the Agriculture Zone;*
- (b) *it can be demonstrated that there are significant constraints to agricultural use occurring on the land;*
- (c) *the land is identified for the protection of a strategically important naturally occurring resource which is more appropriately located in the Rural Zone*

- and is supported by strategic analysis;*
- (d) *the land is identified for a strategically important use or development that is more appropriately located in the Rural Zone and is supported by strategic analysis; Or*
- (e) *it can be demonstrated, by strategic analysis, that the Rural Zone is otherwise more appropriate for the land.*

Response:

The application is accompanied by an Agricultural Report which considers the site has limited ability to support an agricultural use given the land capability, limited irrigation and likelihood of erosion given the nature of the soil. In addition, that land is limited in area given the conservation covenant which applies to the site.

There is no particular strategic analysis to support the change.

5. STATE POLICIES

The proposed amendment assessment against the state policies are as follows:

5.1 State Policy on the Protection of Agricultural Land 2009.

The purpose of the Policy seeks:

“To conserve and protect agricultural land so that it remains available for the sustainable development of agriculture, recognising the particular importance of prime agricultural land.”

Prime agricultural land is considered to be land classified as Class 1, 2 or 3. While the land subject of this rezoning has a lesser classification it does have the potential to be used for agricultural purposes especially if future irrigation options are pursued.

The change to the Rural zone will not preclude or significantly alter the status of possible uses of the site for agricultural purposes.

5.2 State Coastal Policy 1996

The State Coastal Policy applies to Tasmania’s coastal area, including all islands except for Macquarie Island. The coastal zone includes State Waters (as defined in the *Living Marine Resources Management Act 1995*) and all land to a distance of 1km from the high water mark. As the site is located outside of 1km from the coast, this policy is not applicable.

5.3 State Policy on Water Quality Management 1997

The provisions of this Policy are reflected in the C7.0 Natural Assets Code in the planning scheme. The assessment of the application addresses this Code to achieve the objectives of this Policy.

5.4 National Environment Protection Measures

Section 12A of the *State Policies and Projects Act 1993* states that a National Environment Protection Measure (NEPM) is taken to be a State Policy. The following, therefore, require consideration:

- Ambient air quality 2002
- Diesel vehicle emissions 2001

- Assessment of site contamination 1999
- Used packaging materials 1999
- Movement of controlled waste between States and Territories 1998
- National pollutant inventory 2000

The Codes within the planning scheme deal in detail with the relevant matters listed above.

5.5 Gas Pipelines Act 2000

The gas pipeline is not available in proximity to the site. Therefore, the *Gas Pipelines Act 2000* is not applicable to the proposed development.

6. PLANNING STRATEGIES

Subject to the recommended conditions, it is considered that the proposal complies with the Scheme and it is appropriate to recommend for approval.

6.1 Northern Tasmania Regional Land Use Strategy (NTRLUS)

The site is located within the Rural Areas within the regional framework. This land is located on the south east of the municipality and is relatively undeveloped, being partly cleared but predominantly native bushland.

<p>Goal 1: Economic Development To facilitate economic development and productivity through integrated land use and infrastructure planning.</p>
<p>Strategic Direction G1.1 Capitalise on the region's sources of competitiveness by identifying future growth opportunities for sustainable competitive advantage.</p>
<p>Response: Rezoning of the site would allow a greater range of land use options and additional uses which fall into the Permitted category than possible under the current agricultural zone where the land is not considered to have sufficient qualities to support a viable agricultural pursuit. It is also not considered to easily integrate with another farm.</p>
<p>Strategic Direction G1.2 Adopt an integrated and coordinated approach to government infrastructure, transport and land use planning</p>
<p>Response: The proposed change to would allow greater land use options for the current or future owner and while protecting the vegetation on the site by the addition of the priority vegetation layer over the site.</p>
<p>Strategic Direction G1.3 Develop a thorough understanding of key industry needs, including future demand and location requirements.</p>
<p>Response: The proposed change seeks to provide a maximum number of options for the site given its environmental conditions.</p>
<p>C4.2 Goal 2: Liveability To promote liveability measures for social and community development and the betterment of healthy, strong and vibrant urban and rural settlements</p>

Strategic Direction G2.1 Identify Urban Growth Areas to advance a sustainable urban settlement pattern.
Response: The zone change will allow a more sustainable use of the site by offering a greater range of uses for the site especially upon the cleared land.
Strategic Direction G2.2 Plan for socio-demographic changes
Response: The greater options allow for changing needs over time.
Strategic Direction G2.3 Promote local character values
Response: The proposed change will allow the site to protect and enhance its character and values.
Strategic Direction G2.4 Enhance social inclusion.
The change of use will offer greater use and development options for the site.
C.4.3 Goal 3: Sustainability To promote greater sustainability in new development and develop stronger community resilience to social and environmental change
Strategic Direction G3.1 Promote and protect the Region's unique environmental assets and values
Response: The proposed changes are intended to provide options for the cleared land upon the site while offering greater protection for the vegetated and environmental sensitive areas on the site.
Strategic Direction G3.2 Establish planning policies to support sustainable development, address the impacts of climate change, improve energy efficiency and reduce environmental emissions and pollutants
Response: Future use and development will be considered on its merits against the relevant planning provisions.
C.4.4 Goal 4: Governance To provide cooperative and transparent leadership and regionally supportive local governance structures to advance integrated strategic land use objectives/ outcomes, including the goals, strategies and policies of the RLUS.
Strategic Direction G3.4.1 Advance regional leadership.
Response: The amendment is required to address all relevant sections of the regional strategy, state, and local policies. This report has considered all of these matters and is supportive of the change to the current planning scheme.

To ensure the above, the proposed amendment has considered a number of policies and actions within the NTRLUS. Those relevant to the assessment are:

- Regional Land Use Categories
- Regional Planning Policies
- Regional Activity Centre Network Policy
- Regional Infrastructure Network Policy
- Regional Economic Development Policy

6.1.1 Regional land use categories

Part D of the Strategy deals with land use categories and is discussed below.

D.1 Introduction to Categories

The proposed Amendment seeks to rezone land which is aligned with Rural Areas.

D.1.1 Purpose of Categories

The proposed Amendment will be reflected in Tasmanian Planning Scheme - Launceston through land use zones.

(a) Rural areas are described at D2.2:

Rural Areas will protect significant high value productive rural land and primary industries; support the sustainable development and use of natural resources; and provide appropriate opportunities for rural living and other nonagricultural activities.

Such areas are applied to:

- Include land rich in natural resources as well as land required for the processing of natural resources;*
- Include land appropriate for rural and environmental living and other non-agricultural land uses;*
- Provide for a transition and graduation of land uses and activities to the more intense use and development of land within Urban Growth Areas;*
- Manage and/or mitigate potential land use conflicts;*
- Include significant natural environmental areas; and*
- Promote non-urban and environmental values.*

The Rural Areas land use category comprises land uses that fall within either one of two subcategories: Productive Resource Areas or Rural Residential Areas.

The subject land is focused on Productive Resource Areas rather than any residential preferences and are defined as the following:

D.2.2.1 Productive Resource Areas

Productive Resource Areas include land rich in natural resources or suitable for agriculture or other primary industry activities, including productive and potentially available agricultural land, included in a Rural or Agriculture Zone in municipal planning schemes. Land in this subcategory is protected from inappropriate development, particularly from urban development including large lot, low and very low density rural and environmental living development, which is directed to Rural Residential Areas. Essential housing for workforce and employers associated with suitable land use may be considered subject to the suitability of the extent and nature of the proposal for Productive Resource Areas and the relevant policy and zoning intentions

Response:

While the change to the Rural zone is proposed due to the perceived restriction on agricultural purposes the zone protects the natural environment and limits residential use of the land.

- (b) The site also considered against Natural Environment Areas D 2.3, the proposal assisting the promotion of Natural Environment Areas.

D 2.3 Natural Environment Areas will promote and protect:

- *Environmentally significant conservation areas;*
- *Regionally significant landscapes;*
- *Open space areas, including outdoor recreation areas, forests and reserves;*
and
- *Regionally significant biodiversity areas including ecosystems that are endangered, threatened or vulnerable*

Natural Environment Areas:

- *Include land with one or more of the following values:*
 - *World heritage areas, national parks, conservation areas, parks and forest, game, nature and state reserves and including significant fauna habitat;*
 - *Cultural and landscape heritage values (Indigenous and non Indigenous);*
 - *Native forests;*
 - *Coastal wetlands including RAMSAR wetlands; and*
 - *Land that forms strategic and regionally significant inter-urban breaks and corridors, particularly for fauna movement and intraregional open space connections and outdoor recreation areas.*
- *Promote Northern Tasmania's unique and pristine biodiversity areas, including the quality and diversity of its natural environment.*
- *Support biodiversity, rural production, scenic amenity, landscape heritage and outdoor recreation.*
- *Recognise the region's distinctive environmental features including:*
 - *Rich and diverse native flora and fauna;*
 - *A dynamic coastline and marine waters including rocky foreshores, reefs, headlands and pristine beaches;*
 - *Spectacular forested mountain ranges and peaks;*

Response:

The introduction of Priority vegetation will enhance the protection of the native bushland of primarily Eucalyptus amygdalina forest and woodland on dolerite (DAD) with Eastern riparian scrub (SRE), the latter a threatened community under the Nature Conservation Act 2002 and contained within the 240ha of land protected by the conservation Covenant which covers the lot.

6.1.2 Regional Planning Policies

Section E of the NTRLUS sets out the regional policies, key planning policies and actions. The relevant policy follows at E.5 Regional Economic Development Policy.

- (a) E.5.3 states the Key Economic Development Strategies Planning for Regional Economic Development and should apply the following strategies:
- *Develop the economic and employment profile and role of Northern Tasmania as the major freight and tourist gateway for the State and as the key link between Tasmania and mainland Australia, particularly Melbourne.*
 - *Pursue a range of new and innovative investment and product development opportunities in locations and sectors generally not previously targeted and*

resourced

- *Support new investment initiatives with major upgrades to the regional infrastructure network.*
- *Promote the protection and enhancement of manufacturing, industrial and tourist business service locations.*
- *Promote efficient access, including expansion of air and sea ports, and land freight connections and operations.*

And, more relevantly:

- *Promote protection of significant agricultural land and natural productive resources in accordance with the State Policy on the Protection of Agricultural Land (2009).*
- *Recognise, and provide long-term protection, for all potentially irrigable areas.*
- *Ensure the integrity of agricultural values is maintained whilst allowing for a transition of non-agricultural land uses between land within Rural Areas and Urban Growth Areas. Promote and support agricultural production areas.*
- *Identify and protect regionally significant extractive industry resources.*
- *Advance and demonstrate consistency with State and regional planning policies, projects and initiatives.*

Response:

The proposed zoning change questions the agricultural abilities of the site while acknowledging that possibilities of small scale farming are possible especially if trading of water from the North Esk River becomes a possibility and the North Esk Irrigation Scheme is extended. It seeks to acknowledge that other uses can be possible by the zone change to allow for a more productive and economic use to be made of the land.

- (b) The following policies cover Regional Economic Development in relation to Rural land.

Rural Land Natural Productive Resources	
<i>Policy</i>	<i>Action</i>
<p><i>ED-P6 Encourage sustainable and appropriate land use planning practices that seek to manage development and use of the region’s natural resources.</i></p> <p><i>ED-P7 Prevent the loss of future rural production (including agriculture, mineral extraction, forestry).</i></p> <p><i>ED-P8 Manage the region’s natural economic resources to sustainably and efficiently meet the needs of existing and future communities.</i></p>	<p><i>ED-A6 Apply a regionally consistent GIS spatial methodology and mapping of productive agricultural land.</i></p> <p><i>ED-A7 Protect the long-term operation of rural industries and support an expanded agricultural sector.</i></p> <p><i>ED-A8 Recognise the roll-out of irrigation schemes and ensure that these agricultural lands and future irrigation areas are appropriately zoned for primary production and protected from incompatible uses.</i></p> <p><i>ED-A9 Limit the encroachment of ‘Rural Residential’ styles of development onto existing and potential agricultural lands.</i></p> <p><i>ED-A10 In conjunction with State agencies,</i></p>

	<p><i>identify and protect regionally significant extractive industry resources.</i></p> <p><i>ED-A11 Identify natural economic resource areas and protect from further fragmentation and inappropriate land use.</i></p> <p><i>ED-A12 Identify and protect extractive and mineral resources for potential future extraction (including providing appropriate transport corridors and buffers) and protect these, ensuring that planning preserves the opportunity for discovery and development of new resources in appropriate areas.</i></p> <p><i>ED-A13 Manage, enhance and protect marine, estuarine and freshwater habitats, from development that would adversely impact upon sustainable fish stock levels, or fisheries production</i></p>
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Response:

The proposal to rezone the land from the Agricultural Zone to Rural Zone will allow a greater number of options for use of the land which has been proposed as having limited agricultural capabilities.

The change will not alter the possibilities of attaining irrigation resources and uses of the agricultural zone but offers more opportunities.

Residential development in the Rural zone is restricted to limit inappropriate conversion of land unnecessarily, with land use and development regulated by the planning scheme provisions applicable at the time.

The natural values on the site will be better protected by the proposed change and reflect the values recognized by the Conservation Covenant.

- (c) To protect Biodiversity and Native Vegetation E.6 of the Regional Environment Policy states the following:

Biodiversity and Native Vegetation	
Policy	Action
<p>BNV-P01 <i>Implement a consistent regional approach to regional biodiversity management, native vegetation communities and native fauna habitats including comprehensive spatial regional biodiversity mapping.</i></p> <p>BNV-P02 <i>Except where planning scheme provisions provide for exemptions, restrict land clearing and disturbance of intact natural habitat and vegetation areas, including areas of forest and non-forest communities declared under the Nature Conservation Act, coastal wetlands and remnant and appropriate cultural vegetation within settlement areas.</i></p> <p>BNV-P03 <i>Land use planning is to minimise the spread and impact of environmental weeds.</i></p> <p>BNV-P04 <i>Land use planning processes are to be consistent with any applicable conservation area management plans or natural resource management strategy</i></p>	<p>BNV-A01 <i>Apply appropriate zoning and/or overlays through planning schemes to protect areas of native vegetation.</i></p> <p>BNV-A02 <i>Implement a planning assessment approach consistent with the avoid, minimise, mitigate, offset hierarchy.</i></p> <p>BNV-A03 <i>Provide for environmental assessments through planning schemes for development proposals with the potential to impact on the habitats of native species of local importance.</i></p> <p>BNV-A04 <i>Accept offsets as a last resort and only where there is a net conservation benefit, security of the offset in perpetuity and based upon the relevant State guidelines.</i></p> <p>BNV-A05 <i>Further investigate regional biodiversity:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>To protect, conserve and enhance the region’s biodiversity considering the extent, condition and connectivity of critical habitats;</i> • <i>priority vegetation communities; and the number and status of vulnerable and threatened species;</i> • <i>Provide for use and development to be carried out in a manner that assists the protection of biodiversity by -</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Minimising native vegetation and habitat loss or degradation.</i> - <i>Appropriately locating buildings and works.</i> • <i>To develop a methodology that defines triggers and priorities for important habitat in assessing development.</i>

Response:

The imposition of the Priority Vegetation overlay will further protect the existing communities on the site, the overlay more relevant under the Rural rather than Agricultural Zone.

6.2 City of Launceston Corporate Strategic Plan 2014-2024

Pursuant to section 20(1) of the *Local Government Act 1993* (Tas) an amendment must have regard to the strategic plan of a council referred to in Division 2 of Part 7 of *Local Government Act 1993* (Tas) as adopted by Council at the time the planning scheme is prepared. The relevant strategy is the City of Launceston Corporate Strategic Plan 2014- 2024 (the LSP).

The assessment of the application has had regard to the LSP and is generally consistent with the principles and goals as it:

- *To reduce the impacts on our natural environment and to build resilience to the changing intensity of natural hazards.*
- *To drive appropriate development opportunities as well as infrastructure, land use planning and transport solutions.*

The amendment proposed will assist in achieving these goals. This will occur by:

- Rationalising the zoning of the site in line with the elements limiting the principal agricultural use of the site.
- Ensuring all natural values of the development area are considered; and
- Invest in the local community by creating additional development opportunities which will allow future development to occur.

If initiated, the amendment will proceed for formal exhibition, allowing the public to effectively engage with the proposal.

7. REFERRAL AGENCIES

Under section 56S(1) of the *Water and Sewerage Industry Act 2008*, a planning authority must refer a draft amendment to the relevant regulated entity. The proposed amendment was referred to TasWater and they have no interest in the rezoning. Under section 56S(2) of the *Water and Sewerage Industry Act 2008*, the relevant regulated entity may provide comment during the public notification period.

8. CONCLUSION

The amendment has been assessed to be consistent with all requirements of the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993* as set out in this report.

RISK IMPLICATIONS:

Not considered relevant to this report.

ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT:

The Launceston Interim Planning Scheme 2015 contains provisions intended to implement the objectives of the Resource Management Planning System. The application has been assessed using these provisions and as such the economic, environmental and social impacts have been considered.

STRATEGIC DOCUMENT REFERENCE:

Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993
Tasmanian Planning Scheme - Launceston

BUDGET AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Not considered relevant to this report.

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:

The Author and General Manager have no interests to declare in this matter.

ATTACHMENTS:

Nil

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE MAYOR

10.1. Mayor's Announcements

FILE NO: SF2375

Thursday 13, June 2024

- Launceston Women In Business (WIB) - Winter Pledge

Friday 14, June 2024

- Attended & Officiated COTA - Walk against Elder Abuse speech and rally
- Attended The GO Company Launch - Tramsheds
- Attended Encore Theatre Company performance - The 39 Steps production opening night

Sunday 16, June 2024

- Participated in Invictus Australia event - Veteran and Family Archery

Tuesday 18, June 2024

- Officiated Refugee Week Launch - Guest Speech

Wednesday 19, June 2024

- Participated in MND Big Freeze City of Launceston - Slide event

Thursday 20, June 2024

- Officiated Opening - 51Y Development Project

Friday 21, June 2024

- Guest Speaker at Aus Independent Retirees (AIR) event

Saturday 22, June 2024

- South Esk Sprint Meet, South Esk Swim Club event - Launceston Aquatic & Leisure Centre
-

11. COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

(This item provides an opportunity for Councillors to briefly report on the activities that have been undertaken in their capacity as a representative of the Council. It is not necessary to list social functions that have been attended).

12. QUESTIONS BY COUNCILLORS

12.1. Councillors' Questions on Notice

Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015 - Regulation 30

(A councillor, at least seven days before an ordinary Council Meeting or a Council Committee Meeting, may give written notice to the Chief Executive Officer of a question in respect of which the councillor seeks an answer at that Meeting. An answer to a Question on Notice will be provided in writing).

12.1.1. Councillors' Questions on Notice - Councillor D G Gibson - Recording of, and Historical Street Naming - 13 June 2024

FILE NO: SF6381

AUTHOR: Lorraine Wyatt (Council and Committees Officer)

APPROVER: Shane Eberhardt (Acting Chief Executive Officer)

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES:

The following question, submitted to Council on 13 June 2024 by Councillor D G Gibson, has been answered by Jaclyn Galea (Infrastructure Development Officer).

Questions:

1. Does Council still maintain a community collection with regard to the historical naming of streets?

Response:

In 1989, a book History in our Streets, was published by J. & D. Morris. This is a comprehensive collection exploring the history of Launceston's street names. The book was a private venture by the two historians. Unfortunately, Council does not and has not maintained a community collection of the historical naming of streets. However, the state run Placenames which register the street name into a statewide data base, provides all the information regarding the history and origins of a place name via a publicly available Placenames Tasmania website.

12.1.2. Councillors' Questions on Notice - Councillor D G Gibson - 2023/2024 Budget - Budget Amendments - 13 June 2024

FILE NO: SF6381

AUTHOR: Lorraine Wyatt (Council and Committees Officer)

ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER: Shane Eberhardt

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES:

The following questions, submitted to Council on 13 June 2024 by Councillor D G Gibson, have been answered by Michael Newby (Chief Infrastructure Officer).

Questions:

1. How is the Community Halls Capital Federal Grant intended to be used?

Response:

This revenue budget relates to the following capital projects:

CP24609 St Leonards Sports Hall Access Ramp - \$200,000. Which relates to the Local Roads & Community Infrastructure Grant funding Phase 4 which was recently approved.

CP24140 Albert Hall Upgrade and Refurbishment - \$9,800,000. This was the grant funds at the start of the financial year which have not yet been received on this project and is made up of Local Roads & Community Infrastructure Grant funding Phase 3 \$1,000,000 and Launceston City Deal (CDG) \$8,800,000. It is to be noted that grant funds of \$1,200,000 have been received from the Launceston City Deal in previous financial years as milestone payments have been claimed.

2. The St Leonards Sports Hall was being redone and importantly had a lot of compliance issues. Is that the entrance to the St Leonards Athletic Center Hall or is it the other one?

Response:

Yes, this is the hall at the St Leonards Athletic Centre. Screenshot of the building outlined in blue, below.



3. With reference to Forster Street and the Better Active Transport Grant, through the Department of State Growth, could we receive a reminder of that project and the grants received?

Response:

The project will deliver a 2.5m wide bike path, separate to the footpath. Access ramps will be upgraded and a splitter island constructed to suit the new pathway. Line marking will be amended and upgraded with painted bike path line markings and symbols.

This project was identified in Launceston Transport Strategy trails improvements and completes a missing link in the northern trail network connecting the Riverbend Park/Levee off-road shared paths to the Goderich Street shared paths.

The grants received total \$260k via the State Government's - Infrastructure Tasmania - Better Active Transport in Tasmania to enable construction of this project.

12.1.3. Councillors' Questions on Notice - Councillor J J Pentridge - Parking Around UTAS Stadium and Rezoning in Merino Street - 13 June 2024

FILE NO: SF6381

AUTHOR: Lorraine Wyatt (Council and Committees Officer)

APPROVER: Shane Eberhardt (Acting Chief Executive Officer)

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES:

The following questions, submitted to Council on 13 June 2024 by Councillor J J Pentridge, have been answered by David Mullenger (Manager Health and Compliance) and Richard Jamieson (Manager City Development) .

Questions:

1. Did Council put parking staff on to surround UTAS and fine people for parking illegally?

Response:

On Saturday 8 June 2024, the Parking Team was critically understaffed due to illness and leave. As a result only two officers were on duty for that day. One officer staffed the communications room and the other officer patrolled the Central Business District on foot.

Whilst the officer was patrolling the CBD on foot, they were approached by various council staff and also members of the general public who complained about vehicles parking illegally across access ways to houses and businesses, blocking intersections and stopping on yellow lines obstructing the view of road users creating a safety hazard in Invermay. One of the members of the public who stopped the officer stated that they have had to walk into town as they were unable to get their vehicle out of the driveway due to people blocking them in.

After being approached numerous times, the officer decided to investigate. The officer observed vehicles committing traffic offences against the Road Rules 2019 and proceeded to issue infringement notices in accordance with the breaches they observed.

The streets where the officer issued infringement notices were not adjacent to UTAS stadium and the infringements were issued on Holbrook Street and Gleadow Street, Invermay.

A total of 33 infringement notices were issued for breaches of the State instituted Road Rules 2019 for the following offences:

- *Stop on/across driveway or vehicular access - State Road Rules 2019 - 198 (2)*
 - *Stop alongside yellow line - Road Rules 2019 - 169*
 - *Stop in Taxi Zone - Road Rules 2019 - 182 (1)*
 - *Disobey no parking sign - Road Rules 168 (1).*
-

We have educated the general public about parking in the area for AFL games over many years. The officer was thanked by multiple residents and business owners who were happy to see City of Launceston addressing parking infringements in the area.

2. On what authority did the Planning Department decide they were going to rezone some land on Merino Street?

Response:

Council officers have been in discussion with the landowner of 30 Merino Street for some time to identify the most appropriate long term land use of the land. Due to the complex circumstances of the land it was determined by the Chief Executive Officer at the time, Michael Stretton, that the Council would take a proactive role in identifying and facilitating the most appropriate zone for the site.

The necessary preparatory work has now been completed. It is the intention of council officers to present the work to the Council for consideration at an upcoming meeting.

It will be up to the Council, sitting as the Planning Authority, to consider the merits of the proposal and determine whether to proceed with a rezoning.

12.1.4. Councillors' Questions on Notice - Councillor Professor G Razay - Budget Amendments - Pavement Maintenance - 13 June 2024

FILE NO: SF6381

AUTHOR: Lorraine Wyatt (Council and Committees Officer)

APPROVER: Shane Eberhardt (Acting Chief Executive Officer)

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES:

The following question, submitted to Council on 13 June 2024 by Councillor Prof G Razay, has been answered by Nathan Williams (Chief Financial Officer).

Questions:

1. What proportion of expenditure of the budget goes into pavement maintenance?

Response:

To 31 May 2024, Council has spent \$485,041 in capital expenditure on its Footpath Renewals Program (including in Parks). A number of footpath works are not included in this year to date expenditure, as they will have occurred as part of road renewal and reconstruction projects. This figure will become clearer after 30 June 2024.

The value of footpath assets built or renewed by City of Launceston are as follows in recent years;

*2022/2023 - \$838,740
2021/2022 - \$1,306,842
2020/2021 - \$1,492,131*

Further to this, an average of almost \$300,000 per year has been spent on maintenance works of Council owned footpaths since 2020/2021.

Council has allocated \$600,000 in the proposed 2024/2025 Capital Budget for its Footpath Renewal Program, along with a \$400,000 allocation in the Parks Track, Footpath and Trail Renewal Program.

Footpath renewal and improvement works regularly occur during road renewals and reconstruction projects, which is not included in the 2024/2025 budget figure provided.

12.1.5. Councillors' Questions on Notice - Councillor J J Pentridge - NTCA Facility Management

FILE NO: SF2375 / SF7448

AUTHOR: Kelsey Hartland (Team Leader Governance)

APPROVER: Shane Eberhardt (Acting Chief Executive Officer)

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES:

The following questions, submitted to Council on 19 June 2024 by Councillor J J Pentridge have been answered by Shane Eberhardt (Acting Chief Executive Officer).

Questions:

1. Can the current Acting CEO please give Councillors an explanation as to when the Executive Management decided to discard the recommendations of the Stretton Report and on what grounds?

Response:

There has been no decision made to discard the recommendations contained within the report named. Based on continued and frequent concerns received by City of Launceston from the user clubs regarding the operations and maintenance activities undertaken by the NTCA in their role as facility manager, this required officers to consider intervention actions to maintain or improve the service standards at the NCTA grounds. Council officers have provided information to Councilors in a timely, unbiased manner to enable fair and transparent decision making.

2. Can the Acting CEO please outline the investigations he made into the current governance structures of the NTCA prior to arriving at these new recommendations?

Response:

The 'new' recommendations are based on the response to continued and frequent concerns received by CoL from the user clubs regarding the operations and maintenance activities undertaken by the NTCA in their role as facility manager and the inability to resource the operations. A further meeting with the Acting CEO, Mayor, Cricket Tasmania and NTCA Board members is scheduled on Wednesday 26 June 2024 to receive feedback of the proposed change in facility management direction.

3. Can the Acting CEO or the Manager Parks and Sustainability inform the Councillors as to how many meetings, and at what frequency, the Chair has reported to both the NTCA Board and to Council as required under the adopted Charter?

Response:

The Facility Management Group met most months and NTCA Inc have three representatives on the Group. The Manager Parks and Sustainability has received two invites - one relates to a meeting this week and another which was attended. Council officers have made requests to attend the NTCA Board Meetings. Councillors have received updates through workshops and the Councillors Bulletin.

4. In the light of the findings of the Stretton Report, will the Acting CEO outline the financial advantages to the LCC, if any, of resuming the management of the NTCA Facility?

Response:

There is not a financial advantage to Council resuming management of the NTCA facility. The intent of Council assuming management is to improve the service standards at the ground and better meet the resourcing requirements of these activities.

5. In addition will the Acting CEO please indicate to Council the number of additional staff to be appointed in order to maintain the NTCA grounds and facilities under permanent LCC management?

Response:

This information is contained within the workshop attachment from 6 June 2024

6. Will the Acting CEO or the Chair of Facilities Management Group table all correspondence received from the tenant clubs for the information of the Councillors?

Response:

The Acting CEO will review the resources required to meet this request and the content of the communications, and advise accordingly.

7. Will the Acting CEO please inform Council as to the reasons why this 2018 commitment was withdrawn?

Response:

There is no evidence a formal commitment or application was made and officers do not have the ability to commit to such a large funding request. A financial commitment would have needed to be made by a decision of Council, which did not occur.

8. Given a clear history of conflict between the Old Scotch Football Club and the NTCA will the Acting CEO give a clear account of all communications between the Club and the Chair of the Facilities Management Group and LCC Executive Management up until this point?

Response:

It is not evident from the account above that there is a clear history of conflict between the Old Scotch Football Club and the NTCA. Seemingly, assuming that all stated above is true, an inappropriate use of the facility was identified by the NTCA administration and a punishment administered. According to the information above this instance occurred in 2017, almost seven years ago. The Acting Chief Executive Officer has not considered this potential or perceived conflict as part of this process. The Facilities Management Group has been in existence since 2022.

9. Will the Acting CEO and Executive Management make provision for representatives of the NTCA administration and Board to meet with Councillors prior to a final decision on the current issue of site management? If not, then why not?

Response:

The intent is a recommendation will be put to the Council at its meeting on 11 July 2024. There are no plans for a formal meeting of the NTCA Board and Councillors. Individual Councillors are free to meet with the NTCA Board.

12.2. Councillors' Questions Without Notice

Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015 - Regulation 29

(Questions Without Notice, and any answers to those questions, are not required to be recorded in the Minutes of the Meeting).

13. COMMUNITY AND PLACE NETWORK

13.1. New Year's Eve Event Sponsorship 2024 - 2026

FILE NO: SF6543

AUTHOR: Kate Schindler (Grants and Sponsorship Officer)

APPROVER: Chelsea van Riet (General Manager Community and Place)

DECISION STATEMENT:

To consider pre-committing triennial event sponsorship support for a New Year's Eve event in 2024/2025, 2025/2026 and 2026/2027.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION:

Local Government Act 1993 (Tas)

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. pursuant to the Events Sponsorship Policy 05-PI-012 -
 - a. notes that the Launceston BeerFest New Year's Eve event has been identified as a Major Signature Event; and
 - b. approves the application by BeerFest No 1 Pty Ltd to receive sponsorship recommended below for the Launceston BeerFest New Year's Eve event:

Financial year	Recommended sponsorship
2024/2025	\$46,000
2025/2026	\$46,000
2026/2027	\$46,000
Total	\$138,000

2. notes that the amounts listed at Recommendation 1 will be included in budget estimates for 2024/2025, 2025/2026 and 2026/2027 which are yet to be adopted by the Council.

REPORT:

The New Year's Eve (NYE) event sponsorship program provides support to Launceston's annual major NYE event.

The NYE event sponsorship provides support of up to \$46,000 per annum to the primary NYE event in Launceston. As per the Events Sponsorship Policy (05-PI-012), the City of Launceston will commit to three years of continuous funding to the primary NYE event. The triennial commitment is designed to provide certainty to an event organiser around Council's support for an event.

Each New Year's Eve (NYE) event has an individual funding agreement, and, on that basis, there is an opportunity to input into the format and deliverables of each event. The review of the Events Strategy may influence the Council's expectations of NYE events delivered in Years 2 and 3 of this commitment. The pre-commitment of three years of funding will not prevent Council from revising its objectives for the NYE event.

Annual reporting (detailed in the funding agreement) is required prior to the release of funds for the following year's event. A new three-year funding commitment begins in the 2024/2025 year.

Only one application was received for New Year's Eve sponsorship. This application was for the Launceston BeerFest. Beerfest has been running their New Year's Eve event in Launceston since 2018. The event aims to deliver an inclusive experience, encouraging community participation and creativity, and it will build community spirit, foster pride, and contribute to a sense of place. As a major community event, it will also deliver tourism and economic returns to the Launceston community, building the city's profile and reputation as a great place to live, visit and invest. The event will operate under multi-year strategic and marketing plans and showcase best practice in event delivery.

Three funding scenarios were put forward by BeerFest in their application. Scenario 1 continues the status quo and aligns with the funding available through the program. Scenarios 2 and 3 requested funding over and above the allocation of this program.

Scenario 1: A three-year plan to deliver a New Year's Eve event and a program of planned activities based on the current New Year's Eve event annual funding of \$46,000.

Scenario 2: An increased funding proposal requesting additional City of Launceston funding of \$45,000 to deliver additional event enhancements including:

- Accessibility/inclusivity program including cultural programs, accessible communication, site planning, amenities, and sensory/respite area. Specific initiatives include Auslan interpretation, wheelchair platforms and sensory and respite zones.
- Expanding the family program, space, and infrastructure, which will allow for a fully fenced and secure area for children's activities and entertainment separate from the main event area, thus making the event far more accessible for families. The additional funding allows children's entry fees to be low or complimentary.
- Enhanced satellite (offsite) programming and activation around Launceston
- Premier headline music acts. The additional funding will help secure top acts, establishing it as a premier event, while also allowing BeerFest to expand their family program, including the dedicated area for children and families. Premier headline acts will attract larger audiences, boost ticket sales, and support local tourism. It also provides a platform for showcasing local talent and enhancing community engagement.

The post-event acquittal report would provide Council with detailed information about if and how the additional funding diversifies and increases the audience.

Scenario 3: Proposed three-day program. BeerFest is currently in discussions with the Tasmanian State government for funding to support the expansion of BeerFest into a three-day festival. The aim of the three-day festival is to cater for all ages and demographics, engage and attract an even broader audience, and further encourage longer stays in Launceston.

If both State and local funding is secured, an expanded three-day program will feature live headline entertainment supported by local talent on 29 December. On 30 December, a family-focused twilight cinema and cooking demonstrations will provide engaging activities for all ages. The culmination on 31 December at Royal Park will showcase a comprehensive program with live music and entertainment for all, accompanied by an extensive and diverse selection of curated food and drink.

Assessment

Based on the 2024/2025 budget, the available funds for the New Year's Eve event sponsorship 2024/2025 - 2026/2027 is \$46,000 per annum.

Assessment process

The following steps form the assessment process for applications:

1. The Grants and Sponsorship Officer receives applications through Smarty Grants (an online portal).
2. All applications are reviewed by the Grants and Sponsorship Officer to confirm eligibility and to ensure all relevant information has been provided. Applicants may be asked to provide additional information.
3. The Events Sponsorship Assessment Panel assesses and pre-scores eligible applications based on their merit against the criteria. The panel then convenes a meeting for score moderation.
4. The assessment score informs the panel's recommendation to Council for funding and these recommendations are subject to the budget available.
5. All funding decisions for assessed applications are made by the full Council via a report to a Council Meeting.

Assessment criteria

Participation	Enables social connections to take place within the community, including volunteering and participation opportunities.
Creativity and innovation	Encourages and supports creativity, innovation and local talent.
Community Spirit	Builds community spirit, fosters pride and a sense of place.
Progressive	Demonstrates a future strategic vision for growth and continued sustainability.
Asset usage	Utilisation and activation of community facilities including cultural, entertainment, sport and recreation venues, including Council owned and managed facilities.

Potential additional benefits:

Economic - Demonstrates positive economic benefits through visitor spending, employment and/or investment.

Tourism and profile - Demonstrates positive tourism benefits through the promotion of Launceston and the region, building our profile and reputation.

Aggregated scores of assessment criteria:

Each member of the assessment panel scores the assessment criteria on a scale of 0 to 5. The individual scores are then combined, and the total scores for each criterion are multiplied by the respective criterion's weighting. This weighted total is divided by the number of panel members who provided the assessment, resulting in a final percentage. Below are the aggregated scores of the assessment criteria for this application.

Launceston Beerfest NYE

Assessment	Weight	Total panel score	Total possible score
Participation: Enables social connections to take place within the community, including volunteering and participation opportunities.	4	100	120
Creativity and innovation: Encourages and supports creativity, innovation and local talent.	3	69	90
Community spirit: Building community spirit, pride and a sense of place	4	104	120
Economic: Demonstrates positive economic benefits through visitor spend, employment and/or investment	3	84	90
Tourism and profile: Demonstrates positive tourism benefits, through the promotion of Launceston, building our profile and reputation	3	84	90
Asset usage: Utilises and activates community assets including cultural, entertainment, sport and recreation venues, including City of Launceston owned and operated assets	3	84	90
Total		525	600
Number of panel members		6	

% Score

87.50%

RISK IMPLICATIONS:

Not considered relevant to this report.

ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT:

Approval of the recommended event sponsorship will:

- result in a positive economic impact to the Launceston community through delivering tourism and economic returns to the Launceston Community, building the City's profile and reputation as a great place to live, visit and invest
- have minimal negative impact on the environment

- provide a number of valuable social impacts for our community through community participation, building of community spirit and inclusiveness

STRATEGIC DOCUMENT REFERENCE:

City of Launceston Corporate Strategic Plan 2014 - 2024

Strategic Priority 2: We facilitate prosperity by seeking out and responding to opportunities for growth and renewal of our regional economy.

10-Year Goal: To have realised opportunities that grow and sustain our economy and foster creative and innovative people and industries.

Focus Areas:

4. To promote tourism and the development of a quality tourism offering for Launceston.

Strategic Priority 4: We value our City's unique identity by celebrating our special heritage and culture and building on our competitive advantages to be a place where people choose to live, work and visit.

10-Year Goal: To sustain and promote Launceston as a unique place to live, work, learn and play.

Focus Areas:

3. To promote and attract national and international events and support the sector to ensure a diverse annual events calendar.

Strategic Priority 5: We serve and care for our community by providing equitable and efficient services that reflects needs and expectations of our community.

10-Year Goal: To offer access to services and spaces for all community members and to work in partnership with stakeholders to address the needs of vulnerable communities.

Focus Areas:

2. To define and communicate our role in promoting social inclusion and equity.

4. To support the delivery of programs and events for people to connect with each other through participation in community activities and civic life.

BUDGET AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

New Year's Eve sponsorship program budget	\$Annual proposed budget	\$Annual recommendation	\$Annual balance*
2024/2025 event	\$46,000	\$46,000	\$0
2025/2026 event #	\$46,000	\$46,000	\$0
2026/2027 event#	\$46,000	\$46,000	\$0

#BeerFest events in 2025/2026 and 2026/2027 continue to have a guaranteed funding base of \$46,000. Future additional funding for 2025/26 and 2026/2027 will be considered in next financial year's budget discussions following the adoption of the new council events strategy later this calendar year.

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:

The Author and General Manager have no interests to declare in this matter.

ATTACHMENTS:

Nil

13.2. Major Event Sponsorship Round 1 2024/2025

FILE NO: SF7570

AUTHOR: Kate Schindler (Grants and Sponsorship Officer)

APPROVER: Chelsea van Riet (General Manager Community and Place)

DECISION STATEMENT:

To consider event sponsorship support for major events (round 1) in 2024/2025.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION:

Local Government Act 1993 (Tas)

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. Approves the following major event sponsorship applications to receive the recommended sponsorship amount from the 2024/2025 major event sponsorship budget.

Organisation	Event	Level assessed #	Score	\$Request	\$Assess	\$Recom
Tasmanian Agrifood Networks Ltd	agriCULTURED	Level 2	82%	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000
Lions Club City of Launceston	Lions Club City of Launceston Christmas Parade	Level 1	80%	\$12,500	\$12,500	\$9,375
Launceston Carols by Candlelight INC	Launceston Carols by Candlelight **	Level 2	76%	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$15,000
Launceston Musical Society	Charlie and the Chocolate Factory	Level 1	76%	\$12,500	\$12,500	\$9,375
AusCycling	Tour of Tasmania	Level 1	74%	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$7,500
Launceston City Cycling Club Inc	Launceston Christmas Cycling Classic	Level 1*	71%	\$20,000	\$12,500	\$9,375
Trevallyn Bowls & Community Club	Launceston International Bowls Classic***	Level 2	69%	\$16,900	\$16,900	\$3,375
Total				\$119,000	\$104,400	\$74,000

Note - there are two levels in this category: Level 1 events receive funding between \$5,001 - \$12,500, and Level 2 events receive funding between \$12,500 - \$20,000.

* Application assessed at Level 1 (\$12,500) and not Level 2 (\$20,000) as the panel deemed the events to be Level 1 events.

** Mayor Garwood abstained from the assessment of Launceston Carols by Candlelight.

*** Although the Launceston International Bowls Classic is recommended to receive 75% of funding, there is only \$3,375 of funding remaining in the allocated budget.

2. Determines the following major event sponsorship applications will not be funded by Council as the available funding has been fully allocated to higher scoring applications.

Organisation	Event	Level assessed[#]	Score	\$Request	\$Assess	\$Recom
Joseph Chromy Wines	Effervescence Tasmania 2024	Level 1*	68%	\$20,000	\$12,500	\$0
Community Peace Network Pty Ltd	2024 Tamar Valley Peace Festival **	Level 1	66%	\$12,500	\$12,500	\$0
Veteran Car Club of Australia (Tasmania) Inc	National Veteran Vehicle Tour	Level 1	66%	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$0
The ReDress Hub	ReDressed: ReFashion Competition and Show	Level 1	60%	\$9,500	\$9,500	\$0
Rotary Club of Central Launceston	Sally's Ride 2024	Level 1	59%	\$12,500	\$12,500	\$0
Total				\$62,500	\$55,000	\$0

Note - there are two levels in this category: Level 1 events receive funding between \$5,001 - \$12,500, and Level 2 events receive funding between \$12,500 - \$20,000.

* Application assessed at Level 1 (\$12,500) not Level 2 (\$20,000) as the panel deemed the event to be a Level 1 event.

** Alina Bain (Chamber of Commerce) abstained from the assessment of the 2024 Tamar Valley Peace Festival.

REPORT:

Sponsorship program structure and funding

The annual major events sponsorship program provides funding to major events held in the Launceston municipality where local, intrastate, interstate and international attendees are the main audience.

The program has an annual total funding pool in 2024/2025 of \$185,000. Funding is allocated through two rounds covering two distinct periods each year. The *Event Sponsorship Policy (05-PI-012)* states that round 1 covers a five-month period (1 August - 31 December) and will be allocated 40% for the annual budget. The available funds for round 1 of the 2024/2025 major event sponsorship program are \$74,000.

Two levels of funding are available under the major event sponsorship program:

1. **Level 1** - up to \$12,500 for an event held in the Launceston municipality attracting audiences from local and intrastate areas.
2. **Level 2** - up to \$20,000 for an event held in the Launceston municipality attracting larger audiences from local, intrastate, interstate and/or from overseas.

Round 1 for the 2024/2025 program was oversubscribed with funding requests totalling \$174,400. The panel has recommended allocating \$74,000 of sponsorship in line with the *Event Sponsorship Policy* round 1 budget. The recommendation of which events to sponsor was made based on the scoring against the assessment criteria (Recommendation 1). Due to the funding requests received being significantly higher than the allocated budget, five applications, which scored the lowest, are not being recommended for funding this round (Recommendation 2).

Program governance

The Event Sponsorship Assessment Panel is a Special Committee of Council, established under Section 24 of the *Local Government Act (TAS) 1993*. The panel consists of three councillors, who are nominated by the council, in addition to external stakeholder representatives. The current panel members are:

- Mayor Matthew Garwood
- Councillor Lindi McMahon (Chair)
- Councillor Andrew Palmer
- Tracey Mallett, Visit Northern Tasmania Chief Executive Officer
- Alina Bain, Launceston Chamber of Commerce Chief Executive Officer
- Amanda McEvoy, Launceston Central Executive Officer.

The role of the panel is to consider, review and assess each application within the sponsorship levels and against the assessment criteria (detailed below) and provide recommendations. The chair has the additional responsibility of managing panel member conflicts of interest.

The following conflicts of interest have been declared by panel members, which relate to any sponsorship application they may be involved in assessing for this round:

Panel Member	Conflict of Interest
Mayor Garwood	Launceston Carols by Candlelight
Councillor McMahon	
Councillor Palmer	
Tracey Mallett	
Alina Bain	2024 Tamar Valley Peace Festival
Amanda McEvoy	

Council officers support the assessment process but do not make recommendations about any of the applications. Prior to the assessment panel convening and undertaking assessments officers review applications for eligibility. Applications are ineligible if they:

- are not received on time;
- are not submitted correctly;
- are missing information; or
- do not align with the criteria.

Additionally, the assessment panel has the authority to deem an application ineligible based on the criteria.

Assessment process

The following steps form the assessment process for applications:

1. The Grants and Sponsorship Officer receives applications through Smarty Grants (an online grants application portal).
2. All applications are reviewed by the Grants and Sponsorship Officer to confirm eligibility and to ensure all relevant information has been provided. Applicants may be asked to provide additional information.
3. The Events Sponsorship Assessment Panel assesses and pre-scores eligible applications based on their merit against the criteria. The panel then convenes a meeting for score moderation.

4. The assessment score informs the panel's recommendation to Council for funding and these recommendations are subject to the available budget.
5. All funding decisions for assessed applications are made by the full Council via a report to a Council meeting.

Assessment criteria

The panel assesses each application against the assessment criteria outlined in the Major Event Sponsorship Guidelines (05-Rfx-019):

Participation	Enables social connections to take place within the community, including volunteering and participation opportunities.
Creativity and innovation	Encourages and supports creativity, innovation and local talent.
Community spirit	Builds community spirit, fosters pride and a sense of place.
Economic	Demonstrates positive economic benefits through visitor spend, employment and/or investment.
Tourism and profile	Demonstrates positive tourism benefits, through the promotion of Launceston and the region, building our profile and reputation.
Asset usage	Utilisation and activation of community facilities including cultural, entertainment, sport and recreation venues, including Council owned and managed facilities.
*New events	Demonstrate strategies for sustainability and a vision for growth. <i>*Note: To encourage new events (events that have not been held in the City of Launceston municipality previously) there is an additional question in the application. Answers to the additional question enable bonus points to be awarded to applications proposing new events.</i>

Distribution of funding

The level of funding recommended for events relates to the score an event receives based on the assessment criteria. Level 1 and Level 2 events have different weightings assigned to the criteria. The typical distribution of funds based on score is as follows:

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

Aggregated scores of assessment criteria:

Each member of the assessment panel scores the assessment criteria for each event on a scale of 0 to 5. The individual scores are then combined, and the total scores for each criterion are multiplied by the respective criterion's weighting. This weighted total is divided by the number of panel members who provided the assessment, resulting in a final percentage. Total possible scores are reduced if a panel member abstains to ensure applicants are not penalised because fewer panel members scored their application. Below are the aggregated scores of the assessment criteria for each application.

agriCULTURED (Level 2 event)			
<i>agriCULTURED is a celebrated 4 day festival that pioneers a vision of the future, shaping the region's gastronomic landscape through collaborative wisdom and boundless creativity.</i>			
Assessment	Weight	Total	Total possible score
Participation - Enables social connections to take place within the community, including volunteering and participation opportunities.	3	75	90
Creativity and Innovation - Encourages and supports creativity, innovation and local talent.	3	78	90
Community Spirit - Building community spirit, pride and a sense of place	3	69	90
Economic - Demonstrates positive economic benefits through visitor spend, employment and/or investment	4	96	120
Tourism and profile - Demonstrates positive tourism benefits, through the promotion of Launceston, building our profile and reputation	4	104	120
Asset Usage - Utilises and activates community assets including cultural, entertainment, sport and recreation venues, including City of Launceston owned and operated assets	3	69	90
Total		491	600
Number of panel members		6	
% Score		81.83%	

Lions Club City of Launceston Christmas Parade 2024 (Level 1)			
<i>A street parade of local community groups, comprising of, but not limited to, music groups, dance schools, charitable organisations, service, social, and sporting clubs. Local street performers participating to increase interaction (safely) with attendees and create a more vibrant dynamic parade with colour and movement.</i>			
Assessment	Weight	Total	Total possible score
Participation - Enables social connections to take place within the community, including volunteering and participation opportunities.	3	84	90
Creativity and Innovation - Encourages and supports creativity, innovation and local talent.	3	75	90
Community Spirit - Building community spirit, pride and a sense of place	4	112	120
Economic - Demonstrates positive economic benefits through visitor spend, employment and/or investment	4	84	120

Tourism and profile - Demonstrates positive tourism benefits, through the promotion of Launceston, building our profile and reputation	3	54	90
Asset Usage - Utilises and activates community assets including cultural, entertainment, sport and recreation venues, including City of Launceston owned and operated assets	3	69	90
Total		478	600
Number of panel members		6	

% Score

79.67%

Launceston Carols by Candlelight (Level 2)

Please note the total possible scores for this event were lower due to a panel member abstaining.

A carefully and inclusively curated program of Christmas Carols as well as fun and frivolity based around singing and dancing, other activities include a visit from Santa, Mrs Claus and of course, The Grinch.

Assessment	Weight	Total	Total possible score
Participation - Enables social connections to take place within the community, including volunteering and participation opportunities.	3	69	75
Creativity and Innovation - Encourages and supports creativity, innovation and local talent.	3	66	75
Community Spirit - Building community spirit, pride and a sense of place	3	66	75
Economic - Demonstrates positive economic benefits through visitor spend, employment and/or investment	4	68	100
Tourism and profile - Demonstrates positive tourism benefits, through the promotion of Launceston, building our profile and reputation	4	64	100
Asset Usage - Utilises and activates community assets including cultural, entertainment, sport and recreation venues, including City of Launceston owned and operated assets	3	48	75
Total		381	500
Number of panel members		5	

% Score

76.20%

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory (Level 1)

We will be performing a 10 show season of the Tasmanian Premiere of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, at the Princess Theatre.

Assessment	Weight	Total	Total possible score
Participation - Enables social connections to take place within the community, including volunteering and participation opportunities.	3	69	90
Creativity and Innovation - Encourages and supports creativity, innovation and local talent.	3	78	90
Community Spirit - Building community spirit, pride and a sense of place	4	100	120
Economic - Demonstrates positive economic benefits through visitor spend, employment and/or investment	4	76	120
Tourism and profile - Demonstrates positive tourism benefits, through the promotion of Launceston, building our profile and reputation	3	54	90
Asset Usage - Utilises and activates community assets including cultural, entertainment, sport and recreation venues, including City of Launceston owned and operated assets	3	63	90
New Event - Demonstrate strategies for sustainability and a vision for growth.	1	18	30
Total		458	630
Number of panel members		6	

% Score

76.33%

Tour of Tasmania (Level 1)

The Tour of Tasmania is a historical stage cycling event that commenced in 1930 and is held across five days.

Assessment	Weight	Total	Total possible score
Participation - Enables social connections to take place within the community, including volunteering and participation opportunities.	3	69	90
Creativity and Innovation - Encourages and supports creativity, innovation and local talent.	3	48	90
Community Spirit - Building community spirit, pride and a sense of place	4	88	120
Economic - Demonstrates positive economic benefits through visitor spend, employment and/or investment	4	104	120
Tourism and profile - Demonstrates positive tourism benefits, through the promotion of Launceston, building our profile and reputation	3	84	90

Asset Usage - Utilises and activates community assets including cultural, entertainment, sport and recreation venues, including City of Launceston owned and operated assets	3	51	90
Total		444	600
Number of panel members		6	
% Score		<u><u>74.00%</u></u>	

Launceston Christmas Cycling Classic (Level 1)			
<i>A cycling event with multiple decades' long history that attracts competitors from all over Australia, International cyclists including World and National Champions.</i>			
Assessment	Weight	Total	Total possible score
Participation - Enables social connections to take place within the community, including volunteering and participation opportunities.	3	66	90
Creativity and Innovation - Encourages and supports creativity, innovation and local talent.	3	54	90
Community Spirit - Building community spirit, pride and a sense of place	4	88	120
Economic - Demonstrates positive economic benefits through visitor spend, employment and/or investment	4	88	120
Tourism and profile - Demonstrates positive tourism benefits, through the promotion of Launceston, building our profile and reputation	3	63	90
Asset Usage - Utilises and activates community assets including cultural, entertainment, sport and recreation venues, including City of Launceston owned and operated assets	3	69	90
Total		428	600
Number of panel members		6	
% Score		<u><u>71.33%</u></u>	

Launceston International Bowls Classic (Level 2)			
<i>A National Ranking lawn bowls event that attracts the best players in Australia and international World Champions hailing from Ireland, Canada, Scotland, England and New Zealand.</i>			
Assessment	Weight	Total	Total possible score
Participation - Enables social connections to take place within the community, including volunteering and participation opportunities.	3	69	90
Creativity and Innovation - Encourages and supports creativity, innovation and local talent.	3	51	90

Community Spirit - Building community spirit, pride and a sense of place	3	69	90
Economic - Demonstrates positive economic benefits through visitor spend, employment and/or investment	4	92	120
Tourism and profile - Demonstrates positive tourism benefits, through the promotion of Launceston, building our profile and reputation	4	84	120
Asset Usage - Utilises and activates community assets including cultural, entertainment, sport and recreation venues, including City of Launceston owned and operated assets	3	51	90
Total		416	600
Number of panel members		6	
% Score		69%	

Effervescence Tasmania 2024 (Level 1)			
<i>Effervescence Tasmania is a celebration of Tasmanian sparkling wine. The event is designed to inform and educate guests and celebrate the quality of sparkling wine produced in Tasmania.</i>			
Assessment	Weight	Total	Total possible score
Participation - Enables social connections to take place within the community, including volunteering and participation opportunities.	3	63	90
Creativity and Innovation - Encourages and supports creativity, innovation and local talent.	3	51	90
Community Spirit - Building community spirit, pride and a sense of place	4	88	120
Economic - Demonstrates positive economic benefits through visitor spend, employment and/or investment	4	92	120
Tourism and profile - Demonstrates positive tourism benefits, through the promotion of Launceston, building our profile and reputation	3	72	90
Asset Usage - Utilises and activates community assets including cultural, entertainment, sport and recreation venues, including City of Launceston owned and operated assets	3	42	90
Total		408	600
Number of panel members		6	
% Score		68.00%	

2024 Tamar Valley Peace Festival (Level 1)

Please note the total possible scores for this event were lower due to a panel member abstaining.

The purpose of the annual Tamar Valley Peace Festival is to inspire the community to find ways to spread the messages of peace, kindness and fellowship and pursue peace in our daily lives.

Assessment	Weight	Total	Total possible score
Participation - Enables social connections to take place within the community, including volunteering and participation opportunities.	3	60	75
Creativity and Innovation - Encourages and supports creativity, innovation and local talent.	3	57	75
Community Spirit - Building community spirit, pride and a sense of place	4	84	100
Economic - Demonstrates positive economic benefits through visitor spend, employment and/or investment	4	48	100
Tourism and profile - Demonstrates positive tourism benefits, through the promotion of Launceston, building our profile and reputation	3	33	75
Asset Usage - Utilises and activates community assets including cultural, entertainment, sport and recreation venues, including City of Launceston owned and operated assets	3	48	75
Total		330	500
Number of panel members		5	

% Score

66.00%

National Veteran Vehicle Tour (Level 1)

An event for vehicles manufactured before 31st December 1918, and features various activities including a high tea, brewery tour, and a gaslight parade.

Assessment	Weight	Total	Total possible score
Participation - Enables social connections to take place within the community, including volunteering and participation opportunities.	3	54	90
Creativity and Innovation - Encourages and supports creativity, innovation and local talent.	3	51	90
Community Spirit - Building community spirit, pride and a sense of place	4	84	120
Economic - Demonstrates positive economic benefits through visitor spend, employment and/or investment	4	76	120

Tourism and profile - Demonstrates positive tourism benefits, through the promotion of Launceston, building our profile and reputation	3	63	90
Asset Usage - Utilises and activates community assets including cultural, entertainment, sport and recreation venues, including City of Launceston owned and operated assets	3	48	90
New Event - Demonstrate strategies for sustainability and a vision for growth.	1	17	30
Total		393	630
Number of panel members		6	

% Score

65.50%

ReDressed: ReFashion Competition and Show (Level 1)

A circular 'refashion' competition and show to highlight creative, locally designed, handmade, upcycled, and remade wearable clothing, promoting the circular economy's principle of extending product life and showcasing Tasmanian creativity.

Assessment	Weight	Total	Total possible score
Participation - Enables social connections to take place within the community, including volunteering and participation opportunities.	3	63	90
Creativity and Innovation - Encourages and supports creativity, innovation and local talent.	3	78	90
Community Spirit - Building community spirit, pride and a sense of place	4	92	120
Economic - Demonstrates positive economic benefits through visitor spend, employment and/or investment	4	52	120
Tourism and profile - Demonstrates positive tourism benefits, through the promotion of Launceston, building our profile and reputation	3	36	90
Asset Usage - Utilises and activates community assets including cultural, entertainment, sport and recreation venues, including City of Launceston owned and operated assets	3	36	90
Total		357	600
Number of panel members		6	

% Score

59.50%

Sally's Ride 2024 (Level 1)

A charity bike ride offering routes from 10km to 100km, utilising the Council's shared pathways and local roads, with all rides starting and finishing at the Launceston Rugby Club clubrooms in Royal Park.

Assessment	Weight	Total	Total possible score
Participation - Enables social connections to take place within the community, including volunteering and participation opportunities.	3	63	90
Creativity and Innovation - Encourages and supports creativity, innovation and local talent.	3	39	90
Community Spirit - Building community spirit, pride and a sense of place	4	84	120
Economic - Demonstrates positive economic benefits through visitor spend, employment and/or investment	4	68	120
Tourism and profile - Demonstrates positive tourism benefits, through the promotion of Launceston, building our profile and reputation	3	48	90
Asset Usage - Utilises and activates community assets including cultural, entertainment, sport and recreation venues, including City of Launceston owned and operated assets	3	51	90
Total		353	600
Number of panel members		6	

% Score

58.83%

RISK IMPLICATIONS:

Not considered relevant to this report.

ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT:

Approval of the recommended event sponsorship will:

- result in a positive economic impact to the Launceston community through delivering tourism and economic returns to the Launceston community, building the city's profile and reputation as a great place to live, visit and invest
- will have minimal negative impact on the environment
- provide a number of valuable social impacts for our community through community participation, building of community spirit and inclusiveness

STRATEGIC DOCUMENT REFERENCE:

City of Launceston Corporate Strategic Plan 2014 - 2024

Strategic Priority 2: We facilitate prosperity by seeking out and responding to opportunities for growth and renewal of our regional economy.

10-Year Goal: To have realised opportunities that grow and sustain our economy and foster creative and innovative people and industries.

Focus Areas:

1. To actively market the City and region and pursue investment.
3. To provide an environment that is supportive to business and development within the municipality.
4. To promote tourism and the development of a quality tourism offering for Launceston.

Strategic Priority 4: We value our City's unique identity by celebrating our special heritage and culture and building on our competitive advantages to be a place where people choose to live, work and visit.

10-Year Goal: To sustain and promote Launceston as a unique place to live, work, learn and play.

Focus Areas:

2. To continue to offer an attractive network of parks, open spaces and facilities throughout Launceston.
3. To promote and attract national and international events and support the sector to ensure a diverse annual events calendar.
4. To support the central business district (CBD) and commercial areas as activity places during day and night.
5. To support sustainable population growth in the Northern Region.

Strategic Priority 5: We serve and care for our community by providing equitable and efficient services that reflects needs and expectations of our community.

10-Year Goal: To offer access to services and spaces for all community members and to work in partnership with stakeholders to address the needs of vulnerable communities.

Focus Areas:

3. To work in partnership with community organisations and other levels of government to maximise participation opportunities for vulnerable and diverse members of the community.
4. To support the delivery of programs and events for people to connect with each other through participation in community activities and civic life.
5. To promote and support active and healthy lifestyles of our community.

BUDGET AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

The proposed budget for Round 1 of the 2024/2025 major events sponsorship program is as follows:

Event	Proposed budget	Pre-committed	Recommendations for Round 1	Balance for Round 1
2024/2025 major event sponsorship budget - Round 1	\$74,000	\$0	\$74,000	\$0

The proposed 2024/2025 round 1 budget for major event sponsorship is \$74,000. Should the recommendation of \$74,000 be approved, the major event sponsorship budget for round 1 will be fully expended, leaving \$111,000 (60% of total budget) for round 2 in line with program guidelines.

The budget consideration of this item has been approved by the General Manager Community and Place Network.

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:

The author and General Manager have no interests to declare in this matter.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. CONFIDENTIAL REDACTED - Major Event Sponsorship - Round 1 2024-2025
[13.2.1 - 250 pages]

13.3. Small Event Sponsorship Round 1 2024/2025

FILE NO: SF7571

AUTHOR: Kate Schindler (Grants and Sponsorship Officer)

APPROVER: Chelsea van Riet (General Manager Community and Place)

DECISION STATEMENT:

To consider committing to event sponsorship support for small events (Round 1) 2024/2025.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION:

Local Government Act 1993 (Tas)

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. Approves the following small event sponsorship applications to receive the recommended sponsorship amount from the 2024/2025 small event sponsorship budget.

Organisation	Event	Score	\$Request	\$Assess	\$Recom
Bus Stop Films	Bus Stop Films 2024 Launceston Showcase	83%	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
Cancer Council Tasmania	Women's 5km Walk/Run	81%	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
*Launceston Festival of Dance Inc	Launceston Festival of Dance	78%	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$3,750
Alive After 5	Alive After 5	73%	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$3,750
Three River Theatre	End Game	73%	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$3,750
The Launceston Players Society Inc.	The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night- Time	71%	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$3,750
Tasmanian Poetry Festival Inc	Tasmanian Poetry Festival	70%	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$3,750
St Cecilia Productions Tasmania Inc	St Cecilia Performance Challenge 2024	70%	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$3,750
Kentish Regional Clinic - CORES	LGBTIQA+ Forums	69%	\$4,260	\$4,260	\$3,195

DARE Collective	Puffs Or Seven Increasingly Eventful Years at a Certain School of Magic	68%	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$3,750
Launceston PCYC	End of Year Kids Celebration – PCYC**	62%	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$555
Total			\$54,260	\$54,260	\$40,000

* Mayor Garwood abstained from the assessment of Launceston Festival of Dance.

** Although the End of Year Kids Celebration was recommended to receive 75% of funding, there was only \$555 of funding remaining in the allocated budget for this event.

- Determines the following small event sponsorship application will not be funded by Council as the applicant has withdrawn their application.

Organisation	Event	Score	\$Request	\$Assess	\$Recom
Tasmanian Fashion Festival Inc	Tasmanian Fashion Festival	66%	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$0
Total			\$5,000	\$5,000	\$0

REPORT:

Sponsorship program structure and funding

The annual Small Event Sponsorship program provides funding to small events held in the Launceston municipality where the local community is the main audience.

The Small Event Sponsorship program has an annual total value of \$100,000. Funding is allocated through two rounds covering two distinct periods each year. The *Event Sponsorship Policy (05-PI-012)* states that round 1 of the Small Event Sponsorship program covers a five-month period (1 August - 31 December) and will be allocated 40% of the annual budget. The available funding for round 1 of the 2024/2025 Small Event Sponsorship is \$40,000.

Round 1 for the 2024/2025 program was oversubscribed with funding requests totalling \$59,260. The panel has recommended allocating \$40,000 of sponsorship in line with the *Event Sponsorship Policy* round 1 budget.

The recommended list of events to sponsor was made by scoring applications against the assessment criteria (Recommendation 1). The assessed applications were recommended to receive a funding amount based on the percentage scores as shown in the distribution of funding table below. Due to the total funding request exceeding the available budget, once the funding has been exhausted to the highest scoring applications, those eligible but receiving lower scores are not recommended to receive any funding.

One application was withdrawn and on this basis it is recommended that no funding is allocated (Recommendation 2).

Program governance

The Event Sponsorship Assessment Panel is a Special Committee of Council, established under Section 24 of the Local Government Act (TAS) 1993. The panel consists of three Councillors, who are nominated by the council, in addition to external stakeholder representatives. The current panel members are:

- Mayor Matthew Garwood
- Councillor Lindi McMahon (Chair)
- Councillor Andrew Palmer
- Tracey Mallett, Visit Northern Tasmania Chief Executive Officer
- Alina Bain, Launceston Chamber of Commerce Chief Executive Officer
- Amanda McEvoy, Launceston Central Executive Officer.

The role of the panel is to consider, review and assess each application within the sponsorship levels and against the assessment criteria (detailed below) and provide recommendations. The Chair has the additional responsibility of managing the conflicts of interest of panel members.

The following conflicts of interest have been declared by panel members, which relate to any sponsorship application they may be involved in assessing:

Panel Member	Conflict of Interest
Mayor Garwood	Launceston Festival of Dance
Councillor McMahon	
Councillor Palmer	
Tracey Mallett	
Alina Bain	
Amanda McEvoy	

Council officers support the assessment process but do not make recommendations about any of the applications. Prior to the assessment panel convening and undertaking assessments officers review received applications for eligibility. Applications are ineligible if they:

- are not received on time;
- are not submitted correctly;
- are missing information; or
- do not align with the criteria.

Additionally, the assessment panel has the authority to deem an application ineligible based on the criteria.

Assessment process

The following steps form the assessment process for applications:

1. The Grants and Sponsorship Officer receives applications through Smarty Grants (an online grants application portal).
2. All applications are reviewed by the Grants and Sponsorship Officer to confirm eligibility and to ensure all relevant information has been provided. Applicants may be asked to provide additional information.

3. The Events Sponsorship Assessment Panel assesses and pre-scores eligible applications based on their merit against the criteria. The panel then convenes a meeting for score moderation.
4. The assessment score informs the panel's recommendation to Council for funding and these recommendations are subject to the budget available.
5. All funding decisions for assessed applications are made by the full Council via a report to a Council Meeting.

Assessment criteria

The panel assesses each application against the assessment criteria as outlined in the Small Events Sponsorship Guidelines (05-Rfx-018):

Participation	Enables social connections to take place within the community, including volunteering and participation opportunities.
Creativity and innovation	Encourages and supports creativity, innovation and local talent.
Community spirit	Builds community spirit, fosters pride and a sense of place.
Inclusiveness	Inclusive and accessible to residents within our community.
Asset usage	Utilisation and activation of community facilities including cultural, entertainment, sport and recreation venues, including Council owned and managed facilities.
*New events	Demonstrate strategies for sustainability and a vision for growth. <i>*Note: To encourage new events (events that have not been held in the City of Launceston municipality previously) there is an additional question in the application. Answers to the additional question enable bonus points to be awarded to applications proposing new events.</i>

Distribution of funding

The level of funding recommended for events relates to the score an event receives based on the assessment criteria. The typical distribution of funds based on score is as follows:

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

Aggregated scores of assessment criteria:

Each member of the assessment panel scores the assessment criteria for each event on a scale of 0 to 5. The individual scores are then combined, and the total scores for each criterion are multiplied by the respective criterion's weighting. This weighted total is divided by the number of panel members who provided the assessment, resulting in a final percentage. Below are the aggregated scores of the assessment criteria for each application.

Bus Stop Films 2024 Launceston Showcase

Showcasing the short films produced through our award-winning 40-week Accessible Film Studies Program, featuring a diverse range of inclusively made short films across genres.

Assessment	Weight	Total	Total Possible Score
Participation - Enables social connections to take place within the community, including volunteering and participation opportunities.	5	115	150
Creativity and Innovation - Encourages and supports creativity, innovation and local talent.	4	104	120
Community Spirit - Fosters pride and positivity in our city, building community spirit	5	125	150
Inclusiveness - Inclusive and accessible to residents within our community	4	104	120
Asset Usage - Utilisation and activation of community assets	2	50	60
Total		498	600
Panel Members		6	

% Score

83.00%

Women's 5km Walk/Run

Launceston's largest annual fun run held every second Sunday in September, promoting health awareness, raising funds for Cancer Council Tasmania, and encouraging community participation in a celebration of life.

Assessment	Weight	Total	Total Possible Score
Participation - Enables social connections to take place within the community, including volunteering and participation opportunities.	5	135	150
Creativity and Innovation - Encourages and supports creativity, innovation and local talent.	4	76	120
Community Spirit - Fosters pride and positivity in our city, building community spirit	5	125	150
Inclusiveness - Inclusive and accessible to residents within our community	4	104	120
Asset Usage - Utilisation and activation of community assets	2	46	60
Total		486	600
Panel Members		6	

% Score

81.00%

Launceston Festival of Dance

Please note the total possible scores for this event were lower due to a panel member abstaining. A nine-day event held during the Term 3 school holidays, featuring over 1,850 individual and group performances and attracting around 600 competitors, including a large number of intrastate participants.

Assessment	Weight	Total	Total Possible Score
Participation - Enables social connections to take place within the community, including volunteering and participation opportunities.	5	105	125
Creativity and Innovation - Encourages and supports creativity, innovation and local talent.	4	80	100
Community Spirit - Fosters pride and positivity in our city, building community spirit	5	105	125
Inclusiveness - Inclusive and accessible to residents within our community	4	76	100
Asset Usage - Utilisation and activation of community assets	2	24	50
Total		390	500
Panel Members		5	

% Score

78.00%

Alive After 5

A free community featuring live music, food, children's entertainment, and themed activities, providing a family-friendly environment on Friday evenings throughout the year.

Assessment	Weight	Total	Total Possible Score
Participation - Enables social connections to take place within the community, including volunteering and participation opportunities.	5	105	150
Creativity and Innovation - Encourages and supports creativity, innovation and local talent.	4	88	120
Community Spirit - Fosters pride and positivity in our city, building community spirit	5	110	150
Inclusiveness - Inclusive and accessible to residents within our community	4	88	120
Asset Usage - Utilisation and activation of community assets	2	44	60
Total		435	600
Panel Members		6	

% Score

72.50%

Endgame			
<i>Samuel Beckett's favourite play, is a tragicomedy directed by Amelia Pond and presented by Three River Theatre, exploring the human condition's struggles, absurdities, and resilience with dark humour and profound introspection.</i>			
Assessment	Weight	Total	Total Possible Score
Participation - Enables social connections to take place within the community, including volunteering and participation opportunities.	5	100	150
Creativity and Innovation - Encourages and supports creativity, innovation and local talent.	4	92	120
Community Spirit - Fosters pride and positivity in our city, building community spirit	5	105	150
Inclusiveness - Inclusive and accessible to residents within our community	4	80	120
Asset Usage - Utilisation and activation of community assets	2	42	60
New Event - Demonstrate strategies for sustainability and a vision for growth.	1	20	30
Total		439	630
Panel Members		6	
% Score		<u><u>73.17%</u></u>	

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time			
<i>The Launceston Players will stage "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time," adapted by Simon Stephens, depicting a fifteen-year-old boy with autism investigating his neighbour's dog's murder, exploring communication and personal discovery.</i>			
Assessment	Weight	Total	Total Possible Score
Participation - Enables social connections to take place within the community, including volunteering and participation opportunities.	5	100	150
Creativity and Innovation - Encourages and supports creativity, innovation and local talent.	4	84	120
Community Spirit - Fosters pride and positivity in our city, building community spirit	5	100	150
Inclusiveness - Inclusive and accessible to residents within our community	4	80	120
Asset Usage - Utilisation and activation of community assets	2	42	60

New Event - Demonstrate strategies for sustainability and a vision for growth.	1	19	30
Total		425	630
Panel Members		6	
% Score		<u>70.83%</u>	

Tasmanian Poetry Festival 2024

Held at various Launceston venues, is dedicated entirely to the art of poetry, featuring guest poets' performances, open mic sessions, a book table, and the Andrew Hardy youth poetry prize.

Assessment	Weight	Total	Total Possible Score
Participation - Enables social connections to take place within the community, including volunteering and participation opportunities.	5	115	150
Creativity and Innovation - Encourages and supports creativity, innovation and local talent.	4	88	120
Community Spirit - Fosters pride and positivity in our city, building community spirit	5	100	150
Inclusiveness - Inclusive and accessible to residents within our community	4	80	120
Asset Usage - Utilisation and activation of community assets	2	38	60
Total		421	600
Panel Members		6	
% Score		<u>70.17%</u>	

St Cecilia Performance Challenge 2024

An annual four-day musical eisteddfod in Launceston, attracting over 1,000 participants of all ages and genres, and focusing on the art of performing and entertaining an audience.

Assessment	Weight	Total	Total Possible Score
Participation - Enables social connections to take place within the community, including volunteering and participation opportunities.	5	120	150
Creativity and Innovation - Encourages and supports creativity, innovation and local talent.	4	84	120
Community Spirit - Fosters pride and positivity in our city, building community spirit	5	105	150
Inclusiveness - Inclusive and accessible to residents within our community	4	80	120

Asset Usage - Utilisation and activation of community assets	2	28	60
Total		417	600
Panel Members		6	
% Score		<u>69.50%</u>	

LGBTIQA+ Forums			
<i>Two LGBTIQA+ forums addressing unique mental health challenges faced by LGBTIQA+ individuals and those with disabilities, providing a safe space for sharing experiences, raising awareness about intersectional issues, and promoting mental wellbeing through expert discussions and networking.</i>			
Assessment	Weight	Total	Total Possible Score
Participation - Enables social connections to take place within the community, including volunteering and participation opportunities.	5	110	150
Creativity and Innovation - Encourages and supports creativity, innovation and local talent.	4	76	120
Community Spirit - Fosters pride and positivity in our city, building community spirit	5	110	150
Inclusiveness - Inclusive and accessible to residents within our community	4	92	120
Asset Usage - Utilisation and activation of community assets	2	26	60
Total		414	600
Panel Members		6	
% Score		<u>69.00%</u>	

Puffs Or Seven Increasingly Eventful Years at a Certain School of Magic			
<i>A humorous play that offers a fresh perspective on the familiar wizarding world by following the Puffs, a group of well-meaning, loyal outsiders, through seven eventful years at a magic school.</i>			
Assessment	Weight	Total	Total Possible Score
Participation - Enables social connections to take place within the community, including volunteering and participation opportunities.	5	100	150
Creativity and Innovation - Encourages and supports creativity, innovation and local talent.	4	88	120
Community Spirit - Fosters pride and positivity in our city, building community spirit	5	95	150

Inclusiveness - Inclusive and accessible to residents within our community	4	68	120
Asset Usage - Utilisation and activation of community assets	2	42	60
New Event - Demonstrate strategies for sustainability and a vision for growth.	1	16	30
Total		409	630
Panel Members		6	
% Score		<u>68.17%</u>	

Tasmanian Fashion Festival			
<i>Features networking opportunities, runway shows, educational workshops, cultural exchange, and performances, celebrating local talent and fostering industry connections across Launceston and Hobart.</i>			
Assessment	Weight	Total	Total Possible Score
Participation - Enables social connections to take place within the community, including volunteering and participation opportunities.	5	110	150
Creativity and Innovation - Encourages and supports creativity, innovation and local talent.	4	92	120
Community Spirit - Fosters pride and positivity in our city, building community spirit	5	90	150
Inclusiveness - Inclusive and accessible to residents within our community	4	76	120
Asset Usage - Utilisation and activation of community assets	2	30	60
Total		398	600
Panel Members		6	
% Score		<u>66.33%</u>	

End of Year Kids Celebration - PCYC			
<i>An end of year themed party with mega games and an old school disco along with arts and crafts booth.</i>			
Assessment	Weight	Total	Total Possible Score
Participation - Enables social connections to take place within the community, including volunteering and participation opportunities.	5	95	150
Creativity and Innovation - Encourages and supports creativity, innovation and local talent.	4	76	120

Community Spirit - Fosters pride and positivity in our city, building community spirit	5	100	150
Inclusiveness - Inclusive and accessible to residents within our community	4	76	120
Asset Usage - Utilisation and activation of community assets	2	26	60
Total		373	600
Panel Members		6	
% Score		<u>62.17%</u>	

RISK IMPLICATIONS:

Not considered relevant to this report.

ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT:

Approval of the recommended event sponsorship will:

- result in a positive economic impact to the Launceston community through delivering tourism and economic returns to the Launceston community, building our profile and reputation as a great place to live, visit and invest
- have minimal negative impact on the environment
- provide a number of valuable social impacts for our community through community participation including building of community spirit and inclusiveness

STRATEGIC DOCUMENT REFERENCE:

City of Launceston Corporate Strategic Plan 2014 - 2024

Strategic Priority 2: We facilitate prosperity by seeking out and responding to opportunities for growth and renewal of our regional economy.

10-Year Goal: To have realised opportunities that grow and sustain our economy and foster creative and innovative people and industries.

Focus Areas:

1. To actively market the City and region and pursue investment.
3. To provide an environment that is supportive to business and development within the municipality.
4. To promote tourism and the development of a quality tourism offering for Launceston.

Strategic Priority 4: We value our City's unique identity by celebrating our special heritage and culture and building on our competitive advantages to be a place where people choose to live, work and visit.

10-Year Goal: To sustain and promote Launceston as a unique place to live, work, learn and play.

Focus Areas:

2. To continue to offer an attractive network of parks, open spaces and facilities throughout Launceston.
3. To promote and attract national and international events and support the sector to ensure a diverse annual events calendar.

4. To support the central business district (CBD) and commercial areas as activity places during day and night.
5. To support sustainable population growth in the Northern Region.

Strategic Priority 5: We serve and care for our community by providing equitable and efficient services that reflects needs and expectations of our community.

10-Year Goal: To offer access to services and spaces for all community members and to work in partnership with stakeholders to address the needs of vulnerable communities.

Focus Areas:

3. To work in partnership with community organisations and other levels of government to maximise participation opportunities for vulnerable and diverse members of the community.
4. To support the delivery of programs and events for people to connect with each other through participation in community activities and civic life.
5. To promote and support active and healthy lifestyles of our community.

BUDGET AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

	Proposed budget	Pre-committed	Recommendations for Round 1	Balance \$
2024/2025 small event sponsorship budget – Round 1	\$40,000	\$0	\$40,000	\$0

The proposed budget for 2024/2025 round 1 small event sponsorship is \$40,000. Should the recommendation of \$40,000 be approved, the small event sponsorship for ound 1 will be fully expended, leaving \$60,000 (60% of total budget) for round 2 in line with program guidelines.

The budget consideration of this item has been approved by the General Manager Community and Place Network.

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:

The author and general manager have no interests to declare in this matter.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. CONFIDENTIAL REDACTED - Small Event Sponsorship - Round 1 2024-2025 [13.3.1 - 178 pages]

13.4. Community Grants Round 2 2023/2024

FILE NO: SF7569

AUTHOR: Kate Schindler (Grants and Sponsorship Officer)

APPROVER: Chelsea van Riet (General Manager Community and Place)

DECISION STATEMENT:

To consider round 2 applications for the 2023/2024 Community Grants program.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION:

Local Government Act 1993 (Tas)

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. Approves the following organisations' applications to receive the recommended grant amounts:

Organisation	Project/Activity	Score	\$Request	\$Recom
GroWaverley	Growing our Neighbourhood impact	86%	\$5,000	\$5,000
Reclink Australia	Reclink Youth Adventure, Resilience and Wellbeing Program	82%	\$4,970	\$4,970
Just Cats Inc.	Community Desexing Project	81%	\$5,000	\$5,000
Sawtooth ARI Inc	SAW: Sawtooth Artist Workshops	81%	\$5,000	\$5,000
The ReDress Hub	ReDress: ReGift - Sharing the skills to keep clothing in use for longer	68%	\$4,600	\$3,450
Total			\$24,570	\$23,420

2. Determines the following community grant applications will not be funded by the Council as the applications received a score less than the recommended level for funding (<50%):

Organisation	Project/Activity	Score	\$Request	\$Recom
Women's Legal Service Tasmania	Number Blocks	49%	\$5,000	0
Total			\$5,000	\$0

3. Determines the following community grant applications will not be funded by the council as the applications received were deemed ineligible by the assessment panel.

Organisation	Project/Activity	Score	\$Request	\$Recom
Black Box Theatre Co.	Spring Awakening	0%	\$5,000	0
Design Tasmania	Women in Design	0%	\$5,000	0
Three River Theatre Inc	The Laramie Project	0%	\$5,000	0
Total			\$15,000	\$0

REPORT:

Grant program structure and funding

The Community Grants Program provides funding to individuals, organisations or groups to undertake projects or activities that respond to a community need and whose outcomes will benefit the Launceston community.

The Community Grants Program's overall budget is \$110,000 per annum.

The allocation for community grant (organisations) is \$70,000 for the 2023/24 financial year. There are two funding rounds per year and each round is allocated \$35,000.

There was an unallocated amount of \$863 from round 1 of the 2023/2024 community grant (organisations) allocation. Therefore, the available funds for round 2 in 2023/2024 is \$35,863.

The total value of eligible requests received for round 2 of the 2023/2024 community grants is \$29,570. Based on the assessment results, the recommended allocation of funds for round 2 in 2023/2024 is \$23,420 (Recommendation 1). It is acknowledged that one application is recommended not to receive funding as they received a score less than the recommended level for funding (i.e. <50%, Recommendation 2).

It is acknowledged that three applications were deemed ineligible by the assessment panel and scored 0% therefore no funding is recommended.

Program governance

The Community Grants Assessment Panel is a Special Committee of Council, established under section 24 of the Local Government Act (TAS) 1993. The panel consists of three Councillors, who are nominated by the council, in addition to external stakeholder representatives. The current panel members are:

- Mayor Matthew Garwood
- Councillor Lindi McMahon (Chair)
- Councillor Andrew Palmer
- Sheryl Thomas, Community Member
- Louise Clark, Rio Tinto
- Madi Biggelaar, Launceston Central.

The role of the panel is to assess each application within the sponsorship levels and against the assessment criteria (detailed below) and provide recommendations. The Chair has the additional responsibility of managing panel member conflicts of interest.

The following conflicts of interest have been declared by panel members which relate to any sponsorship application they may be involved in assessing:

Panel Member	Conflict of Interest
Mayor Garwood	-
Councillor McMahon	-
Councillor Palmer	-
Sheryl Thomas	-
Louise Clark	-
Madi Biggelaar	-

Council officers support the assessment process but do not make recommendations about any of the applications. Prior to the assessment panel convening and undertaking assessments officers review received applications for eligibility. Applications are ineligible if they:

- are not received on time;
- are not submitted correctly;
- are missing information; or
- do not align with the criteria.

Additionally, the assessment panel has the authority to deem an application ineligible based on the criteria.

Assessment process

The following steps form the assessment process for applications:

1. The Grants and Sponsorship Officer receives applications through Smarty Grants (an online grants application portal).
2. All applications are reviewed by the Grants and Sponsorship Officer to confirm eligibility and to ensure all relevant information has been provided. Applicants may be asked to provide additional information.
3. The Community Grants Assessment Panel assesses and pre-scores eligible applications based on their merit against the criteria. The panel then convenes a meeting for score moderation.
4. The assessment score informs the panel's recommendation to Council for funding and these recommendations are subject to the available budget.
5. All funding decisions for assessed applications are made by the full Council via a report to a Council Meeting.

Assessment criteria

The panel assesses each application against the assessment criteria:

- Identifies a clear community need for the project.
- Outcomes directly benefit the Launceston community.
- Outlines clear engagement and collaboration with the community, enabling social connections and community participation.

- Project plan demonstrates good organisational planning for the project/activity.
- The project budget is detailed, realistic and:
 - demonstrates the applicant is co-contributing at least 20% towards the project in addition to the funding requested (co-contribution can be either in-kind or financial); and
 - outlines how the City of Launceston funding will be utilised.

Distribution of funding

The level of funding recommended for grants relates to the score an application receives based on the assessment criteria. The typical distribution of funds based on score is as follows:

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

Aggregated scores of assessment criteria:

Each member of the assessment panel scores the assessment criteria for each event on a scale of 0 to 5. The individual scores are then combined and the total scores for each criterion are multiplied by the respective criterion's weighting. This weighted total is divided by the number of panel members who provided the assessment, resulting in a final percentage. Below are the aggregated scores of the assessment criteria for each application.

GroWaverley			
<i>GroWaverley, dedicated to supporting community food security and volunteer engagement, requests funding for pre-cooked meals, winter uniforms for volunteers, organisational training, raised garden beds and vegetable seeds, and community noticeboards.</i>			
Assessment	Weight	Total	Total Possible Score
Identifies a clear community need for the project	4	96	100
Outlines clear engagement and collaboration with the community and community participation	4	84	100
Outcomes directly benefit the Launceston community	5	105	125
The budget for the project is detailed, realistic, includes 20% co-contribution and outlines how the City of Launceston funding will be utilised	3	63	75
Project plan demonstrates good organisational planning for the project	4	84	100
Total		432	500
Panel Members		5	
% Score		<u>86.40%</u>	

Reclink Australia

The Reclink Australia youth adventure, resilience, and wellbeing program in Launceston aims to enhance the lives of disadvantaged youth by providing unique sports, arts, and recreational activities, as well as pathways to employment. This six-session program will engage at-risk youth in activities such as horse riding, kayaking, and yoga, in collaboration with local community and welfare agencies, to address barriers like poverty, mental health challenges, and lack of access.

Assessment	Weight	Total	Total Possible Score
Identifies a clear community need for the project	4	108	120
Outlines clear engagement and collaboration with the community and community participation	4	92	120
Outcomes directly benefit the Launceston community	5	125	150
The budget for the project is detailed, realistic, includes 20% co-contribution and outlines how the City of Launceston funding will be utilised	3	72	90
Project plan demonstrates good organisational planning for the project	4	92	120
Total		489	600
Panel Members		6	

% Score

81.50%

Just Cats Inc.

This project aims to address cat colonies in the City of Launceston, specifically targeting three known colonies housing approximately 300 cats. The funding will subsidise the cost of trapping and transporting the cats to a shelter for desexing, vaccinating, microchipping, and rehoming.

Assessment	Weight	Total	Total Possible Score
Identifies a clear community need for the project	4	88	100
Outlines clear engagement and collaboration with the community and community participation	4	80	100
Outcomes directly benefit the Launceston community	5	95	125
The budget for the project is detailed, realistic, includes 20% co-contribution and outlines how the City of Launceston funding will be utilised	3	63	75
Project plan demonstrates good organisational planning for the project	4	80	100
Total		406	500
Panel Members		5	

% Score

81.20%

SAWTOOTH ARI INC.

SAW: Sawtooth Artist Workshops 2024 will feature a series of community-led visual arts workshops led by a local artist selected via an open call in June 2024. The program aims to engage the local community through diverse art forms such as weaving, jewelry making, and drag make-up, with participants also having the opportunity to exhibit their works in the annual "Members Exhibition" in December 2024

Assessment	Weight	Total	Total Possible Score
Identifies a clear community need for the project	4	100	120
Outlines clear engagement and collaboration with the community and community participation	4	104	120
Outcomes directly benefit the Launceston community	5	115	150
The budget for the project is detailed, realistic, includes 20% co-contribution and outlines how the City of Launceston funding will be utilised	3	72	90
Project plan demonstrates good organisational planning for the project	4	96	120
Total		487	600
Panel Members		6	

% Score

81.17%

The ReDress Hub

The ReDress Hub aims to provide workshops for financially vulnerable individuals, offering skills in clothing repair, reuse, and remaking. From July to September 2024, participants will learn visible mending, basic sewing, garment remaking, upcycling, and beginner sewing.

Assessment	Weight	Total	Total Possible Score
Identifies a clear community need for the project	4	84	120
Outlines clear engagement and collaboration with the community and community participation	4	84	120
Outcomes directly benefit the Launceston community	5	105	150
The budget for the project is detailed, realistic, includes 20% co-contribution and outlines how the City of Launceston funding will be utilised	3	60	90
Project plan demonstrates good organisational planning for the project	4	76	120
Total		409	600
Panel Members		6	

% Score

68.17%

Women's Legal Service Tasmania			
<i>Women's Legal Service Tasmania is expanding its funded Financial Literacy programs in Launceston, with a focus on engaging families through the Number Blocks initiative, designed to educate children aged 5-12 and their caregivers on weekly financial topics in community settings.</i>			
Assessment	Weight	Total	Total Possible Score
Identifies a clear community need for the project	4	64	120
Outlines clear engagement and collaboration with the community and community participation	4	56	120
Outcomes directly benefit the Launceston community	5	80	150
The budget for the project is detailed, realistic, includes 20% co-contribution and outlines how the City of Launceston funding will be utilised	3	42	90
Project plan demonstrates good organisational planning for the project	4	52	120
Total		294	600
Panel Members		6	
% Score		<u>49.00%</u>	

Black Box Theatre Co.			
<i>Spring Awakening, a poignant theatrical production set in 1890s Germany, explores themes of self-discovery and overcoming life's challenges, providing a transformative experience for young actors and audiences in Launceston. Through this production, we aim to spark meaningful conversations and leave a lasting impact, inviting our community to engage deeply with the timeless essence of the human experience</i>			
Assessment	Weight	Total	Total Possible Score
Identifies a clear community need for the project	4	0	100
Outlines clear engagement and collaboration with the community and community participation	4	0	100
Outcomes directly benefit the Launceston community	5	0	125
The budget for the project is detailed, realistic, includes 20% co-contribution and outlines how the City of Launceston funding will be utilised	3	0	75
Project plan demonstrates good organisational planning for the project	4	0	100
Total		0	500
Panel Members		5	
% Score		<u>0.00%</u>	

Design Tasmania

Women in Design, an annual symposium at Design Tasmania, celebrates female leadership in contemporary design through talks, panels, and networking. The event includes the inaugural Tasmanian Women in Design Commission to elevate local talent, aligning with national initiatives like the 'Know My Name' campaign.

Assessment	Weight	Total	Total Possible Score
Identifies a clear community need for the project	4	0	100
Outlines clear engagement and collaboration with the community and community participation	4	0	100
Outcomes directly benefit the Launceston community	5	0	125
The budget for the project is detailed, realistic, includes 20% co-contribution and outlines how the City of Launceston funding will be utilised	3	0	75
Project plan demonstrates good organisational planning for the project	4	0	100
Total		0	500
Panel Members		5	

% Score

0.00%

Three River Theatre Inc.

Three River Theatre will perform 'The Laramie Project' in Launceston, featuring an entirely local cast, production team, and over 50 volunteers. Directed by Rae Smith and supported by Launceston-based talents and production company IO Performance, the play explores themes of homophobia and intolerance through the lens of a tragic true event, aiming to provoke reflection and dialogue within the community

Assessment	Weight	Total	Total Possible Score
Identifies a clear community need for the project	4	0	100
Outlines clear engagement and collaboration with the community and community participation	4	0	100
Outcomes directly benefit the Launceston community	5	0	125
The budget for the project is detailed, realistic, includes 20% co-contribution and outlines how the City of Launceston funding will be utilised	3	0	75
Project plan demonstrates good organisational planning for the project	4	0	100
Total		0	500
Panel Members		5	

% Score

0.00%

Individual/team/group applications

In accordance with the policy for Community Grants (Individuals/Teams/Groups) (05-PI-017), the following community grant applications (individual/team/group) have been approved.

Community grant applications (individuals/teams/groups) approved from 1 July 2023:

Individual/Team	Activity	Approved \$
CGP702 - Individual	Australian Under 18 National Bowls Championships, Western Australia	\$100
CGP705 - Individual	School Sports Australia Swimming Championships, Sydney	\$100
CGP713 - Individual	School Sports Australia Swimming Championships, Sydney	\$100
CGP714 - Individual	School Sports Australia Swimming Championships, Sydney	\$100
CGP718 - Individual	Interschools Equestrian National Competition, Werribee	\$100
CGP715 - Individual	School Sports Australia Swimming Championships, Sydney	\$100
CGP704 - teams	Futsal Tasmania Under 12 Girls - Futsal Nationals, Queensland	\$150
CGP471 - teams	U16 Basketball Tas State Men's team, Perth	\$75
CGP711 - teams	Tasmanian U18 Girls State Touch Football team, National Youth Championships, Sunshine Coast	\$225
CGP712 - teams	Stompin - 'Meet Up' is a festival for Australian Youth Dance	\$150
CGP722 - Individual	School Sports Australia Swimming Championships, Sydney	\$100
CGP724 - Individual	Australian All Schools Cross Country Championship, Canberra	\$100
CGP728 - Individual	2023 Interschools Nationals Championships, Werribee Vic	\$100
CGP734 - Individual	Bruce Cup (Tennis), Brisbane	\$100
CGP593 - Teams	Basketball Australia Footlocker U14 Club Championships, Victoria	\$75
CGP726 - Teams	Under 12 Girls - National Touch Football Youth Championships, Sunshine Coast Queensland	\$300
CGP733 - Teams	Under 16 Girls Tasmania Touch Football Team, Sunshine Coast Queensland	\$450
CGP748 - Teams	U16 Girls Tasmanian State Soccer Team - National Youth Football Championships - Wollongong	\$150
CGP743 - Teams	Tasmania Under 14 Girls Touch Football Team - National Youth Championships, Sunshine Coast	\$375

CGP720 - Teams	Touch Football Under 14 Boys - National Youth Championships, Sunshine Coast	\$300
CGP757 - Teams	Confluence 2023 Subs In Schools State Final	\$150
CGP766 - Teams	U14 National Club Championship Basketball, Victoria	\$75
CGP761 - Teams	NTJSA U11 Boys Representative Team - Sydney International Cup - Sydney, NSW	\$450
CGP746 - Teams	U12 Tasmania Touch Football Team - National Touch Football Youth Championships, Queensland	\$300
CGP777 - Individuals	Windeward Bound - Youth Development Program	\$100
CGP780 - Individuals	2023 National Final of the Australian Poetry Slam, Sydney	\$100
CGP789 - Individuals	Junior Darts State Representative, South Australia	\$100
CGP793 - Teams	State Under 14 Football Team - 2023 National Youth Titles for Soccer, Wollongong	\$75
CGP721 - Teams	Science and Engineering Challenge National Final, Sydney	\$450
CGP795 - Teams	State Under 14 Football Team - 2023 National Youth Titles for Soccer, Wollongong	\$75
CGP792 - Teams	State Under 14 Football Team - 2023 National Youth Titles for Soccer, Wollongong	\$75
CGP799 - Individuals	2023 Chemist Warehouse Australian All Schools Athletics Championships, Western Australia	\$100
CGP803 - Teams	Synergy - Students will be attending the F1 in Schools National final, Adelaide	\$375
CGP801 - Teams	Crescent - Students will be attending the F1 in Schools National final, Adelaide	\$150
CGP800 - Teams	kanamaluka Ranger Girl Guides, Japan	\$600
CGP798 - Teams	The Tasmanian Showcase team - Showcase National Dance Championships - Qld	\$450
CGP829 - Individual	2024 Coles Australian Little Athletics Championships - Adelaide	\$100
CGP830 - Individual	2024 Coles Australian Little Athletics Championships - Adelaide	\$100
CGP831 - Teams	2024 National Indoor Cricket Championships - Victoria	\$75
CGP832 - Individual	2024 Coles Australian Little Athletics Championships - Adelaide	\$100
CGP842 - Team	Australian Junior Basketball Championships - Brisbane	\$75
CGP846 - Individual	2024 Coles Australian Little Athletics Championships - Adelaide	\$100
CGP848 - Individual	Australian Athletics Championships - Adelaide	\$100

CGP850 - Individual	2024 Coles Australian Little Athletics Championships - Adelaide	\$100
CGP851 - Individual	School Sports Australia Swimming Championships - Gold Coast	\$100
CGP852 - Individual	School Sports Australia Swimming Championships - Gold Coast	\$100
CGP855 - Team	Tasmanian State Rugby Union Team - South Australia	\$75
CGP858 - Teams	Judo Australia Nationals - Gold Coast	\$150
Total requests		\$8,050
Funds available		\$10,000
Funds remaining		\$1,950

RISK IMPLICATIONS:

Not considered relevant to this report.

ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT:

Approval of the recommended grants will result in a positive economic impact for those individuals/teams/groups and organisations by enabling projects and activities to be undertaken. The recommended grants will have minimal impact on the environment and will provide a number of valuable educational, social, health and lifestyle benefits to the Launceston community.

STRATEGIC DOCUMENT REFERENCE:

City of Launceston Corporate Strategic Plan 2014 - 2024

Strategic Priority 3: We are a progressive leader that is accountable to our governance obligations and responsive to our community.

10-Year Goal: To ensure decisions are made in a transparent and accountable way, that effectively meet our statutory obligations, support quality services and underpin the long-term sustainability of our organisation.

Focus Areas:

1. To provide for the health, safety and welfare of the community.

Strategic Priority 4: We value our City's unique identity by celebrating our special heritage and culture and building on our competitive advantages to be a place where people choose to live, work and visit.

10-Year Goal: To sustain and promote Launceston as a unique place to live, work, learn and play.

Focus Areas:

1. To promote and enhance Launceston's rich heritage, culture and natural environment.
2. To continue to offer an attractive network of parks, open spaces and facilities throughout Launceston.

Strategic Priority 5: We serve and care for our community by providing equitable and efficient services that reflects needs and expectations of our community.

10-Year Goal: To offer access to services and spaces for all community members and to

work in partnership with stakeholders to address the needs of vulnerable communities.

Focus Areas:

1. To plan for and provide services and facilities that recognises the changing demographics and needs of our community.
2. To define and communicate our role in promoting social inclusion and equity.
3. To work in partnership with community organisations and other levels of government to maximise participation opportunities for vulnerable and diverse members of the community.
4. To support the delivery of programs and events for people to connect with each other through participation in community activities and civic life.
5. To promote and support active and healthy lifestyles of our community.

BUDGET AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Community grants - organisations	\$
Available funds for Round 2 of 2023/2024	\$ 35,863
Amount recommended for Round 2 of 2023/2024	\$ 23,420
Balance	\$ 12,443

Community grants - individual/team/group	\$
Available funds for Round 2 of 2023/2024	\$ 10,000
Amount recommended for Round 2 of 2023/2024	\$ 8,050
Balance	\$ 1,950

The budget consideration of this item has been approved by the General Manager Community and Place Network.

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:

The author and General Manager have no interests to declare in this matter.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. CONFIDENTIAL REDACTED - Community Grants Round 2 - 2023-2024 [13.4.1 - 87 pages]

14. INFRASTRUCTURE AND ASSETS NETWORK

14.1. Concessional Waste Disposal 2024/2025 - Charitable Organisations

FILE NO: SF0628

AUTHOR: Michael Attard (Team Leader Sustainability)

APPROVER: Michael Newby (Acting General Manager Infrastructure and Assets Network)

DECISION STATEMENT:

To consider the value of concessions to approved charitable organisations for waste disposal at the Launceston Waste Centre for the 2024/25 financial year.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION:

Local Government Act 1993 (Tas)

PREVIOUS COUNCIL CONSIDERATION:

Council - 17 June 2023 - Agenda 18.1 Concessional Entry to Council's Waste Disposal Facilities

Council - 4 May 2023 - Agenda 13.1 Notice of Motion - Councillor A E Dawkins - Financial Support for Veterinary Practices Treating Injured Wildlife

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council, in respect of clause 4(e) of the '*Concessional Entry to Council's Waste Disposal Facilities*' policy (12-Plx-014), approves the participating charitable organisations and their recommended concessional entry values for the 2024/25 financial year, as listed below (Table 1).

Table 1 - List of charitable organisations which applied for the concessional entry program and their recommended subsidy values, for the 2024/25 financial year

Organisation Name	2024/25 recommendation (\$)
Connections Op Shop Inc	405.06
Door of Hope Christian Church	1,944.73
Launceston Benevolent Society Inc	342.69
Launceston City Mission	25,978.03
Lions Club of Kings Meadows	150.00
New Horizons Club Inc	150.00
Bluegum - NOSS	1,368.88
PCYC	288.05
SelfHelp Workplace	5,638.63

Veterans Support Group	567.66
Kings Meadows Community Mens Shed	229.50
Starting Point Neighborhood House	150.00
Worldview	203.98
Just Cats Tasmania	150.00
Community Housing Limited	13,503.14
Community Care Tasmania	664.28
Rotary Punchbowl Community Gardens	150.00
Karinya Young Women's Service	520.54
Launceston VFC Services Inc	622.40
Litter Free Launnie	150.00
Windermere Church Forever Inc.	150.00
Launceston Players Society	150.00
GroWaverly	150.00
Friends of the Library Launceston	169.22
Oak Possability Tasmania	1,876.30
TOTAL	53,391.78

REPORT:

The fifteenth *Concessional Entry to Waste Disposal Facilities* application form was open for five consecutive weeks, with the program commencing 29 April 2024 and closing 31 May 2024. Applicants from the previous years' program were notified of the application dates, via email 23 April 2024 and those yet to apply were contacted again, via phone 23 May 2024.

This program is offered to existing applicants as well as new, with advertising in the form of newspaper promotions, radio segments, and social media posts being the primary source of engagement for new participants this year. This campaign acquired one new participant.

Applicants from previous years were initially contacted via email, receiving the electronic application link in conjunction with data on their previous year's expenditure and deposited tonnages. Providing returning applicants with their expenditure, for the latest financial year, assists them in calculating a reasonable amount to request for the approaching year. Including the organisations tonnages sent to landfill over the past five years assists the organisations in obtaining a more informed understanding of the quantity of waste they are depositing to landfill. This knowledge and understanding has ultimately aided organisations in developing their waste management plans for subsequent years.

The budgeted amount for 2024/25 is \$55,640; this has increased from the 2023/24 budget of \$46,942. Of this allocated budget, the recommendation is that \$53,391.78 be distributed between the 25 applicants.

For 2023/24, there was an allocation of \$2,000 from this budget to the "Vets - Native Animal Disposal" motion. This was not utilised within the financial year, so for 2024/25 we are recommending that this is no longer covered by this budget and is instead covered operationally when required.

Policy Details

The policy requires organisations to meet certain criteria which enables them to be deemed 'charitable' and, in turn, be considered for a subsidy to offset their waste disposal charges at the Launceston Waste Centre, by up to 80%. The 'charitable' assessment can be satisfied in one of two ways – either by providing an ATO Exemption Certificate, or by proving community and charitable benefit. Each of the listed charities (Table 1) satisfies the 'charitable' test criteria required by the Council.

Attachment 1 lists all applicants for the 2024/25 program and outlines relevant elements of their application and previous year's activity to help guide their recommended subsidy values for the approaching year.

The assessment, completed by the Council's Team Leader Sustainability and Waste Management Officer, was reviewed and approved by Councillors Lindi McMahon and Andrew Palmer on 4 June 2024.

Application Assessment

The first step in the assessment process was confirming each organisation's 'charitable' status against the two 'tests', as mentioned above. Firstly, the policy automatically accepts organisations where an *ATO Exemption Certificate* is provided. This certificate must comply with the 'public benevolent institution' classification. Secondly, organisations pursuing the alternate test are required to provide proof of community good and community benefit, as well as be deemed 'non-government.' Additionally, the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission resource (www.acnc.gov.au) is used to verify the status of the organisations.

The Committee then considered the justifiability of the claims for the upcoming financial year, 2024/25, based on the history of the organisation and the percentage of the approved claim utilised in the previous financial year, 2023/24. All applicants were required to submit a detailed waste reduction plan in order to be considered for a subsidy. In this section of the application, a written statement outlining current and future measures being utilised to prevent waste being deposited to landfill was submitted. This statement was assessed by two staff from waste management and rated out of four. This rating guided the recommendation and outlined where assistance was required from the Council to further reduce waste to landfill.

As per the Council's Concessional Entry to the Council's Waste Disposal Facilities Policy (12-PI-014), subsidies shall not exceed 80% of the organisations 2023/24 spend, which means that the amount recommended in this report is mathematically calculated. However, due to the success of last year's trial and the practicality of allocating less than minimum entry to repeat applicants, we are recommending all organisations qualifying for less than \$150 instead be allocated the \$150. This exception applies to nine organisations which have been shaded in red (see Attachment 1).

While there were many exceptional applications, the Committee is recommending all organisations speak with Waste Management officers to discuss opportunities to recover materials prior to disposal in preparation for the approaching financial year. These discussions allow Council to inform the participating organisations on strategies and facilities including the FOGO service, and the resource recovery centre.

RISK IMPLICATIONS:

Not considered relevant to this report.

ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT:

There is an economic benefit to the charitable organisations as money is saved on waste fees, providing the organisations with greater availability within their funds to support community programs. On Council's end, there is a reduction in operational costs for the Launceston Waste Centre through the program's encouragement of waste reduction.

By encouraging organisations to reduce their waste, the Council is extending landfill life, reducing the quantity of harmful methane gas entering the atmosphere, and reducing the creation of toxic landfill leachate. Through the application process, Council is able to recognise and salvage valuable resources, such as precious metals, being lost to landfill.

The policy treats concessions to charitable organisations as a community service obligation. The fabric of the community is enhanced by the charitable and benevolent work of these organisations.

STRATEGIC DOCUMENT REFERENCE:

City of Launceston Corporate Strategic Plan 2014 - 2024

Strategic Priority 3: We are a progressive leader that is accountable to our governance obligations and responsive to our community.

10-Year Goal: To ensure decisions are made in a transparent and accountable way, that effectively meet our statutory obligations, support quality services and underpin the long-term sustainability of our organisation.

Focus Areas:

3. To ensure decisions are made on the basis of accurate and relevant information.

Strategic Priority 6: We protect our environment by caring for our unique natural assets and amenity and sensitively managing future development opportunities.

10-Year Goal: To enhance the unique natural character, values and amenity of our City by minimising the impacts of our organisation's and our community's activities in the environment.

Focus Areas:

1. To reduce our and the community's impact on the natural environment.

BUDGET AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

The draft budget for 2024/25 provides an allowance of \$55,640.

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:

The Author and General Manager have no interests to declare in this matter.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Attachment 1 [**14.1.1** - 1 page]

15. ORGANISATIONAL SERVICES NETWORK

15.1. Financial Report to Council to 31 March 2024

FILE NO: SF3611

AUTHOR: Samuel Kelty (Manager Finance)

APPROVER: Louise Foster (General Manager Organisational Services Network)

DECISION STATEMENT:

To consider the Council's financial performance for the period ended 31 March 2024.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION:

Local Government Act 1993 (Tas)

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council receives the operational and capital financial reports for the period ended 31 March 2024, noting the operational report discloses an underlying surplus of \$2.36m as compared to the budgeted underlying deficit of \$3.53m, comprising of a \$4.23m favourable revenue variance and a \$1.66m favourable expenditure variance.

REPORT:

Operational Report:

The Statement of Comprehensive Income for the YTD period ending 31st March 2024 follows the below commentary disclosing significant variances.

The report discloses an underlying surplus of \$2.36m for the year to 31st March 2024, compared to a budgeted deficit of (\$3.53m). The positive budget variance of \$5.89m is comprised of a positive income variance of \$4.23m and a positive expense variance of \$1.66m.

Various revenue sources are above budget, with main contributors being rates from supplementary valuations, trading income from York Park Events, QVMAG Bookshop, Carr Villa, Launceston Waste Centre and Launceston Aquatic Centre, parking fees, commissions, and permit issuance. Revenue items below budget include infringement, certificate, and registration revenue. Due to higher interest rates and dividend distribution from Launceston Airport, interest and investment income also contribute to the overall positive variance.

Favourable expenditure variances are attributable to labour savings due to vacancies across the organisation, and depreciation as a result of changes in asset lives and other miscellaneous adjustments. Also, favourable variance can be found at State Government Landfill Levy due to timing difference. However, Council-wide project material and services

expense presents an unfavourable variance. Variance in rate remissions is unfavourable because of unbudgeted components.

Variances are disclosed in detail.

Revenue	Variance Favourable / (Unfavourable)	
Rates The favourable variance is attributable to supplementary valuations and favourable growth in rating base.		726,138
User Fees and Charges The favourable variance consists of		
• trading income such as QVMAG and York Park events income	356,470	
• Launceston Aquatic Centre and Lilydale Pool trading and operation	252,344	
• Waste Centre related fees	244,512	
• On-street parking revenue	200,400	
• Commission received	112,962	
• Other Fees and Charges individually less than +/- \$100,000	<u>99,647</u>	1,266,335
Statutory Fee Overall favourable variance is represented by		
• Permit revenue - attributable to Road Reserve and Facilities Occupation Permits	363,643	
• Building fees - attributable to Plan Review and Extension Fees	130,981	
• Infringement revenue from parking, planning and compliance	(260,383)	
• Certificate fees	(83,946)	
• Dog registration fees	(21,587)	
• Other statutory fees with variance less than +/- \$100,000	<u>85,276</u>	213,984
Capital Grant		73,990
Other Operational Grants		(62,296)
Interest The favourable variance is attributable to higher interest rate than budget.		146,387
Investment Revenue Dividend distribution from Launceston Airport was not included in the budget.		486,849
Bequest		19,929
Other Income The favourable variance is driven by:		
• UTAS Governance Budget Adjustment Income. The delay in UTAS Stadium transfer result in unbudgeted revenue of FY23/24.	591,872	

• Miscellaneous incomes such as workers compensation settlement	247,380	
• Insurance settlement from Russells Plains fire (\$187,228) and other small claims on loss or damages.	188,921	
• Income reimbursements from external entities	129,588	
• Incomes with variances individually less than +/- \$100,000	<u>\$205,788</u>	<u>1,363,549</u>
Total Variance - Revenue		4,234,865
Expenditure		
Employees Benefits		
The favourable variance is attributable to savings from labour expenditure due to vacancies across all networks		3,539,191
Material and Services		
Utility Charges:		
Please note \$392,967 is attributable to a timing difference, which will reduce the favourable cost saving to \$260,584.	653,551	
Underspending in expert advice	110,364	
NTCA Cash Contribution:		
It is no longer payable upon City of Launceston now undertaking the Ground Maintenance. Ground Maintenance Costs have increased.	100,000	
Kerbside Waste Collection & Recycling Processing:		
Allowing for timing difference the variance is (\$280K) unfavourable. This is attributable to an increase in maintenance costs for the Materials Recycling Processing Facility.	242,237	
Flood Authority Sediment Management:		
It is expected to be unspent as at 30 June.	230,890	
QVM Bookshop Trading:		
The variance is attributable to Increased operational activities which lead to revenue growth.	(102,941)	
Taswater Fixed Charges:		
Noting a (\$56K) unfavourable variances is in relation to an increase in Trade Waste Charges for the Launceston Waste Centre. The remainder is attributable to Taswater reviewing their charges and noting some meters were undercharged.	(115,649)	
Park Services Tree Maintenance	(120,864)	
Major Plant Maintenance:		
Unplanned significant maintenance costs.	(140,787)	
LCC Transfer Station Operations:		
The variance is due to additional contractor cost incurred for Gatehouse operation.	(180,984)	
YP Stadium Facility Maintenance:		
The variance is attributable to the delay in UTAS Stadium transfer.	(231,443)	
Building Maintenance:		
The variance is due to increased material and labour cost and increased vandalism.	(266,281)	
Contract Labour/ Labour Hire:		
The variance is to be considered in the context of labour vacancies across all networks.	(438,576)	

UTAS Governance - increase in operational costs (including depreciation) attributable to the delay in UTAS Stadium transfer.	(1,837,342)	
Other variances individually less than +/- \$100,000	<u>(816,481)</u>	(2,914,305)
Impairment of Debts		(2,284)
Finance Costs - Lease Liability Borrowing Cost		1,293
Depreciation		
The variance consists of		
Roads:		
The favourable variance is due to the road asset lives adjustment in June 2023, as well as timing differences between phased budgets and when assets are available for capitalisation.	1,210,983	
Parks Infrastructure Assets:		
The variance is caused by the cessation of depreciation on York Park assets upon the decision of UTAS Stadium transfer.	135,456	
Variance is also because of a timing difference between the phasing of budget and when projects become available for capitalisation.		
Building assets:		
The variance is due to the cessation of depreciation on York Park building assets, upon the decision of UTAS Stadium transfer.	107,292	
Stormwater:		
Roads Gully Pit asset was omitted from FY24 depreciation budget estimate till August 2023. The unfavourable variance includes correction calculation for depreciation from omitted period.	(147,322)	
Waste Centre Rehabilitation assets:		
The unfavourable variance is attributable to a higher than forecast change in asset values at the end of the 2022/2023 financial year due to changes in waste centre rehabilitation liability calculations.	(271,168)	
Other depreciation individually less than +/- \$100,000	<u>21,748</u>	1,056,989
State Government Landfill Levy		184,807
Rate Remissions and Abatements		
The variance is pertaining to additional Charitable Aged Care Rates Remission approved after completion of Council's annual budgeting process.		(134,896)
Loss on Disposal of Fixed Assets		
The unfavourable variance consists of loss on disposal of		
• Russells Plains Cottage and	(66,461)	
• other assets where losses are individually less than +/- \$100,000	<u>(7,786)</u>	(74,247)
Total Variance - Expenditure		<u>1,656,548</u>
Comprehensive Result Surplus / (Deficit)		5,891,413

CITY OF LAUNCESTON			
Statement of Comprehensive Income			
For Year-to-Date 31 March 2024			
	2023/24	2023/24	Variance
	YTD	YTD	YTD
	\$	\$	\$
	Actual	Budget	Fav/(Unfav)
REVENUES FROM ORDINARY ACTIVITIES			
Rates	63,385,201	62,659,063	726,138
User Fees and Charges	19,710,876	18,444,541	1,266,335
Statutory Fees & Charges	4,367,140	4,153,157	213,984
Capital Grants	2,736,402	2,662,412	73,990
Financial Assistance Grants	161,996	161,996	(0)
Other Operational Grants	2,638,420	2,700,716	(62,296)
Interest	3,863,064	3,716,677	146,387
Investment Revenue	2,529,849	2,043,000	486,849
Bequests	87,929	68,000	19,929
Other Income	2,243,442	879,893	1,363,549
	101,724,320	97,489,456	4,234,864
EXPENSES FROM ORDINARY ACTIVITIES			
Maintenance of Facilities and Provision of Services			
Employee Benefits	34,871,588	38,410,779	3,539,191
Materials and Services	33,646,311	30,732,006	(2,914,305)
Impairment of Debts	4,159	1,875	(2,284)
Finance Costs			-
Interest on Loans	125,878	125,878	(0)
Provision for Rehabilitation	37,500	37,500	0
Lease Liability	-	1,293	1,293
Borrowing Cost			
Depreciation	19,329,831	20,386,819	1,056,989
State Government Fire Service Levy	6,732,997	6,732,997	-
State Government Landfill Levy	1,449,443	1,634,250	184,807
Rate Remissions and Abatements	429,584	294,688	(134,896)
Loss on Disposal of Fixed Assets	106,016	31,769	(74,247)
	96,733,306	98,389,854	1,656,548
Comprehensive Result Surplus/(Deficit)	4,991,015	(900,398)	5,891,413
Loss on Disposal of Fixed Assets	(106,016)	(31,769)	(74,247)
Capital Grants	2,736,402	2,662,412	73,990
	2,630,386	2,630,643	(257)
Underlying Result Surplus/(Deficit)	2,360,629	(3,531,041)	5,891,670

CITY OF LAUNCESTON
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
As at 31 March 2024

	2023/24 YTD \$	2022/23 YTD \$	2021/22 YTD \$
EQUITY			
Capital Reserves	252,924,029	241,794,778	222,424,332
Revenue Reserves	961,963,968	969,157,021	969,529,758
Asset Revaluation Reserves	1,069,255,161	886,685,961	765,657,870
Investment Reserves	(13,774,375)	(21,054,758)	(27,404,666)
Trusts and Bequests	2,734,479	2,548,018	2,442,043
Operating Surplus	4,991,015	2,593,160	4,856,956
TOTAL EQUITY	2,278,094,276	2,081,724,180	1,937,506,293
Represented by: -			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	46,460,017	92,708,372	81,375,083
Rates and Sundry Receivables	12,675,951	20,551,554	18,045,122
Less Rates not yet Recognised	(20,789,089)	(19,661,333)	(18,673,640)
Investments	55,645,774	-	-
Inventories	1,044,657	1,075,910	929,806
Assets Held for Sale	7,116,285	1,116,285	4,518,168
	102,153,595	95,790,789	86,194,539
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Deferred Receivables	257,556	257,556	257,556
Investments	239,332,737	232,052,353	225,702,446
Superannuation Surplus	2,279,000	2,864,000	2,025,000
Intangibles	3,568,042	3,810,820	4,036,059
Infrastructure and Other Assets	1,775,673,189	1,602,511,812	1,473,884,136
Right of Use Assets	194,033	187,937	223,175
Museum Collection	204,599,786	203,866,696	203,691,191
	2,225,904,342	2,045,551,173	1,909,819,562
TOTAL ASSETS	2,328,057,937	2,141,341,962	1,996,014,100
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Deposits and Prepayments	3,317,661	2,900,816	2,653,207
Employee Provisions	6,975,673	7,421,532	7,500,669
Rehabilitation Provision	20,467	8,400,351	7,919,825
Interest-bearing Liabilities	10,000,000	-	-
Lease Liabilities	79,883	30,519	28,506
Sundry Payables and Accruals	1,797,312	4,077,914	1,771,088
	22,190,995	22,831,131	19,873,295
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Employee Provisions Non-Current	985,782	1,016,438	1,024,329

Interest-bearing Liabilities Non-Current	6,000,000	26,000,000	26,000,000
Lease Liabilities	117,296	204,472	234,991
Rehabilitation Provision	20,669,588	9,565,741	11,375,191
	27,772,665	36,786,651	38,634,511
TOTAL LIABILITIES	49,963,660	59,617,782	58,507,806
NET ASSETS	2,278,094,276	2,081,724,180	1,937,506,293

Change in Accounting Treatment

A change in the accounting treatment for the 2021/2022 year discloses:

1. Term deposits maturing in less than 90 days are now recognised as *Cash and Cash Equivalents*. These term deposits were included under the heading of *Investments* in prior years.
2. Rates paid in advance as at 30 June are now recognised as a Current Liability as of the 2021/2022 financial year (included under Deposits and Prepayments). Previously the value of prepaid rates as at 30 June was deducted from the value of the Rates and Sundry Receivables Current Asset.

Loan Balances

The loan balance as at 31 March 2024 is \$16m. The loan balance is interest free in accordance with the State Government's Local Government Loans Program, with repayments due on the below dates:

27 May 2024	\$10,000,000
21 May 2025	<u>\$6,000,000</u>
	\$16,000,000

Capital Report:

The Capital Works included in the Attachments (Attachment 1 - Summary by Network 1 and Attachment 2 - Summary by Network 2) contains a Capital Expenditure Summary up to 31 March 2024.

A copy of the Capital Project and Delivery (CPD) project exceptions listing by Network report as at 31 March 2024 is provided in Attachment 3 - CPD Exception Project Listing by Network as at 31 March 2024. This report is provided to the Council's Executive Leadership Team on a monthly basis.

Available Funds

Set out below is a reconciliation of the available funds:

Available Funds	Total \$m
Gross Carryover 1 July 2023	40.2
Funding - Council 31 March 2024	24.6
Funding - Other 31 March 2024	18.6
Total Estimate	83.4

The following table provides a progress report showing the number and value of projects

Programme Status	Projects		Budget	
	No.	%	\$'000	%
NS - Not Started	55	28.1	9,020	10.8
PD - Preliminary Design	47	24.0	22,748	27.3
IP - In Progress	66	33.7	51,196	61.3
PC - Practical Completion	15	7.7	492	0.6
CA - Cancelled	13	6.5	0	0.0
	196	100.0%	83,456	100.0%

The table shows that 61.34% of projects in value are in progress and 0.59% are completed as at 31 March 2024.

RISK IMPLICATIONS:

Not considered relevant to this report.

ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT:

Not considered relevant to this report.

STRATEGIC DOCUMENT REFERENCE:

City of Launceston Corporate Strategic Plan 2014 - 2024

Strategic Priority 3: We are a progressive leader that is accountable to our governance obligations and responsive to our community.

10-Year Goal: To ensure decisions are made in a transparent and accountable way, that effectively meet our statutory obligations, support quality services and underpin the long-term sustainability of our organisation.

Focus Areas:

2. To fairly and equitably discharge our statutory and governance obligations.
3. To ensure decisions are made on the basis of accurate and relevant information.
5. To maintain a financially sustainable organisation.

BUDGET AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

As detailed within the report.

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:

The Author and General Manager have no interests to declare in this matter.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Capital Expenditure Report - Summary by Network 1 [15.1.1 - 1 page]
2. Capital Expenditure Report - Summary by Network 2 [15.1.2 - 1 page]
3. CPD Exception Project Listing by Network as at 31- Mar-2024 [15.1.3 - 4 pages]

15.2. Rates and Charges Policy (23-Plx-010)

FILE NO: SF7153/SF0521

AUTHOR: Nathan Williams (Chief Financial Officer)

APPROVER: Louise Foster (General Manager Organisational Services Network)

DECISION STATEMENT:

To consider the revised Rates and Charges Policy (23-Plx-010).

RELEVANT LEGISLATION:

Local Government Act 1993 (Tas)
Valuation of Land Act 2001 (Tas)
Fire Services Act 1979 (Tas)
Waste and Resource Recovery Act 2022 (Tas)

PREVIOUS COUNCIL CONSIDERATION:

Considered annually.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council, pursuant to section 86B of the *Local Government Act 1993 (Tas)*, adopts the revised Rates and Charges Policy (23-Plx-010) as set out below:

Rates and Charges Policy

PURPOSE:

This Policy provides the rating framework that the Council has adopted for rates and charges.

The Policy is prepared in accordance with section 86B of the *Local Government Act 1993 (Tas)* (LGA 1993) and provides an overview of the rating framework that Council has adopted.

The Policy reflects the fundamental premise as set out in section 86A of the LGA 1993 that:

- (a) rates are a tax and not a fee for service; and
- (b) the value of land is an indicator of the capacity to pay.

The Council through the application of this Policy primarily levies rates based on property values with a contribution through fixed and service charges. The Policy also outlines the Council's approach to the provision of remissions and the management of the rate debt.

SCOPE:

The Policy sets out the Council's rates and charges (taxation) objectives in regard to:

- (a) Statutory compliance; and
- (b) Discretionary matters.

This document is a statement of policy and intent, it does not supersede or overrule the specific rating resolutions and policies that are determined by resolution of the Council.

POLICY:

Rating Objectives

To maintain an appropriate distribution of rates and charges consistent with the principles stated in this Policy with the objectives of:

- (a) Consistent and equitable treatment of all residents and ratepayers;
- (b) Achieving an appropriate mix and distribution of taxation from
 - i. rates based on property values, fixed and service charges and revenue from other sources; and
 - ii. different sectors (including land use categories and localities) within the municipality.
- (c) Managing the impact on ratepayers of changes in
 - i. the Council's funding requirements; and
 - ii. property valuations as reflected in municipal revaluations.
- (d) Using rate settings to support the achievement of strategic objectives.

Rating Strategies and Methodologies

The strategies and methodologies that have been developed consistent with the principles and rating objectives are as follows.

- The valuation methodology is based on assessed annual value.
- The inclusion of a general fixed charge (that is not based on a property's value) as a component of the general rate.
- The use of service charges for waste management (collection and processing) based on the capacity of the service provided.
- Transitional arrangements through the capping of rate increases for residential ratepayers when municipal revaluations occur. Transitional arrangements are also considered in other circumstances where there is the potential for a significant change in rates from a change in the Council's rating structure.
- Debt management policies and disincentives intended to encourage the timely payment of rates.
- The minimisation of rate remissions to support equitable outcomes for all ratepayers and for the remissions to be strategically targeted to address unintended consequences of legislation and policy.
- Exemptions based solely on the legislative provisions of section 87 of the LGA 1993.

Valuation Methodologies

The Council has determined to use assessed annual value as the basis of rates (section 89A(2) of the LGA 1993) within the municipality. Valuations are arranged by the Office of the Valuer General. Municipal valuations occur on a six yearly cycle, with indexation adjustments made between the full revaluation every two years.

Supplementary valuations occur when additions or significant alterations are made to a property. The values are determined as though the alterations existed at the date of the last municipal revaluation, with effect from the date the works are completed.

Rating Structures and Differential Rates

The Council uses the power provided by section 107 of the LGA 1993 to vary the rate based on property use and also by location for properties within a defined area of the city centre. The property usage categories are residential, commercial, industrial, primary production, public (community) service, quarrying or mining, sport or recreation and vacant land (non-use).

The location variation or differential is applied to raise an additional rate for promotional activities within the city centre.

Contribution Methodology

Assessed annual value (AAV) is a differential valuation system where the AAV varies with the use and capital value of the property. Through this differential valuation system together with differential rates based on property usage the contribution from sectors of the municipality varies with changes in property values. The use of assessed annual value is consistent with the rating principles contained in section 86A of the LGA 1993.

Fixed Charge

The Council has resolved to impose a fixed charge (section 91 of the LGA 1993) on each rateable property or tenancy, consistent with the legislation a minimum rate is not also levied. The application of a fixed charge recognises that all rateable properties should make a fixed contribution to the cost of the Council's operations and services. The application of a fixed charge reduces the rates that are raised based on property values. The Council recognises the regressive taxation effect of fixed charges and so limits the amount of the fixed charge. The total revenue raised from the fixed charge must not exceed an amount equal to 50% of the Council's general rates in each rating year.

Service Charges

The Council imposes a service charge (section 94(1) of the LGA 1993) for waste management services. Waste management (the collection of waste and recycling materials) is a defined service for which a pay for use charge is appropriate.

Private operators provide specific services to a limited number of organisations where for operational reasons it is not practical or efficient to provide the Council managed service. These organisations are able to opt out of the Council arranged service.

The Council varies or applies different charges based on the capacity of the bins that are now available, this pricing strategy is intended to provide incentives to reduce waste, encourage recycling and reflect the cost of waste disposal.

The Council also imposes a service charge (section 94(1) of the LGA 1993) for waste management services to offset a levy payable by the Council to the State Government under the *Waste and Resource Recovery Act 2022* (the Waste Management Levy Offset Service Charge). The State Government imposed levy commenced in 2022/2023 at \$20.00 per tonne of waste disposed to the Council's operated landfill facilities. In 2024/2025, the levy will increase to \$40.00 per tonne. From 2026/2027, the levy will be \$60.00 per tonne. These amounts are subject to annual indexation increases, linked to the Consumer Price Index for Hobart and Fee Units as determined by the State Government.

The Council's methodology when calculating the Waste Management Levy Offset Service Charge is to use the average weight of landfill disposed of per property annually in the municipality, multiplied by the landfill levy which is published by the State Government annually. The City of Launceston will impose the Waste Management Levy Offset Service Charge on each property that has one or more bins on a per property basis only. Data collected indicates that on average, each property disposes 0.49 tonnes to landfill per year and at \$44.88 per tonne (as advised by the State Government) this equates to a charge of \$22.05 per property with one or more bins for 2024/2025. This amount is disclosed separately on rates notices for properties to which this Waste Management Levy Offset Service Charge applies.

Rating Independent Living Units (Retirement Villages)

General Rate

Residential Independent Living Units within retirement villages which are owned by a charitable organisation and operated exclusively for charitable purposes are exempt from the general rate (section 87(1)(d) of the LGA 1993).

Fire Rate

Residential Independent Living Units within retirement villages which are owned by a charitable organisation and operated exclusively for charitable purposes will have the Fire Rate charged on their property reinstated for the 2024/2025 financial year. Council has obtained independent legal advice on the matter, and is of the view that by spreading the total fire levy to be raised amongst the community achieves a more equitable outcome. The total funds to be raised and remitted to the Tasmanian Fire Service is unchanged as a result of this.

The appropriateness of discretionary remissions is subject to ongoing monitoring by the Council.

Residential properties or units owned commercially or by private individuals are not exempt from being charged the general rate or fire rate.

Residential Rate Cap (Transitional Arrangements)

The Council supports the fundamental principle, subject to any differential rating structures and remissions, that properties with the same value (in the same usage category) should pay the same rate.

The Council recognises that the municipal revaluation may produce circumstances where the rates on individual properties increase or decrease significantly. In order to assist residential ratepayers to transition to the new rating levels the Council has determined to

cap the amount that the general rate (the value based component) can increase at 20 percent per annum following a municipal revaluation.

Debt Management

The Council recognises that some members of the community may not pay the applicable rates and charges either because

- (a) they choose not to, or
- (b) they are unable to due to financial difficulties.

The Council provides financial disincentives through interest and penalty charges and undertakes commercial debt collection practices to ensure that the payment of rates and charges is given appropriate priority.

The Council seeks to assist those members of the community in genuine financial difficulty through payment arrangements. It also understands that the failure to take appropriate and timely action can have a greater adverse consequence for the ratepayer than the debt collection action.

Unpaid Council rates and charges are a debt that is secured (similarly to a mortgage) against the property (section 119 of the LGA 1993). Thus, any debt must be repaid when the property is sold. The Council has the power to sell a property when debts are outstanding for more than three years (section 137 of the LGA 1993).

Postponement of Payments

Section 125 of the LGA 1993 provides the power for the Council to defer or postpone the payment of rates on the grounds of hardship. The Council has determined that it will not offer this long term debt management facility as there are other commercial facilities that should be used in these circumstances. The Council provides short term payment arrangements.

Rate Remissions

Under section 129 of the LGA 1993, Council by absolute majority, may grant a remission of all or part of any rates, penalty or interest paid or payable by the ratepayer and/or class of ratepayers. The Interim Rates and Charges Hardship Policy (23-Plx-011) sets out the process for applications in respect of remissions or postponement of rates, penalties or interest on the basis of financial hardship.

The Council is also required to exempt under section 87 of the LGA 1993 some properties from rates.

Without limiting the application of section 129 of the LGA the Council has resolved to provide rating remissions via the following policy documents:

- Crown leases/licences for jetties and slipways (Policy 23-PI-008)
- Charitable organisations (Policy 23-Plx-002)
- Small balances (Policy 23-PI-006)
- Interim Rates and Charges Hardship (Policy 23-Plx-011)

Other Rates

CBD Promotional Rate

Council, based on the request of the effected businesses, applies a differential rate to properties used for commercial purposes to fund promotional activities within the central business area (details of the area are specified in the annual rates resolution).

The delivery of the promotional outcomes is provided by Launceston Central Marketing Inc. under a service agreement with the Council.

This rate is being phased out over a four year period, with 2024/2025 being the third year of this transition. The additional revenue is collected across the rest of the rating base.

State Government Departments and Business Enterprises

State Government properties, with some exceptions related to parks and infrastructure, are subject to rates and charges on the same basis as other properties (section 87(1)(b) of the LGA 1993).

Construction Rates

Construction rates can be levied (sections 97 and 98 of the LGA 1993) related to drainage infrastructure works. The Council uses developer contribution arrangements in preference to construction rates due to limitations contained in section 98 regarding the amount that can be charged.

Separate Rates

Separate rates can be levied (section 100 of the LGA 1993) where the Council believes the services provided are of particular benefit to the *affected land; or the owners or occupiers of that land*.

There are currently no separate rates.

Fire Service Rates

The Council as required by legislation raises rates on behalf of the State Fire Commission (section 93A of the LGA 1993). The amount of the rate revenue is determined by the State Fire Commission. The Council receives an administrative fee for the provision of the service.

Payments

The Council has spread the payment dates across the year with the instalments due.

Instalment 1 - 31 August

Instalment 2 - 30 November

Instalment 3 - 31 January

Instalment 4 - 30 April

Penalty charges apply when instalments are not paid by the due date, interest applies on unpaid balances.

Rates can be paid in full, by four instalments or by more frequent payments so long as the instalments are paid by the due date, penalty and interest will not be incurred.

Payment Methods

The Council provides a range of payment facilities that include the use of modern technologies and in person.

Discounts

The Council does not provide payment discounts (section 130 of the LGA 1993) due to the additional cost imposed on those who are unable to take advantage of such a facility (the estimated cost of discount significantly exceeds the additional interest earnings that would result from the take up of the discount.)

Application of Payments

Payments are applied to outstanding debts in accordance with the sequence prescribed in the legislation (section 131 of the LGA 1993).

Objection

Objections to rates notices can only be made based on the grounds specified in section 123 of the LGA 1993. The grounds broadly relate to factual or calculation errors.

Objections to valuation can be made under section 28 of the *Valuation of Land Act 2001* (VLA 2001) only on the grounds specified and within 60 days of the date of notice issue. Application can be made for the correction of errors of fact at any time.

Disclaimer

This Policy is a general statement of the Council intent it is not a statement of legislative compliance. The Policy provisions do not provide a legal basis for a challenge or objection to any rating matters. The Policy is updated from time to time, consistent with the legislation (section 86B(4) of the LGA 1993).

PRINCIPLES:

The Council's rating policies are formed within a framework that includes:

- (a) The *Local Government Act 1993* (Tas);
- (b) Established taxation principles;
- (c) Organisational Values;
- (d) The Council's Long Term Financial Plan; and
- (e) The Council's Rating Resolution.

RELATED POLICIES AND PROCEDURES:

23-PI-003 Private Use of Council Land Policy
23-PI-006 Property Debt (Small Charge) Remission Policy
23-PI-008 Rating Exemptions and Remissions for Crown Lease Jetties and Slipways
23-Plx-002 Rating Exemptions and Remissions for Charitable Organisations Policy
23-Plx-011 Interim Rates and Charges Hardship Policy

RELATED LEGISLATION:

Local Government Act 1993 (Tas) (Part 9 - Rates and Charges)
Valuation of Land Act 2001
Fire Services Act 1979 (Tas)
Waste and Resource Recovery Act 2022 (Tas)

REFERENCES:

Access Economics/Henry Review (www.taxreview.treasury.gov.au)

Taxation Policy Criteria (Oakes Committee April 1990)

- Equity or Fairness
- Simplicity and Efficiency
- Accountability or Visibility
- Acceptability
- Benefits Derived
- Capacity to Pay

Local Government Rates and Charges - Guidance paper for policy development April 2012

DEFINITIONS:

Economic Efficiency

- Does the rating methodology distort property ownership and development decisions in a way that results in significant efficiency costs?

Simplicity

- Is the system practical and cost-effective to administer?
- Is the system simple to understand and comply with?

Equity

- Does the tax burden fall appropriately across different classes of ratepayers?

Capacity to Pay (is the tax progressive or regressive?)

- Those with a greater capacity to pay contribute more.

Benefit Principle

- Should those who benefit more, contribute more?

Sustainability

- Does the system generate sustainable and reliable revenues?
- Is it durable and flexible in changing conditions?

Cross-border Competitiveness

- Does the rating system undermine the Council as a business location?

REVIEW:

This Policy will be brought for approval as part of the annual budgeting and planning cycle.

This Policy is required to be at a minimum reviewed as required by legislation. Section 86B(4) of the LGA 1993 requires that:

A Council must review its rates and charges policy -

- (a) by the end of each successive four-year period after 31 August 2012.

There are other provisions in the legislation that trigger a policy review.

REPORT:

The Council's Rating Framework and the Rates and Charges Policy are reviewed annually, with only minor updates made to the version contained in the recommendation as pertain to the relevant year or naming convention.

This policy has been reviewed by an independent legal practitioner to ensure it complies with the *Local Government Act 1993* (Tas), the *Fire Services Act 1979* and the *Waste and Resource Recovery Act 2022*.

RISK IMPLICATIONS:

If sufficient revenue is not raised by rates, the Council's capital and operational programs delivering the levels of service expected by the community could not be funded.

ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT:

The application of sound taxation principles in the formulation of the Policy should produce a neutral overall economic impact. The broad alignment of the rating distribution and the valuation of properties underpins this framework. The investment by the Council of funds raised (not just from rates) in the community, provides an economic stimulus. The application of rate revenue rather than the raising of revenue delivers environmental improvements. The application of the taxation principles is key to an equitable outcome for the community.

STRATEGIC DOCUMENT REFERENCE:

City of Launceston Corporate Strategic Plan 2014 - 2024

Strategic Priority 3: We are a progressive leader that is accountable to our governance obligations and responsive to our community.

10-Year Goal: To ensure decisions are made in a transparent and accountable way, that effectively meet our statutory obligations, support quality services and underpin the long-term sustainability of our organisation.

Focus Areas:

2. To fairly and equitably discharge our statutory and governance obligations.
3. To ensure decisions are made on the basis of accurate and relevant information.
5. To maintain a financially sustainable organisation.

BUDGET AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

The Policy underpins the Council's overall budget. Revenue received from rates accounts for approximately 61% of the overall revenue base.

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:

The Author and General Manager have no interests to declare in this matter.

ATTACHMENTS:

Nil

15.3. Budget 2024/2025 - Rating Framework

FILE NO: SF7153/SF0521

AUTHOR: Nathan Williams (Chief Financial Officer)

APPROVER: Louise Foster (General Manager Organisational Services Network)

DECISION STATEMENT:

To consider adoption of the Rating Framework for the financial year ending 30 June 2024.

Pursuant to Part 9 of the Local Government Act 1993 (Tas), this decision requires an absolute majority of Council.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION:

Local Government Act 1993 (Tas)
Valuation of Land Act 2001 (Tas)
Fire Service Act 1979 (Tas)
Waste and Resource Recovery Act 2022 (Tas)

PREVIOUS COUNCIL CONSIDERATION:

Considered annually.

Workshop – 26 October 2023 – Long Term Financial Plan
Workshop – 7 December 2023 – Budget 2024/2025 Update
Workshop - 29 February 2024 – 2024/2025 Annual Plan and Budget Update
Council – 4 April 2024 – Proposed 2024/2025 Annual Plan and Statutory Estimates
Workshop - 23 May 2024 - Rates Modelling 2024/2025
Workshop – 6 June 2024 – Rates Modelling 2024/2025
Council – 13 June 2024 – Public Consultation Feedback – 2024/2025 Budget and Annual Plan

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council, by absolute majority, pursuant to Part 9 of the *Local Government Act 1993* (Tas), adopts the following Rating Framework for the financial year ending 30 June 2025:

Rating Resolution

1. General Rate:

- 1.1 Pursuant to sections 90 and 91 of the *Local Government Act 1993* (Tas), Council makes the following general rate on all rateable land (excluding land which is exempt pursuant to the provisions of section 87) within the municipal area of Launceston for the period commencing 1 July 2024 and ending 30 June 2025, which consists of two components as follows:
- (a) a rate of **5.1441** cents in the dollar of the assessed annual value of the land; and
-

(b) a fixed charge of **\$340.90**.

1.2 Pursuant to section 107(1) and (2) of the *Local Government Act 1993* (Tas), by reason of:

- (a) the use or non-use of any land which is within the municipal area; and
- (b) the locality of the land;

Council declares, by absolute majority, that component 1.1(a) of the General Rate is varied for the financial year as follows:

- (i) for land used for commercial purposes, that is not located within the area known as the CBD Rate Variation Locality, the rate is varied by **increasing** it by **1.4638** cents in the dollar to **6.6079** cents in the dollar of the assessed annual value of the land;
- (ii) for land used for commercial purposes and which is located within the area known as the CBD Rate Variation Locality, the rate is varied by **increasing** it by **1.8240** cents in the dollar to **6.9681** cents in the dollar of the assessed annual value of the land;
- (iii) for land used for industrial purposes, the rate is varied by **increasing** it by **0.8033** cents in the dollar to **5.9474** cents in the dollar of the assessed annual value of the land;
- (iv) for land used for public purposes, the rate is varied by **increasing** it by **0.7260** cents in the dollar to **5.8701** cents in the dollar of the assessed annual value of the land;
- (v) for land used for primary production purposes, the rate is varied by **decreasing** it by **0.3329** cents in the dollar to **4.8112** cents in the dollar of the assessed annual value of the land;
- (vi) for land used for sporting or recreation facilities, the rate is varied by **increasing** it by **0.3315** cents in the dollar to **5.4756** cents in the dollar of the assessed annual value of the land;
- (vii) for land used for quarrying or mining, the rate is varied by **decreasing** it by **1.5897** cents in the dollar to **3.5544** cents in the dollar of the assessed annual value of the land; and
- (viii) for land which is vacant land, the rate is varied by **decreasing** it by **1.1338** cents in the dollar to **4.0103** cents in the dollar of the assessed annual value of the land.

Definition CBD Rate Variation Locality

1.3 That pursuant to section 107(1)(c) of the *Local Government Act 1993* (Tas), Council declares by absolute majority, that the location of any land which is within the following parts of the municipal area shall be defined as within the **CBD Rate Variation Locality** for the purposes of clause 1.2 above, namely:

- (a) that portion of the City of Launceston as is bounded by Wellington, Cameron, George and York Streets;
- (b) those properties having a frontage on the Eastern side of George Street from numbers 37 to 115 (both inclusive);
- (c) those properties having a frontage on the Southern side of York Street from numbers 45 to 123 (both inclusive);
- (d) those properties having a frontage on the Northern side of Cameron Street from numbers 44 to 70 (both inclusive) and on the Southern side of that Street from numbers 41 to 93 (both inclusive);
- (e) those properties having a frontage on the Eastern side of St John Street from numbers 119 to 153 (both inclusive) and on the Western side of that Street from numbers 116 to 128 (both inclusive);

- (f) those properties having a frontage on the Eastern side of Charles Street from numbers 179 to 205 (both inclusive) and on the Western side of that Street from numbers 126 to 156 (both inclusive); and
- (g) those properties having a frontage on the Northern side of Brisbane Street from numbers 36 to 60 (both inclusive) and those having a frontage on the Southern side of that Street from numbers 43 to 65 (both inclusive).

Maximum Percentage Increase

- 1.4 Pursuant to section 88A of the *Local Government Act 1993* (Tas), Council by absolute majority, sets a maximum percentage increase cap on component 1.1(a) of the general rate of 500% where that increase has occurred as a result of municipal revaluation undertaken in accordance with section 20 of the *Valuation of Land Act 2001*.
- 1.5 That pursuant to section 107 of the *Local Government Act 1993* (Tas), Council declares by absolute majority, that the maximum percentage cap referred to in 1.4 above is varied to 20% for all land which is used or predominantly used for residential purposes.

2. Service Charges - Waste Management Service:

Pursuant to section 94, of the *Local Government Act 1993* (Tas), Council makes the following service charges on all rateable land within the municipal area of Launceston (including land which is otherwise exempt from rates pursuant to section 87 but excluding land owned by the Crown to which the Council does not supply any of the following services) for the period commencing 1 July 2024 and ending on 30 June 2025, namely:

- 2.1 Service charges for waste management in respect of all land to which the Council supplies different waste management services comprising:
 - (i) the supply of mobile garbage bins;
 - (ii) the supply of a recycling service;

as follows:

- (a) (i) **\$170.00** for an existing 85 litre mobile garbage bin and one recycle bin;
 - (ii) **\$215.00** for a 140 litre mobile garbage bin and one recycle bin;
 - (iii) **\$368.00** for a 240 litre mobile garbage bin and one recycle bin; and
- 2.2 In respect of the service charges for waste management:
 - (a) if any land to which the waste management service is supplied is the subject of separate rights of occupation which are separately valued by the Valuer-General pursuant to section 11(3)(c) of the *Valuation of Land Act 2001*, then the charge applies to each such separate occupation;
 - (b) pursuant to section 94(3) of the *Local Government Act 1993* (Tas), Council by absolute majority, declares that the service charge varies within different parts of the municipal area by reference to the use or predominant use of land as follows:
 - (i) for all land used for residential purposes where there is more than one separate right of occupation which is separately valued in the valuation list prepared under the *Valuation of Land Act 2001*, and where the rate payer has elected by notice in writing

delivered to the Chief Executive Officer on or before the 1 July 2024, not to have a waste management service, then the service charge is varied to **Nil**;

- (ii) for all land which is used or predominantly used for commercial or industrial purposes, public purposes, primary production, sporting or recreation facilities, quarrying and mining purposes and where the rate payer in respect of that land elects by notice in writing delivered to the Chief Executive Officer on or before the 1st day of July 2024 not to have a waste management service, then the service charge is varied to **Nil**.

- 2.3 A service charge for waste management services to offset a levy payable by the Council to the State Government under the *Waste and Resource Recovery Act 2022* (a Waste Management Levy Offset Service Charge) as follows:

\$22.05 in respect of all land to which the service charge for waste management applies pursuant to 2.1 and 2.3(a).

3. Service Rates - Fire Service:

- 3.1 Pursuant to section 93A of the *Local Government Act 1993* (Tas), Council makes the following service rates in respect of the fire service contributions it must collect under the *Fire Service Act 1979* for the rateable parcels of land within the municipal area of Launceston (excluding land which is exempt pursuant to the provisions of section 87 of the *Local Government Act 1993* (Tas)) for the period commencing 1 July 2024 and ending on 30 June 2025, as follows:

District	Cents in the dollar of Assessed Annual Value
Launceston Permanent Brigade Rating District	0.95479
Lilydale Volunteer Brigade Rating District	0.24805
General Land	0.22786

- 3.2 Pursuant to section 93(3) of the *Local Government Act 1993* (Tas), Council sets a minimum amount payable in respect of this service rate of **\$49.00** for each rateable parcel of land within the municipal area of Launceston (excluding land which is exempt pursuant to the provisions of section 87 of the *Local Government Act 1993* (Tas)).

4. Separate Land:

- 4.1 Except where it is expressly provided to the contrary, for the purposes of these resolutions the rates and charges shall apply to each parcel of land which is shown as being separately valued in the valuation list prepared under the *Valuation of Land Act 2001*.

5. Adjusted Values:

- 5.1 For the purposes of each of these resolutions any reference to assessed annual value includes a reference to that value as adjusted pursuant to sections 89 and 89A of the *Local Government Act 1993* (Tas).

6. Instalment Payment:

- 6.1 Pursuant to section 124 of the *Local Government Act 1993* (Tas), Council:
- (a) decides that all rates are payable by all rate payers by four instalments which must be of approximately equal amounts.
 - (b) determines that the dates by which instalments are to be paid shall be as follows:
 - (i) the first instalment on or before 31 August, 2024;
 - (ii) the second instalment on or before 30 November, 2024;
 - (iii) the third instalment on or before 31 January, 2025; and
 - (iv) the fourth instalment on or before 30 April, 2025 .
 - (c) if a ratepayer fails to pay any instalment within 21 days from the date on which it is due, the ratepayer must pay the full amount owing.

7. Penalty and Interest:

- 7.1 Pursuant to section 128 of the *Local Government Act 1993* (Tas), if any rate or instalment is not paid on or before the date it falls due then:
- (a) there is payable a penalty of **3.0%** of the unpaid rate or instalment; and
 - (b) there is payable a daily interest charge of **0.02054795%** (**7.5%** per annum) in respect of the unpaid rate or instalment for the period during which it is unpaid.

8. Words and Expressions:

Words and expressions used both in these resolutions and in the *Local Government Act 1993* (Tas) or the *Fire Service Act 1979*, have in these resolutions the same respective meanings as they have in those Acts.

REPORT:

This resolution serves the purpose of translating budgeted rates revenue for 2024/2025 into rates and charges.

In 2024/2025, the Council proposes to increase rates revenue by 4.50% which is in line with Council's adopted Long Term Financial Plan.

The Council is facing rising costs of materials and other expenses, which have exceeded the proposed 4.50% rate increase for 2024/2025, however, the Council has decided not to transfer the full burden of these cost increases to the ratepayers during this period. Instead, the Council plans to address the issue of rising costs and maintaining financial sustainability by implementing more gradual rate increases and conducting level of service reviews, in line with the adopted Long Term Financial Plan.

By opting for more gradual rate increases, the Council aims to alleviate the immediate financial impact on ratepayers while still ensuring the delivery of quality services. This approach is evidence of the fact that the Council recognises the need to balance the financial sustainability of the organisation with the affordability for the community.

The Council's decision indicates a commitment to long term financial sustainability and a consideration for the well-being of ratepayers. By implementing gradual rate increases and conducting service reviews, the Council aims to strike a balance between providing quality services and managing the financial challenges posed by increasing costs.

The State Government Valuer-General conducted a full municipal revaluation during 2023/2024 in line with the statutory valuation program, with an effective date for rates of 1 July 2024. All properties within the municipality will receive an updated Annual Assessed Value (AAV) for their property. The rate in the dollar figures have been calculated to reflect increasing AAVs for many properties, so that the increase in rates payable is not linear with the increase to AAV.

The Valuer-General reviews rental data every two years to determine whether property values have increased. If they note an increase in rental income (AAV) they determine adjustments that Council is mandated to apply to property values.

The Waste Management Charge continues to recover the cost of providing the service of collection, disposal and processing of landfill, recycling and FOGO (Food Organics and Garden Organics) within the municipality and at the Launceston Waste Centre.

While disposal and collection cost are increasing, these have been offset by a decrease in recycling processing costs. The Waste Management Charges will remain the same as in 2023/2024 at;

- 85 litre bin \$170.00
- 140 litre bin \$215.00
- 240 litre bin \$368.00

The Fire Service Rate Charge and the Waste Management Levy Offset are levies imposed by the State Government and are charged by Council on a cost recovery basis. Residential Independent Living Units within retirement villages which are owned by a charitable organisation and operated exclusively for charitable purposes will have the Fire Rate charged on their property reinstated for the 2024/2025 financial year.

Under the State Government *Waste and Resource Recovery Act 2022* (Tas) a levy of \$44.88 per tonne (includes annual indexation) must be collected by Council for any waste disposed to Council operated landfill facilities. The average tonnage of waste disposed of per property that receives the kerbside waste service is 0.49 tonne per annum and as a result the Council needs to recover \$22.05 per property to offset this levy, an increase of \$11.55 from the prior year. The increase is due to the levy, as determined by the State Government, increasing from \$21.36 to \$44.88 per tonne.

This levy will be shown on rates notices as a separate line as the 'State Government Waste Levy (Offset)' at an amount of \$22.05 per property that receives a kerbside waste service in 2024/2025.

In June 2021, Council resolved to redistribute the Central Business District Levy over a period of four years. The second year of this transition is 2024/2025, with \$154,000 of additional revenue raised across the other rating categories, effectively an additional 0.28% of an increase.

This Agenda Item has been reviewed by an independent legal practitioner to ensure it complies with the *Local Government Act 1993* (Tas), the *Waste and Resource Recovery Act 2022* (Tas) and the *Fire Service Act 1979* (Tas).

RISK IMPLICATIONS:

The Rating Framework sets out the rates and charges for the 2024/2025 financial year and thus allows for the Council to raise the required revenues to fund its capital and operation programs. Failure to adhere to this would mean the Council does not deliver the level service expected by the community.

ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT:

The Council has a significant economic impact in the region through its revenue raising and spending. The budget contains specific projects and ongoing programs to improve environmental outcomes. The budget contains specific projects and ongoing programs to improve social outcomes. The structure distributes the rates accordingly to property values.

STRATEGIC DOCUMENT REFERENCE:

City of Launceston Corporate Strategic Plan 2014 - 2024

Strategic Priority 3: We are a progressive leader that is accountable to our governance obligations and responsive to our community.

10-Year Goal: To ensure decisions are made in a transparent and accountable way, that effectively meet our statutory obligations, support quality services and underpin the long-term sustainability of our organisation.

Focus Areas:

2. To fairly and equitably discharge our statutory and governance obligations.
3. To ensure decisions are made on the basis of accurate and relevant information.
5. To maintain a financially sustainable organisation.

BUDGET AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

The rate resolution provides the legal authority to levy the rates as detailed in the Council's Statutory Estimates.

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:

The Author and General Manager have no interests to declare in this matter.

ATTACHMENTS:

Nil

15.4. 2024/2025 Statutory Estimates (Budget)

FILE NO: SF7153

AUTHOR: Nathan Williams (Chief Financial Officer)

APPROVER: Louise Foster (General Manager Organisational Services Network)

DECISION STATEMENT:

To consider the adoption of the Council's Statutory Estimates for the financial year ending 30 June 2025.

This decision requires an absolute majority of Council.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION:

Local Government Act 1993 (Tas)

PREVIOUS COUNCIL CONSIDERATION:

Workshop – 26 October 2023 – Long Term Financial Plan
Workshop – 7 December 2023 – Budget 2024/2025 Update
Workshop - 29 February 2024 – 2024/2025 Annual Plan and Budget Update
Council – 4 April 2024 – Proposed 2024/2025 Annual Plan and Statutory Estimates
Workshop - 23 May 2024 - Rates Modelling 2024/2025
Workshop – 6 June 2024 – Rates Modelling 2024/2025
Council – 13 June 2024 – Public Consultation Feedback – 2024/2025 Budget and Annual Plan

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council, by absolute majority:

1. pursuant to section 82(20) of the *Local Government Act 1993* (Tas), adopts:
 - (a) Estimated Revenue (including Capital Grants) \$144.4m
 - (b) Estimated Expenditure
 - Operating \$147.5m
 - Capital \$26.9m
 - (c) Estimated Borrowings
 - Loans - LGLP \$0.0m
 - (d) Estimated Capital Works
 - Council Funded \$24.4m
 - Externally Funded \$2.6m
2. pursuant to section 82(3)(a) of the *Local Government Act 1993* (Tas), adopts the Proposed Statutory Estimates for the financial year ending 30 June 2025 as detailed in Attachment 1 (Doc Set ID 5082260).

	2024 (\$m)	2023 (\$m)
Revenue	144.4	133.0
Revenue (excluding Capital Funds)	141.9	131.6
Expenditure	147.5	135.4
Expenditure (excluding non-cash costs)	120.4	107.5
Capital Funds (Council and External funded)	26.9	20.6
Council Funded Capital Works	24.4	19.2
External Funded Capital Works	2.6	1.4
Loan Borrowings (LGLP)	0.0	6.0
Loan Repayments (LGLP)	6.0	20.0

3. pursuant to section 82(3)(a) of the *Local Government Act 1993* (Tas), adopts the Proposed Capital Projects and Major Operational Projects for the financial year ending 30 June 2025 as detailed in Attachment 2 (Doc Set ID 5077378) and Attachment 3 (Doc Set ID 507377) respectively.

REPORT:

The City of Launceston operates as a large and diverse organisation, dedicated to delivering a balanced budget that upholds both current day affordability and intergenerational equity. With a substantial annual budget and a workforce of 617 employees, the City of Launceston strives to meet the expectations of its community by providing high quality services and facilities.

The City of Launceston's annual budget, exceeding \$140 million, is a critical aspect of its operations. This substantial financial allocation enables the City to undertake and sustain a wide variety of projects and services. It is essential that the budget strikes a balance between meeting community expectations and maintaining fiscal responsibility.

The Council engaged in a community consultation process prior to the final determination of the Annual Plan, Annual Budget and rating resolution for the 2024/2025 financial year. 20 submissions were received during this consultation period and were formally considered at the Council Meeting held on 13 June 2024.

The Proposed Statutory Estimates for 2024/2025 forecasts an Underlying Deficit of \$0.621m. Including externally funded Capital Grants of \$2.556m and the \$5.000m contribution to the Tamar Estuary River Health Action Plan (TERHAP), an Operating Deficit of \$3.065m is forecast.

The Council regularly reviews its Long Term Financial Plan with a view to maintaining a small underlying surplus annually.

The Council has budgeted for a general rate increase of 4.50% in 2024/2025, in line with the Council's Long Term Financial Plan along with 0.75% of growth in the rating base.

The Council is facing rising costs of materials and other expenses, which have exceeded the proposed 4.50% rate increase for 2024/2025, however, the Council has decided not to transfer the full burden of these cost increases to the ratepayers during this period.

Instead, the Council plans to address the issue of rising costs and maintaining financial sustainability by implementing more gradual rate increases and conducting level of service reviews, in line with the Long Term Financial Plan.

By opting for more gradual rate increases, the Council aims to alleviate the immediate financial impact on ratepayers while still ensuring the delivery of quality services. This approach is in recognition of the fact that the Council acknowledges the need to balance the financial sustainability of the organisation with affordability for ratepayers.

The Council's decision indicates a commitment to long term financial sustainability and a consideration for the well-being of ratepayers. By implementing gradual rate increases and conducting service reviews, the Council aims to strike a balance between providing quality services and managing the financial challenges posed by increasing costs.

The Council has a significant and varied Capital Works program for 2024/2025 of \$26.9m.

Some significant inclusions in the Capital Works program are;

- \$1 million for the restoration of City Park's popular St John Hart Conservatory
- \$300,000 for upgrades at the Royal Park Skate Park
- \$1.4 million for the second stage of restoration works on the Cataract Gorge's Alexandra Suspension Bridge
- \$700,000 for the NTCA master plan redevelopment project
- \$4.9 million for road resealing and resheeting
- \$1.9 million for improvements to parks and play spaces
- \$600,000 for footpath renewals and;
- \$1 million of grant funding for a new Northern Gateway project aimed at welcoming visitors to the city.
- \$1.8 million for the Invermay Road/Lindsay Street Traffic Signals
- \$915,000 for the continued work on the Princess Theatre and Earl Arts Centre Masterplan

The detailed Capital Works program is provided as an attachment to this agenda item.

The Waste Management Charge continues to recover the cost of providing the service of collection, disposal and processing of landfill, recycling and FOGO (Food Organics and Garden Organics) within the municipality and at the Launceston Waste Centre.

While disposal and collection cost are increasing, these have been offset by a decrease in recycling processing costs. The Waste Management Charges will remain the same as in 2023/2024 at;

- 85 litre bin \$170.00
- 140 litre bin \$215.00
- 240 litre bin \$368.00

Under the State Government *Waste and Resource Recovery Act 2022* (Tas) a levy of \$44.88 per tonne (includes annual indexation) must be collected by Council for any waste disposed to Council operated landfill facilities. The average tonnage of waste disposed of per property that receives the kerbside waste service is 0.49 tonne per annum and as a result the Council needs to recover \$22.05 per property to offset this levy, an increase of

\$11.55 from the prior year. The increase is due to the levy, as determined by the State Government, increasing from \$21.36 to \$44.88 per tonne.

This levy will be shown on rates notices as a separate line as the 'State Government Waste Levy (Offset)' at an amount of \$22.05 per property that receives a kerbside waste service in 2024/2025.

Fees and Charges have generally increased by 3% in line with Council's Long Term Financial Plan. Details are provided in the list of Fees and Charges for 2024/2025 which were approved by Council at its Meeting held on 4 April 2024. Annual Hobart CPI to December 2023 was 3.3%, with most fees increasing by less than this.

Interest Revenue is expected to remain strong, when compared with recent years, due to the forecasted Official Cash Rate and resultant investment returns on offer in line with Council's Investment Policy and Strategy. The Council continually monitors investment returns on offer and will continue to utilise Green Deposits for a percentage of the Council's cash holdings.

A full TasWater dividend, and additional repayment of dividends not paid at the height of the pandemic, has been budgeted for. The Council has budgeted for a dividend of \$500,000 from its ownership stake in the Launceston Airport Corporation based on dividends received in 2023/2024 and projected future earnings.

Labour costs have increased as compared to the previous year, as a salary increase has been included for a new proposed Enterprise Agreement along with the addition of new roles within the organisation. Workers Compensation costs have been budgeted to increase in line with industry trends.

Depreciation is a significant non-cash expense and will continue to be affected by revaluation changes, revised estimates of the asset useful lives and the creation of new assets of the Council or externally funded projects that create new assets. Given the Council's substantial asset portfolio, depreciation continues to be a significant cost in each operational budget. As the price of consumables and inputs into the Council's assets increase, driving up the value of these assets, depreciation is expected to increase in line with these external factors.

Loan interest expense relates to interest free loans received from the State Government. There is a corresponding revenue line which negates this expense, meaning there is no overall net cost to the Council.

Further commentary can be found in the detailed Statutory Estimates.

RISK IMPLICATIONS:

In order to minimise risk, the use of a common framework to assess priorities, sound, transparent and defensible financial decisions and recommendations are possible. The risk program provides an effective and transparent prioritisation tool for decision making when long term and annual financial resource allocations are decided. This process contributes to the quality of the longer term financial plans of the Council (including the capital works and asset management programs) and assists in effective decision making in strategic planning which in part need to recognise the future implications of decisions.

ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT:

The Council has a significant economic impact on the region through its revenue raising and expenditure. The budget contains specific projects and ongoing programs to improve environmental and social outcomes.

STRATEGIC DOCUMENT REFERENCE:

City of Launceston Corporate Strategic Plan 2014 - 2024

Strategic Priority 3: We are a progressive leader that is accountable to our governance obligations and responsive to our community.

10-Year Goal: To ensure decisions are made in a transparent and accountable way, that effectively meet our statutory obligations, support quality services and underpin the long-term sustainability of our organisation.

Focus Areas:

2. To fairly and equitably discharge our statutory and governance obligations.
3. To ensure decisions are made on the basis of accurate and relevant information.
5. To maintain a financially sustainable organisation.

BUDGET AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

As per the Statutory Estimates, Capital Projects Budget listing and Major Operational Projects Budget listing.

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:

The Author and General Manager have no interests to declare in this matter.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Statutory Estimates 2024-2025 [**15.4.1** - 22 pages]
2. Capital Projects Listing 2024-2025 [**15.4.2** - 3 pages]
3. Major Operational Projects Listing 2024-2025 [**15.4.3** - 1 page]

15.5. City of Launceston Annual Plan 2024/2025

FILE NO: SF6938

AUTHOR: Emily Lewis (Business Improvement Officer)

APPROVER: Louise Foster (General Manager Organisational Services Network)

DECISION STATEMENT:

To consider adoption of the City of Launceston Annual Plan 2024/2025.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION:

Local Government Act 1993 (Tas)

PREVIOUS COUNCIL CONSIDERATION:

Workshop – 23 May 2024 – Annual Plan and Budget 2024/2025 - Public Consultation Feedback

Council – 4 April 2024 - Agenda Item 15.4 - Proposed 2024/2025 Annual Plan and Statutory Estimates

Workshop – 29 February 2024 - Draft Budget and Annual Plan 2024/25

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. pursuant to section 71 of the *Local Government Act 1993 (Tas)*, adopts the City of Launceston Annual Plan 2024/2025 (ECM Doc Set ID 5080735); and
 2. notes that, pursuant to section 71(3) of the *Local Government Act 1993 (Tas)*, a copy of the City of Launceston Annual Plan 2024/2025 adopted at Recommendation 1 will be made available for public inspection and provided to the Director of Local Government and the Director of Public Health.
-

REPORT:

Annual Plan

Section 71 of the *Local Government Act 1993 (Tas)*, reproduced below for reference, requires Council to prepare an Annual Plan:

71 Annual Plan

- (1) A council is to prepare an annual plan for the municipal area for each financial year.
 - (2) An annual plan is to –
 - (a) be consistent with the strategic plan; and
 - (b) include a statement of the manner in which the council is to meet the goals
-

and objectives of the strategic plan; and
(c) include a summary of the estimates adopted under section 82 ; and
(d) include a summary of the major strategies to be used in relation to the council's public health goals and objectives.

- (3) As soon as practicable after a council adopts an annual plan, the general manager is to –
- (a) make a copy of the annual plan available for public inspection at the public office during ordinary business hours; and*
 - (b) provide the Director and the Director of Public Health with a copy of the annual plan.*

The City of Launceston Annual Plan actions have one or more of the following features:

- close alignment with the strategic intent defined in the City of Launceston Corporate Strategic Plan 2014-2024: 2019 Review;
- may include internal and external items;
- any internal and external strategy, key policy or plans due for review appearing as an annual plan action to complete the review;
- any action to work on advocacy projects;
- any work proposed that has a significant impact on the Council or the community.

The 51 actions listed in the City of Launceston Annual Plan 2024/2025 are clearly aligned with the Strategic Priorities, 10-Year Goals and Focus Areas from the Corporate Strategic Plan 2014-2024: 2019 Review.

The actions detailed in this Annual Plan link 24 of 32 Focus Areas in the Corporate Strategic Plan 2014-2024: 2019 Review, however, all the Focus Areas will be addressed over the life of the Corporate Strategic Plan 2014-2024: 2019 Review.

A statement of the manner in which the Council is to meet the goals and objectives of the Corporate Strategic Plan 2014-2024: 2019 Review is included within the *About this Plan* section on page 1 and is further expanded in the *Executive Summary* on page 3.

A summary of the estimates adopted under section 82 of the *Local Government Act 1993* (Tas) is published at page 21. The City of Launceston's major strategies in relation to public health goals and objectives are published at page 24.

Progress against the City of Launceston Annual Plan 2024/2025 actions will be reported quarterly to Council. Summarised progress for the full 2024/2025 reporting year will be included in the 2024/2025 Annual Report.

The City of Launceston Annual Plan 2024/2025 is being recommended for adoption as a non-designed Plan so as to meet obligations of the *Local Government Act 1993* (Tas) to provide an Annual Plan for the new financial year. A designed version of the Plan will be published to the City of Launceston website for public perusal in July 2024, using the content adopted by Council at Recommendation 1.

RISK IMPLICATIONS:

Not considered relevant to this report.

ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT:

Consideration is contained in the City of Launceston Annual Plan 2024/2025.

STRATEGIC DOCUMENT REFERENCE:

City of Launceston Corporate Strategic Plan 2014 - 2024

Strategic Priority 3: We are a progressive leader that is accountable to our governance obligations and responsive to our community.

10-Year Goal: To ensure decisions are made in a transparent and accountable way, that effectively meet our statutory obligations, support quality services and underpin the long-term sustainability of our organisation.

Focus Areas:

5. To maintain a financially sustainable organisation.

BUDGET AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Consideration is contained in the City of Launceston Annual Plan 2024/2025.

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:

The Author and General Manager have no interests to declare in this matter.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Proposed Annual Plan 2024-25 [**15.5.1** - 28 pages]

15.6. Section 75CA Agreement for Protrusions over a Footpath at 17 Paterson Street, Launceston

FILE NO: SF1848

AUTHOR: Michelle Grey (Properties and Legal Officer)

GENERAL MANAGER APPROVAL: Louise Foster (Organisational Services Network)

DECISION STATEMENT:

To consider a request from the owner of 17 Paterson Street, Launceston that Council make a declaration to allow for a protrusion from the building façade (awning) to remain over the adjacent footpath so long as the building remains.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION:

Conveyancing and Law of Property Act 1884
Local Government (Highways) Act 1982
Local Government Act 1993

PEVIOUS COUNCIL CONSIDERATION:

Workshop – 20 June 2024

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. decides, pursuant to section 75CA of the *Conveyancing and Law of Property Act 1884*, that the protrusion currently extending from the building façade at 17 Paterson Street, Launceston, located more than 2.4m above the footpath (the protrusion), as identified at Attachment 1 (Doc Set ID 5084705) and Attachment 2 (Doc Set ID 5084716), may remain so long as the building remains.
 2. requests the Chief Executive Officer to do all things and exercise all functions and/or powers necessary to execute and affix Council's seal to a Deed declaring that the protrusion may remain so long as the building remains.
 4. makes Recommendations 1 and 2 conditional upon the owner of 17 Paterson Street, Launceston paying any costs associated with preparing the relevant Deed and registering it with the Recorder of Titles.
 5. notes, for the avoidance of doubt Chief Executive Officer is a term of reference for the General Manager as appointed by Council pursuant to section 61 of the *Local Government Act 1993* (Tas).
-

REPORT:

Introduction

Ferndale Cottage Pty Ltd (the applicant) is the owner of 17 Paterson Street, Launceston (the property). The applicant has approached the City of Launceston (the Council) seeking to obtain the Council's permission to allow a protrusion from the building's front façade to remain above the public footpath in front of the property.

The applicant has engaged local surveyor, Woolcott Surveys, who has made an application on its behalf to remedy the protrusion by seeking formal permission from the Council as highway authority.

Title details

The property is comprised of a 103m² building contained within Certificate of Title Volume 172997 Folio 1. The property is zoned Central Business. An extract from Folio Plan 172997 is shown below (Figure 1):

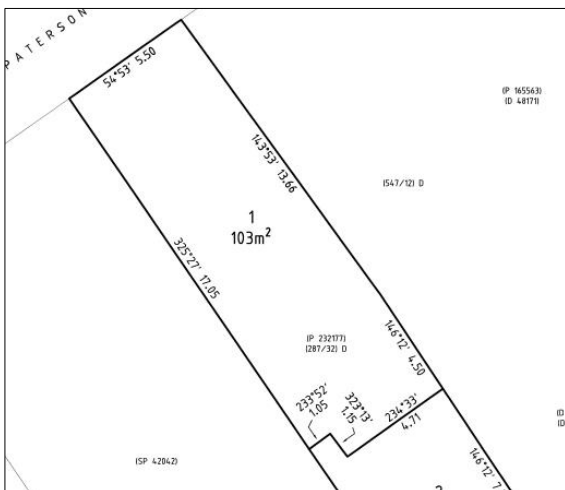


Figure 1 - Folio Plan Extract for Certificate of Title 172991/1

Background

The Surveyor estimates that the building including protrusion is around 50 years old. The property report on The List has no original building date identified.

A recent photograph of the front of the building, which shows where the protrusion is located, is shown below (Figure 2):



Figure 2 - Frontage at 17 Paterson Street

The protrusion exists at least 2.4m above the footpath's surface along the property's boundary with Paterson Street. The widest point of the protrusion into Paterson Street encroaches over the footpath by 2.28m. The applicant has owned the property since 2020.

The Council's records do not evidence any previous authority or declaration being made in relation to the protrusion in question.

Survey Plan

An extract of the Survey Plan showing a plan of the protrusion is shown in the image below (Figure 3):



Figure 3 – Extract of Survey Plan showing protrusion

Council as Highway Authority

Whilst the Crown may own the road lot comprising Paterson Street, the Council is the relevant highway authority responsible for the care, control and management of Paterson Street, including the relevant footpath. This is evidenced by the Council's Section 208 Map, an extract of which is shown below showing Paterson Street as a Council-maintained highway in red (Figure 4):



Figure 4 - Extract from the Council's Local Government Act 1993 Section 208 Map

Applicable Law

Section 75CA of the *Conveyancing and Law of Property Act 1884* provides that a highway authority may sign a Deed declaring that protrusions may remain above a footpath if certain requirements are met. The relevant section states:

Section 75CA - Irregular boundary with highway

- (1) *Where a building is built on land a boundary of which is a boundary of an adjoining highway and the building extends -*
 - (a) ...
 - (b) over -
 - (i) a footpath of that highway and at least 2.4m above it;

the authority having the care and management of that highway may declare by deed that the extensions or any of them (in all cases specifying them) may remain so long as the building remains.

The Council, as Highway Authority, has the necessary authority to make such declarations with respect to Paterson Street, Launceston. This authority arises from subsection 21(3) of the *Local Government (Highways) Act 1982* which states:

The local highways in a municipality that are maintainable by the corporation vest in the corporation and, for the purpose of the exercise of its functions in respect of those highways, the corporation has, subject to the Traffic Act 1925 and the Vehicle and Traffic Act 1999, the care, control, and management of those highways.

In this instance, the Surveyor has advised that the protrusion is at least 2.4m above the footpath, which is consistent with a physical inspection of the protrusions. This meets the height requirements of subsection 75CA(1)(b)(i) of the *Conveyancing and Property Law Act 1884*.

The process of making the declaration and registering the Deed will constitute a disposal of an interest in land. Section 61 of the *Local Government (Highways) Act 1982* provides Council with the power as Highway Authority to grant private interests over highways. That power is in addition to Council's power to dispose of interests in land under the *Local Government Act 1993*.

The recommended declaration is in accordance with legislative requirements.

Liability for the protrusion will rest primarily with the owner of the property. Maintenance also rests with the owner.

Deed

The proposed Deed will include a copy of the Survey Plan and photograph and the wording would be based on the following text:

The awning:

- (i) extends beyond the title boundary by 2.28m as shown on the enclosed declaration plan; and*
- (ii) is more than 2.40m above the footpath*

The awning over the highway may remain so long as the building remains.

The proposed Deed will include provision for an indemnity in favour of the Council, which will provide an extra level of protection.

Conclusion

The granting of permission for the protrusion to remain will not impact any users of Paterson Street.

The Council's Infrastructure and Assets Network has been consulted and advised that there are no present or future plans for Paterson Street that the protrusion would affect.

Accordingly, it is recommended that Council agree to the request to declare that the protrusion may remain, pursuant to section 75CA of the *Conveyancing and Law of Property Act 1884*, with all costs, including those costs associated with the Deed's registration, to be borne by the applicant.

RISK IMPLICATIONS:

Risks relevant to this item are discussed in the report.

ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT:

Not considered relevant to this report.

STRATEGIC DOCUMENT REFERENCE:

City of Launceston Corporate Strategic Plan 2014 - 2024

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10-Year Goal: To ensure decisions are made in a transparent and accountable way, that effectively meet our statutory obligations, support quality services and underpin the long-term sustainability of our organisation.

Focus Areas:

2. To fairly and equitably discharge our statutory and governance obligations.
3. To ensure decisions are made on the basis of accurate and relevant information.

BUDGET AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Not considered relevant to this report.

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:

The Author and General Manager have no interests to declare in this matter.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Attachment 1 - Photo 17 Paterson Street [**15.6.1** - 1 page]
2. Attachment 2 - Survey Plan 17 Paterson Street [**15.6.2** - 1 page]

16. LATE ITEMS

17. MEETING CLOSURE

18. NEXT COUNCIL MEETING DATE

The next Ordinary Meeting of Council will be held at 1.00pm on 11 July 2024 at the Council Chambers, Town Hall, 18-28 St John Street, Launceston.