



CITY OF HOBART

# **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

## **COUNCIL MEETING**

### **OPEN PORTION OF THE MEETING**

**TUESDAY, 27 JANUARY 2026**

**AT 4.00PM**

**VENUE: COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL**

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### **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

---

11	Hobart: A City for All - Action Plan 2026-29		
	Attachment A	Hobart: City for All - Action Plan 2026-29 .....	3
	Attachment B	Hobart: City for All - Community Inclusion and Equity Framework 2021.....	55
	Attachment C	Hobart: City for All - Action Plan - Engagement Summary Report .....	83
12	2025 Children's Mayor Program - Outcome Report		
	Attachment A	Children's Mayor Program 2025 School Information Pack.....	117
	Attachment B	Children's Mayor Program 2025 All Student Manifestos....	137
	Attachment C	Summary of Children's Mayor Manifestos 2025 .....	191
13	Risk and Audit Panel - Annual Report to Council and 2026 Work Plan		
	Attachment A	Risk and Audit Panel 2025 Annual Report to Council.....	196
	Attachment B	Risk and Audit Panel 2026 Work Plan .....	207

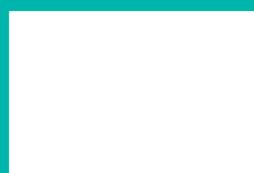
14	Local Government Electoral Bill 2025 and Local Government Amendment (Electoral Reforms) Bill 2025		
	Attachment A	Local Government Electoral Bill 2025 - Consultation Draft.....	211
	Attachment B	Local Government (Electoral Reforms) Bill 2025 - Consultation Draft.....	378
16	Code of Conduct Determination Report Councillor Ryan Posselt v Councillor Louise Elliot		
	Attachment A	Code of Conduct Determination Report- Councillor Ryan Posselt against Councillor Louise Elliot.....	402
17	Extreme Weather Protocol		
	Attachment A	Letter from Minister Barnett .....	416
	Attachment B	Extreme Weather Protocol Budget Submission.....	417

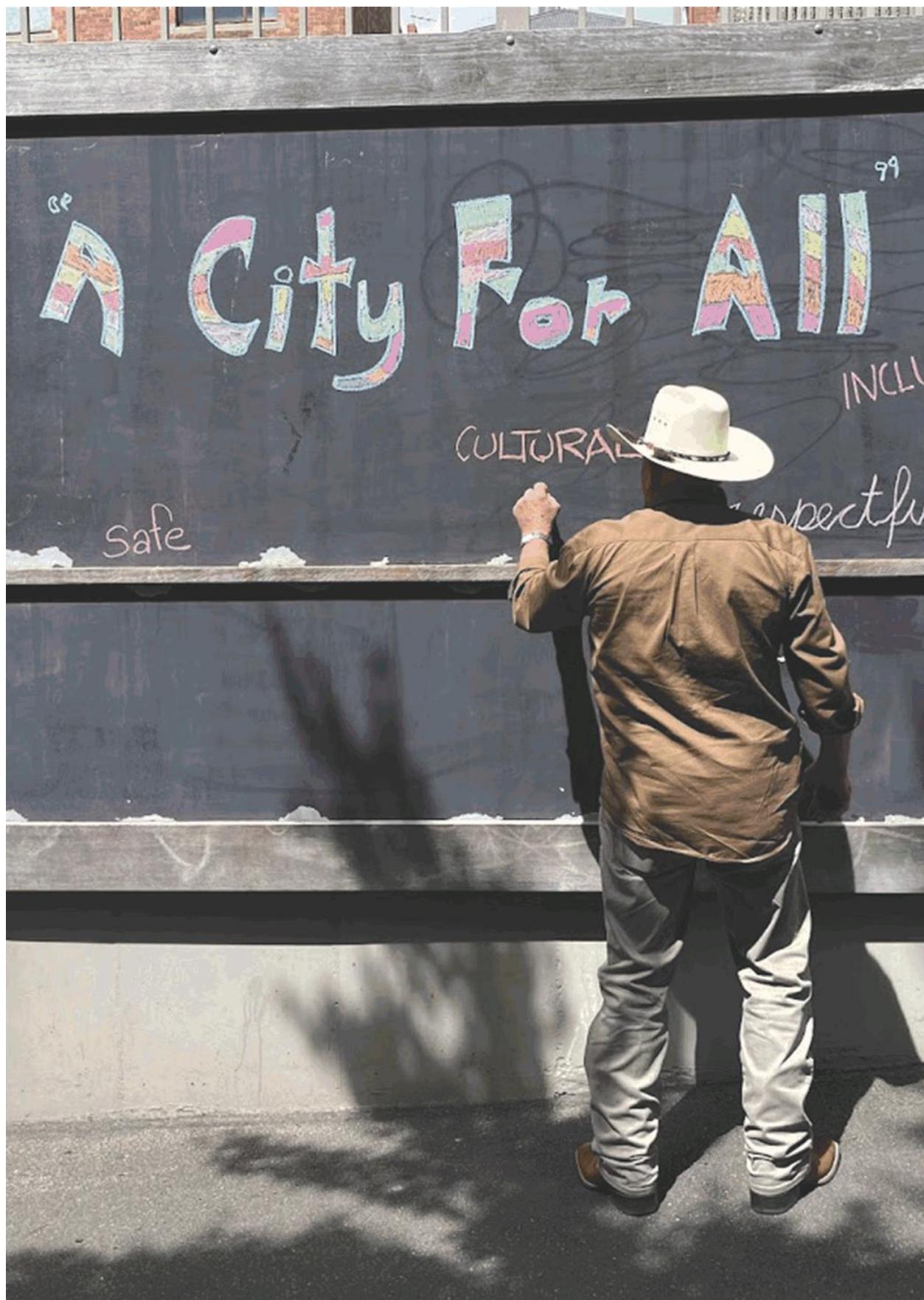


# **HOBART: A CITY FOR ALL**

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Action Plan 2026–29





## CONTENTS

Introduction	4
The City's role	5
Priority areas	7
Community programs group actions	8
Equal access program – what we heard	10
Positive ageing program – what we heard	16
Community safety and crime prevention – what we heard	22
LGBTIQA+ – what we heard	27
Youth programs – what we heard	34
Multicultural programs – what we heard	40
Homelessness – what we heard	46

## INTRODUCTION

To truly become a city for all, the City of Hobart must work towards inclusion and equity for all who live, work or play in Hobart. We must recognise systemic exclusion, discrimination and inequity and understand this demands systemic and structural solutions.

The actions detailed in our Hobart: A City for All – Action Plan 2026-29 are arranged by community program areas. These program areas help us focus our resources and guide our work with different members of the community to achieve their goals and address their concerns.

As well as helping to identify resources for specific areas of the community, this also allows community members, relevant organisations, and all levels of government to easily identify where the City of Hobart allocates community resources.

The reality is that our community is diverse. Each of us can identify with more than one aspect of our life, whether that is our age, culture, gender, housing situation or our skills and abilities.

With that in mind some actions have been listed separately. This is because they have the potential to impact many different community members, they lend themselves

to greater collaboration or because they currently don't align directly with one specific program area. These actions include the significant work our teams undertake in the areas of disaster resilience and social recovery.

Some of the actions listed in this plan have been carried forward or evolved from previous commitments and strategies. Most of these strategies and commitments have guided our work for several years, and some are relatively new. Some actions therefore have been delivered by the City of Hobart on an ongoing basis for some time, and some are new and have emerged from recently identified community aspirations and priorities.

All of the following actions have been refined and developed in collaboration and discussion with people with a lived experience, with community organisations that work with specific areas of the community and with other local government staff.

By including all of the actions for each program area under the Hobart: A City for All – Action Plan 2026-29 we are developing a stronger sense of how they all contribute to addressing the full range of community priorities.

### Accessibility options

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**Voice** 1800 555 660 (free from landlines)  
**TTY** 1800 555 630 (free)  
**Fax** 1800 555 690 (free)  
**SMS** 0416 001 350.

## THE CITY'S ROLE

The City of Hobart takes on several different roles when working with and for our community.

There are times when we can directly deliver opportunities and programs, provide facilities and run events. There are also times when we work with other agencies or levels of government and support them to achieve outcomes. Often the City's role is to gather ideas, information and resources and communicate this more broadly, to raise community awareness and capacity.

There are also times when the City does not have the necessary resources or the responsibility to directly act on a particular issue, in which case we advocate with and on behalf of our community to other agencies or levels of government.



Many of our actions and responses do not sit in one single area of the organisation.

Regardless of which role the City of Hobart takes on to achieve a community goal or address a particular issue, our focus is to bring about positive change by supporting the community to identify, discuss and address local, regional and national issues relevant to them.

### Advocate

The City of Hobart will work closely with the community, relevant sectors and all levels of government to advocate for action and positive change.

### Collaborate

We will collaborate internally to engage multiple areas of the City of Hobart to work together on shared actions.

### Communicate

We will identify, collect, analyse and share relevant information and resources, with and for the community, relevant sectors and all levels of government.

### Connect

The City of Hobart will create, maintain and strengthen relationships by connecting community members, relevant sectors and all levels of government to meet the community's aspirations and needs.

### Deliver

We will deliver, facilitate, collaborate and lead opportunities that help our community celebrate success, achieve their goals and address issues important to them.



## PRIORITY AREAS

It is a complex task to build a city for all. Everyone has a role to play. Local government is the level of government with the closest and most direct connection with the community. The City of Hobart is a caretaker of the environments in which people live, work and recreate. As such, we have a responsibility to ensure these environments benefit the entire community.

Local government has a defined role under the Local Government Act to 'Provide for the health, safety and welfare of the community' (section 20).

In direct response to all that was heard from our community when developing the Hobart: City for All – Community Inclusion and Equity Framework, the following priority areas are seen as vital to working towards a city for all. Each action in the following pages sits under one or more of the following priority areas, all of which align with the implementation of the City's strategic documents.



### TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

We acknowledge the truth of our history in this place.  
We walk together with Tasmanian Aboriginal people toward shared goals.



### ACCESS AND PARTICIPATION

Everyone feels welcome, valued and heard and has opportunities to participate. Everyone can get where they want to go with ease and can access the information they need.



### KNOWLEDGE AND WELLBEING

Spaces, services and communities support physical and mental wellbeing. Everyone has opportunities to engage in learning and has the capacity and skills to influence change.



### RESILIENCE AND SAFETY

Everyone feels safe and secure and can meet their basic needs.  
Everyone supports each other and is prepared for crises.

## COMMUNITY PROGRAMS GROUP ACTIONS

The following actions are listed here as they either involve opportunities that sit across several community program areas, or they sit outside the individual action plans. Some of these areas of responsibility include: the management of community halls and facilities; social recovery following disaster (including establishment of evacuation centres); building community resilience to disasters; and volunteer support and management.

It is noted that the Hobart Respects All campaign is relevant across all action plans. The City has endorsed the Country, Culture, People 2025–28, Building Cultural Safety within the City of Hobart with Aboriginal People that sits alongside this document.

Action	Measure	Timeframe
Deliver the Hobart Respects All campaign with community partners to celebrate diversity, increase inclusion and promote respect.	Number of promotions undertaken. Number of activities delivered/participated in. Human rights week event delivered in December each year.	ANNUALLY
Deliver an annual City of Hobart Volunteer Recognition event to celebrate the contribution of volunteers to City of Hobart programs.	Volunteer event delivered in December each year. Number of volunteers engaged in Community Programs each year.	ANNUALLY
Deliver Resilient Hobart Program to support greater Hobart community members to be more resilient and prepared for emergencies.	Number of suburban areas engaged with annually. Number of community forums and street meetings each year. Number of residents engaged with.	ONGOING
Facilitate community hall use to ensure these facilities provide health and wellbeing opportunities and maximise community benefit.	Number of community custodians engaged with. Number of annual usage reports received showing health and wellbeing opportunities.	ONGOING
Deliver the Children's Mayor program, to increase young people's engagement with the civic life of the city.	Number of schools involved in the program and manifestos received. Number of opportunities provided to Children's Mayor.	ANNUALLY
Develop and maintain processes and procedures for the operation of the City of Hobart's designated evacuation centres.	Number of procedures reviewed and exercises undertaken.	ONGOING

Action	Measure	Timeframe
Work with other areas of the organisation to advocate for upgrades that improve accessibility and useability of City of Hobart facilities.	Number of cross organisational projects/working group meetings attended.	QUARTERLY
Maintain and coordinate the City's social recovery responsibilities as details in the Community Recovery Plan including participating on regional recovery networks.	Number of Southern Regional Social Recovery Committee meetings and working group meetings attended.	QUARTERLY
Manage and maintain the Emergency Response Team (ERTs) including the coordination of induction sessions and relevant training opportunities.	Annual call out for new ERTs delivered. Number of inductions, training sessions provided to ERTs.	ONGOING
Work with all City of Hobart areas to deliver the actions within the Country, Culture, People 2025-28.	Number of actions delivered from Country, Culture, People 2025-28.	ONGOING
Advocate for the development of an Extreme Weather Protocol through the working group that includes representatives such as UTAS, SES, DPAC, DOH, LGAT and community organisations.	Number of advocacy actions undertaken.	ONGOING

## REVIEW AND REPORTING

We are committed to being transparent and accountable in the delivery of this action plan. We look to our community to guide us and provide feedback to strengthen our approach and delivery over time. To support this, we have mechanisms to guide the delivery and review of this document and to measure the effectiveness of the action plan.

Progress against the action plan will be reviewed regularly by our reference and advisory groups with input from across the organisation. The commitment will be updated every three years, to respond to community input and ensure currency, with an annual report provided to the community throughout this period.

## EQUAL ACCESS PROGRAM – WHAT WE HEARD



By improving access to facilities, services, programs, activities, events and information we limit social barriers that exclude people from full participation in community life. Through the development of this action plan we consulted with people with disability as identifiers of community need and aspirations, as well as participants in the responses and solutions. It is important to recognise that all people, regardless of age or disability, come from different backgrounds, have different abilities, interests, life and work experiences, and different opinions and stories to share.



We heard from a range of people within disability and community networks who want to work with the City of Hobart to ensure we continue to apply an equal access lens to everything we do across council areas. It was identified that for the City to work towards a fair and inclusive community it requires shared values, attitude, behaviour and practices that uphold the principles of access and inclusion. The consultation group identified the importance of shared learnings and the role the City plays in celebrating and sharing the success of inclusive actions to bring about meaningful change.

Providing equal access enhances everyone's participation in community life, regardless of their age or support needs. People with disability have the same fundamental rights as all members of the community.

Making it easier for people with a disability, an older person, or parent with a pram to move around freely benefits all community members. While this action plan focuses on disability access, there are many opportunities for the City of Hobart to improve accessibility by prioritising a mix of transport modes.

There was a strong collective preference in favour of retaining focus areas from the previous Equal Access Commitment (2021–23).

The following issues were identified as still being important to people with disability within Hobart:

- Supporting opportunities for community participation and social inclusion.
- Supporting access to buildings, streetscapes and parks.
- Supporting accessible parking and reliable transport options.
- Supporting access to information.
- Increasing community awareness of access and disability issues and taking action.

There were also several key projects identified through the consultation process that were requested to be carried over from the Equal Access Commitment (2021–23) into the new action plan.

## WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

The equal access actions have been developed in response to aspirations of our community, targeted engagement, consultation and research. This resulted in the development of detailed actions that will help the City of Hobart build an equitable and inclusive community.

The City uses our connections and networks to enable participation in civic life. Our strong partnerships support collaboration across councils, community organisations, businesses and other levels of government. The City of Hobart draws on our reference and advisory groups to guide program planning and delivery. These groups are integral to our work, providing advice and perspective and partnering actively on projects.

### **ACCESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

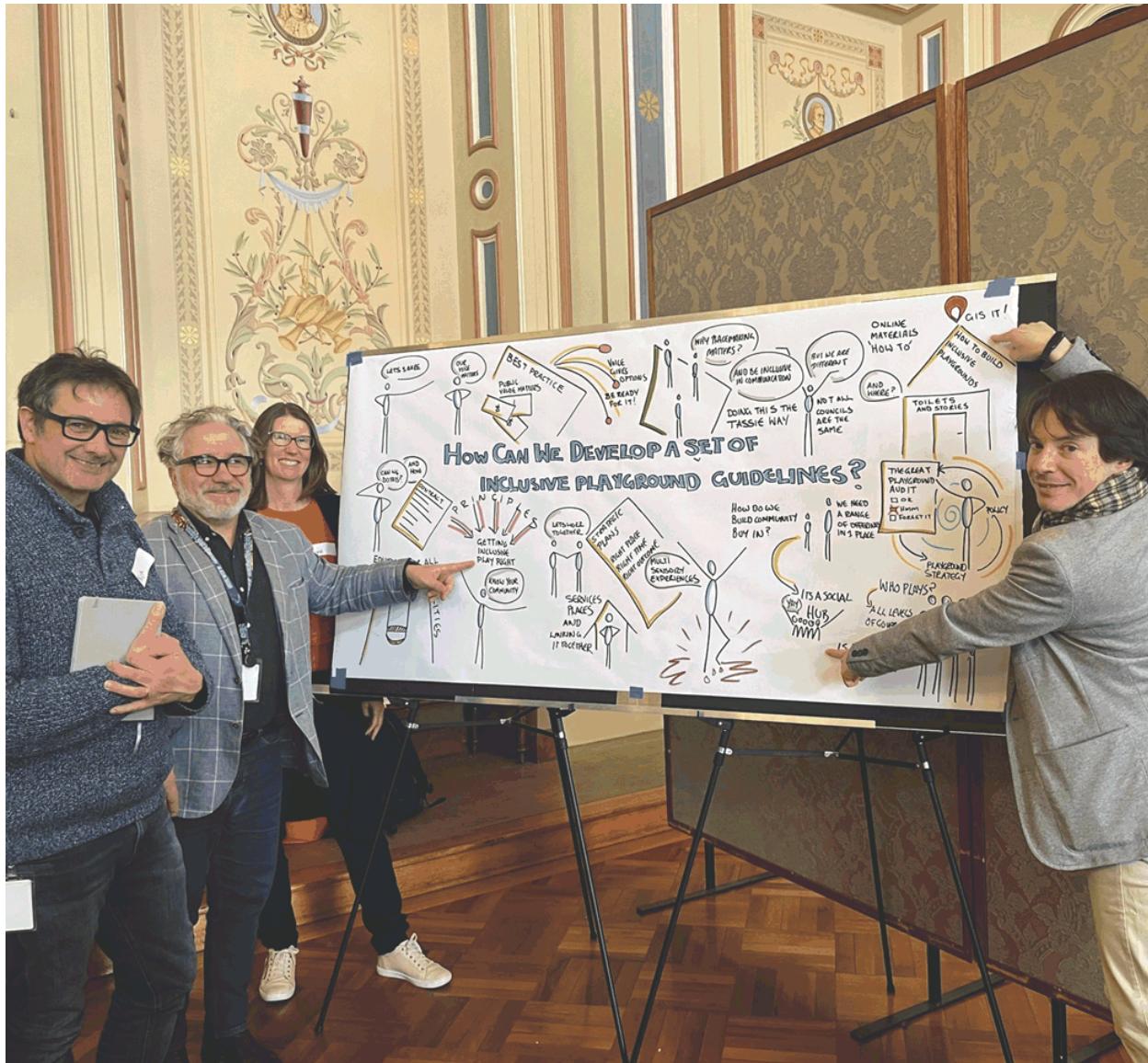
The role of the Hobart Access Advisory Committee (AAC) is to provide advice and assistance to the City of Hobart on matters related to access, in particular the implementation of the City of Hobart's Community Inclusion and Equity Framework and the Equal Access Action Plan. The committee plays a vital role in setting priorities each year for works to improve access in parks and streetscapes; recommends solutions to access issues across relevant council projects, events, new council works or upgrades to council facilities or services; and identifies,

supports and helps deliver equal access initiatives that focus on access and inclusion.

The Access Advisory Committee comprises representatives of disability organisations, City of Hobart employees, elected members and community members who have an interest in access issues in Hobart. The group consists of a diverse range of representatives with a wide range of life and professional experience. The committee provides the City of Hobart with an ongoing consultative group that guides, questions and suggests ways of addressing issues for people with disability.

The City of Hobart continues to build on existing partnerships while creating new strategic partnerships to enable cohesive, collaborative responses to our local challenges.

Engagement was undertaken with a range of community members and agencies. Key groups included community groups, advocacy organisations and peak bodies, government agencies, City of Hobart employees and the Access Advisory Committee and what we heard during the consultation process is reflected in this document.



During the review process, the context for discussions included the current level of resourcing, current financial constraints, the activities currently being undertaken by the City of Hobart and our social inclusion

role. The City will deliver on these priorities through a variety of projects, initiatives and partnerships outlined in the actions on the following pages.

## EQUAL ACCESS ACTIONS

Action	Measure	Timeframe
Maintain the Hobart Access Advisory Committee (AAC) to ensure ongoing consultation – quarterly meetings and subcommittees held to discuss access issues, updates, project planning and delivery.	Number of meetings per year, type of meeting, number and diversity of AAC members.	ONGOING
Celebrate and widely promote <i>International Day of People with Disability</i> and other relevant events on the Equal Access calendar.	Number of events held or supported. Number of people who attended or engaged online.	ANNUALLY
Host a collaborative community celebration of all-ability artists through the biennial Ability to Create exhibition.	Number of workshops held and artists involved. Number of attendees at the exhibition or engaged online.	JULY 2027
Through the AAC, monitor City of Hobart developments (including parks, playgrounds, bushlands, streetscapes, facilities, toilets and buildings) and upgrades at design stage to advocate for accessibility improvements.	Number of projects consulted on by the committee. Number of suggestions implemented. Number of presentations delivered to AAC.	QUARTERLY
Improve accessibility and inclusion at City of Hobart funded events, using the Inclusive Accessible Event Guide.	Number of events supported by the City of Hobart with accessible features.	ANNUALLY
Work with community sports providers and clubs to continue to support accessible and inclusive recreation programs, playgrounds and initiatives held in City of Hobart facilities.	Number of accessible sports programs or clubs supported through programs, grants and upgrades.	ANNUALLY
Work with local businesses, and tourism operators to develop a guide to improve access to local businesses, shop fronts and information.	Number of businesses reached through education campaign. Number of businesses using the toolkit.	DECEMBER 2026
Promote the access map on our website and work with Elefent to identify additional information to be added to improve access within Hobart for everyone.	Number of visits to the website to use or print the map. Number of people who have engaged online.	ANNUALLY
Improve community awareness of equal access issues, events, information, resources through regular Access E news.	Number of Access E news sent and opened.	ANNUALLY

Action	Measure	Timeframe
Update the equal access website page on the City of Hobart website and brochure.	Number of visits to access website page and number of brochures distributed.	ANNUALLY
Continue to involve the AAC in advocating for the implementation of the draft Outdoor Dining Guidelines, with a particular focus on improved compliance.	Number of consultations with AAC. Number of businesses compliant.	ONGOING
Work with members of the Hobart AAC to continue to advocate for a diversity and inclusion plan for the City of Hobart to improve employment and volunteer opportunities.	Number of positions promoted. Number of consultations with the AAC to identify barriers for new plan. Number of managers briefed on new plan.	ONGOING
Provide regular access updates and education to City of Hobart employees.	Number of education sessions held and updates provided to employees. Number of employees attending education sessions.	ANNUALLY
Work closely with Metro to advocate for accessible bus stops and bus shelters as well as improved accessibility of bus timetables and information.	Number of consultations with AAC for new upgrades. Number of responses to requests sent to Metro.	ANNUALLY
Advocate for improving website accessibility, accessible documents, communication and engagement within the City of Hobart.	Number of consultations with the AAC seeking user feedback. Number of accessibility requests responded to.	QUARTERLY
Support the AAC to deliver an education campaign on the importance of access on footpaths with a focus on bin placement, A-frames signage, outdoor dining furniture and e-scooters.	Number of people reached through the campaign. Number of complaints received and notices issued.	ONGOING
Work with the Hobart Access Advisory Committee to educate community about invisible/hidden disability.	Number of people reached. Number of people who attended information sessions.	ONGOING
Advocate for access improvements in public spaces and footpaths (including elements such as shade, ramps, seating and plants blocking footpaths).	Number and type of upgrade delivered.	ONGOING

## POSITIVE AGEING PROGRAM – WHAT WE HEARD



Every moment, each and every one of us is ageing. How well we navigate that process is influenced by our economic, cultural, family, health and social circumstances.

The ageing process brings with it opportunities as well as limitations throughout our lifetime. As we get towards the end of this process, opportunities can include greater understanding and wisdom, a diversity of skills and life experience, as well as social connections, recreational interests and learning opportunities.

Some of the limitations that may come with ageing can be a loss of career or income, loss of social connection, decreased physical or mental capacity as well as a loss of friends and family. While very real for each of us, many of these opportunities and limitations are socially influenced, and can be increased or decreased depending on the context within which we find ourselves.

With this in mind the Positive Ageing actions within this document focus on what the City of Hobart can do, in collaboration with other organisations and the community, to maximise the opportunities and minimise the limitations of ageing.

The key issues identified by the local sector and older community members in the development of these actions are consistent with the work of other organisations working with and for older people, as well as being consistent with those previously identified by the City of Hobart.

The key issues identified by our local sector and community members were:

- Strengthening the social inclusion of older people – the community wants us to work with other agencies and the community to address the social isolation of people as they age.
- Celebrating older people's diversity – the community wants us to acknowledge, celebrate and support the full diversity of older people within all aspects of the City of Hobart's work.
- Valuing, listening to, and empowering older people – the community wants us to engage with older people, utilise their experience and wisdom and include them in decision making.

- Increasing access to positive ageing opportunities – the community wants us to ensure council facilities, programs and events remain inclusive and accessible to people as they age.
- Increasing the knowledge of what is available for older people – the community wants us to share resources, information and opportunities to remain active, connected and safe.

While the City of Hobart will continue to work on a range of positive ageing projects and programs, the bulk of our positive ageing resources are focused on activities, events and programs at Mathers House.

Mathers House provides a focal point, a platform and a hub for age inclusive creation, celebration and participation. The social inclusion focus of Mathers House includes a dynamic and diverse volunteer base, all of whom contribute to creating a welcoming and safe space for the full diversity of older people within our community.

This inner-city venue is not only the focus of the work the City of Hobart is engaged in, but is also utilised by other agencies, community organisations and individuals that are working to increase social inclusion within our community, particularly for older people.

## WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

The Positive Ageing actions have been developed in response to aspirations of our community, based on engagement and targeted consultation with the local sector, older community members and volunteers as well as staff working in the positive ageing area.

The City of Hobart will continue to utilise connections and networks to increase participation in community life. This will include working with other councils, community organisations, businesses, and other levels of government.

The City of Hobart will also continue to draw upon the lived experience and skills of our reference and advisory groups to guide program planning and delivery. These groups are integral to our work, providing advice and perspective and partnering actively on projects.

### **Hobart Older Persons' Reference Group**

Since its inception the Hobart Older Persons' Reference Group (HOPRG) has focused on identifying, supporting and helping deliver positive ageing initiatives that focus on social inclusion. Consisting of a diverse range of older people with a wide range of life and professional experience, HOPRG provides the City of Hobart with an ongoing consultative group that guides, questions and suggests ways of addressing issues for older people.

HOPRG, which meets bi-monthly, will provide ongoing feedback on the delivery of the Positive Ageing actions, sharing advice and input into our Positive Ageing work, including identifying emerging issues and appropriate responses as required.



## POSITIVE AGEING ACTIONS

Action	Measure	Timeframe
Deliver a menu of affordable, healthy and nutritious meals at Mathers House.	Numbers of meals served.	ONGOING
Deliver and support activities, programs and resources that promote healthy eating, nutrition, and age-appropriate diets.	Number and diversity of activities, programs and resources.	ONGOING
Deliver and support activities, programs and resources focused on exercise, fitness, health and wellbeing for older people.	Number and diversity of activities, programs and resources.	ONGOING
Deliver and support activities, programs and resources focused on arts, creative, entertainment and social inclusion for older people.	Number and diversity of activities, programs and resources.	ONGOING
Deliver and support activities, programs and resources focused on lifelong learning for older people.	Number and diversity of activities, programs and resources.	ONGOING
Deliver and support activities, programs and resources focused on increasing the digital access and literacy of older people.	Number and diversity of activities, programs and resources.	ONGOING
Maintain a diverse and skilled pool of volunteers to support the Mathers House dining room, 'Meet & Greet', and cultural, health and social event and program delivery.	Number and diversity of volunteers. Length of service of volunteers.	ONGOING
Proactively publicise City of Hobart Positive Ageing opportunities through a seasonal What's On in collaboration with positive ageing, health and community venues, organisations and networks.	Seasonal What's On produced and number and diversity of distribution outlets.	SEASONALLY
Celebrate and promote Adult Learner's Week, Seniors Week, Mental Health Week and other relevant events on the positive ageing calendar.	Number and diversity of workshops, programs and events delivered.	ANNUALLY

Action	Measure	Timeframe
Deliver the federally funded Still Gardening program, supporting volunteers to help older people to live independently through gardening and social support opportunities.	Meeting of all contractual targets.	Contracted delivery 2025-2027
Maintain the Hobart Older Person's Reference Group to ensure ongoing consultation, strategic direction and project planning and delivery, and proactively publicise City of Hobart Positive Ageing opportunities within the community.	Number of meetings per year, number and diversity of HOPRG members.	BI-MONTHLY
Connect the Hobart Older Persons' Reference Group with other positive ageing reference groups, networks and committees to identify and act on shared goals and issues.	Number of opportunities to connect HOPRG with other older persons reference groups and/or networks.	ANNUALLY
Work with the Council on the Ageing (COTA) and other organisations to increase the community's awareness of Elder Abuse through events, information, resources, and links.	Support provided for delivery of Walk Against Elder Abuse and events that support increased community awareness.	ANNUALLY
Participate in networks such as the Healthy Ageing Network, Older Persons Advocacy Network and maintain links with Council on the Ageing (COTA), and other relevant Positive Ageing organisations and bodies.	Number of networks/ meetings participated in.	ONGOING
Provide a diversity of programs that deliver across the ranges and needs of older people (ages 50-100+).	Number of programs delivered catering to different ages.	ONGOING
Encourage opportunities for mentoring, school volunteering and intergenerational activities.	Number of opportunities provided.	ONGOING
Through the What's On and networks, promote the Back on your Bike program.	Included in What's On guide and social media.	ANNUALLY

## COMMUNITY SAFETY AND CRIME PREVENTION – WHAT WE HEARD



Crime prevention is a multifaceted approach that seeks to minimise the chances of criminal activities and mitigate their impact on society. It encompasses a variety of strategies designed to reduce not only the fear of crime among community members but also the actual risk of crimes taking place.

The City of Hobart has an active role in working with community, businesses, Tasmania Police and service providers to improve safety and perceptions of safety within our city. Community safety priorities and actions have been developed over many years in conjunction with our community safety partners and will continue to be reviewed and developed.

The City works closely with Tasmania Police to identify and solve problems, considers environmental design that makes public spaces less conducive to anti-social and criminal behaviour, and implements education programs that cover safety measures and the importance of safety being everyone's responsibility. Such initiatives work towards creating a safer community, ultimately aiming to enhance quality of life and foster a sense of security and trust.

The City of Hobart has contracts with several security providers to deliver safety and security monitoring across the city. Closed-circuit television (CCTV) systems are a critical component in the safety infrastructure of public spaces managed by the City of Hobart. By providing real-time surveillance and recording capabilities, CCTV cameras act as a deterrent to potential offenders, knowing their actions are being monitored as well as assisting the City of Hobart and Tasmania Police to investigate incidents.

This surveillance technology also aids Tasmania Police in the identification and prosecution of individuals involved in criminal or anti-social behaviour. The presence of CCTV contributes to a heightened sense of security among the public, reassuring community members that measures are in place to safeguard the city.

When people consider their personal safety, they typically think about local issues that have a direct impact on their daily lives. Lawful responses are often provided as community safety solutions. In some instances, these types of solutions are the best option, but often responding to social drivers of crime is the most effective way to improve the safety of the community.

We advocate and support service providers to raise awareness and advocate on issues such as domestic and family violence, elder abuse, suicide prevention and sexually motivated crime. The City of Hobart also has a role to understand (and when required) raise awareness on issues relating to tobacco, alcohol and other drugs.

The City of Hobart will continue to take a leadership role in community safety, however, when it comes to safety, everyone has a role to play. We are committed to being innovative in our approach with the intention to drive optimal safety outcomes for the Hobart community.



## WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

The community safety and crime prevention actions have been developed in consultation with representatives from the various safety networks, individual stakeholders and staff who all directly and indirectly associate with community safety.

We heard that things have not changed dramatically within the safety space and that only a few changes should be made to update the current actions. Informed by stakeholder insights, Tasmania Police crime data and research, we have formulated targeted actions to address principal concerns within our action plan. This includes a continuation of certain actions from the City of Hobart's prior Community Safety Commitment (2021–23), which align with the fundamental expectations of community safety. Our action plan also

outlines several innovative and forthcoming initiatives designed to enhance the well-being and security of Hobart's residents.

We will continue to strengthen existing partnerships and seek to build new collaborations with key government agencies and other community stakeholders through the Safer Hobart Alliance.

These actions continue to build on the work already undertaken by the City of Hobart during the development and implementation of the previous Community Safety Commitments. Network groups such as the City's Late Night Precinct Stakeholder Group, Hobart Youth Outreach and Diversionary Alliance, Prejudice Related Hate Crime Group and the Hobart



Retailers Safety and Security Group have provided opportunities for us to trial and evaluate community safety initiatives.

During the consultation period we were encouraged to continue to provide opportunities that bring together diverse groups to work together on various issues that impact community safety. Our community networks voiced to us issues relating to discrimination and prejudice, the anti-social behaviours in the CBD and the harm this does to the community. Our partners in the late night entertainment precincts encouraged us to continue to work with them in harm reduction programs, such as the Safer Nights Partnership, which helps people at risk to themselves or others through the use of alcohol and other drugs.

Our retail community continues to experience a range of challenges driven by complex social issues, encouraging the City of Hobart to continue to work with business owners, Tasmania Police, Crime Stoppers, Neighbourhood Watch and other stakeholders to respond to these issues. The establishment of the Safer Hobart Alliance further supports collaboration.

It was highlighted that when we work in partnership with others we achieve the best outcomes for our community, this includes partnering on initiatives that support the prevention of violence against women and children, elder abuse, alcohol and other drug awareness and crime prevention that provide outlets to promote awareness of support programs and initiatives available to the Hobart community.

## COMMUNITY SAFETY AND CRIME PREVENTION ACTIONS

Action	Measure	Timeframe
Continue to contribute to the Late Night Partnership through funding the security presence in the Salamanca area and Salamanca Square toilets on Friday and Saturday nights.	Security contract maintained and funded.	ONGOING
Convene quarterly meetings of the Safer Hobart Alliance and implement resulting actions.	Number of meetings held. Number of resulting actions delivered.	QUARTERLY
Hold quarterly meetings of the Hobart Youth Outreach and Diversionary Alliance and Late Night Partnership groups and provide quarterly updates through to the Safe Hobart Alliance.	Number of meetings held and updates provided.	QUARTERLY
Provide community groups and organisations the opportunity to promote community health and safety messages/ campaigns through the City of Hobart's public toilet awareness frames.	Number of opportunities to promote community health and safety messages.	TWICE YEARLY
Participate as an active member of the CCCLM Safe Cities Network; increase our knowledge and learn from other cities to apply a best practice approach to community safety.	Participation in CCCLM network and opportunities to incorporate into safety program.	QUARTERLY
Where required, develop programs relating to community safety and prevention in response to emerging issues, maximising use of the Hobart Respects All campaign.	Number of programs developed.	ONGOING
Recognise and promote specific initiatives that increase public awareness and knowledge such as Vaping Information Sessions, Cuppa with a Cop etc.	Number of initiatives and sessions/programs delivered.	ANNUALLY
Partner, support and advocate for the delivery of youth outreach programs that engage disadvantaged youth in a positive way.	Number of youth outreach activities delivered.	ONGOING

Action	Measure	Timeframe
Provide education to businesses on how youth intervention programs reduce antisocial behaviours and seek their potential investment in such initiatives.	Number of workshops and initiatives delivered on retail safety.	ANNUALLY
Deliver, support or promote initiatives during Community Safety Month in September each year.	Number of initiatives delivered and supported.	ANNUALLY
Raise awareness of elder abuse and safety concerns for older people including participating in the Walk Against Elder Abuse in June each year.	Attendance and promotion of the event and other safety initiatives for older people.	ANNUALLY
Collaborate with youth programs to support the provision of programming at Youth ARC to engage meaningfully with at risk young people with the goal of reducing antisocial behaviours and increasing wellbeing.	Opportunities provided to engage with at risk young people.	ONGOING
Promote the reporting and recording of prejudice related crime and graffiti in partnership with the Office of the Anti-Discrimination Commissioner and community organisations.	Opportunities to promote and engage community to report graffiti. Support businesses in the removal of graffiti where possible.	ONGOING
Develop an asset management plan relative to CCTV systems, ensuring new cameras are added where needed. Incorporating a phased lifecycle plan to ensure existing and new security installations are prioritised based on a collaborative risk assessment.	Plan developed.	ONGOING
Consider providing specialised training in Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) for City of Hobart staff and note the safety benefits of upgraded streetscapes.	Number of streetscapes upgraded and CPTED training delivered.	AS REQUIRED
Continue to advocate for the establishment and recognition of Community Safety officers within the City of Hobart to ensure effective management and stewardship of public spaces.	Advocacy for positions undertaken. Officers engaged.	ONGOING
Review the community safety and crime prevention pages of our website.	Website reviewed and updated.	ANNUALLY
Develop community safety and crime prevention fact sheets to clearly articulate the City of Hobart's role in this work.	Safety fact sheets developed and distributed to community.	ONGOING

## LGBTIQA+ – WHAT WE HEARD



Everyone – without exception – deserves to be safe, supported and equal. Hobartians identifying as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex, Queer or Asexual (LGBTIQA+) are valued members of our community. Recognising, celebrating and protecting our community's gender and sexual diversity helps make the Greater Hobart area a better place to live for everyone.

While LGBTIQA+ communities take strength in shared pride, people identifying as LGBTIQA+ have their own unique experiences, practices and culture. As a result the City of Hobart's understanding of, support for and celebration of our LGBTIQA+ communities has changed and will continue to evolve as our community changes and evolves.

In the past few years, involvement from the margins of rainbow communities in mainstream culture has increased. But while the visibility, presence and voices of LGBTIQA+ communities have increased, unfortunately in many instances this has resulted in increased experiences of discrimination.

It is important to recognise the diversity of LGBTIQA+ experiences. Being LGBTIQA+ is only one part of any person's identity. As well as being diverse in their sexuality, gender identity or sexual characteristics, LGBTIQA+ people are diverse in other ways. This might include their Aboriginality, ethnicity, colour, nationality, refugee or asylum seeker background, migration or visa status, language, faith, ability, age, mental health, socioeconomic status, housing status or geographic location.

In delivering the LGBTIQA+ Action Plan, it is important that our actions recognise the vastly different experiences of people within LGBTIQA+ communities. The City of Hobart's actions within this area must not only contribute to increasing the broader community's understanding of LGBTIQA+ life, aspirations and needs, but must have a direct and real impact on the quality of people's lived experience.

The emphasis on collaboration with other organisations and community members supports a comprehensive approach to implementing the City of Hobart LGBTIQA+ Action Plan, and the action and strategic plans of other organisations. By involving voices from marginalised segments like LGBTIQA+ people of colour, and trans and gender diverse individuals, we aim to enhance visibility and representation while addressing the discrimination these groups may face.

Moreover, the commitment to minimising discrimination and maximising opportunities underscores a proactive stance in creating a supportive environment for all LGBTIQA+ residents. This approach not only aims to improve the quality of life for LGBTIQA+ individuals, but to also contribute to a more inclusive and diverse community overall.

## WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

The LGBTIQA+ actions have been developed in consultation with representatives from the various LGBTIQA+ and allies' networks, individual stakeholders and staff who all directly and indirectly associate with the LGBTIQA+ communities.

The City of Hobart will continue to strengthen existing partnerships and seek to build new collaborations with key government agencies and other community stakeholders toward the aspiration of everyone in our community feeling welcomed, respected, included and most importantly, safe.

The City of Hobart will continue to draw on the lived experience and skills of our reference groups to help guide program planning and delivery of projects. The input of lived experience and community groups is integral to our work, providing unique advice and perspective to support action delivery and strategic focus.

With this in mind the City of Hobart LGBTIQA+ Reference Group will focus on identifying, supporting and helping to deliver initiatives that focus on social inclusion, assist with community engagement as well as providing insights and recognising opportunities on issues such as:

- Discrimination and stigma.
- Resilience and pride.
- Empowerment and voice.

Consisting of a diverse range of community members with diverse life and professional experience, the LGBTIQA+ Reference Group will provide the City of Hobart with an ongoing consultative group that guides, questions and suggests ways of addressing issues for the queer communities.

The City of Hobart will deliver on these priorities through a variety of projects, initiatives and partnerships, as identified in the following actions. This work aligns with a range of strategies, commitments and plans across the organisation.

We are proud the City of Hobart celebrates the contributions that LGBTQIA+ individuals and communities make to the life of our city. The actions we have identified within this document aim to demonstrate how we will continue to support these communities to be proud, visible and responsive to challenges.



## LGBTIQA+ ACTIONS

Action	Measure	Timeframe
Monitor trends and maintain a broad understanding of the concerns of LGBTIQA+ people and their communities, proactively addressing issues	Number and diversity of workshops, forums and events that increase social connection and communication.	ONGOING
Celebrate and support the TasPride Festival each year through community promotion, delivering and supporting public events.	Delivery of the TasPride launch at Town Hall. Elements of support provided to the festival.	ONGOING
Foster and promote the Youth Arts and Recreation Centre (Youth ARC) as a proudly inclusive venue for young LGBTIQA+ people by creating opportunities to highlight their skills and talents.	Number of youth led opportunities provided.	ONGOING
Promote and provide opportunities for LGBTIQA+ artists to exhibit their creative practice, celebrate community pride and highlight concerns through public art.	Opportunities to exhibit and promote work by LGBTIQA+ artists and creative producers.	ONGOING
Recognise and celebrate specific LGBTIQA+ local, national and international days in collaboration with communities and the sector and support and deliver events, forums, workshops, information sessions or other awareness raising projects.	Opportunities to display relevant community flags outside council buildings. Number and diversity of workshops, forums and events.	ONGOING
Facilitate the City of Hobart LGBTIQA+ Reference Group to oversee the implementation of the LGBTIQA+ actions, support the delivery of projects and advise Council on the aspirations and concerns of LGBTIQA+ communities.	Number of meetings per year, number and diversity of LGBTIQA+ members and organisations involved.	QUARTERLY
Coordinate City of Hobart participation of staff and elected members in the TasPride Parade and other LGBTIQA+ events and programs.	Number of staff, elected members and volunteers attending the parade.	ANNUALLY
Include LGBTIQA+ communities in the Hobart Respects All initiative to celebrate achievement and diversity as well as raising awareness of harassment, discrimination and violence towards LGBTIQA+ community members.	Number of opportunities to connect LGBTIQA+ Reference Group to HRH activities. Number of opportunities to promote research on LGBTIQA+ harassment.	ANNUALLY

Action	Measure	Timeframe
Explore opportunities to highlight and celebrate the history, diversity and lived experience of LGBTIQA+ community members.	Number of opportunities to connect LGBTIQA+ history groups, including in collaboration with State Government. LGBTIQA+ history included in broader history projects.	ONGOING
Review and monitor consistent improvements to City of Hobart publications and online platforms, to promote inclusive and equitable gender diversity and pronoun recognition.	Monitor and report on improvements to City of Hobart forms and communications.	ONGOING
Work with LGBTIQA+ communities, Tasmania Police and Office of the Anti-Discrimination Commissioner to promote existing reporting mechanisms and identify and address barriers to the reporting of hate crimes experienced by LGBTIQA+ people.	Number and diversity of workshops, forums, events, and publications promoting reporting mechanisms.	ONGOING
Ensure Mathers House and the Still Gardening program actively encourage and offer participation opportunities for LGBTIQA+ community members and volunteers aged 50+.	Number of promotions undertaken offering opportunities to connect HOPRG and LGBTIQA+ groups with other older persons reference groups and/or networks.	ANNUALLY
Working with the local sector, provide inclusion and equity training for City of Hobart employees and elected members that highlights the lived experience of trans and gender diverse community.	Number of staff and elected members that participated in training.	ONGOING
Identify and address barriers to LGBTIQA+ people participating fully in community life and the use of public spaces and City of Hobart venues, with the aim of reducing social isolation.	Number of City of Hobart venues reviewed and barriers removed.	ONGOING
Coordinate the City of Hobart LGBTIQA+ and allies employee network to enhance workplace inclusion to strengthen the City of Hobart as an employer of choice.	Numbers of meetings, number and diversity of membership and opportunities to improve workplace culture.	ONGOING
Acknowledge and support LGBTIQA+ Domestic Violence Awareness Day, identifying opportunities to promote awareness of, and advocate support for, LGBTIQA+ people experiencing intimate partner violence.	Opportunities to promote awareness and increase community understanding internally and externally.	ONGOING

## YOUTH PROGRAMS – WHAT WE HEARD



The City of Hobart is committed to providing young people from a diverse range of backgrounds and experiences with opportunities to thrive, participate, develop, connect and reach their aspirations.

Adolescence and the transition to adulthood can be a challenging time for young people, their families and their community. This plan celebrates the role young people play in a healthy and thriving community and keeps future generations at the heart of our thinking.

**Safe, Social Spaces** - Young people regularly remind us of the importance of having safe and engaging spaces in the city to hang out and relax with friends, and to make social connections with young people outside their existing social groups and networks. These spaces need to continue to offer access to empowering activities, food and accessible, supportive mentors. Young people also identify the need for more known and accessible recreational, arts and cultural activities in Hobart.

**Employment, Education and Work Experience** - Work is an important way for young people to achieve a number of important milestones, including financial and emotional independence. Many young people are seeking alternative educational opportunities, such as apprenticeships and traineeships, with the hope of becoming job-ready and able to transition into adulthood and independence. Young people are also seeking relevant volunteering experiences to develop employment skills and real world exposure to workplaces.

**Support for Diverse Young People** - Hobart is a diverse city with young people hyper-aware of diversity, the variety of ways of being and expressing oneself and how diversity leads to differing support needs.

Young people who are new to Hobart need opportunities and support to increase their networks and make connections with other young people. Our Youth Arts and Recreation Centre (Youth ARC) provides opportunities to engage in the community in a safe, meaningful way, and to have their identity respected and celebrated. The need to have separate activities within the youth age group was identified as they are not a homogenous group and they see great differences in need and support requirements between those aged 12-14, 15-18 and those over 18.

**Voice and Participation** - Young people and the sector emphasised the importance of ongoing, meaningful engagement at all levels of decision making processes. Young people are incredible advocates, with innovative ways of seeing the world. To maintain strong engagement, they need to see their words being reflected back to them in action. Young people want to be involved in identifying key challenges and opportunities for positive action and change.

**Advocacy on Key Issues** - The key challenges for young people today were identified as: mental health, public transport, sustainability, employment and education. There is a rise in young people facing mental illness and concern about the lack of appropriate services to support them. Although these challenges extend outside the City of Hobart's scope of influence, it was noted they are key areas for advocating for more reliable and accessible services.

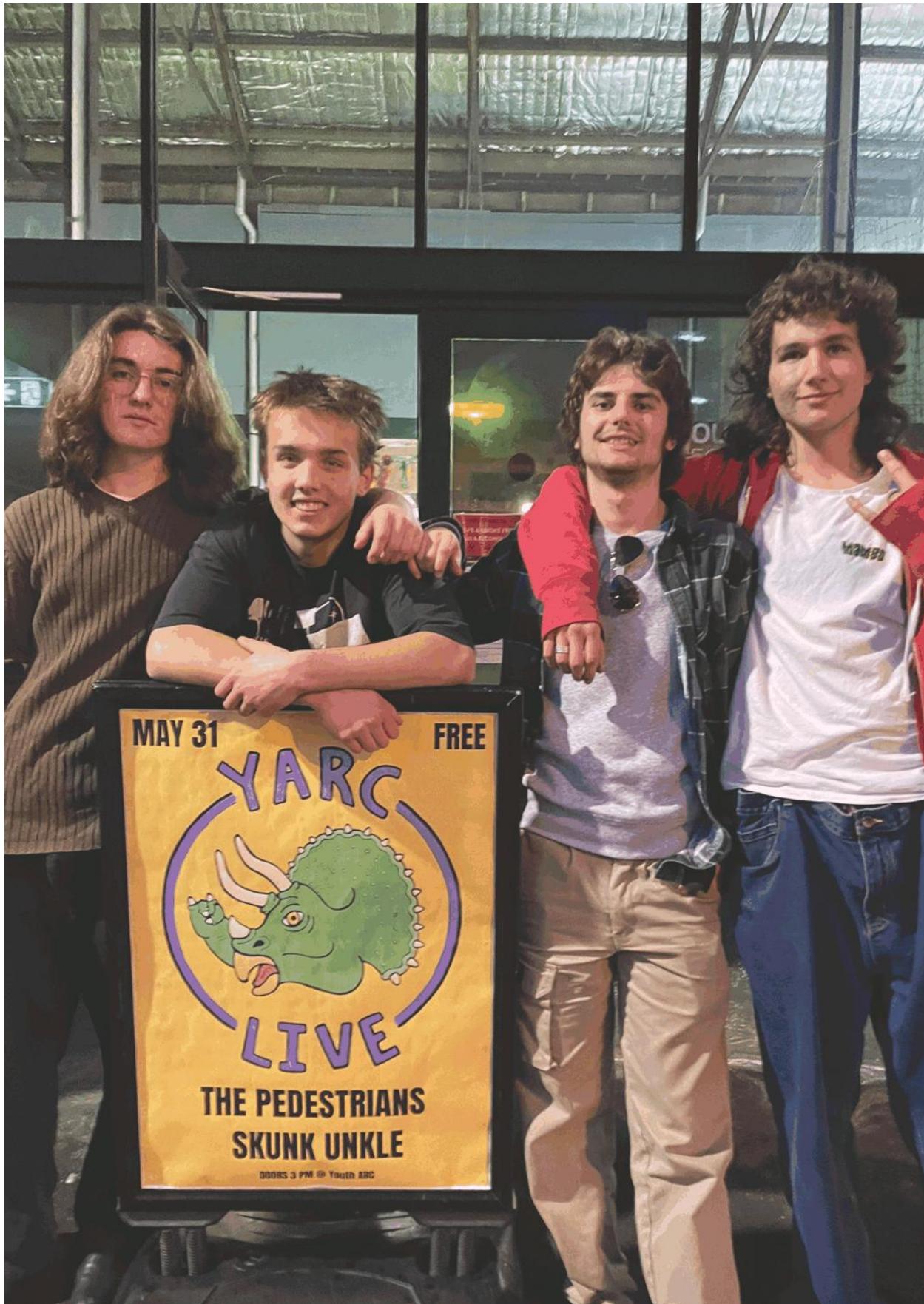
## WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP



The youth program actions have been developed in response to aspirations of young people, our community and targeted consultation and research. This resulted in the development of detailed actions that help us build an equitable and inclusive community.

**Youth Advisory Squad (YAS)** is a diverse group of young people who meet regularly to provide input into the delivery of the action plan and highlight key trends and concerns for young people more broadly. The squad was highly involved in the development of the Action Plan and will provide oversight of reporting and review.

**Youth Action Priorities (YAP) Network** is comprised of a number of southern youth sector representatives. The network provides advice and guidance to the City of Hobart on a range of issues relating to young people, giving direct input into the delivery and review of the Youth Commitment and supporting employees to track progress. Customer feedback and project specific consultation is drawn upon by youth program employees to understand the experiences and needs of Youth ARC users and young people in public space. Employees also ensure regular communication with key stakeholders to review progress and hear feedback.



## YOUTH PROGRAMS ACTIONS

Action	Measure	Timeframe
Continue to improve and maintain the Youth Arts and Recreation Centre (YouthARC) as a safe, social and vibrant place for young people through the Open Access Program.	Number of youth participants with demographics.	ONGOING
Support creative and community programs by enabling the hire of facilities at the Youth ARC to business, community organisations and individuals.	Number of external hires.	ONGOING
Provide opportunities for young people to get involved in events and activities that develop and showcase their skills and talents – opportunities such as <i>Platform</i> youth culture magazine, podcast series, art exhibitions, music performances (YARC Live) and events.	Number and diversity of events, projects and forums showcasing skills and talents.	ONGOING
Engage regularly with young people in public spaces and through local services to understand their needs and aspirations and support their positive engagement in the life of the city.	Number and diversity of young people engaged.	ONGOING
Proactively outreach with schools to showcase YouthARC and invite youth to engage with and participate in Open Access and programs.	Number of schools connected with.	ONGOING
Facilitate networking opportunities for the southern youth sector to connect, share issues, ideas and collaborate on activities. Support the youth sector and youth workers to advocate for and take action on issues relating to young people in Hobart.	Number of Youth Action Priorities (YAP) meetings.	QUARTERLY
Maintain a broad understanding of the needs and issues for families, children and young people in Hobart. Ensure these needs are taken into account when developing strategies to enhance Hobart as an inclusive and equitable city for young people.	Documentation of needs and issues for families, children and young people in Hobart.	ONGOING

Action	Measure	Timeframe
Provide leadership and development opportunities for young people through the Youth Advisory Squad and support collaboration with other regional youth reference groups.	Number, ages and diversity of Youth Advisory Squad participants. Opportunities to engage with other regional youth reference groups.	ONGOING
Develop and deliver a variety of skill development programs and projects to encourage young people to test, try and learn creative, cultural, employability and life skills.	Number and diversity of skill development programs offered.	ONGOING
Build partnerships with young Palawa community members to create a culturally safe Youth ARC for Aboriginal young people and provide opportunities for non aboriginal young people to learn more about Aboriginal culture.	Number of partnerships created. Number of non aboriginal young people provided opportunities to learn more about Aboriginal culture.	ONGOING
Advocate for the needs and aspirations of children and young people at other levels of government and the community service sector. Include advocacy on key issues such as transport, mental health, sustainability and education.	Documentation of advocacy at other levels of government.	ONGOING
Design and trial tailored programs and partnerships to increase participation of and support for the diversity of young people, including new Australians, young people with disabilities and LGBTIQA+ young people to reduce the impacts of isolation, discrimination and harassment.	Number of programs and partnerships developed with young new Australians, young people with disabilities and LGBTIQA+ young people.	ONGOING
Deliver recreational programs outside that nurture young people's connection with the natural environment, sky, land and waterways.	Number and diversity of outside recreational programs.	ANNUALLY
Deliver free and low cost events and participation opportunities outside of YouthARC including twilight events.	Number and diversity of external events and activations delivered.	ANNUALLY

## MULTICULTURAL PROGRAMS – WHAT WE HEARD



Hobart has a rich, diverse history stretching back more than 40 000 years. Tasmanian Aboriginal People were the first to care for this place, Nipaluna. Today, more than one-quarter of people in Hobart were born overseas, almost half of us have at least one parent born overseas and one in six of us speak a language other than English at home.

The cultural diversity of Hobart has changed significantly in recent times, particularly through migration, humanitarian settlement and international education. These changes bring opportunity, growth, insight and vibrancy to our city. This requires us to adapt and respond to ensure no one is left behind. The City of Hobart continually strives to improve the wider community's awareness and understanding of the educational, social, economic and cultural benefits of cultural diversity and to mitigate the effects of racism and cultural isolation for multicultural communities in Hobart.

The following themes were identified as needing attention to allow greater inclusion and equity for multicultural community members and groups living in, studying in, working in or visiting the City of Hobart. Many people from a culturally and/or linguistically diverse background have shared their love for the city, the helpfulness they have experienced from others and the sense of welcome they feel. Despite the many positives, there remain a number of challenges that multicultural communities in Hobart face.

**Social Cohesion and Inclusion**

– Challenges to social cohesion include social isolation, perceived cultural differences and a lack of broader community appreciation and understanding of people from diverse backgrounds. These challenges can be overcome through culturally safe, responsive and accessible events that allow different groups to come together.

**Accessibility to Information** – There was repeated feedback that information targeting multicultural community members is not always accessible and those who need the information most often do not receive it. Barriers to access include lack of English proficiency, low general literacy in any language and low digital literacy.

**Empowerment** – Community members look to the City of Hobart to support multicultural people and groups to take charge of their own development in accordance with a vision they set for themselves. Key factors seen to support this include the provision of opportunities to participate – be it through employment, work experience, access to grant funding, volunteering, or social interaction.

It was seen as critical to provide tailored support for participation such as: transport assistance; friendly reminders; personalised grant information; and having activity organisers from target communities.

Additionally, community members identified the need for more physical and social spaces for multicultural people to interact with their own communities and other cultural groups. Participants wanted to see decentralised spaces to maximise participation and collaboration in the planning of activities between Greater Hobart councils.

**Racism and Discrimination** – Racism and discrimination continue to negatively impact multicultural communities in various ways and to various degrees. Racism and discrimination can be tackled through facilitating courageous conversations – raising awareness about direct and indirect forms of racism in the community and their impacts; developing organisational policies to prevent the more subtle and structural forms of racism; and educating community about their rights with regards to anti-discrimination law. Community members

also highlighted the need for authorities to be educated about the prevalence and impacts of racism and how to appropriately and compassionately engage with victims of racism.

## WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

### **Networking for Harmony Multicultural Advisory Group**

This group has a long history of supporting the City of Hobart's work in multicultural inclusion, having provided advice and perspective and partnering actively on projects for decades. The Networking for Harmony Multicultural Advisory Group comprises representatives from: Australian, Tasmanian and local government; multicultural and humanitarian sectors; various cultural groups and associations; City of Hobart International Student Ambassadors and any individual interested in working to promote harmony across cultural groups.



## MULTICULTURAL ACTIONS

Action	Measure	Timeframe
Facilitate the Networking for Harmony Multicultural Advisory Group, and working groups, for information sharing, networking, feedback to the City of Hobart and safe community conversations.	Number of meetings per year, number and diversity of Networking for Harmony members.	ONGOING
Deliver annually the City's International Student Ambassador Program to provide participation, leadership and access opportunities for international students.	Number of Student Ambassadors and projects undertaken.	ONGOING
Deliver citizenship ceremonies for members of the Hobart community, including inviting International Student Ambassadors to take part in the event and sharing information and resources.	Number of ceremonies held. Number of new citizens conferred.	ONGOING
Partner and directly deliver community and cross-cultural events that celebrate diversity and provide an opportunity for community groups to connect and share.	Number and diversity of events that celebrate diversity.	ONGOING
Continue to develop and enhance content available on the City's website for multicultural programs and promote culturally significant dates to raise awareness and knowledge.	Number and diversity of events and significant dates promoted.	ONGOING
Monitor trends and foster local networks to maintain a broad understanding of the needs of multicultural communities in Hobart, responding to issues as they arise, advocating for needs and working to build a more inclusive city.	Documentation of needs of multicultural communities and number of local contacts.	ONGOING
Collect and analyse demographic data to determine the cultural, religious and linguistic composition of the local community.	Documentation of demographic data.	ONGOING
Continue to provide support to increase diverse representation in publications and communications produced by the City including considering the inclusion of QR codes on signage to support language translation.	Opportunities to increase diverse representation within our publications, communications and signage.	ONGOING

Action	Measure	Timeframe
Advocate for and support community messaging about racism. Continue to promote Hobart Respects All and anti-racism campaigns such as WeSTAR.	Opportunities to advocate and support anti-racism projects and Hobart Respects All.	ONGOING
In partnership with the Office of the Anti-Discrimination Commissioner, continue to deliver tailored information sessions about anti-discrimination law and the importance of reporting racism, for Hobart's cultural groups.	Number of tailored information sessions delivered in partnership with Office of the Anti-Discrimination Commissioner.	ONGOING
Encourage continuous improvement across the organisation, using the Social Inclusion Policy to reduce the risk of discrimination within our scope of influence.	Monitoring and documentation of continuous improvement in addressing discrimination issues internally.	ONGOING
Continue to participate in the Welcoming Cities network and progress against the National Standard, including applying for accreditation as an established level Welcoming City.	Number of network activities participated in. Application for Establishment Level submitted.	ONGOING
Actively participate in the We Stand Against Racism multi-council anti-racism campaign and activities.	Number of meetings and events attended and supported	ONGOING
Facilitate working groups that are formed through the Networking for Harmony Multicultural Advisory Group.	Number of working groups formed and meetings held.	ONGOING
Deliver an event/project in conjunction with Networking for Harmony to acknowledge International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.	Number of people attending event/program.	ANNUALLY

## HOMELESSNESS – WHAT WE HEARD



The actions identified for this area follow on from the work undertaken by the City of Hobart through the implementation of the Housing and Homelessness Strategy 2016-2019 and the Affordable Housing and Homelessness Commitment 2021-2023.

The affordable housing actions contained within previous documents have been included in the Hobart Housing Action Plan.

With that in mind, the feedback received when developing our homelessness actions was overwhelmingly that we should continue to build on the success of our previous work. The City of Hobart will continue to play a significant role in identifying and responding to relevant issues in close collaboration with the specialist homelessness sector and people with a lived experience of homelessness and housing stress.

The engagement process identified ongoing and emerging issues within these areas and resulted in short and long-term actions for us to deliver, with consideration given to our roles and resources. Opportunities for collaboration with other sectors, government agencies and peak bodies were seen as a high priority, as were actions that had a direct impact on the wellbeing and accommodation options for people experiencing homelessness.

**Key issues identified by the sector and community include:**

- The City of Hobart focusing resources on promoting and supporting specialist homelessness organisations and services to address the increase in all levels of homelessness within Hobart.
- The City coordinating and increasing resourcing to maximise the impact of identified actions on homelessness and housing stress within Hobart.

- The City working with peak bodies and the specialist homelessness sector to increase communication and collaboration, maximise shared resources to deliver identified actions.

- The City raising the community's awareness of the complexity of issues impacting on people experiencing homelessness and increasing support for the full range of programs to address these.

The homelessness sector and people with a lived experience of homelessness acknowledge that the City of Hobart is not involved in the delivery of services to directly address homelessness. It does play a vital role, however, in connecting with other cities locally and interstate, sharing information and resources, advocating for positive change at all levels of government, networking and connecting the local sector as well as supporting grassroots groups to meet their goals in addressing homelessness.

The City's biggest resource in this area is our people, with the impacts of homelessness on our community being addressed by different areas of the organisation in many ways. This impact involves staff working in compliance, community programs, cleansing, open space management and communications. To this end one of the key focus areas for the organisation in the delivery of all of the actions identified within this area will be internal coordination and more thorough and systematic documentation of relevant issues and responses.

## WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

The City of Hobart continues to build on existing partnerships while creating new strategic partnerships to enable cohesive, collaborative responses to local challenges. We are committed to being transparent and accountable in the delivery of the homelessness actions. We look to our community to guide us and provide feedback to strengthen our approach and delivery over time.

The actions within this program area have the potential to include a number of marginalised communities, and many will have relevance to a number of our other community reference groups. This may include the Access Advisory Committee, the Hobart Older Person's Reference Group, the Youth Advisory Squad, LQBTIQA+ Reference Group and the Networking for Harmony Multicultural Reference Group.

With the above in mind, the governance and review of the action plan will directly involve the following specific reference groups:

**The Greater Hobart Homelessness Alliance** is chaired by an elected member of the Hobart City Council, the Greater Hobart Homelessness Alliance (GHHA) provides a forum for collaboration, information sharing and partnership between Greater Hobart housing and homelessness sector stakeholders. While the alliance is focused on improving policy, practice and service delivery to achieve better long-term outcomes for people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, it also has a role in ensuring any local work the City of Hobart is involved in supports and adds value to work being undertaken at a regional level.

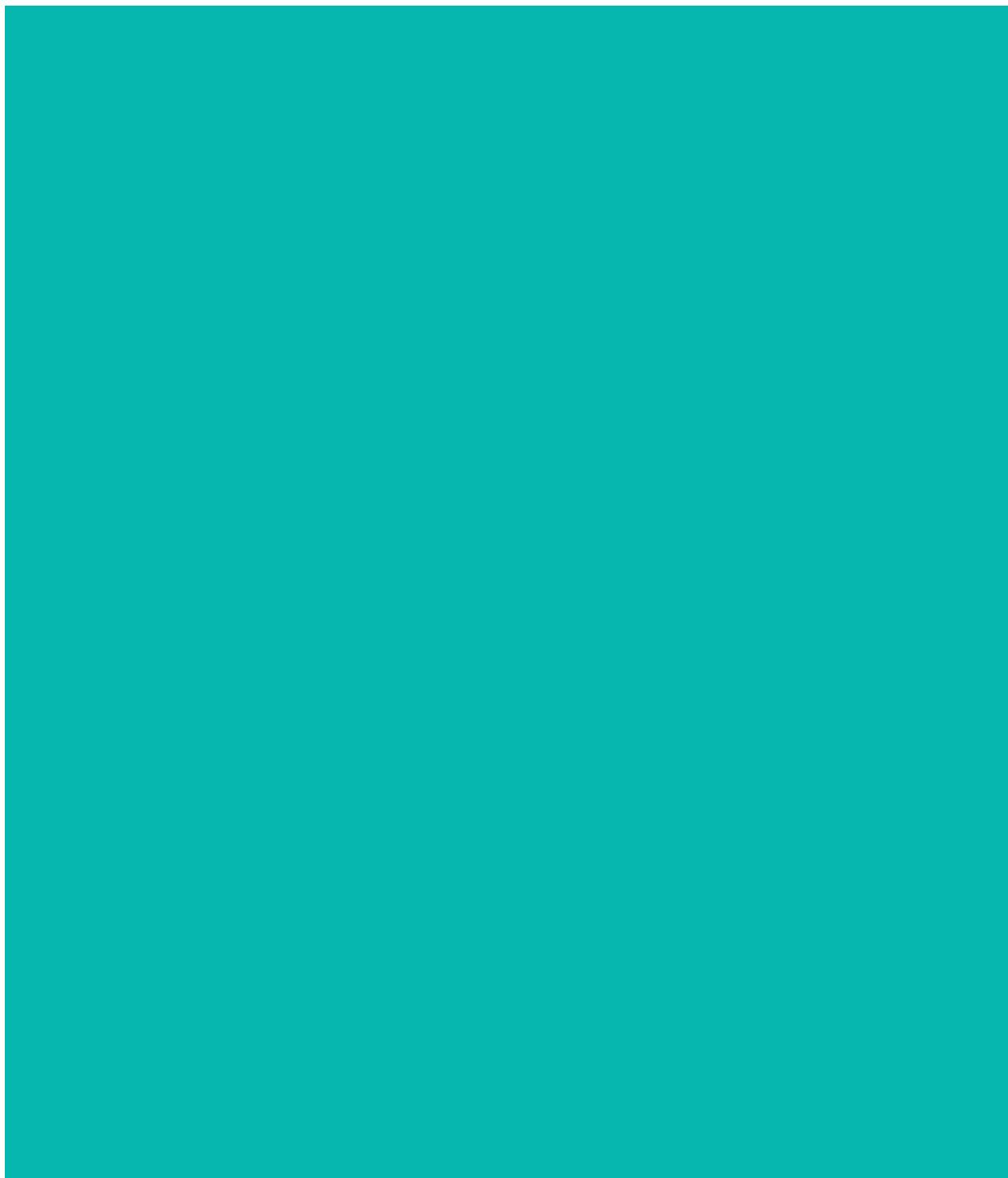
**The Housing with Dignity reference group** is made up of people with a lived experience of housing stress and/or homelessness that are passionate about making a change. Members meet bi-monthly to discuss homelessness issues in and around Hobart. The group includes City of Hobart employees and Hobart City Council elected members. Members are also involved in assisting staff with the delivery of projects that help raise community awareness and that have a practical outcome for people experiencing homelessness.



## HOMELESSNESS ACTIONS

Action	Measure	Timeframe
Coordinate the Housing With Dignity Reference Group (HWDRG) to provide lived expertise to the Council on policy and strategy and helps identify and progress initiatives that address homelessness issues within Hobart.	Number of meetings per year, number and diversity of HWDRG members.	BI-MONTLY
Deliver and support projects, workshops, exhibitions, forums or events, such as I Am Somebody and Songs from the Street, within Homelessness Week or Anti-Poverty Week.	Number and diversity workshops, programs and events delivered and supported as part of Homelessness Week.	ANNUALLY
Provide free venue use at Mathers House and Criterion House to community-initiated services, such as: Food Not Bombs; Dining with Friends; Pets in the Park; Circle of Love and Care; and Mutual Aid Kitchen, which support community members in need.	Number of grassroots organisations supported.	ONGOING
Provide resources or training to support City of Hobart staff interacting or working with people experiencing all forms of homelessness or housing stress.	Number of our staff participating in training or provided with resources.	ONGOING
Advocate for funding to continue the delivery of the Health with Dignity project, in partnership with The Salvation Army and local general practice, to provide free medical appointments to people in extreme need.	Advocacy undertaken.	ONGOING
Provide information to individuals in need, the broader community and the sector about local homelessness, health and social support services within Hobart through the provision of the Hobart Helps Card.	Number of cards distributed; diversity of service provider information included in the card.	ONGOING
Maintain a dedicated homeless initiative budget to support 'on the ground' homelessness initiatives and projects such as emergency back packs, recharge stations, or lockers etc.	Number and diversity of initiatives supported.	ANNUALLY
Participate in Specialist Homelessness Services Southern Forum to collect and compare data, network, share information and develop initiatives that address homelessness within southern Tasmania.	Participation in relevant networks.	ONGOING

Action	Measure	Timeframe
Provide and promote appropriate public infrastructure that supports all community members, particularly those in need, such as showers, water bubblers/refill stations, power points and Wi-Fi hot spots, and identify opportunities for inclusion of additional facilities in any new City of Hobart development.	Number of facilities provided.	ONGOING
Actively participate on the Council of Capital City Lord Mayors (CCCLM) Housing and Homelessness Working Group to raise awareness and address homelessness issues identified across other capital cities.	Participation in number of meetings per year.	QUARTERLY
Promote and support community services, programs and venues managed and delivered by the community sector that support individuals experiencing homelessness, such as Street to Home and Safe Space.	Opportunities to promote and support identified Homelessness services.	ONGOING
Engage with Southern Tasmanian councils, the Tasmanian Government and sector representatives through the Greater Hobart Homelessness Alliance (GHHA) to share resources, coordinate responses and address homelessness issues across Greater Hobart.	Number of meetings per year, number and diversity of GHHA members.	QUARTERLY
Increase community awareness of actions that can assist with lowering the cost of accommodation such as measures to reduce energy consumption and/or increase energy efficiency.	Opportunities to increase community awareness and ability to act.	
Work with local and national educational and research institutions and organisations to participate in and promote research and awareness raising that has a positive impact on the delivery of local services, increasing the community's understanding of homelessness.	Opportunities to participate in and support research.	
Establish an internal City of Hobart Homelessness Working Group to ensure effective and supportive management of homelessness issues within the organisation.	Establishment of working group and number of cross divisional meetings.	ONGOING
Develop a homelessness protocol document to guide our response to people without a home sleeping rough in public spaces.	Development and implementation of homelessness protocol.	ONGOING



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# HOBART: A CITY FOR ALL

Community Inclusion and Equity Framework



City of **HOBART**



## CONTENTS

Acknowledgment	4
Social Inclusion Policy Statement	5
What Does it Mean to be A City for All?	6
Our Organisation	8
The Framework	10
Community Input	12
Guiding Principles	14
The City's Role in Creating a City for All	16
Priority Area 1 – Truth and Reconciliation	18
Priority Area 2 – Participation and Access	20
Priority Area 3 – Wellbeing and Knowledge	22
Priority Area 4 – Safety and Resilience	24
Governance and Accountability	27

Image Credits: Alastair Bett, Jillian Mundy, Amy Brown, Matthew Qin and Graziano DiMartino.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We acknowledge the Muwinina people as the traditional custodians of nипалуна (Hobart).

The Muwinina people were part of the South East nation. They lived on and cared for this land for more than 40 000 years and had a deep understanding of the land and the seasons. They had access to both fresh water and salt water resources and used fire to manage their land. The landscape still bears the mark of the Muwinina people, with significant middens found all along тимтумили миняна (the Derwent River).

As a direct result of invasion and war, there are no Muwinina people left alive today. In their absence we acknowledge Tasmanian Aboriginal people, the Palawa people, as the ongoing custodians of this land. Palawa people are the survivors, continuing the culture and stories of their old people and striving for rights and recognition. We acknowledge their incredible determination and resilience.

We recognise that we have much to learn from Aboriginal people, whose culture and identity have been intertwined with this land and sea for millennia. We pay our deepest respects to Elders past and present and to all Aboriginal people living in and around Hobart today.



## SOCIAL INCLUSION POLICY STATEMENT

### THE FOLLOWING POLICY STATEMENT WAS FORMALLY ADOPTED BY COUNCIL IN OCTOBER 2020

In alignment with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Council recognises the fundamental right of every individual to participate socially, culturally, economically, physically, spiritually and politically in society.

The Council acknowledges that each member of the community has their own set of strengths, skills and resources and that the contribution of these is of benefit to the whole community.

The Council recognises that not everyone's experience of our community is the same.

We acknowledge the systemic barriers within the built, social and information environment that prevent people from thriving and contributing to society. Barriers include lack of employment opportunities, poverty, low literacy and numeracy, ill health, intimate and family violence, inadequate support services, stigma and discrimination and lack of housing affordability. These are challenges which the Council is committed to addressing through advocacy, partnership and direct action.

Council commits to building social inclusion and actively reducing discrimination on the ground of any attribute listed under section 16 of the Anti-Discrimination Act 1998. The Council commits to social inclusion and compliance with relevant anti-discrimination legislation in all aspects of council operations including strategic planning, service delivery, communications and design and delivery of public spaces.



## WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE 'A CITY FOR ALL'?

### THE CITY OF HOBART MISSION:

Working together to make Hobart a better place for the community

To truly become a city for all, we must work towards inclusion and equity for all who live, work or play in Hobart. We recognise systemic exclusion, discrimination and inequity in our city and understand that this demands systemic and structural solutions.

We acknowledge that everyone's experience of our community is different. We work closely with those who face additional barriers to participation, including Aboriginal people, children and young people, people experiencing homelessness, LGBTIQ+ communities, multicultural communities, older people and people with disability.

It is a complex task to build a city for all. We all have a role to play. Local government is the level of government with the closest and most direct connection with the community. We are caretakers of the environments in which people live, work and recreate and, as such, we have a responsibility to ensure that these environments benefit the whole community.

We cannot do this work alone. We rely on our partners in the community sector, business, government and the wider community to play their part.

In direct response to all that we have heard from our community, we see the following eight factors as important as we work towards a city for all:



**TRUTH** We acknowledge the truth of our history in this place.



**RECONCILIATION** We walk together with Aboriginal people toward shared goals.



**PARTICIPATION** Everyone feels welcome, valued and heard and has opportunities to participate.



**ACCESS** Everyone can get where they want to go with ease and can access the information they need.



**WELLBEING** Spaces, services and communities support physical and mental wellbeing.



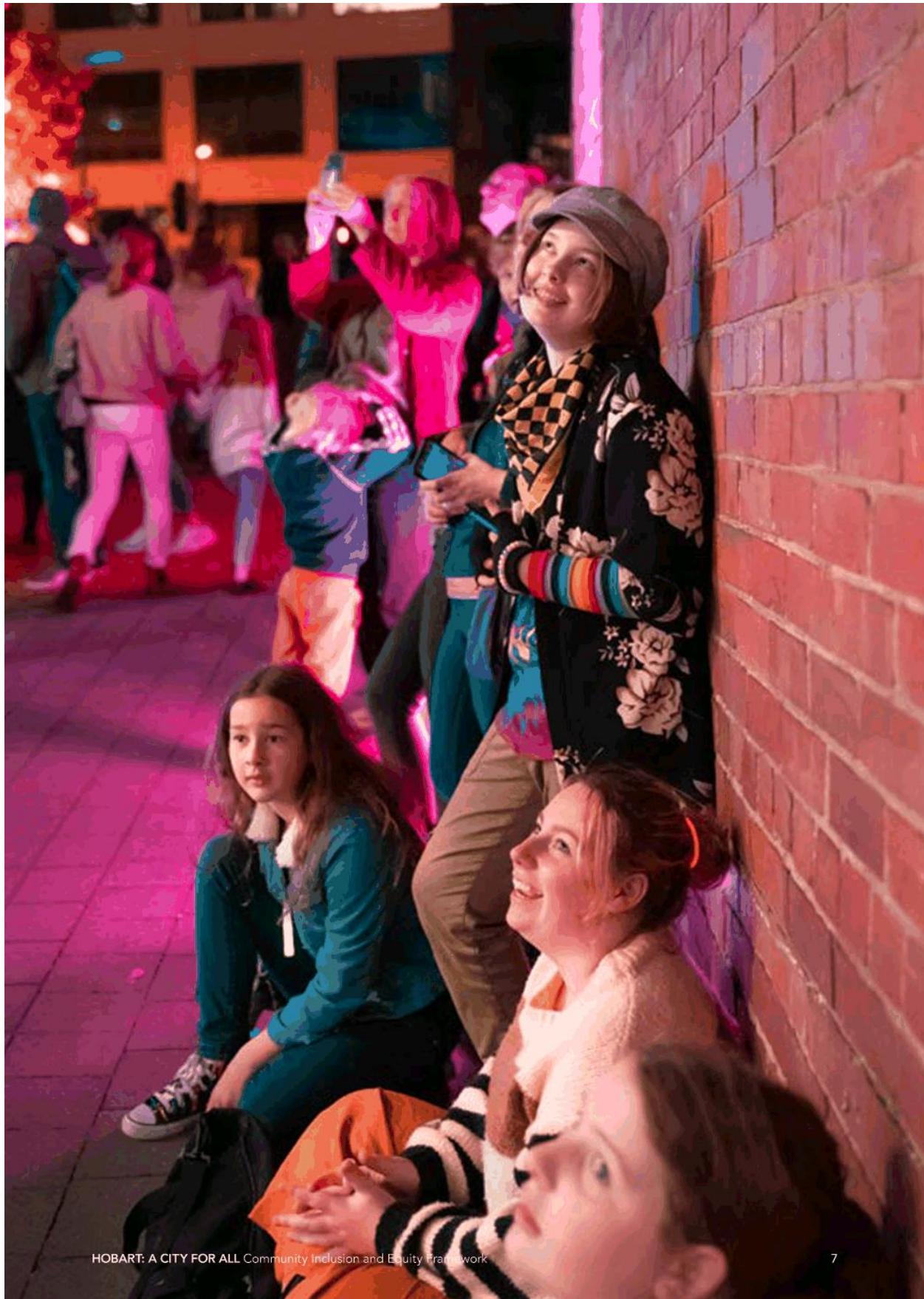
**KNOWLEDGE** Everyone has opportunities to engage in learning and has the capacity and skills to influence change.



**SAFETY** Everyone feels safe and secure and can meet their basic needs.



**RESILIENCE** Everyone supports each other and is prepared for crises.





## OUR ORGANISATION

The City of Hobart commits to building strong and healthy communities through promoting diversity, participation and empathy, and achieving good quality development and urban management through good governance at a regional and community level. Our work is guided by our community through Hobart: A community vision for our island capital and the Capital City Strategic Plan 2019-29.

### **HOBART: A COMMUNITY VISION FOR OUR ISLAND CAPITAL**

Hobart: A community vision for our island capital was developed in collaboration with Hobart communities and stakeholders and outlines what people value about Hobart today and what they would like for Hobart's future.

The vision has eight pillars that represent aspects of city life:

- Pillar 1: Sense of place
- Pillar 2: Community inclusion, participation and belonging
- Pillar 3: Creativity and culture
- Pillar 4: City economies
- Pillar 5: Movement and connectivity
- Pillar 6: Natural environment
- Pillar 7: Built environment
- Pillar 8: Governance and civic involvement

### **CAPITAL CITY STRATEGIC PLAN 2019-29**

The strategic plan is the City of Hobart's primary planning document and responds directly to the community vision. The strategic plan outlines the outcomes the City aims to achieve over a 10-year period with strategies that relate to the eight pillars listed above.

### **SOCIAL INCLUSION POLICY**

The Social Inclusion Policy was first adopted by the Council on 12 October 2020. It provides formal guidance for the organisation in supporting social inclusion and reducing the risk of discrimination and exclusion. The policy outlines the City's legal and social responsibilities and informs this framework through the policy statement (page 5) and guiding principles (page 16).

## THE FRAMEWORK

The Community Inclusion and Equity Framework (the framework) has been designed to:

- support and enhance the delivery of community outcomes across the organisation
- provide context about the role the City plays in creating a city for all
- provide background information on the challenges our community face
- outline our approach and tools for delivering outcomes.

The framework flows directly from the community vision and strategic plan with a focus on the outcomes under Pillar 2: Community inclusion, participation and belonging. These outcomes can be summarised as:

- Truth and Reconciliation
- Participation and Access
- Wellbeing and Knowledge
- Safety and Resilience.

### DELIVERING ON THE FRAMEWORK:

Creating a city for all is a long-term and complex task. We rely on our community partners, other levels of government and the general public to work together with us.

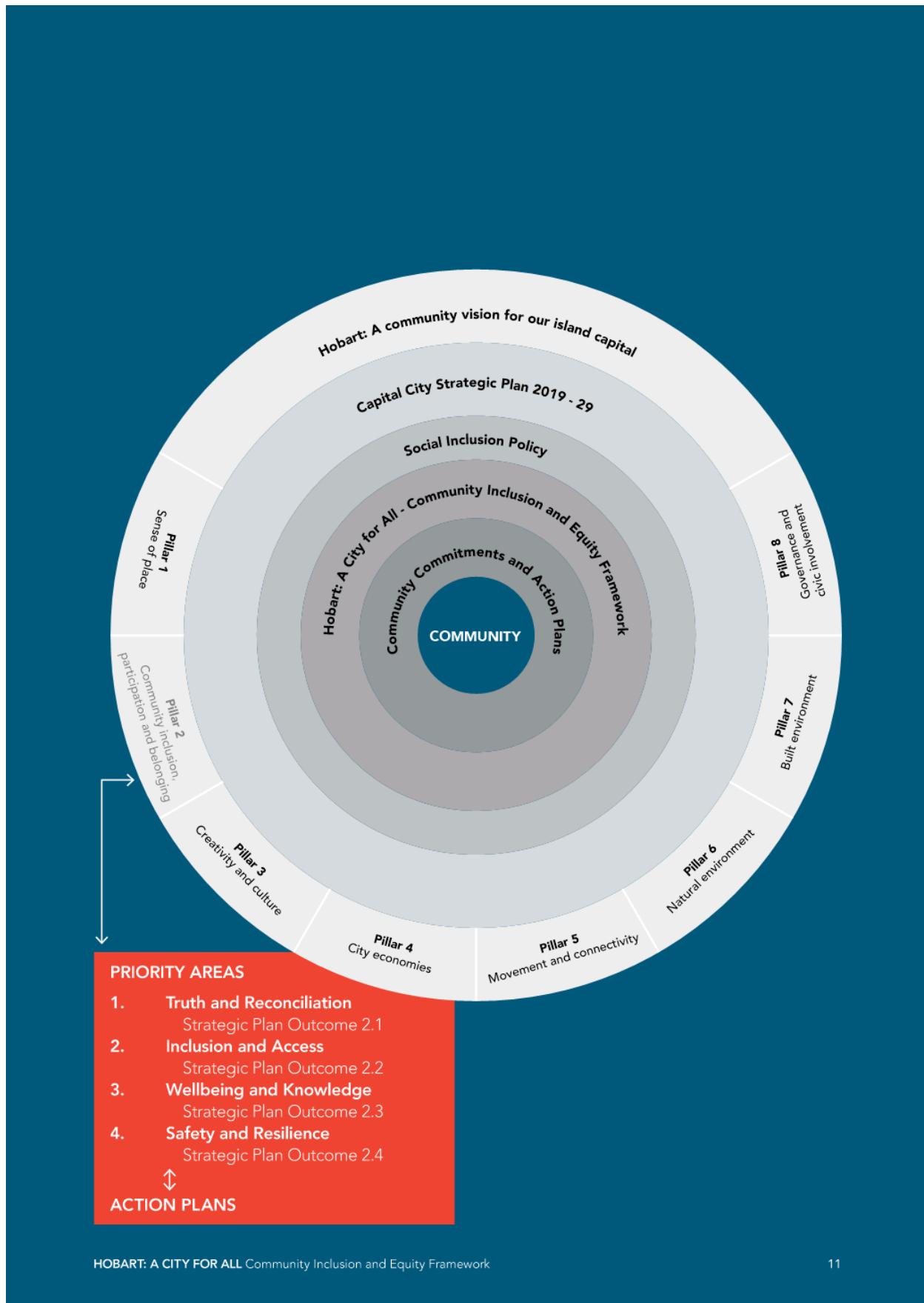
At the City of Hobart, creating an equitable and inclusive community is a core part of our work. We deliver on these priorities through a variety of projects, initiatives and partnerships. This work is outlined in a range of strategies and plans across the organisation, for example:

- Creative Hobart includes strategies to support expressions of diversity and of Aboriginal cultural identity.
- The Connected Hobart Smart City Action Plan includes projects on Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED), technology ethics and citizen science

- The City's Street Tree Strategy outlines the mental health, physical health and social benefits of urban tree cover.

The City's Community Life Division, in particular the Community and Culture Unit, specifically works on inclusion and equity. This work is supported by several community plans that provide specific direction and actions for program areas. The following documents provide detailed action plans to support the delivery of the Community Inclusion and Equity Framework. We revise these plans regularly to ensure they are responsive to community challenges and aspirations:

- Aboriginal Commitment and Action Plan
- Multicultural Commitment
- LGBTIQ+ Commitment
- Equal Access Commitment
- Positive Ageing Commitment
- Youth Commitment
- Community Safety Commitment
- Affordable Housing and Homelessness Commitment (under development).



## COMMUNITY INPUT

The Community Inclusion and Equity Framework has been developed in direct response to the aspirations of our community as told through more than 1100 community contributions into Hobart: A community vision for our island capital. More detailed and specific engagement was undertaken to inform the approach, format and content within this document. All that we heard has directly informed this framework and will go on to inform the delivery of the strategies and underpinning community commitments. We acknowledge the following groups for their participation and input into the development of the framework.

### COMMUNITY SECTOR REFERENCE GROUP

The City of Hobart Community Sector Reference Group has 26 members from a wide range of community organisations and peak bodies. This group collaborated on the development of the framework through workshops, email feedback and one-on-one interviews.

### COMMUNITY NETWORK AND ADVISORY GROUPS

Ongoing advice and feedback from the following groups (all convened by the City of Hobart) has informed the development of the framework.

- Networking for Harmony Multicultural Advisory Group
- Access Advisory Committee
- Hobart Older Persons Reference Group
- Housing with Dignity Reference Group
- Youth Advisory Squad
- Youth Action Priorities Network
- Children and Families Network
- Late Night Precinct Stakeholders
- Hobart Retailers Safety and Security Group

### CITY OF HOBART STAFF

- Internal Working Group with 23 members
- 57 staff participated in workshops
- Representation from diverse staff across all divisions

### ELECTED MEMBERS

- Workshop
- Individual meetings

### BROAD COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Online survey through Your Say Hobart
- Social media engagement



## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The City of Hobart is guided by the following statements from Hobart: A community vision for our island capital in the delivery of this framework. These principles have been set out in the City's Social Inclusion Policy and provide an ongoing organisational commitment to creating a city for all.

### DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

Diversity in culture, nationality, ethnicity, race, gender, sexuality, ability, age, body, family, recreation, profession, personal strengths, income level, language, education, life experiences and more make up each of us and, together, make up our city. We recognise and embrace the rich complexity diversity brings to our lives - we are all part of creating Hobart's identity. (Pillar 2.2.3)

### SOCIAL JUSTICE

We recognise and face inequalities, poverty and disadvantage in our communities... We support each other to have our needs met and flourish. We all have opportunities to access and contribute to Hobart life. (Pillars 2.2.7 and 2.2.8)

### CAPACITY BUILDING

We develop the capacity of our human, social and cultural capital, knowledge and networks. (Pillar 2.4.5)

### HOLISTIC APPROACH

We have a holistic view of health that involves all aspects of our lives. Mental, physical, emotional, spiritual, cultural and social health are at the core of our decision making. (Pillar 2.5.1)

### EQUAL ACCESS

Our natural and built spaces and facilities enable activity and support and enhance our health and wellbeing... Our infrastructure, services and other aspects of our built environment support equal access for all. (Pillars 2.5.3 and 7.3.2)

### CARE AND RESILIENCE

Hobart's isolation and scale have required resilience. We know that future challenges will demand that we work hard and work together. But we are our best selves in times of adversity and vulnerability. We are caring, helpful and supportive of everyone at all times but especially when things get tough. We flourish in times of hardship. (Pillar 2.6.1)

### COMMUNITY SAFETY

We are a safe city, where everyone feels safe and is safe, including in public spaces. We look after each other. (Pillar 2.6.3)

### **PROACTIVE, RESPONSIVE ENGAGEMENT**

Engagement with our communities is proactive and inclusive, so we know about and can participate in decisions and outcomes that affect us... We learn from our communities about important local issues. (Pillars 6.6.2 and 8.5.3)

### **PARTNERSHIP AND COLLABORATION**

We use our connections and networks to enable participation in civic life. Our strong partnerships support collaboration across councils, community organisations, businesses and other levels of government. (Pillar 8.2.3)



## THE CITY'S ROLE IN CREATING A CITY FOR ALL

Hobart has a unique role in Tasmania as the capital city and regional hub. Every day, we welcome large numbers of visitors from surrounding areas, and further afield, to work, learn, recreate and access services. Many look to the City of Hobart as a key driver in addressing social issues in the region. We take an active leadership role in creating a city for all, working with local, regional and national partners to drive positive change through innovative, community-based initiatives.

### ACTIVITIES, TOOLS AND METHODS

The City of Hobart uses the following activities, tools and methods to build inclusion and equity and reduce discrimination in Hobart. We have developed these methods collaboratively with our community. Our teams continue to refine our approach to maintain relevance and align with best practice.

**PUBLIC EDUCATION:** We work to promote understanding, respect and social connection in our community by sharing stories, creating opportunities for dialogue and by speaking out publicly on issues of importance to our diverse communities. Social issues are often highlighted through activities such as Homelessness Week and Harmony Week. We use a range of communication tools including public forums, events and visual, print and digital communications.

**ADVOCACY:** We draw upon our close connections and expertise in community development to support Hobart communities to have a voice on issues of importance to them. We directly advocate for their needs, both within the organisation and externally to the Tasmanian and Australian Governments, the community sector and businesses.

**DIVERSE ENGAGEMENT:** We seek out and support input from diverse voices into City plans and projects. We facilitate a number of advisory and reference groups representing priority population groups. We use a range of accessible engagement methods and continually refine our approach to improve the level of participation.

**COMMUNITY-CENTRED DESIGN:** As the custodians of the majority of public space within Hobart, from sporting grounds to streetscapes, retail precincts to playgrounds, we are responsible for ensuring that our city is liveable, safe and accessible for all. Our employees maintain a broad understanding of the needs of our diverse communities and keep up to date with best practice to support inclusive design and delivery of public spaces.

**COMMUNITY PROGRAMS:** We work closely with our community partners to identify gaps in service delivery for our community. Where there is a clear need and a lack of capacity in the community to provide a service, we consider opportunities to fill the gaps. We currently deliver a range of targeted, accessible community programs to support skill development, social connection, creativity, lifelong learning and physical and mental wellbeing. A number of these programs are delivered through our community facilities. Our programs also provide a range of volunteer opportunities to support participation and employment pathways.

**FACILITY MANAGEMENT:** We own and manage a wide range of community facilities and venues that support people to gather, recreate, exercise and learn. We work with our community to maximise usage of these facilities to support community wellbeing. Many facilities are managed by community volunteers and our role is to provide support and build capacity. In other instances, such as with the Doone Kennedy Hobart Aquatic Centre, Mathers House, Criterion

House and the Youth Arts and Recreation Centre, we directly manage the facility with dedicated staff and tailored programming. We conduct regular audits to improve the accessibility of these facilities and work to ensure that they are welcoming spaces for all.

**NETWORKING AND COLLABORATION:**

We host a number of sector networking groups to support connections and information sharing between relevant peak bodies, community organisations, businesses, education providers and Tasmanian and Australian Government representatives. We work collaboratively with these groups to respond to community issues as they arise and build community capacity.

**INCLUSIVE EVENTS:** We deliver a wide range of inclusive events that support community expression, participation and connection and bring life to the city. These range from children's activities and cultural celebrations to public lectures, sports and fitness activities and arts showcases. The majority of our events are delivered in close partnership with our community and provide opportunities to participate and volunteer.

**SUPPORTING CREATIVITY:** We recognise the importance of arts and creativity and develop opportunities for people to create and exhibit their work publicly through a range of creative platforms. Creativity enhances the liveability of the city by reducing the incidence of graffiti, increasing public art and bringing live music to our streets. We prioritise cultural development and ensure diverse expressions and stories are featured in our creative programs.

**BUILDING RESILIENCE:** We understand the potential for an emergency or crisis in Hobart. We work closely with emergency services, Tasmanian and Australian Governments and other councils to be as prepared as possible. Our preparations include fuel reduction burns,

stormwater engineering, long-term land management plans and pandemic. Our staff are well trained to deal with emergency events when they occur, supporting our community during and after impact. We work with our communities to build their capacity to bounce back after crises and support community recovery.

**SUPPORTING WELLBEING:** We work to ensure that our facilities, spaces and programs support healthy movement, prevent disease, minimise harm and increase access to food. We actively work to reduce the risk of harm from alcohol, tobacco and other drugs within Hobart, provide accessible immunisation programs, and offer a range of health and wellbeing activities to the public in our parks and community facilities such as the Doone Kennedy Hobart Aquatic Centre.

**ENHANCING COMMUNITY SAFETY:**

We recognise that not everyone's experience of safety is the same and that some community members require specific responses for issues such as racism, elder abuse and family violence. We work in collaboration and convene several networks with businesses, government agencies, emergency services and support organisations to provide a consolidated response to the challenges presented, particularly with late night precincts.

**RESOURCING COMMUNITY INITIATIVES:**

We support our community to deliver initiatives, projects and events through the provision of advice, financial resources, venues and logistics support. We often work in partnership for the delivery of strategic initiatives with our community grant program delivering diverse, innovative and community led solutions.



## PRIORITY AREA 1 – TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

### STRATEGIC PLAN OUTCOME 2.1

Hobart is a place that recognises and celebrates Tasmanian Aboriginal people, history and culture, working together towards shared goals.

Tasmanian Aboriginal people, also known as Palawa people, represent the southernmost, oldest continuous culture in the world. They have cared for the land upon which Hobart was built for more than 40 000 years. We recognise and value the strong spiritual connection that Tasmanian Aboriginal people have to this place.

Aboriginal people were a sovereign people in this Country. This sovereignty was never ceded. Despite massacre, dispossession and oppression, Tasmanian Aboriginal people remain strong and resilient.

We believe that this is our shared history as Tasmanians and we have a responsibility to learn and share it with all who live, work or visit our city.

**A city for all is one in which we acknowledge the truth of our history in this place.**

Nationally, Aboriginal people show disadvantage on nearly all health and wellbeing measures. Aboriginal people are nearly twice as likely to be unemployed than non-Aboriginal Australians and Aboriginal children are 10 times more likely to be in out-of-home care. More than 1 in 4 children in out-of-home care in Tasmania identify as Aboriginal.

We recognise that Hobart is a hub for activism, protest and positive change for Aboriginal people. We commit to walking alongside Aboriginal people as equal partners.

**A city for all is one in which we walk together with Aboriginal people toward shared goals.**



Years of Aboriginal custodianship: 40 000+	Percentage of land in Tasmania that is Aboriginal owned: 0.5 Per cent	First state in Australia to provide compensation for the stolen generations: Tasmania	Palawa kani name for Hobart: nipaluna
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**CAPITAL CITY STRATEGIC PLAN: OUTCOME 2.1 STRATEGIES**

- 2.1.1** Demonstrate leadership in Aboriginal social justice in partnership with Aboriginal people.
- 2.1.2** Highlight Tasmanian Aboriginal history and culture, including acknowledgement of the darkness of our shared experience, through interpretation, naming, arts and events.
- 2.1.3** Engage with Aboriginal people on how they want the City to work with them.





## PRIORITY AREA 2 – PARTICIPATION AND ACCESS

### STRATEGIC PLAN OUTCOME 2.2

Hobart is a place where diversity is celebrated and everyone can belong, and where people have opportunities to learn about one another and participate in city life.

Everyone's experience of our community is different. Hobart has a reputation as a liveable city with connected communities, and some of us feel right at home here. But the reality is different for those in Hobart who experience inequality, poverty and disadvantage. Some of us struggle to feel like we belong or are welcome in this place. Stigma, discrimination, racism and prejudice can have a profound impact on what it feels like to live in Hobart. These barriers to participating and connecting with others not only affect community safety, but they can lead to social isolation, with flow-on effects to mental and physical health.

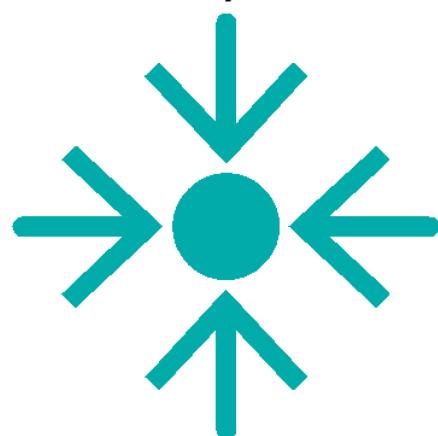
We believe that everyone has the right to participate fully in Hobart life. Regardless of background, gender, identity or life situation, our community should provide opportunities to connect, share and express one's identity. We should all be able to thrive in Hobart and have the chance to belong.

**A city for all is one in which everyone feels welcome, valued and heard and has opportunities to participate.**

It is difficult to connect with other people and participate in city life if we have no way of getting around. Affordable, timely and appropriate transport and accessible public spaces are critical to making sure everyone can access work, study, recreation, services, entertainment and other opportunities. People should not need to own a car to get where they need to go. Access to information is also vital to participation in the community. It influences how we perceive and understand the world around us, including how we make decisions and advocate for our needs. Disability, language, income levels, literacy skills and age all influence how we access information.

We know that more needs to be done to ensure that our mobility options, public spaces, facilities, communications, events and programs are universally accessible.

**A city for all is one in which everyone can get where they want to go with ease and can access the information they need.**



Hobart households where a language other than English is spoken: 16 per cent	Hobart households that do not own a car: 10.7 per cent	Residents of Greater Hobart needing help in their day-to-day lives due to disability: 6 per cent	Year in which marriage equality was enacted into law: 2017
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**CAPITAL CITY STRATEGIC PLAN: OUTCOME 2.2 STRATEGIES**

- 2.2.1** Support people from all backgrounds and life experiences to participate in Hobart life.
- 2.2.2** Support and advocate for all people and communities to celebrate their histories and identities and encourage mutual understanding.
- 2.2.3** Provide and support activities and programs that celebrate diversity to reduce social isolation and build social cohesion.
- 2.2.4** Review and implement cross-cultural, diversity, equal access and other awareness and learning opportunities for staff.
- 2.2.5** Acknowledge and celebrate the value of volunteering and support further development of volunteer programs.
- 2.2.6** Identify those people in the community who are most disadvantaged, excluded and vulnerable and develop appropriate initiatives to address their issues, in partnership with stakeholders.
- 2.2.7** Ensure all community members have the opportunity and capacity to access City of Hobart information, services and programs.





## PRIORITY AREA 3 – WELLBEING AND KNOWLEDGE

### STRATEGIC PLAN OUTCOME 2.3

Hobart communities are active, healthy and engaged in lifelong learning.

The conditions in which we are born, grow, live, learn, work and play all have an impact on our health and wellbeing. In Hobart, population trends are affecting the kinds of support people need. Hobart has an increasing older population, as well as an increasing prevalence of disability. Lifestyle factors such as physical activity levels and nutrition have major impacts on health and quality of life. Rates of mental illness are growing in our community, with increasingly complex presentations. We recognise the impacts of gambling, tobacco, alcohol and other drugs on individual and community wellbeing. As a destination city, it is important for us to balance the provision of vibrant opportunities to connect and celebrate, whilst helping our community make healthy choices and reduce potential harm to themselves and others.

Wellbeing is not just about healthcare, but about access to education, housing, transport, food, recreation and more. We also need health 'literacy' to understand how to look after our health and engage with the services we need. Service integration and coordination, along with a community that actively looks out for each other, are vital to preventing our community's most vulnerable people from 'falling through the cracks'.

We believe in creating social and physical environments that support everyone to have a healthy life. We believe everyone should be able to access appropriate, timely and affordable services.

**A city for all is one in which spaces, services and communities support physical and mental wellbeing.**

Learning and applying skills and knowledge is a fundamental part of being human. The skills and knowledge we develop help shape who we are and guide how we contribute to society. A love of learning helps us to grow and adapt to changing environments and supports a healthy brain as we age. Fundamental skills, like literacy and numeracy, are core to getting stable employment and participating in education. For those with low-level skills, routine tasks can be a challenge. Digital literacy and access are increasingly integral to participation in society. Digital exclusion occurs when people are unable to access or use appropriate technologies, making it harder for them to participate in education, work or social opportunities.

Hobart is growing as a learning destination for students across the world and increasing numbers of these students are living and studying within the CBD. We know that learning, education, knowledge and skills are critical contributors to individual and community wellbeing. The more people are able to flourish in their learning, the better we will be able to meet the challenges of our shared future.

**A city for all is one in which everyone has opportunities to engage in learning and has the capacity and skills to influence change.**



Hobart residents engaged in formal education: 33.8 per cent	Dwellings in Hobart located within 400 metres of public open space: 99 per cent	8.4% of Hobartians don't do enough moderate to vigorous physical activity, and 55.5% do not do enough muscle building activity	Number of community initiatives supported through the City of Hobart Grants Program in 2020: 75
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**CAPITAL CITY STRATEGIC PLAN: OUTCOME 2.3 STRATEGIES**

- 2.3.1** Provide and progressively enhance a range of quality places and facilities where people can enjoy education, recreation, socialising, healthy living and other activities and events.
- 2.3.2** Progressively enhance the City's sporting and recreational infrastructure, including the Doone Kennedy Hobart Aquatic Centre.
- 2.3.3** Ensure the provision of quality play spaces offering a range of imaginative play alternatives.
- 2.3.4** Ensure neighborhoods, streets and public spaces help all people to be healthy and physically active.
- 2.3.5** Consider mental, physical and social health and wellbeing in the development of strategies, policies, projects and initiatives.
- 2.3.6** Celebrate Hobart's food culture and encourage an ecologically sustainable, resilient, healthy, equitable and economically viable food system.
- 2.3.7** Support accessible learning opportunities for people at all ages and stages of life.
- 2.3.8** Enhance relationships with educational institutions and community-based organisations.
- 2.3.9** Support citizen science and other community contributions to knowledge and innovation.





## PRIORITY AREA 4 – SAFETY AND RESILIENCE

### STRATEGIC PLAN OUTCOME 2.4

Hobart communities are safe and resilient, ensuring people can support one another and flourish in times of hardship.

As people, we need to feel a certain amount of safety in our lives in order to learn, grow, take healthy risks and participate in community life. Fears and concerns about safety can stop us from engaging at home, at work, in public spaces, in social groups and online. Fear can create social isolation and sow division between groups of people.

Part of feeling and being safe is having life's basic needs met. Needs such as food, water, shelter, employment, education, transport and free time are all part of creating a safe platform from which to respond to life's opportunities and challenges. The cost of living is growing faster than social security benefits and wage growth for low-income workers. This means that many struggle to cover the costs of housing, health, education, food, electricity and transport. This disparity can significantly impact the capacity of many people to participate in society.

Poverty and inequality are made worse by the rising cost of housing in Hobart. We know that communities need diverse housing types within local areas to provide homes for people of all ages and differing needs.

**A city for all is one in which everyone feels safe and secure and can meet their basic needs.**

Resilience is the ability to respond to shocks and stresses and recover from them. It requires a strong foundation at individual, family and community levels. Resilience comes from having mental, social, financial and other resources to draw upon in a crisis. Resilience in the natural environment is just as important.

The threat and occurrence of natural disasters, pandemics and other major crises is rising, with compounding effects on our community's wellbeing. We can prepare for crises, but we can't predict them. As such, having our basic, day-to-day needs met is a major contributor to whether we are able to bounce back during and after a crisis.

**A city for all is one in which everyone supports each other and is prepared for crises.**



Unemployment rate in Hobart: 3.8 per cent	Average household percentage of income spent on rent in Greater Hobart: 31 Per cent (least affordable capital city in Australia)	Percentage of people in Southern Tasmania who report feeling safe alone, in public, after dark: 59 per cent	Disaster resilience rating for Hobart: Moderate
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**CAPITAL CITY STRATEGIC PLAN: OUTCOME 2.4 STRATEGIES**

- 2.4.1** Develop and, when necessary, activate the City of Hobart Municipal Emergency Plan and Community Recovery Plan.
- 2.4.2** Support and implement initiatives to build resilience to emergencies, with a focus on those most vulnerable.
- 2.4.3** Protect and improve public and environmental health.
- 2.4.4** Prepare for and respond to pandemics by implementing the Public Health Emergency Management Plan.
- 2.4.5** Ensure that Hobart is a safe and liveable city by enhancing community and public safety and security, working in partnership with key stakeholders.
- 2.4.6** Deliver and support initiatives, activities and programs that build community resilience, wellbeing and safety.





## GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

We are committed to being transparent and accountable in the delivery of the Community Inclusion and Equity Framework. We look to our community to guide us and provide feedback to strengthen our approach and delivery over time. To support this, we have two key accountability mechanisms to guide the delivery of the framework.

**INTERNAL MECHANISMS:** The City for All Working Group is made up of relevant staff from across all Divisions within the City of Hobart. This group monitors the organisation's compliance with the Social Inclusion Policy and progress against the Community Inclusion and Equity Framework.

**EXTERNAL MECHANISMS:** The Community Sector Reference Group includes people from all major community organisations in Hobart and community sector peak bodies. This group meets with City of Hobart staff quarterly to provide advice and input into the City's work in creating a city for all, including identifying emerging issues and appropriate responses. The group also provides feedback on the City's performance in relation to the framework and monitors progress against the strategies.

- **Data Sources**
- Australian Bureau of Statistics 2016 Census
- Australian Disaster Resilience Index January 2021
- City of Hobart
- Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management Corporate Performance Report November 2020
- Rental Affordability Index December 2020
- State Growth Tasmania Economic Profile, June 2020
- Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre
- The State of Public Health Tasmania 2018



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## City for All Implementation Framework

### Engagement Summary Report



**Date of Report:** December 2025  
**Prepared By:** Isabela Izidro | Community Engagement

## Table of Contents

Table of Contents .....	1
1. Executive Summary .....	2
2. Background .....	3
2.1 Project Background .....	3
2.2 Engagement Objectives .....	3
2.3 Level of Influence .....	3
3. Methodology & Participation .....	4
3.1 Stage 1 – Development of the draft CFAIF .....	4
3.2 Stage 2 – Consultation on the draft CFAIF .....	4
4. Analysis .....	4
4.1 Committees and Reference groups (Stage 1 and Stage 2) .....	5
4.2 Pop-ups (Stage 2) .....	6
4.3 Youth session (Stage 2) .....	7
4.4 Written submissions (Stage 2) .....	9
4.5 Online poll (Stage 2) .....	9
4.6 Survey (Stage 2) - combined online and face-to-face surveys .....	10
4.7 HOBART A MORE INCLUSIVE CITY (Stage 2) .....	10
5. FEEDBACK BY EACH COMMUNITY PROGRAM PLAN .....	14
5.1 Equal Access Action Plan .....	15
5.2 Positive Ageing Action Plan .....	17
5.3 Community safety and crime prevention Action Plan .....	20
5.4 LGBTIQA+ Action Plan .....	22
5.5 Youth Action Plan .....	25
5.6 Multicultural Action Plan .....	27
5.7 Homelessness Action Plan .....	29
5.8 Additional Community Feedback .....	31
6. Conclusion .....	32
Appendices .....	33

## 1. Executive Summary

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The City for All Implementation Framework was developed to advance Hobart's commitment to inclusive, equitable and collaborative community engagement and service delivery. Building on the foundations of the Community Inclusion and Equity Framework, it sets out ongoing commitments and new priorities, highlighting how the City of Hobart works with diverse communities to support their goals and respond to their concerns.

### Engagement Process

The development and refinement of the framework followed a two-stage engagement process:

- **Stage 1:** Engagement was limited to lived experience groups and sector representatives, who assisted in the development of the draft framework.
- **Stage 2:** This stage was the focus of this engagement. The broader community was invited to review and provide feedback on the draft framework developed in Stage 1. This stage focused on gathering input to refine the framework.

### Methodology

Stage 2 engagement was conducted from 6 to 26 October 2025 and included:

- Online and face-to-face surveys (29 responses)
- Online poll (9 participants)
- Written submissions (1 submission)
- 3 Pop-up sessions at key city locations
- 1 targeted youth engagement at the Youth Arts and Recreation Centre
- Presentations for feedback to 1 committee and 1 reference group

Promotion was achieved through email newsletters, social media and distribution of drafts at accessible venues across Hobart.

### Key Insights

Feedback from Stage 2 revealed strong support for the framework's inclusive approach and provided practical recommendations for improvement. Key insights include:

- Advocate for accessibility and walkability in public spaces for all ages and abilities.
- Increase opportunities for cultural exchange and inclusion such as creative activities and affordable inclusive public events.
- Support for vulnerable groups with an emphasis on tailoring programs for these groups.
- Practical improvements in infrastructure for safer and more accessible and vibrant streets (out of the scope of the framework).
- Communication and education to foster empathy, anti-racism and understanding across communities.
- More measurable outcomes and regular review of actions to ensure ongoing relevance and impact.
- There are community perspectives critical of the framework, offering context on broader attitudes.

## 2. Background

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### 2.1 Project Background

- The draft City for All Implementation Framework builds on the foundations of the Community Inclusion and Equity Framework.
- It reflects the City of Hobart's commitment to inclusive, equitable and collaborative community engagement and service delivery.
- The draft outlines actions on ongoing commitments and new priorities.
- It highlights how the City of Hobart works with diverse communities to support their goals and respond to their concerns.
- The draft framework was developed through engagement with the City of Hobart's community reference groups and community services sector.
- It was endorsed for broader community engagement by elected members at the Hobart Workshop committee.

### 2.2 Engagement Objectives

1. Consult with people with lived experience and target group to provide feedback on the draft City for All Implementation Framework.
2. Celebrate the values behind the framework - such as unity in diversity and intersectionality - and tell the story of its development.
3. Collect feedback from the broader community on the draft.
4. Offer inclusive and accessible opportunities to participate in the engagement process, ensuring everyone has an opportunity to share their feedback.
5. Report back on what was heard for any consideration on reviewing the draft framework.

### 2.3 Level of Influence

Based on the IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation, the level of influence the community had during the engagement process was split into two stages:

- **Stage 1** – Lived experience groups and sector representatives were involved in the process to assist in the development of the draft framework.
- **Stage 2** – The broader community was informed about the development of the draft framework and listened to through the consultation process.

### 3. Methodology & Participation

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There were two stages of engagement in the process to collect feedback and help develop the draft framework.

#### 3.1 Stage 1 – Development of the draft framework

**Period:** March 2024 to July 2025.

**Target audience:** Lived experience groups and community sector representatives.

**Promotion:** Community program staff promoted consultation through their networks and community/reference groups.

○ **Methodology and Participation:**

- Access Advisory Committee
- Multicultural Group - Network for Harmony
- LGBTIQA+ reference group
- Hobart Older Person Reference Group
- Housing with Dignity Reference Group
- Greater Hobart Homelessness Alliance
- Late Night Precinct Partners
- Youth Diversionary Alliance
- Youth Advisory Squad
- Youth Action Priorities

#### 3.2 Stage 2 – Consultation on the draft framework

**Period:** 6 to 26 October 2025

**Target audience:** Broader community

**Promotion:**

- Email newsletter sent to 2148 recipients
- Distribution of the draft in four locations across Hobart: Information Centre, Town Hall, Mathers House and the Youth Arts and Recreation Centre
- 1 Facebook post ([link here](#))

**Methodology and Participation:**

- 29 online survey and face-to face responses
- 8 votes on online poll
- 1 written submission
- 4 drop-in sessions - including a youth consultation
- Reference groups review

### 4. Engagement Data

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The draft City for All Implementation Framework was developed in collaboration with relevant groups during the Stage 1 engagement. This analysis presents feedback from Stage 2, which gathered quantitative and qualitative data through consultations with the broader community and key groups using the following process:

- Committees and reference groups review
- Pop-ups
- Young people consultation
- Written submission
- Online poll
- Online and face-to-face survey

## 4.1 Committees and Reference groups (Stage 1 and Stage 2)

During stage 2 of the engagement process, committees and reference groups played a pivotal role in reviewing the draft City for All Implementation Framework, which they had helped shape through feedback during stage 1. These groups undertook a detailed review of the draft, providing targeted feedback and recommendations to ensure the framework accurately reflected the evolving needs and priorities of the communities they represent.

### 4.1.1 LGBTQIA+ Reference Group (Stage 2)

**Date:** 25 September 2025

**Audience:** Members of the LGBTQIA+ Reference Group, including people with lived experience

**Purpose of the sessions:** Review the draft document.

**What we heard:** The group suggested adjustments to some of the actions and measures to make them more specific, measurable with data, meaningful and relevant, easy to interpret, consistent and action linked – suggestions from the groups were added to “*LGBTIQA+ Action Plan*” section (page 20).

### 4.1.2 Access Advisory Committee (Stage 2)

**Date:** 29 October 2025

**Audience:** Members of the Access Advisory Committee, including people with lived experience.

**Purpose of the sessions:** To review the draft document.

**What we heard:** The group was happy with the actions, but made changes to the measures to make them more specific, measurable with data, meaningful and relevant, easy to interpret, consistent, and action linked – suggestions from the groups were added to “*Equal Access Action Plan*” section (page 14).

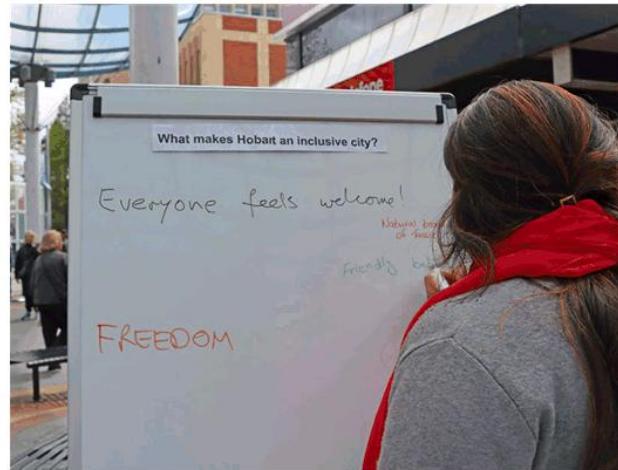
## 4.2 Pop-ups (Stage 2)

**Purpose of the sessions:**

- Review the draft document
- Encouraged to provide feedback through online survey
- Invite participation through a warm-up activity responding to the question: "What makes Hobart an inclusive city?"

**Locations:**

- Elizabeth Mall
- Mathers House
- Town Hall (during the Town Hall open day event)



## 4.3 Youth Session (Stage 2)

**Date:** 16 October 2025

**Audience:** Young people attending the Youth Arts and Recreation Centre session – people aged 12 to 25.

**Engagement activities:**

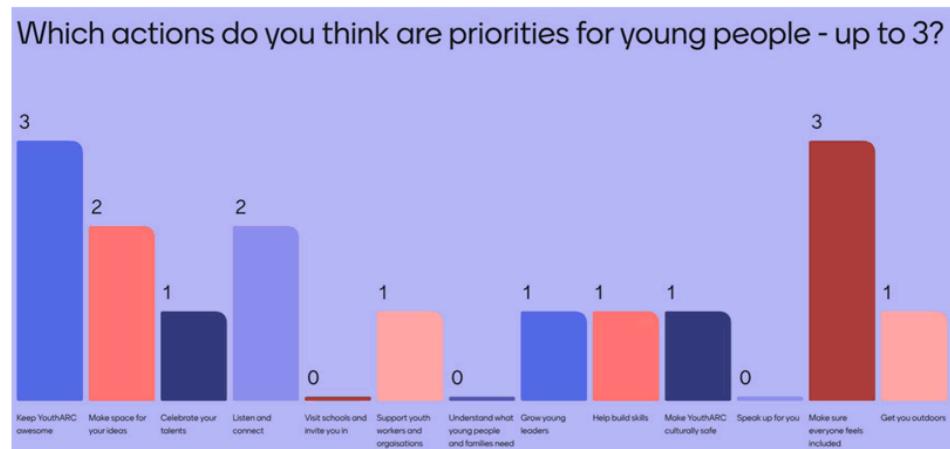
- Feedback wall with the question “What would make Hobart a more inclusive city?”
- Sharing the actions included in the Youth Program Plan
- Encourage young people to provide feedback through a short online survey

**Purpose of the session:**

- Promote the draft City for All Implementation Framework to young people
- Communicate in a more accessible language for young people the “Youth Program Actions” and understand their priorities related to the draft framework
- Invite participation through a warm-up activity responding to the question: “What makes Hobart an inclusive city?”

**Location:** Youth Arts and Recreation Centre.

**What we heard:** Below is part of what we heard during the engagement session. More comments related to the Youth Program Actions can be found under the “Youth Action Plan” section (page 23).



*The graphic above was part of an engagement activity where young people were asked to identify the priorities within the Youth Action Plan. To make the content more accessible, the actions from the plan were presented using adapted language that better resonates with young audiences.*

According to the young people attending the Youth Arts and Recreation Centre engagement session, the top priorities from the Youth Program actions are:

- Keep the Youth Arts and Recreation Centre awesome – “Continue to improve and maintain the Youth Arts and Recreation Centre as a safe, social and vibrant place for young people through the Open Access Program.”
- Make sure everyone feels included – “Design and trial tailored programs and partnerships to increase participation of, and support with, young new Australians, young people with disabilities and LGBTIQA+ young people to reduce the impacts of isolation, discrimination and harassment.”
- Make spaces for ideas – “Support creative and community programs by enabling the hire of facilities at the Youth Arts and Recreation Centre to business, community organisations and individuals.”
- Listen and connect – “Engage regularly with young people in public spaces and through local services to understand their needs and aspirations and support their positive engagement in the life of the city.”



*The question above was part of an engagement activity where young people were asked to rate, on a scale from zero to ten, how included they feel in their community. The responses resulted in an average score of seven.*

#### 4.4 Written Submissions (Stage 2)

Written submissions were welcomed during Stage 2 of the engagement, inviting broader community members to provide feedback on the implementation framework. During this consultation period we only received one written submission from South Hobart Sustainable Community.

They provided specific feedback action involved in the following groups:

- Positive Ageing Plan
- Youth Programs Plan
- Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan
- Homelessness

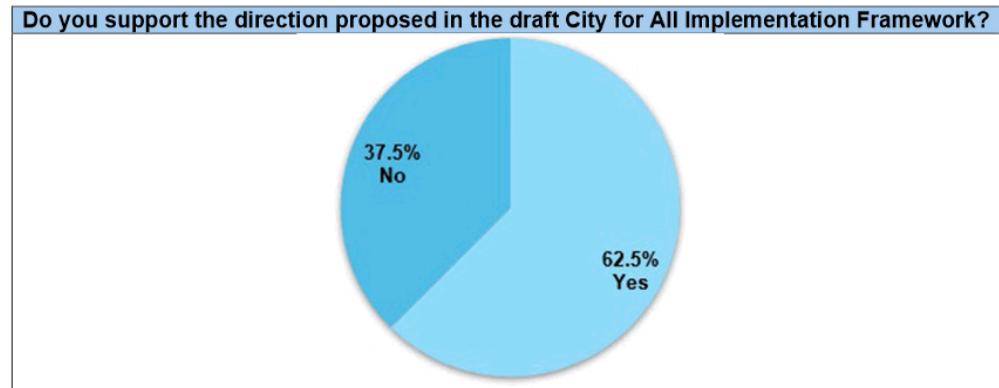
The submission included comments suggesting:

- Investment in bike lane
- Improve walkability in the city area
- Bike programs for ageing groups
- Safer access routes to schools
- Cycle lanes connecting suburbs through the city
- Street vibrancy improvements
- Allow larger developments only if they provide public benefits

All feedback related to the framework have been added to the “FEEDBACK BY EACH COMMUNITY PROGRAM PLAN” section in this report on page 13.

#### 4.5 Online Poll (Stage 2)

During the second stage of engagement (6 to 26 October 2025) a Your Say Hobart project page was created to provide details about the framework, including a copy of the draft, an explanation of how the draft was developed and ways to engage and provide feedback. One of the quick ways to provide feedback was responding to a quick poll as per below.



## 4.6 Idea Wall (Stage 2)

**Period:** 6 to 26 October 2025

**Audience:** Broader Community

**Engagement activities:**

- Pop-up sessions
- Youth session
- Online survey

**Purpose of the sessions:** Encourage the community to engage and reflect on the meaning and importance of inclusion in the City of Hobart.

**What we heard: Key comments related to the draft – *noting that hateful and disrespectful comments haven't been added.***

**What do you think would make Hobart a more inclusive city?\***

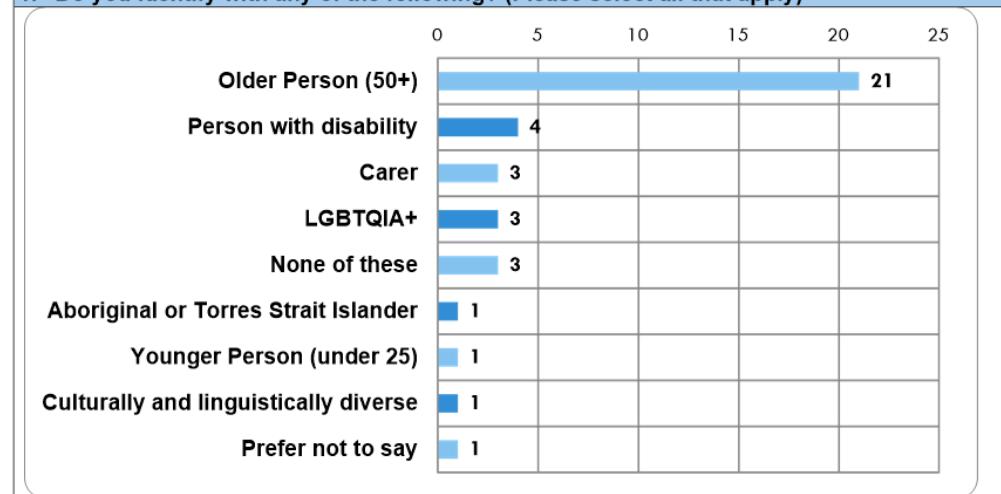
- Increase visibility and promotion of diverse groups with genuine community support and action.
- Ensure equity in policies, projects and events to support vulnerable groups and prioritise people over appearances.
- Better utilise existing programs like Hobart Respects All and create opportunities for all communities to participate.
- Provide inclusive programs for children and youth, ensuring representation of the Tasmanian Aboriginal community, disabled and queer young people.
- Foster cultural exchange and learning through initiatives like multilingual signage, conversation cafés and volunteer-led activities.
- Improve accessibility in transport and public spaces for all ages and abilities, including safe streets and adaptive mobility options.
- Offer free, drop-in public activities and events that encourage participation without financial barriers.
- Expand green spaces and create welcoming, safe environments for connection, respect and diversity.
- Support creative opportunities such as art and music therapy to promote wellbeing and inclusion.
- Promote anti-racism, cultural awareness and education to build empathy and understanding across communities.

*\*Please note, the following feedback has been compiled and summarised with the assistance of AI to ensure clarity and consistency while preserving the original intent of respondents.*

## 4.7 Survey (Stage 2) - Combined online and face-to-face surveys

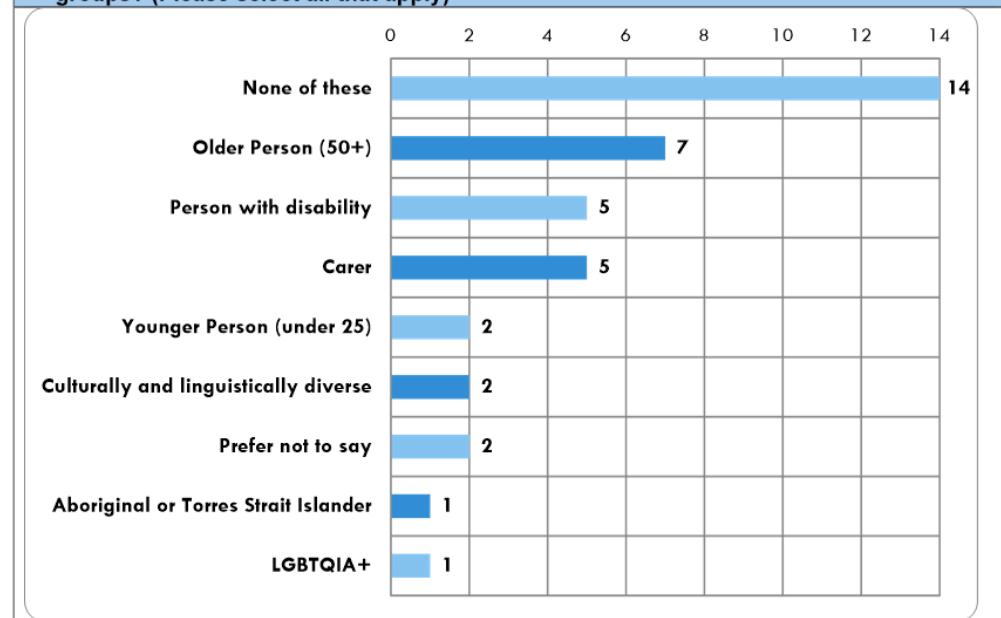
## Audience

## 1. Do you identify with any of the following? (Please select all that apply)



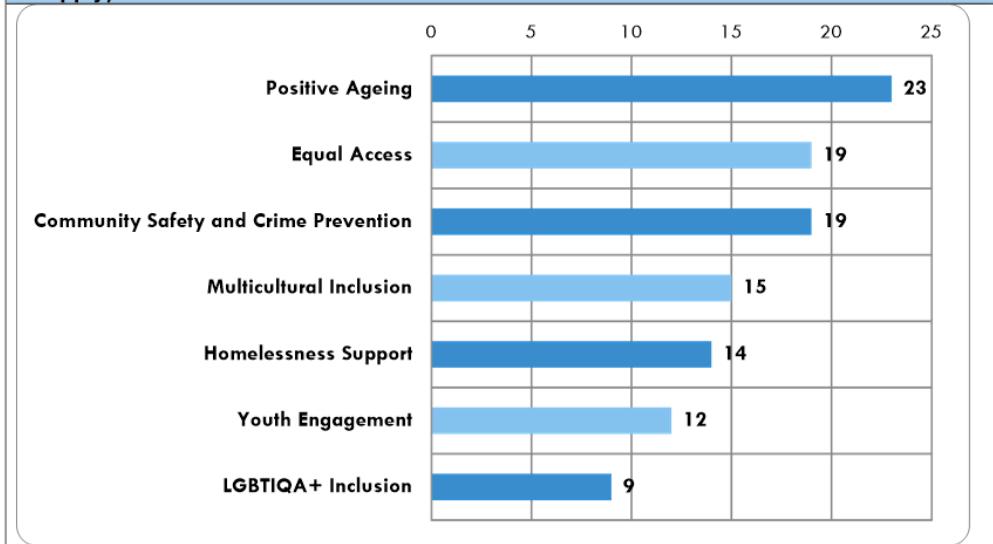
## Support Service

## 2. Are you involved in programs, services, or initiatives that support any of the following groups? (Please select all that apply)

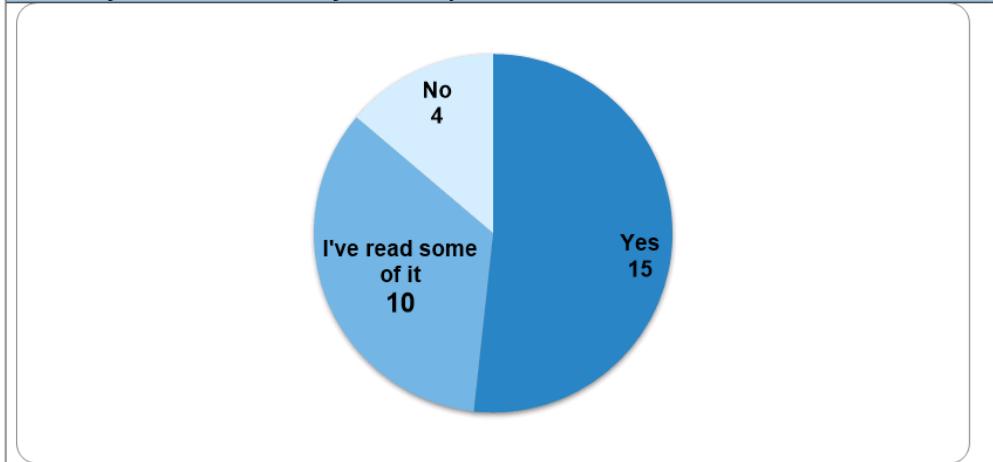


**Community Program interests**

3. Which areas of the Community Program you are interested in? (Please select all that apply)

**Review draft before feedback – change to pie**

4. Have you read the draft City for All Implementation Framework 2025-28?



**Humans Rights Day event****5. What types of activities would you like to see included in future Human Rights Day events to help promote inclusion and kindness?\***

- Organise more mixed-culture events to celebrate diversity.
- Include crafts and hands-on activities that let people share and experience different cultures.
- Introduce sustainable activities that promote ongoing kindness and support beyond a single event.
- Group the 30 human rights into year-round activities under the theme “Hobart Respects All”.
- Publish elected member opinion pieces on human rights themes across media, culminating in a Human Rights Day event.
- Use historical landmarks to host events highlighting human rights history with speakers and cultural activities.
- Engage the community in co-designing inclusive activities and consider forming a diverse reference group.
- Make it easier for food trucks to attend events and include food fairs with cuisine from different countries.
- Add cultural celebrations like Diwali and other significant events with cooking demonstrations and classes.
- Offer craft classes, gardening demonstrations and language exchange programs to promote cultural sharing and inclusivity.
- Include street stalls and markets for food, crafts and gardens produce to create vibrant community spaces.
- Host free film nights in artistic laneways featuring human rights themed movies alongside food and music.

*\*Please note, the following feedback has been compiled and summarised with the assistance of AI to ensure clarity and consistency while preserving the original intent of respondents.*

## 5. Community Program Plan Feedback

**Period:** 6 to 26 October 2025

**Audience:** Broader community

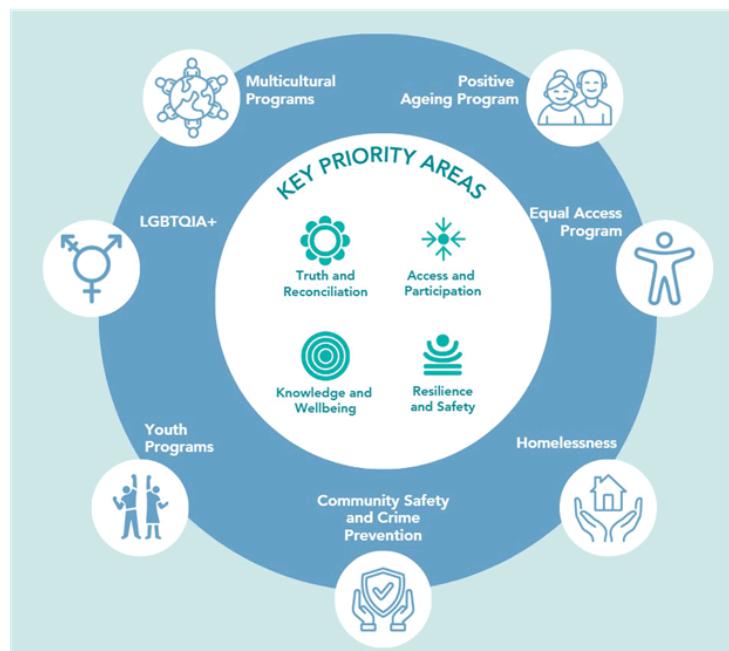
**Engagement activities:**

- Online and face-to-face survey
- Written submissions
- Committees and reference groups

**What we heard:** Comments added to actions related to the feedback – *noting that hateful and disrespectful comments haven't been added.*

**Other comments from the survey that weren't related to the framework. Comments about:**

- Parking
- Transport and bike lanes.
- Housing availability and choice
- Urban design
- Hobart Aquatic Centre facilities and parking
- AFL stadium



## 5.1 Equal Access Action Plan



Goal: *Ensure everyone can participate fully in community life, regardless of ability.*

### Feedback related to each action in the plan

ACTION	COMMENTS
Maintain the Hobart Access Advisory Committee to ensure ongoing consultation – quarterly meetings and subcommittees held to discuss access issues, updates, project planning and delivery.	No feedback was added to this action.
Celebrate and promote International Day of People with Disability and other relevant events on the equal access calendar.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Access Advisory Committee members suggested adding to existing measure for this action “Number of people who attended, number of people who engaged online.”</li> <li>Survey participant suggested properly advertising events to let people know they are available.</li> </ul>
Host a collaborative community celebration of all-ability artists through the Biennial Ability to Create exhibition.	Access Advisory Committee members suggested adding to existing measure for this action “Number of people who engaged online.”
Monitor City of Hobart developments (including parks, playgrounds, bushlands, streetscapes, facilities, toilets and buildings) and upgrades at design stage via the Hobart Access Advisory Committee.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Access Advisory Committee members suggested adding to existing measure for this action “Number of suggestions implemented, Number of presentations to the Access Advisory Committee, including a written report and photos of the project.”</li> <li>Survey participant suggested “Making it easier for people with a disability, a senior person, or a parent with a pram to move around freely benefits all citizens. While the focus is on disabled access, there are many opportunities for the city to improve accessibility through prioritising a mix of transport modes.”</li> <li>Survey participant mentioned “Mathers house accessibility (limited free parking), lack of accessibility in public amenities (e.g. clean public toilets, shade and seating areas in parks). More footpaths with wheelchair-accessible ramps are needed at street intersections for safe crossing.</li> <li>Survey participants mentioned issues with trees and plants blocking footpaths – suggesting providing education to property managers to manage plants on their land.</li> </ul>
Improve accessibility and inclusion at City of Hobart funded events, using the Inclusive Accessible Event Guide.	No feedback was added to this action.

Work with community sports providers and clubs to continue to support accessible and inclusive recreation programs, playgrounds and initiatives held in City of Hobart facilities.	No feedback was added to this action.
Work with local businesses, and tourism operators to develop a guide to improve access to local businesses, shop fronts and information.	• Access Advisory Committee members suggested adding to existing measure for this action “Number of businesses using the toolkit / Number of grant opportunities to assist in improving access.”
Work with <i>Elafent</i> to share the updated online Mobility Map to improve access within Hobart for everyone.	• Access Advisory Committee members suggested adding to existing measure for this action “Number of people who engaged online.”
Improve community awareness of equal access issues, events, information, resources through regular access e-news.	• Access Advisory Committee members suggested adding to existing measure for this action “...and opened.”
Update the equal access website and brochure.	No feedback was added to this action.
Continue to involve the Access Advisory Committee in advocating for the implementation of the draft Outdoor Dining Guidelines, with a particular focus on improved compliance.	• Access Advisory Committee members suggested adding to existing measure for this action “Number of businesses compliant.”
Work with members of the Hobart Access Advisory Committee to continue to advocate for a diversity and inclusion plan for the City of Hobart to improve employment and volunteer opportunities.	• Access Advisory Committee members suggested deleting existing measure for this action and adding “Number of positions promoted/Number of consultations between the City of Hobart and the Access Advisory Committee to develop the plan/Number of policies or systems reviewed for barriers/Number of managers briefed or trained on the new plan.”
Provide regular access updates and education to City of Hobart employees.	• Access Advisory Committee members suggested adding to existing measure for this action “updates provided to employees’ Add - Number and % of employees who attended and focus areas, Number of teams or areas requesting accessibility advice.”
Work closely with Metro to advocate for accessible bus stops and bus shelters, and improved accessibility of bus timetables and information.	• Access Advisory Committee members suggested deleting existing measure for this action and adding “Number of consultations with the Access Advisory Committee, Number of upgrades presented to the Access Advisory Committee via report and photos of the projects /Number of accessibility requests formally acknowledged or actioned.”
Advocate for improving website accessibility, accessible documents, communication and engagement within the City of Hobart.	• Access Advisory Committee members suggested deleting existing measure for this action and adding “Number of consultations with the Access Advisory Committee for user feedback/Number of

	accessibility requests formally acknowledged or actioned.”
Support the Access Advisory Committee to deliver an education campaign around the importance of access on footpaths with a focus on bin placement, A-Frames signage, outdoor dining furniture and e-scooters.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Access Advisory Committee members suggested deleting existing measure for this action and adding “Number of people reached through the campaign, Number of completed annual community surveys, Number of reminders or notices issued, Number of complaints received.”</li> <li>Survey participant mentioned “As an octogenarian with a disabled son and not all that spritely on my feet I value clear pathways without too much clutter or rubbish in the way.”</li> </ul>
Work with the Hobart Access Advisory Committee to educate community about invisible/hidden disability.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Access Advisory Committee members suggested adding to the existing measure for this action “Number of people reached, Number of people who attended information sessions.”</li> </ul>

## 5.2 Positive Ageing Action Plan



Goal: *Support older people to stay active, connected and valued.*

Feedback related to each action in the plan

ACTION	COMMENTS
Deliver a menu of affordable, healthy and nutritious meals at Mathers House.	No feedback was added to this action.
Deliver and support activities, programs and resources that promote healthy eating, nutrition and age-appropriate diets.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Survey participant suggested “identifying actions that deliver across the ranges and needs of older people. Currently the actions are very broadbrush and not targeted to the different needs as people age.”</li> </ul>
Deliver and support activities, programs and resources focused on exercise, fitness, health and wellbeing for older people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Survey participant mentioned “Need to consider scooters more suited to older people, not wheelchair based, such as Beam with seats.”</li> <li>Survey participant suggested: “More frequent small groups with more diversity of activities held in more locations with free parking at venues. Engage the elderly in street gardens and street tree planting and maintenance. Include the elderly in a wide variety of programs with young people so skills are shared and social cohesion developed.”</li> <li>Survey participant mentioned: “I see an opportunity for the city to provide the enabling infrastructure that allows our population to maintain health through daily activity (the “Health by Stealth” approach, as</li> </ul>

	advocated by the Menzies Institute for Medical Research). This is important as people age, as weight-bearing exercise such as walking improves bone density, reduces cardiovascular disease.”
Deliver and support activities, programs and resources focused on arts, creative, entertainment and social inclusion for older people.	• Survey participant mentioned: “Encouraging old people to get out of the home where possible and engage with the community is very important.”
Deliver and support activities, programs and resources focused on lifelong learning for older people.	No feedback was added to this action.
Deliver and support activities, programs and resources focused on increasing the digital access and literacy of older people.	No feedback was added to this action.
Maintain a diverse and skilled pool of volunteers to support the Mathers House dining room, ‘Meet & Greet’, and cultural, health and social event and program delivery.	• Survey participant suggested encouraging more mentoring, school volunteering: “Maybe schools could adopt an older person. Someone who children could read with, cook, garden, gentle grandpersoning.”
Proactively publicise City of Hobart Positive Ageing opportunities through a seasonal What's On in collaboration with positive ageing, health and community venues, organisations, and networks.	• South Hobart Sustainable Community suggested “Publicise ‘Back on your Bike’ sessions run by Bicycle Network Tasmania. Measure: Include in seasonal ‘What's On Guide’. Timeframe: Annually.” • Survey participant mentioned: “Cycling also offers many health benefits, but participation rates are minimal in the over 50 age cohort. Suggested addition - Action: Proactively publicise “Back on your Bike” sessions run by Bicycle Network Tasmania. Measure: Include in seasonal What's On guide. Timeframe: Annually.”
Celebrate and promote Adult Learners Week, Seniors Week, Mental Health Week and other relevant events on the positive ageing calendar.	No feedback was added to this action.
Deliver the federally funded Still Gardening program, supporting volunteers to help older people to live independently through gardening and social support opportunities.	• Survey participant mentioned: “I think there are many older people who would be interested in local gardening. Not just community gardens.”
Maintain the Hobart Older Persons' Reference Group to ensure ongoing consultation, strategic direction and project planning and delivery, and to proactively publicise City of Hobart Positive Ageing opportunities within the community.	No feedback was added to this action.
Connect the Hobart Older Persons' Reference Group with other positive	No feedback was added to this action.

ageing reference groups, networks and committees to identify and act on shared goals and issues.	
Work with the Council on the Ageing (COTA) and other organisations to increase the community's awareness of Elder Abuse through events, information, resources and links.	No feedback was added to this action.
Participate in networks such as the Healthy Ageing Network and maintain links with Council on the Ageing, and other relevant Positive Ageing organisations and bodies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Survey participant suggested connections also with Older Persons Advocacy Network.</li></ul>

## 5.3 Community Safety and Crime Prevention Action Plan

Goal: *Make Hobart safer for everyone.*

Feedback related to each action in the plan

ACTION	COMMENTS
Continue to contribute to the Late Night Partnership through funding the security presence at the secure taxi rank and Salamanca Square toilets on Friday and Saturday nights.	No feedback was added to this action.
Convene quarterly meetings of the Safer Hobart Alliance and implement resulting actions.	No feedback was added to this action.
Hold quarterly meetings of the Hobart Youth Outreach and Diversionary Alliance and Late Night Partnership groups and provide quarterly updates to the Safe Hobart Alliance.	No feedback was added to this action.
Provide community groups and organisations the opportunity to promote community health and safety messages/campaigns through the City of Hobart's public toilet promotion spaces.	No feedback was added to this action.
Participate as an active member of the Council of Capital Cities Lord Mayors Safe Cities Network - increase our knowledge and learn from other cities to apply a best practice approach to community safety.	No feedback was added to this action.
Where required, develop programs relating to community safety and prevention in response to emerging issues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Survey participant mentioned: "Anti-social behavior is rising fast and many people do not feel safe at bus stops. Cuts to mental health services add hugely to this problem. Please fund access to mental health programs to give people the care they need."</li> <li>• Survey participant mentioned: "I recommend greater use of Hobart Respects All to bring together the various communities to recognise the distinct individualities, but also the commonalities across the communities. The campaign offers the opportunity to create a unifying concept that can be used throughout the year, but has been limited to December. A glaring deficit seems to be the absence of mention of Hobart Respects All within the multicultural action plan, this should be included</li> </ul>

	within any anti-racism activity, as this seems to be what Hobart Respects All has been designed for, tackling prejudice and discrimination.”
Recognise and promote specific initiatives aimed at increasing public awareness and knowledge such as Vaping Information Sessions, Cuppa with a Cop Etc.	No feedback was added to this action.
Partner, support and advocate for the delivery of youth outreach programs that engage disadvantaged youth in a positive way.	• Survey participant mentioned: "If we continue to take things away from our young people then surely, they will continue to retaliate. Places such as Swisherr provide a place for young people to be where they are not causing trouble. Swisherr has basketball, cricket, gym and skating. When it closes, we will have a lot of displaced people. How can we keep this space open or develop new ones?"
Provide education to businesses on how youth intervention programs reduce antisocial behaviours and seek their potential investment in such initiatives.	No feedback was added to this action.
Deliver, support or promote initiatives during Community Safety Month in September each year.	No feedback was added to this action.
Raise awareness of elder abuse, including participating in the Walk Against Elder Abuse in June each year.	• Survey participant mentioned: "Make sure that vulnerable slower older people are not overlooked."
Collaborate with youth programs to support the provision of programming at the Youth Arts and Recreation Centre to engage meaningfully with at risk young people with the goal of reducing antisocial behaviours and increase wellbeing.	No feedback was added to this action.
Promote reporting and recording of prejudice related crime and graffiti in partnership with Equal Opportunities Tasmania and community organisations.	• Survey participant mentioned: "HCC should jointly with businesses and owners make graffiti a target to repaint over problem areas and assist property owners in securing rooftops."
Develop an Asset Management plan relative to CCTV systems. Incorporating a phased lifecycle plan to ensure existing and new security installations are prioritised based on a collaborative risk assessment.	• Survey participant suggested adding more cameras. • Survey participant mentioned: "Install more street cameras with live monitoring, install noise detection street cameras at intersections, parks, residential streets and along hilly streets. People do not feel safe around loud noisy areas."
Identify a suitable provider, determine costs and seek approval for the	• South Hobart Sustainable Community suggested: "Identify where streetscape upgrades can support better movement outcomes for all ages and abilities,

delivery of specialised training in Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) for City of Hobart staff.	<p>with increased amenity and street vibrancy improvements."</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Survey participant mentioned: "Develop &amp; enforce rules about rubbish on footpaths and in car parks around restaurants and Entertainment facilities. Develop and enforce guidelines about the number of trees and mini gardens needed per car park area to green Hobart and make the Hobart environment safer and more inviting to all ages."</li> <li>Survey participant suggested adding an action related to this action: "Identify where streetscape upgrades can support better movement outcomes, with increased amenity and street vibrancy improvements. Measure: Streetscape upgrades reviewed for CPTED principles. Timeframe: Ongoing."</li> </ul>
Continue to advocate for the establishment and recognition of Community Safety and Enforcement positions within the City of Hobart to ensure the effective management and stewardship of public spaces.	No feedback was added to this action.
Review the community safety and crime prevention pages of the City's website.	No feedback was added to this action.
Develop community safety and crime prevention information sheets to clearly articulate the City's role in this work.	No feedback was added to this action.

#### 5.4 LGBTIQA+ Action Plan



Goal: *Celebrate diversity and reduce discrimination.*

Feedback related to each action in the plan

ACTION	COMMENTS
Monitor trends and maintain a broad understanding of the concerns of LGBTIQA+ people and their communities, proactively addressing issues.	No feedback was added to this action.
Celebrate and support the TasPride Summer Festival each year through community promotion, delivering and supporting public events.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>LGBTQIA+ Reference group suggested adding to the action: "Explore possibilities to sponsor or support" and to add to the measure of this action "how many have been sponsored / supported."</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Survey participant mentioned: "This remains a big attitude problem in Tasmania, for historical reasons. Again, more events and support in any way is desperately needed."</li> </ul>
Foster and promote the Youth Arts and Recreation Centre as a proudly inclusive venue for young LGBTIQA+ people by creating opportunities to highlight their skills and talents.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>LGBTQIA+ Reference group suggested adding to the action "Promoting youth lead opportunities - building leadership skills - promoting/upskilling" and to change the measure of this action to "LGBTIQA+ Pride across the year instead of the Youth Arts and Recreation Centre. More generally: youth lead opportunities - building leadership skills - promoting/upskilling."</li> <li>Survey participant mentioned: "Everyone needs a young LGBTQIA+ person in their life before they realise how scary the world still is. Don't give up, but let's make it normal - like women voting."</li> </ul>
Promote and provide opportunities for LGBTIQA+ artists to exhibit their creative practice, celebrate community pride and highlight concerns through public art.	No feedback was added to this action.
Recognise and celebrate specific LGBTIQA+ international days in collaboration with communities and the sector and support and deliver events, forums, workshops, information sessions or other awareness raising projects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>LGBTQIA+ Reference group suggested adding to the action "international, national and local days - e.g. decriminalisation day" and to add to the measure of this action "international, national and local days - e.g. decriminalisation day."</li> </ul>
Facilitate the City of Hobart LGBTIQA+ Reference Group to oversee the implementation of the LGBTIQA+ actions, support the delivery of projects, and advise Council on the aspirations and concerns of LGBTIQA+ communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>LGBTQIA+ Reference group suggested adding to the measure of this action "number of diversity of LGBTIQA+ members and external stakeholders and groups (sector/community/organisation representatives). Examples of advice by Council to the reference group e.g. engagement."</li> </ul>
Coordinate City of Hobart participation of staff and elected members in the TasPride Parade.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>LGBTQIA+ Reference group suggested adding to the action "TasPride Parade and other events like annual IDAHOBIT breakfast - anything that celebrates the LGBTIQA+ in Tas."</li> </ul>
Include LGBTIQA+ communities in the Hobart Respects All initiative to celebrate achievement and diversity as well as raising awareness of harassment, discrimination and violence towards LGBTIQA+ community members.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>LGBTQIA+ Reference group suggested adding to the measure of this action: "Any other opportunities to promote the HRH   promote recent relevant research on harassment of LGBTIQA+ community to staff and elected members and also to the broader community. Promote opportunities for people to engage in research - e.g. be part of survey."</li> </ul>
Explore opportunities to highlight and celebrate the history, diversity and lived experience of LGBTIQA+ community members.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>LGBTQIA+ Reference group suggested adding to the action "opportunities to connect with the State Government, ensuring LGBTIQA+ history is included in broader history initiatives where appropriate. Supporting the dissemination of LGBTIQA+ history,</li> </ul>

	<p>research and publications in Hobart - work to get something permanent, perhaps at TMAG for example.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Survey participant mentioned: “The LGBTIQA+ Action Plan has good links to Positive Ageing, Young People and Safety, but is lacking in multicultural, housing and equal access. The document places itself as a unifier of a Community for All, but lacks seemingly simple connections within its own reference groups.”</li> <li>Survey participant suggested: “Connection with external organisation groups eg. MCOT, CCAT, MRC....”</li> </ul>
<p>Review and recommend consistent improvements to City of Hobart publications and online platforms, to promote inclusive and equitable gender diversity and pronoun recognition.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>LGBTQIA+ Reference group suggested adding to the action “periodic review of language in publications - not every quarter but a couple of years” and to add to the measure of this action: “survey questions/check what has changed periodic in language in publications around city material.”</li> </ul>
<p>Work with LGBTIQA+ communities, Tasmania Police and Equal Opportunity Tasmania to promote existing reporting mechanisms and identify and address barriers to the reporting of hate crimes experienced by LGBTIQA+ people.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>LGBTQIA+ Reference group suggested adding to the action: “regular promotion of reporting mechanisms and council publications” and to add to the measure of this action “include the community and sector - every six months was suggested. Council staff training for sure. But also police/anti-discrimination reporting mechanisms promoted to general community. Work with marketing and comms to review all publications and during the reference group to find best reporting mechanisms.”</li> </ul>
<p>Ensure Mathers House and the Still Gardening program actively encourages participation by LGBTIQA+ community members and volunteers aged 50+.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>LGBTQIA+ Reference group suggested adding to the measure of this action: “Opportunities to show/prove actively encouraging LGBTIQA+ members to come to Mather House.”</li> </ul>
<p>In collaboration with the local sector, provide inclusion and equity training for City of Hobart employees and Elected Members that highlights the lived experience of trans and gender diverse community members.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>LGBTQIA+ Reference group suggested adding to the measure of this action: “How many staff and members have been involved in training.”</li> </ul>
<p>Identify and address the barriers to LGBTIQA+ people participating fully in community life and the use of public spaces and City of Hobart venues, with the aim of reducing social isolation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>LGBTQIA+ Reference group suggested adding to the measure of this action “e.g. review/identify all existing city venues - venues and spaces (the signage - following the rainbow check. Review of public toilets as well.”</li> <li>Survey participant mentioned: “It is a real challenge to re-educate people where sincere prejudices are strongly held. Perhaps encouragement for those businesses, shops, hotels which recognise and embrace equality for all can be encouraged to display a sticker or something.”</li> </ul>

Coordinate the City of Hobart LGBTIQA+ and allies employee network, to enhance workplace inclusion in order to strengthen City of Hobart as an employer of choice.	No feedback was added to this action.
Acknowledge and support LGBTIQA+ Domestic Violence Awareness Day, identifying opportunities to promote awareness of, and advocate support for, LGBTIQA+ people who experience intimate partner violence.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>LGBTQIA+ Reference group suggested adding to the measure of this action "external and internal."</li> </ul>

## 5.5 Youth Action Plan



Goal: *Empower young people to thrive and participate.*

### Feedback related to each action in the plan

ACTION	COMMENTS
Continue to improve and maintain the Youth Arts and Recreation Centre (YouthARC) as a safe, social and vibrant place for young people through the Open Access Program.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Young person mentioned: "I feel like I can really resonate with people at the Youth Arts and Recreation Centre because I feel as if we are similar and can relate to each other."</li> </ul>
Support creative and community programs by enabling the hire of facilities at the Youth Arts and Recreation Centre to business, community organisations and individuals.	No feedback was added to this action.
Provide opportunities for young people to get involved in events and activities that develop and showcase their skills and talents - opportunities such as Platform youth culture magazine, podcast series, art exhibitions, music performances (YARC Live) and events.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Survey participant mentioned: "More, more, more. Give the money to the program but do not expect them to come to you. Go and meet them on their level."</li> </ul>
Engage regularly with young people in public spaces and through local services to understand their needs and aspirations and support their positive engagement in the life of the city.	No feedback was added to this action.
Proactively reach out to schools to showcase the Youth Arts and Recreation Centre and invite youth to	No feedback was added to this action.

engage with and participate in access related programs.	
Facilitate networking opportunities for the southern youth sector to connect, share issues, ideas and collaborate on activities. Support the youth sector to advocate and take action on issues relating to young people in Hobart.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Survey participant mentioned: "Support youth work/youth workers."</li> </ul>
Maintain a broad understanding of the needs and issues for families, children and young people in Hobart. Ensure these needs are taken into account when developing strategies to enhance Hobart as an inclusive and equitable city for young people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Survey participant mentioned: "Good to see young people also being considered (again, usually under represented in e.g. planning consultations). More homes = more options for work opportunities and staying near family in future."</li> <li>Young person mentioned: "I think young people also just need support to have their basic needs met, particularly in our current cost of living crisis, young people are hit quite hard and finding and accessing help is hard."</li> </ul>
Provide leadership and development opportunities for young people through the Youth Advisory Squad and support collaboration with other regional youth reference groups.	No feedback was added to this action.
Develop and deliver a variety of skill development programs and projects to encourage young people to test, try and learn creative, cultural, employability and life skills.	No feedback was added to this action.
Build partnerships with local Tasmanian Aboriginal organisations to create a culturally safe Youth Arts and Recreation Centre for Tasmanian Aboriginal young people and provide opportunities for non aboriginal young people to learn more about Tasmanian Aboriginal culture.	No feedback was added to this action.
Advocate for the needs and aspirations of children and young people to other levels of government and the community service sector. Including advocacy on key issues such as transport, mental health, sustainability and education.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Survey participant mentioned: "I support all plans and projects to support young people to thrive. Give under 18s free Metro bus transport, as in Melbourne. This would also prevent a lot of the current problems with youth not paying on buses. Hopefully, they would feel more supported and included in life. Invest in accessible bus transport for all in fact."</li> </ul>
Design and trial tailored programs and partnerships to increase participation of and support with young new Australians, young people with disabilities and LGBTIQA+ young people to reduce the impacts of isolation, discrimination and harassment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Young person mentioned: "Explain how people have different beliefs/culture, styles, etc. so there isn't any bullying."</li> </ul>

Deliver recreational programs outside that nurture young people's connection with the natural environment, sky, land and waterways.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Survey participant mentioned: "Consider more twilight events."</li> <li>Young person mentioned: "Increasing free/low cost entertainment options in the city."</li> <li>Young person mentioned: "I think young people want to have spaces specific to them but also to actually be included in spaces and not demonised... More opportunities would be cool."</li> </ul>
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## 5.6 Multicultural Action Plan



Goal: *Promote inclusion and celebrate cultural diversity.*

Feedback related to each action in the plan

ACTION	COMMENTS
Facilitate the Networking for Harmony Multicultural Advisory Group for information sharing, networking, feedback to the City of Hobart and safe community conversations every two months.	No feedback was added to this action.
Deliver annually the City of Hobart's International Student Ambassador Program to provide participation, leadership and access opportunities for international students.	No feedback was added to this action.
Deliver citizenship ceremonies for members of the Hobart community with a focus on inviting cultural community leaders (in line with the cultural background of candidates) to take part in the event and sharing information and resources.	No feedback was added to this action.
Partner and directly deliver community and cross-cultural events that celebrate diversity and provide an opportunity for community groups to connect and share.	No feedback was added to this action.
Continue to develop and enhance content available on the City of Hobart's website for multicultural programs and promote culturally significant dates via communications to raise awareness and knowledge.	No feedback was added to this action.
Monitor trends and foster local networks to maintain a broad understanding of the needs of multicultural communities in Hobart,	No feedback was added to this action.

responding to issues as they arise, advocating for needs and working to build a more inclusive city.	
Collect and analyse demographic data to determine the cultural, religious and linguistic composition of the local community.	No feedback was added to this action.
Continue to provide support to increase diverse representation in publications and communications produced by the City of Hobart.	• Survey participant suggested: "QR codes on signs would allow language translation with phone apps."
Advocate for and support community messaging about racism. Continue to promote Hobart Respects All and anti-racism campaigns.	No feedback was added to this action.
In partnership with Equal Opportunity Tasmania, continue to deliver tailored information sessions about anti-discrimination law and the importance of reporting racism for Hobart's cultural groups.	No feedback was added to this action.
Encourage continuous improvement across the organisation, using the Social Inclusion Policy to reduce the risk of discrimination within our scope of influence.	No feedback was added to this action.
Review documents, publications and communications for accessibility and inclusivity.	No feedback was added to this action.
Continue to participate in the Welcoming Cities network and progress against the National Standard. Apply for accreditation as an established level Welcoming City.	No feedback was added to this action.

## 5.7 Homelessness Action Plan

Goal: *Support people experiencing homelessness and housing stress.*

## Feedback related to each Action in the Plan

ACTION	COMMENTS
Coordinate the Housing With Dignity Reference Group to provide lived expertise to Council on policy and strategy and help identify and progress initiatives that address homelessness issues within Hobart.	No feedback was added to this action.
Deliver and support projects, workshops, exhibitions, forums or events, such as <i>I am Somebody</i> and <i>Songs from the Street</i> , during Homelessness Week or Anti-Poverty Week.	No feedback was added to this action.
Provide free venue use at Mathers and Criterion House to community-initiated services, such as Food Not Bombs, Dining with Friends, Pets in the Park, Circle of Love and Care, Mutual Aid Kitchen - supporting community members in need.	No feedback was added to this action.
Provide resources or training to support City of Hobart staff interacting or working with people experiencing all forms of homelessness or housing stress.	No feedback was added to this action.
Advocate for funding to continue the delivery of the Health with Dignity project, in partnership with The Salvation Army and local general practice, to provide free medical appointments to people in extreme need.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Survey participant mentioned: "More women over 55 are facing poverty and homelessness because of inequality, especially leaving abusive relationships. The government has no political will to solve this crisis, or provide safe, affordable housing for all. Please provide solutions that address people's basic human rights to housing."</li> </ul>
Provide information to individuals in need, the broader community and the sector about local homelessness, health and social support services within Hobart through the provision of the Hobart Helps Card.	No feedback was added to this action.
Maintain a dedicated homeless initiative budget to support 'on the ground' homelessness initiatives and projects, emergency packs, recharge stations, or lockers, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Survey participant suggested increasing the funding - as some free meals, food, clothes and advice service is really needed.</li> </ul>

Participate in Specialist Homelessness Services Southern Forum to collect and compare data, network, share information and develop initiatives that address homelessness within southern Tasmania.	No feedback was added to this action.
Provide and promote appropriate public infrastructure that supports all community members, particularly those in need, such as showers, water bubblers/refill stations, power points and Wi-Fi hot spots, and identify opportunities for inclusion of additional facilities in any new City of Hobart development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Survey participant mentioned: "Accessible, affordable transport through the Metro bus services needs a lot of work."</li> </ul>
Actively participate on the Council of Capital City Lord Mayors Housing and Homelessness Working Group to raise and address homelessness issues identified by all capital cities.	No feedback was added to this action.
Promote and support community services, programs and venues managed and delivered by the community sector which support experiencing homelessness, such as Streets to Home and Safe Space.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Survey participant suggested: "More communication with them. They are individuals not a group."</li> </ul>
Engage with the Tasmanian Government and other sector representatives through the Greater Hobart Homelessness Alliance to share resources, coordinate responses and address homelessness issues across Greater Hobart.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Survey participant mentioned: "Not the only thing, but it's important to enable a whole suite of positive policies that allow essential shelter to better support people in need where they're at."</li> </ul>
Increase the community's awareness of actions that can assist with lowering the cost of accommodation such as measures to reduce energy consumption and/or increase energy efficiency.	No feedback was added to this action.
Work with local and national educational and research institutions and organisations to participate in and promote research and awareness raising that has a positive impact on the delivery of local services, and increases the community's understanding of homelessness.	No feedback was added to this action.
Establish a City of Hobart Homelessness Working Group to ensure effective and supportive	No feedback was added to this action.

management of homelessness issues within the organisation.	
Develop a homelessness protocol document to guide the City of Hobart's response to people without a home sleeping rough in public spaces.	No feedback was added to this action.

## 5.8 Additional Community Feedback

During the engagement, a range of perspectives were shared. While many comments aligned with the framework and contributed constructively to the discussion, there were instances where feedback extended beyond the scope of the framework. These remarks reflect diverse viewpoints and provide insight into community sentiment. Some examples of these comments are quoted below for reference.

- "A City for All" is a misnomer. It should be renamed "A City for Favoured Identity Groups Only..."
- "As someone aged over 50 years, I think people should take responsibility for themselves as far as possible. I don't see why this program is necessary..."
- "Once again there is nothing focusing on the safety of men, despite men being far less safe in public than women. ..."
- "This action plan is unnecessary as we should be celebrating everyone not focusing on one particular group. This is very woke and yes I support LGBTIQA+ people but just can't get my head around why they have to be put into the spot light..."
- "Not a council activity, clearly state and federal government."
- "Don't have 'a city for all' rather focus on a city for fewer people. We need a population cap so services can catch up. 'Make Hobart small again..."
- "You need to focus on core activities for ratepayers. You are a local council."

## 6. Conclusion

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This community engagement report outlines a two-stage process for developing and refining the City for All Implementation Framework. In Stage 1, engagement was limited to lived experience groups and sector representatives, who assisted in the initial development of the draft framework. Stage 2, which is the focus of this report, centered on a comprehensive review of the draft framework by the broader community and the groups who initially provided feedback on the development of the draft. Inviting community members to reflect on and provide feedback about the framework that had been shaped by the groups engaged in Stage 1.

The engagement methodology for Stage 2 included:

- Online and face-to-face surveys.
- Online poll.
- Written submissions.
- Pop-up sessions at key city locations.
- Targeted youth engagement at the Youth Arts and Recreation Centre.
- Reviews by committees and reference groups.

### Key insights

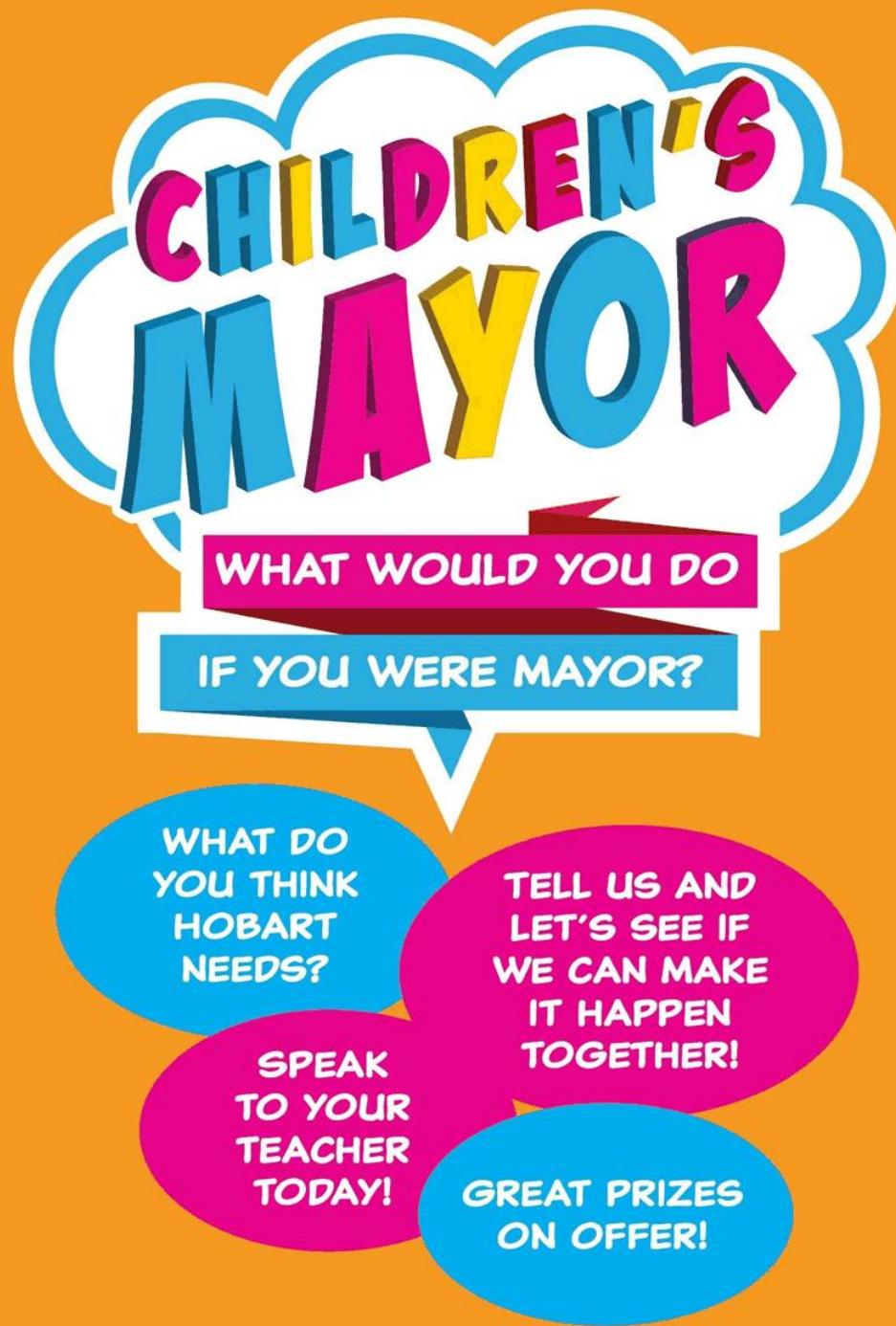
Feedback during our Stage 2 engagement revealed strong support for the framework's inclusive approach, as well as practical recommendations for improvement. Committees and reference groups provided targeted recommendations, leading to more specific, measurable and relevant actions within each plan. Feedback emphasised:

- **Need to improve accessibility and walkability** in public spaces for all ages and abilities.
- **Calls for increased opportunities for cultural exchange**, creative activities and inclusive public events that encourage participation without financial barriers.
- **Support for vulnerable groups**, including tailored programs for youth, older persons, people with disabilities and those experiencing homelessness.
- **Suggestions for practical improvements**, such as investment in bike lanes, safer access routes to schools and street vibrant enhancements.
- **Requests for better communication**, awareness campaigns and education to foster empathy, anti-racism and understanding across communities.
- **Recommendations for more measurable outcomes** and regular reviews of actions to ensure ongoing relevance and impact.
- **Acknowledgement of varying community sentiments and perspectives outside the framework**, highlighting current community attitudes.

## Appendices

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All data related to this report are available on request from the Community Program Manager.



## SCHOOL INFORMATION PACK



To find out more, visit:  
[hobartcity.com.au/Childrens-Lord-Mayor](http://hobartcity.com.au/Childrens-Lord-Mayor)



City of HOBART

## Hobart Children's Mayor Program

The Lord Mayor of Hobart, Councillor Anna Reynolds, invites Hobart primary schools to participate in the Children's Mayor Program 2025.

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### SCHOOL INFORMATION PACK

This document provides information on the program, application forms and background on Local Government.

#### Contents

Program Overview .....	3
School Participation .....	3
Terms and Conditions .....	4
Student Information Sheet .....	6
Entry Form & Permissions .....	7
Three Levels of Government: Governing Australia .....	11
Federal Government .....	13
State and Territory Governments .....	14
Local Governments / City Councils .....	15
What does Local Government do? .....	15
How did local government develop? .....	16
How does the Council work? .....	17
The City of Hobart .....	17
The Role of Elected Members .....	18
The Role of the Lord Mayor .....	18
Council and Committee meetings .....	19
How to Find out More .....	20

## Program Overview

The Hobart Children's Mayor Program aims to encourage democratic awareness amongst primary school students, supporting greater understanding of Local Government, the democratic process and the role of elected representatives.

Students from primary schools in Hobart are encouraged to participate in the program by developing a short manifesto about how they would make Hobart a better city for children, starting with the line:

***"If I was Children's Mayor of Hobart I would..."***

The Lord Mayor of Hobart and her selection panel will choose the top two manifestos, nominating the first ever Hobart Children's Mayor and Deputy Mayor. All Hobart schools will then be invited to participate in a reception and award presentation during Children's Week 2025. The winning students will have the opportunity to participate in a small number of official duties alongside the Lord Mayor and/or her delegate.

## School Participation

Schools can tailor their participation to suit their schedule and their students. Participation is open to all primary school aged children, with content best suited to grades 3-6. The program outlined below provides suggestions for schools to consider.

- 1. Introduce the Program and the Role of Local Government:** Schools may wish to provide students with a lesson on the role of local government using the resources in this pack and online. For some schools this may fit well with the year 6 curriculum on governance, but the information can be tailored to any grade level. Alternatively, schools may simply share the information for students to participate in their own time.
- 2. Encourage Participation:** Schools are asked to encourage students to consider what they would do if they were the Lord Mayor of Hobart. Students should present their thoughts in a 'Manifesto'. This can be provided in written form, as artwork or in a digital format. Creative responses are encouraged. A short summary of their response should be included in the entry form. Teachers may create time for students to craft their responses in class time, or simply encourage students to complete the work at home.

There may be an opportunity for the Lord Mayor, Elected Members or staff to attend a school assembly to present the program to students if the school considers that this would be beneficial. Please contact us if you would like to progress a visit.

3. **School Selection:** Schools are then asked to select two students for progression to formal judging.

*Schools may wish to have students vote for their preferred manifestos.*

Alternatively, class teachers or the principal may prefer to select the manifestos. Each school then submit their chosen manifestos to the Lord Mayor's office.

4. **Lord Mayor Selection:** A panel including the Lord Mayor and other City officials will consider all manifestos and award a winner and a runner up. The student who authors the winning manifesto will be given the title of Hobart Children's Mayor 2025. The runner-up will be named Hobart Children's Deputy Mayor 2025. There may be also highly commended certificates awarded.

5. **Children's Week Reception:** Delegates from every primary school in Hobart will be invited to attend the Lord Mayor's Reception for Children at the Hobart Town Hall during Children's Week in October. The winners will be announced, and the new Children's Mayor and Deputy Mayor officially appointed.

Please note - schools that do not wish to participate in the Children's Mayor activity are still welcome to come to the Lord Mayor's Reception.

6. **Children's Mayor Activities:** The Children's Mayor and Deputy Mayor will then be invited to spend an afternoon with the Lord Mayor in November 2025. They will attend meetings and witness firsthand, a day in the life of the Hobart Lord Mayor. Additionally, there will be an opportunity for students to attend the council chambers and present their manifesto to either a Council meeting or to the City's Annual General Meeting. The title of Children's Mayor and Deputy Mayor will remain in place until October 2026.

#### Terms and Conditions

- Participation is open to all primary schools in the Hobart LGA.
- Students do not need to reside in Hobart but must be currently enrolled in a Hobart school.
- Students of all ages are welcome to participate (noting that content may be most suitable for grades 3-6).
- Each school may only submit two manifestos for consideration by the selection panel.
- Students entering will ideally be available for official events on 22 October and the November (key dates below).
- Schools that do not wish to participate in the Children's Mayor activity are still welcome to come to the Lord Mayors Reception.
- The selection panel's decision is final.

Key Dates	Activity
April / May 2025	<p>Information packs distributed to schools</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Schools share the opportunity with posters (included in packs) on school walls, in parent and guardian newsletters, social media and websites so parents can also talk with their kids about the program.</li> <li>- Schools play the video to year 3-6 children to further promote the opportunity and show what previous winners did</li> </ul>
June – August 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Schools continue to promote the opportunity to students via classroom activities, assembly, newsletter or other options.</li> <li>- Opportunity for schools to come and do a tour of Town Hall with the Lord Mayor to help enhance their understanding of local government.</li> </ul>
Early September 2025	School run own process to select up to ten of its' best 'manifesto' / nominees
12 September 2025	Children's Mayor Program submissions close
22 October 2025	<p>Children's Week Reception (all Hobart schools welcome)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A well-known guest speaker will attend also.</li> </ul>
November 2025	Children's Mayor, Deputy and Highly Commended students will be invited to have morning tea with the LM and receive feedback from relevant City of Hobart staff regarding their submissions.



## Hobart Children's Mayor Program

### Student Information Sheet

*This year the City of Hobart will elect a new Hobart Children's Mayor and Deputy Mayor. This could be YOU!*

The Hobart Children's Mayor and Deputy Children's Mayor will have the chance to spend the day with the Lord Mayor of Hobart and present their ideas at a Council meeting or AGM in the Town Hall. To have a chance of being elected, we need you to tell us one key thing you would do if you were the Mayor of Hobart. You will also need to fill in the form below and give it to your class teacher.

Here are some ideas for you to think about when choosing the issue that you will tackle as Mayor. These are some ideas to assist you get started. You are also free to choose a topic that is not in the list below that you feel passionately about:

- building new roads, parks or other great things in the City
- helping children and young people feel safe
- holding exciting events for the community
- tackling bullying within schools, the community or online
- protecting the environment
- planning for a great future city (will there be flying cars or lots more people?)
- preparing people for a bushfire or flood
- making new artwork for children in the city
- creating a new way to empty rubbish bins

Make sure you only choose one topic and idea (otherwise we might get confused!)

You can show us your idea through writing, artwork or through a digital presentation. Just remember to include a short-written summary in the entry form as well.

**Have fun and do your best!**

**Entry Form & Permissions**

FULL NAME	
SCHOOL	
DATE OF BIRTH	
GENDER	
MEDIA and PHOTO CONSENT	We want to share your amazing ideas with Hobart! All entries must include a signed media consent form <b>(Attached)</b> and a picture of the student <b>(to be sent by email)</b>
SUMMARY Your idea in one statement. (Think slogans!)	
<b>Your Idea (no more than 200 words)</b>	

*"If I was Lord Mayor of the City of Hobart I would..."*

**How will your idea make a difference and who will it benefit? (no more than 200 words)**

*"My idea will help..."*

**How can others in your community including other children help with your idea ( no more than 100 words)**

*"Others can help by..."*



**City of HOBART**

### Media/Talent Release Form

1. First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Surname: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Postal Address:

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3. Contact Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Release

I hereby authorise the Hobart City Council and their licencees and associate's permission to use my image/s and I authorise the reproduction of any or all images in any form or composite representation by Hobart City Council and its licencees and associates without further compensation to me. All images shall remain the property of the Hobart City Council in all forms. I am over the age of 18 years:  Yes  
 No [cross out the incorrect option] If No - Signature of Parent/Guardian is required below.

I am the parent / guardian of the minor named above and have legal authority to make the above release.

Signature of Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Email contact: \_\_\_\_\_

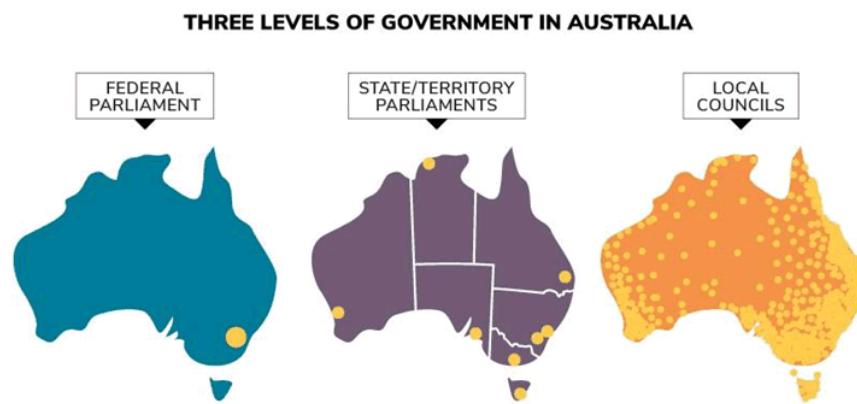
Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

*Internal administration Photography*  
project and year: Photographer:

Description of image composition \_\_\_\_\_

## Three Levels of Government: Governing Australia

In Australia the three levels of government work together to provide us with the services we need. This section explores the roles and responsibilities of each level, how they raise money and how they work together. Case studies show how the powers of the Australian Parliament have expanded.



Three levels of government in Australia. PARLIAMENTARY EDUCATION OFFICE (PEO.GOV.AU)

Australia has three levels of government that work together to provide us with the services we need. The three levels are:

- federal parliament — makes laws for the whole of Australia
- 6 state and 2 mainland territory parliaments — make laws for their state or territory
- over 500 local councils — make local laws (by-laws) for their region or district.

The federal and state governments are established under the Australian Constitution. How the federal and state parliaments (Governments) work together is sometimes referred to as the division of powers. Each level of government has its own responsibilities, although in some cases these responsibilities are shared.

Australians, aged 18 years and over, vote to elect representatives to federal, state and territory parliaments, and local councils to make decisions on their behalf. This means Australians have someone to represent them at each level of government.

This video gives a broad overview of the three levels of government:  
[https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/documents/explore/education/factsheets/Factsheet\\_1.1\\_ThreeLevelsOfGovt.pdf](https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/documents/explore/education/factsheets/Factsheet_1.1_ThreeLevelsOfGovt.pdf)

### Test your knowledge!

Do you know what each level of government is responsible for? Test your knowledge of the three levels of government in Australia with this game developed by the Parliamentary Education Office by following this link below

<https://peo.gov.au/understand-our-parliament/how-parliament-works/three-levels-of-government/federal-state-and-local/>

### Who Does What?

Source: [The Roles and Responsibilities of Federal, State and Local Governments \(nsw.gov.au\)](https://www.nsw.gov.au/government/roles-responsibilities)

It is not always easy to know which government is responsible for which service. Although the Federal Government is probably better known to many of us, the everyday things we do usually have more to do with our State or Local Governments.

The below table has some examples for you.

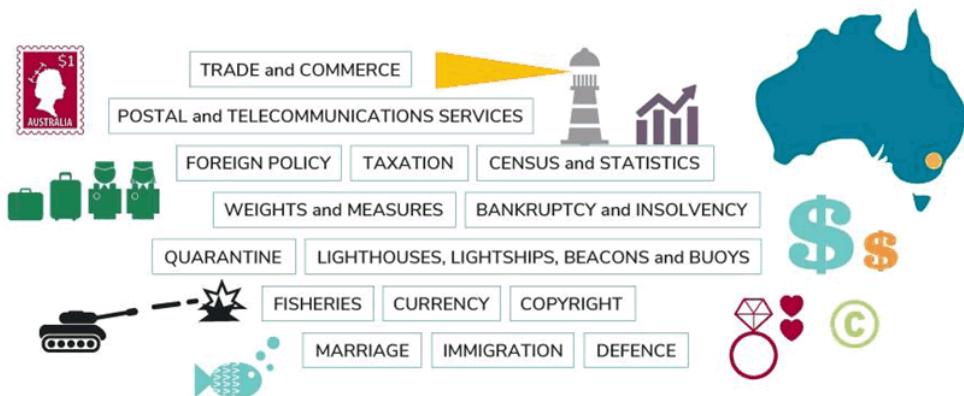
Things you might do in a day...	...and which level of government gets involved.		
	Federal Government	State Government	Local Government
Shower and get ready for school		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Power, gas, water, sewerage from State corporations</li> </ul>	
Have breakfast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Currency</li> <li>Trade, imports &amp; exports</li> <li>Advertising</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consumer laws</li> <li>Shop and workplace laws</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Health inspections of shops</li> </ul>
Catch the bus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National road funding</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Buses, bus passes</li> <li>Traffic laws, Police</li> <li>Traffic lights, Road signs</li> <li>Major roads, road taxes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local roads</li> <li>Street signs</li> <li>Bus stops</li> </ul>
Go to school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Funding to States</li> <li>Higher education</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Education Department</li> <li>School funding and subjects</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local kindergartens and pre-schools</li> </ul>
Go to the library	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National Library</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>State Library</li> <li>School libraries</li> <li>Subsidies to councils</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local libraries</li> </ul>
Play sport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Australian Institute of Sport</li> <li>National sports bodies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>State sports centre</li> <li>Funding to local councils</li> <li>Safety, health and education</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local sports fields and playgrounds</li> </ul>
Phone a friend	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Telephone services</li> </ul>		
Watch TV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Broadcasting laws</li> <li>ABC TV and Radio</li> </ul>		
Go to the doctor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Medicare</li> <li>Funding to States</li> <li>Drug control</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hospitals</li> <li>Ambulance services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community services, e.g. meals on wheels</li> </ul>
Go home		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Planning laws</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local building controls</li> <li>Trees and footpaths</li> </ul>
Put out the garbage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>International treaties and national environmental policies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Waste disposal</li> <li>Pollution controls</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Garbage collection</li> <li>Local environment</li> </ul>

Source: [The Roles and Responsibilities of Federal, State and Local Governments \(nsw.gov.au\)](https://www.nsw.gov.au/government/roles-responsibilities)

## Federal Government

Source: <https://www.familiesmagazine.com.au/politics-facts-for-kids/>

- Federal Government makes decisions to do with our whole nation.
- The leader of the government is the Prime Minister.
- There are two houses – the House of Representatives and the Senate.
- The Australian constitution (the laws that make up our nation) says we have to have a federal election every three years.
- The House of Representatives is made up of people called 'members'. There are 150 of them and they each represent an electorate (voting area) in Australia.
- People in the Senate are called senators. They represent an entire state or territory. There are 12 for every state and 2 for each territory. State senators can keep their jobs for six years and territory senators can have them for three.
- Federal government looks after social security, industrial relations, foreign affairs, trade, immigration and protecting our country.



The law-making powers of the federal Parliament. PARLIAMENTARY EDUCATION OFFICE (PEO.GOV.AU)

## State and Territory Governments

Source: <https://www.familiesmagazine.com.au/politics-facts-for-kids/>

- There is a Parliament House in each state.
- Every state parliament (except Queensland) is made up of two houses.
- Members in the upper house are on the Legislative Assembly, House of Assembly or Legislative Council.
- The leader of each state is called the Premier.
- In the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory, there is only one house – Legislative Assembly.
- The leader of each territory is called the Chief Minister.
- State government looks after consumer affairs, education, public transport and roads, health, consumer affairs and justice.



The law-making powers of the state parliaments. PARLIAMENTARY EDUCATION OFFICE (PEO.GOV.AU)

## Local Governments / City Councils

Source: <https://www.familiesmagazine.com.au/politics-facts-for-kids/>

- These are usually called city council or shire council.
- They look after the needs of a city or a local community.
- Representatives at this level are called aldermen or councillors.
- The head of the council is called the Mayor or the Shire President.
- Local government looks after local road maintenance, garbage collection, regulations and subdivisions, public health and local facilities like pools and libraries.



The law-making powers of local government. PARLIAMENTARY EDUCATION OFFICE (PEO.GOV.AU)

## What does Local Government do?

There are over 500 local government bodies across Australia. They are often called councils, municipalities or shires. Local governments consist of 2 groups who serve the needs of local communities:

- elected members, who normally have 4-year terms
- staff who work for the council.

On average each council has 9 elected members who are usually called councillors or aldermen, while the chair or head of the council is usually called the mayor or president. The Hobart City Council has 12 Elected Members. These smaller legislative bodies make by-laws about local matters and provide services.

For example, councils are responsible for:

- local roads, footpaths, cycle ways, street signage and lighting
- waste management, including rubbish collection and recycling
- parking
- recreational facilities such as parks, sports fields and swimming pools
- cultural facilities, including libraries, art galleries and museums
- services such as childcare and aged care
- sewerage
- town planning
- building approvals and inspections
- land and coast care programs
- pet control.

One of the main tasks of local government is to regulate - manage - services and activities. For example, councils are responsible for traffic lights, and dog and cat registration. These tasks would be difficult for a state government to manage because they are local issues.

Councils can deliver services adapted to the needs of the community they serve. For instance, the needs of residents in inner-city Brisbane might be different to those of people living in rural Queensland. By providing these services and facilities, councils make sure local communities work well from day-to-day.

From the 1840s, colonial parliaments began to hand over responsibility for local issues to local councils. The first council was established in Adelaide in 1840, followed in 1842 by the City of Sydney and Town of Melbourne councils. From the 1850s onwards, the number of elected councils grew rapidly.

Today, local authorities include city councils in urban centres, and regional and shire councils in rural areas. On average each council looks after about 28 400 people. The largest council by population is Brisbane City Council which is responsible for a population of nearly 1.2 million. The Shire of East Pilbara in Western Australia is the largest local authority area.

Local councils are not mentioned in the Australian Constitution, although each state has a local government Act - law - that provides the rules for the creation and operation of councils.

While these Acts vary from state to state, in general they cover how councils are elected and their power to make and enforce local laws, known as by-laws. A by-law is a form of delegated legislation because the state government delegates - gives - to councils the authority to make laws on specific matters. As councils derive their powers from state parliaments, council by-laws may be overruled by state laws.

## How did local government develop?

Source: <https://www.sydneytownhall.com.au/discover-learn/schools/local-government/>

Long before the arrival of Europeans, the Australian Aboriginal people had their own form of local government whereby elders made decisions on behalf of their tribes. Following the arrival of Europeans, a formal system of local government was established first, followed by state and federal government. Adelaide was the first city to elect a council, followed by Sydney and Melbourne (then part of New South Wales) in 1842.

## How does the Council work?

Source: <https://www.sydneytownhall.com.au/discover-learn/schools/local-government/>

The lord mayor of a council is elected as a representative of a local government area at a general election held every four years. Councils appoint a general manager or chief executive officer (formerly a town clerk) to carry out their decisions and manage the administrative staff who provide advice to council and implement council policies and decisions. To do this, council staff prepare reports, investigate the legal responsibilities and inform and consult with the community. Councils also employ staff who work as administration officers, librarians, plant and equipment operators, planners, inspectors, engineers, community workers, environmental officers, horticulture workers and recreation officers.

The mayoral office carries with it responsibilities including running and chairing the meetings of council, acting as the spokesperson of the council at community events or in the media, carrying out civic duties such as citizenship ceremonies and working with the chief executive officer on council business.

## The City of Hobart

Hobart is Tasmania's capital city and is the nation's second oldest and southern most Capital City, settled in 1804. The City of Hobart is Tasmania's capital city council.

The City of Hobart has five main areas of work divided into 'Networks'. These are:

- **Community and Economic Development** – looks after community programs (supporting community through programs and activities), community resilience and recovery (disaster and emergencies) tourism (travel and tourism centre), economic development (business support), environmental health (immunisation and food safety), project design and delivery and smart and sustainable Hobart (electric vehicles, street lights), creative Hobart (public art and events), city mobility (traffic and parking), manages the grants program (grants across several areas), manages the DKHAC activities (Aquatic Centre).

- **Strategic and Regulatory Services** – manages all planning and development (new buildings or changes to old ones), city transport (signage, permits and planning), place design (sport and recreation, urban design), compliances (from animal management to plumbing permits)
- **Infrastructure and Assets** – city infrastructure (creates new and looks after existing city places - shopping areas, footpaths, keeps things clean, collects rubbish), looks after parks and bushland (from the beaches to the mountain), roads, public toilets and other city infrastructure (like park benches community buildings), city resilience (waste, recycling and emergency management).
- **Corporate Services** – manages governance (arranging Council meetings and agendas and supporting Elected Members) legal services (legal advice), strategic planning for future Hobart (new plans for areas of Hobart), design lab (ideas to address big issues), people and culture (managing staff), information technology (computer systems).
- **Executive Services** – manages the Lord Mayor and the CEO offices, Community engagement and Communication and marketing teams.

## **The Role of Elected Members**

The Lord Mayor, Deputy Lord Mayor along with 10 elected members (known as Alderman or Councillors) make up the City of Hobart's elected body 'the Council'. These positions are all elected for a four-year term.

The latest City of Hobart elections were held in October 2022. The next City of Hobart elections are scheduled to be held in October 2026.

The primary role of an elected member is to make decisions and develop policies that guide the activities of the local government. People look to their elected representatives for leadership and guidance. Elected members can provide this by putting forward options and presenting arguments or possible solutions to problems at council meetings. Local government elected members are accountable to the council and to the electors of the local government district.

Current elected members for Hobart are: Lord Mayor Councillor Anna M. Reynolds, Deputy Lord Mayor Councillor Dr. Zelinda Sherlock, Alderman Marti Zucco, Councillor Bill Harvey, Councillor Will Coates, Councillor Mike Dutta, Councillor John Kelly, Councillor Louise Elliot, Alderman Louise Bloomfield, Councillor Ryan Posselt, Councillor Ben Lohberger and Councillor Gemma Kitsos.

For more information on the Hobart elected members:  
[www.hobartcity.com.au/Council/Elected-Members/Current-Elected-Members](http://www.hobartcity.com.au/Council/Elected-Members/Current-Elected-Members).

## **The Role of the Lord Mayor**

The Lord Mayor is elected by the people and is recognised as the civic leader of the community.

The Lord Mayor is one of the 12 elected members. The Lord Mayor presides over the council meetings and manages the conduct of participants at these meetings.

When the Lord Mayor is unavailable, a Deputy Lord Mayor can act in her/his place. Similar to the Lord Mayor, the role of Deputy Lord Mayor is elected by a popular vote.

The role of the Lord Mayor is empowered with functions under the Local Government Act 1993. These functions include:

- to act as a leader of the community of the municipal area
- to carry out the civic and ceremonial functions of the mayoral office
- to promote good governance by, and within, the Council
- to act as chairperson of the Council and to chair meetings of the Council in a manner that supports decision-making processes
- to act as the spokesperson for the Council
- to represent the Council on regional organisations and at intergovernmental forums at regional, state and federal levels
- to lead and participate in the appointment, and the monitoring of the performance, of the general manager
- to liaise with the general manager on:
  - the activities of the Council and the performance and exercise of its functions and powers
  - the activities of the general manager and the performance and exercise of powers in supporting the Council.

The current Lord Mayor of Hobart is Anna Reynolds and the Deputy Lord Mayor is Zelinda Sherlock.

## **Council and Workshops meetings**

Source: <https://www.dlgsc.wa.gov.au/local-government/local-governments/council-elections/the-role-of-a-councilmember>

Generally, local government council members (including the Lord Mayor) do not have any authority to act or make decisions as individuals. They are members of an elected body that makes decisions on behalf of a local government through a formal meeting process called Council and Workshops Meetings.

If a council member is present at a council meeting, he or she has a duty to vote on all matters before that meeting, unless he or she has a financial interest in the matter.

It is important for councillors to read the agenda items and officers' reports before the council meeting. Without this background reading, it is extremely difficult for councillors to effectively assess issues and provide constructive input to council debate and decision making. Councillors must set aside adequate time for

preparation prior to each council meeting. Each council member has a right to be paid meeting attendance fees.

## How to Find out More

Members of the public can attend all ordinary council meetings and certain committee meetings. They also have the right to access certain local government records and information, including:

- the register of financial interests;
- minutes of council and committee meetings;
- agenda, notice papers, reports, and other documents that will be tabled at a meeting;
- maps showing the district and ward boundaries; and
- local laws.

The best place to watch Hobart City Council meetings is via the City of Hobart's [YouTube Channel](#).

All the meeting dates for the year are advertised in the Mercury in January and are available on the website at any time. These dates may change so always double-check closer to the date of the meeting you are interested in.

Copies of agendas for open meetings are available at the meeting or beforehand on the Hobart City Council website or the Town Hall reception. Minutes of meetings are available on Hobart City Council website once they have been endorsed and signed at the next ordinary meeting.

1

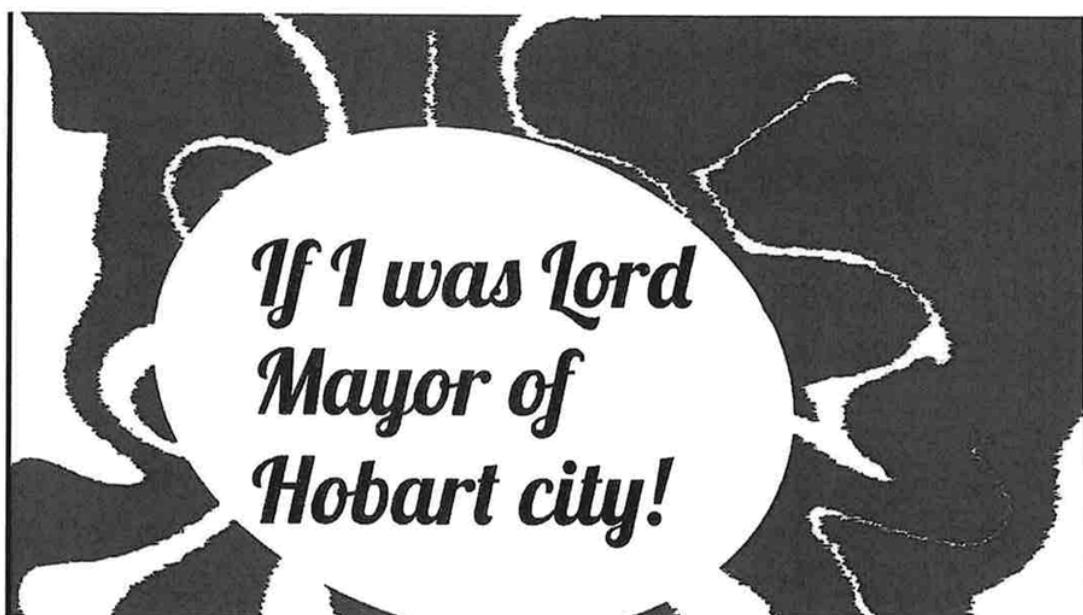
## Entry Form &amp; Permissions

FULL NAME	Matilda
SCHOOL	Friends School
DATE OF BIRTH	1/6/2014
GENDER	Female
MEDIA and PHOTO CONSENT	We want to share your amazing ideas with Hobart! All entries must include a signed media consent form (Attached) and a picture of the student (to be sent by email)
SUMMARY Your idea in one statement. (Think slogans!)	To encourage all children of all ages to learn a musical instrument. MUSIC = Wellbeing
Your Idea (no more than 200 words) - presented on Slide Show	

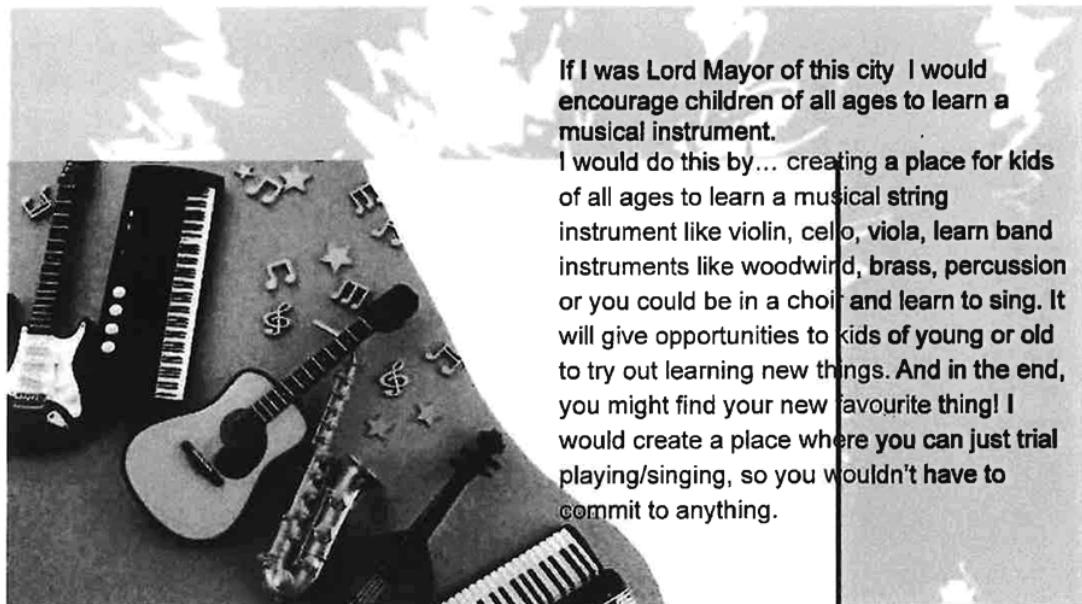
I want to encourage

1

1



1



1

*My idea will help because...*

*Learning a Musical instrument help all children with life skills, interacting with people, and mental health. Music helps kids open their mind to new things and nudges them to talk to the other people in the band/choir because now, they have something in common that they might not had before. It also helps boosting cognitive skills like memory and problem-solving, enhancing fine motor skills and coordination, and fostering discipline, self-confidence, and emotional regulation.*

1

*Others can help by...*

*People can help by; if they can play a instrument, they can help the children learn the music instrument. Monetary donations would also assist to make sure everyone gets a chance to learn a instrument. Even participating in learning one would help because it encourages the children to learn one as well. If you are a parent, nudging your child to learn to sing or play would make the biggest difference.*

1



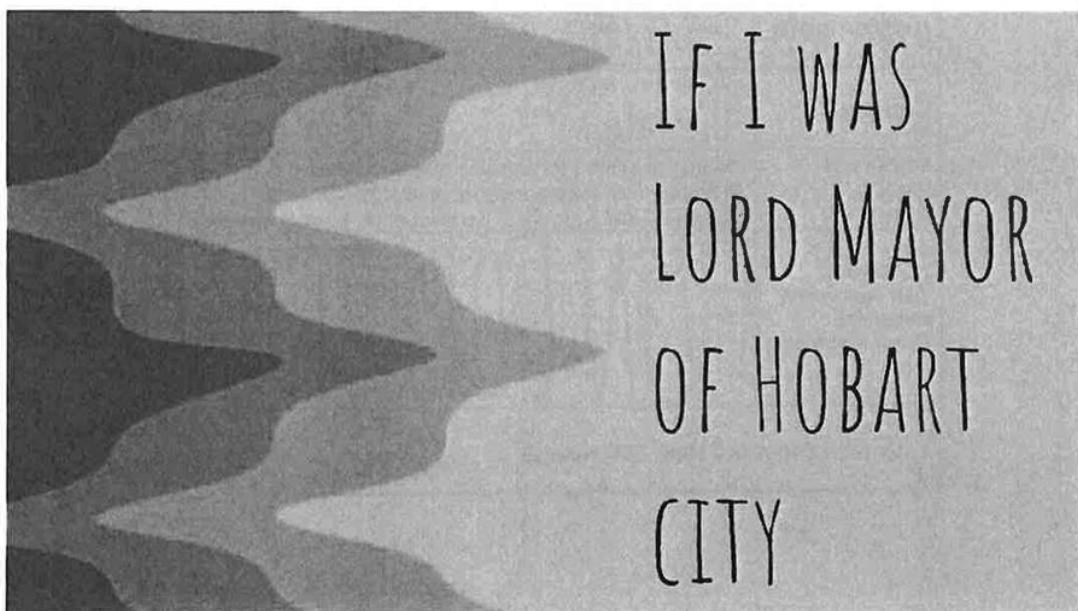
2

**Entry Form & Permissions**

FULL NAME	Isabel
SCHOOL	The Friends School
DATE OF BIRTH	24/1/14
GENDER	Female
MEDIA and PHOTO CONSENT	We want to share your amazing ideas with Hobart! All entries must include a signed media consent form (Attached) and a picture of the student (to be sent by email)
SUMMARY Your idea in one statement. (Think slogans!)	<b>FUN FOR FREE!</b>
<b>Your Idea (no more than 200 words)</b> - presented on slide show	



2



2

## If I was Lord Mayor of Hobart city I would.....

If I was Lord Mayor of Hobart city I would have fun, cool places with learning opportunities like the TMAG and maritime museum offer free entry/visits to kids. The council could pay businesses to provide free sessions at places like the aquatic center, sewing classes, basketball courts, badminton courts, painting classes, indoor cricket pitches and rock climbing free of charge on weekends and in school holidays. Maybe the council could employ some leaders to take groups of kids on bush walks so that they can explore the natural spaces close to the city like kunyarni.

2

## My idea will help.....

I have noticed that some kids get a lot of opportunities to do fun things while some kids can't afford to do fun things like others, all because they don't have the money to go and/or their school doesn't offer as much. I think every child should be able to explore as many opportunities as possible so everyone can get better at different things! By making these things free of charge, more children can do things that they've never done before. They will gain a sense of belonging to the community, meet new friends and take part in activities that will benefit their physical and mental health.

2

### *Other can help by.....*

*others can help by volunteering their time and their business facilities to support and create widespread opportunities for children. Monetary donations would also assist to provide equipment, transport and mentoring etc. the Australian government may also have funds to support worthy programs. Most of all the kids and families need to participate and embrace the new opportunities.*

2



3

**Entry Form & Permissions**

<b>FULL NAME</b>	Archer
<b>SCHOOL</b>	The Hutchins School
<b>DATE OF BIRTH</b>	12.10.2014
<b>GENDER</b>	M
<b>MEDIA and PHOTO CONSENT</b>	We want to share your amazing ideas with Hobart! All entries must include a signed media consent form (Attached) and a picture of the student (to be sent by email)
<b>SUMMARY Your idea in one statement. (Think slogans!)</b>	Words and Numbers Wonder Fest: A day to wonder, a lifetime to learn.

**Children's Mayor – Archer West****YOUR IDEA**

If I were Lord Mayor of Hobart, I would commission the Words and Numbers Wonder Fest (WNWF). The WNWF would be an annual one-day event for Tasmanians of all ages to boost their literacy and numeracy skills in a fun way.

One activity may be for every person that enters the WNWF to add one word to a story. At the end of the day, we would have a story to publish that has been written by Tasmanian leaners at the WNWF. Another activity may be a life-sized game of scrabble where people work together to add words to the board.

The WNWF would be a first of its kind festival globally, setting an example for the world to follow. The WNWF: A day to wonder, a lifetime to learn.

3

**HOW WILL YOUR IDEA MAKE A DIFFERENCE AND WHO WILL IT BENEFIT**

My idea would help all Tasmanians that need assistance with their numeracy and literacy skills.

The WNWF will make a difference by providing a safe, inclusive, and fun environment for Tasmanians to see they are not alone on their journey to better improve their literacy and numeracy skills.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics explains that Tasmania has the lowest adult literacy in Australia and NAPLAN scores well below national average in literacy and numeracy. One reason for this is that Tasmanians do not receive all the help they need at a young age, as stated in the 2023 Lifting Literacy Plan of the Tasmanian Government.

My personal journey. I was fortunate to have parents that recognised I was not meeting my literacy milestones. Diagnosed with Childhood Apraxia of Speech at four years old I received weekly support for several years from Speech Pathology Tasmania. Now, in my most recent school report, I received above average in all areas of literacy. This experience has led me to the idea of developing the WNWF: A day to wonder, a lifetime to learn.

**HOW CAN OTHERS IN YOUR COMMUNITY, INCLUDING OTHER CHILDREN, HELP WITH YOUR IDEA**

Others can help by getting involved because the WNWF is far reaching and innovative. Tasmanians will not just attend the festival but help create the festival. Tasmanian schools will have the opportunity to develop an activity that they can host at the WNWF. For example, an activity that a school may create is a Word and Number Escape Room: Participants decode puzzles and riddles using math and language skills to “escape” a themed tent.

Relevant local businesses will be invited to promote their expertise in a fun and engaging way.

The Tasmanian community needs the WNWF: A day to wonder, a lifetime to learn.

4

**Entry Form & Permissions**

FULL NAME	Eli
SCHOOL	The Hutchins School
DATE OF BIRTH	17.10.2014
GENDER	M
MEDIA and PHOTO CONSENT	We want to share your amazing ideas with Hobart! All entries must include a signed media consent form (Attached) and a picture of the student (to be sent by email)
SUMMARY Your idea in one statement. (Think slogans!)	Dirt Bike Tracks

**Your Idea (no more than 200 words)**

"If I was Lord Mayor of the City of Hobart I would..."

If I was children's mayor, I would make more motocross tracks and more enduro tracks for the public. The reason I think we need more motocross tracks is because the only one is out at Cambridge and if I want to go there it is about a 30-minute drive to get there. I think if we do make another motocross track, we should have a building there that has a medical station. Just in case someone hurts themselves. I think we should also have flagies to warn other people that someone has crashed. The enduro tracks are a problem to there is only one public enduro track that you can just show up and ride on. I strongly believe that there should be a local enduro track. But there will also be rules that apply like if you're not 18 years or older you must have an adult to ride with you. Here's some locations for tracks Grey Mountain, Southport, and Margate.

**How will your idea make a difference and who will it benefit? (no more than 200 words)**

"My idea will help..."

My idea would benefit all the people who ride motorbikes. It would also benefit all the people who don't have any land to ride on. Unlike me lots of people don't have any land to ride on and I strongly believe that there should be some public tracks in the bush. Just think of how many people it would benefit. Some of my friends want to start riding but have no where to ride so this is why I believe we should have more tracks.

**How can others in your community including other children help with your idea ( no more than 100 words)**

"Others can help by..."

4

Others can help by testing the tracks being sponsors and more. Starting off with testing the tracks. Other kids can come and test the tracks so they can make them as good as possible. Parents can help by sponsoring and if they own a business, you could bring stuff to help build the tracks. Local businesses could help do the designing part of it. Kids could also have fundraisers to raise money to get all the supplies and dirt.

5

**Entry Form & Permissions**

FULL NAME	Elsie
SCHOOL	Princes Street Primary School
DATE OF BIRTH	26/01/2014
GENDER	Female
MEDIA and PHOTO CONSENT	We want to share your amazing ideas with Hobart! All entries must include a signed media consent form (Attached) and a picture of the student (to be sent by email)
SUMMARY Your idea in one statement. (Think slogans!)	less sadness, more murals
<b>Your Idea (no more than 200 words)</b>	

5

***"If I was Lord Mayor of the City of Hobart I would..."***

If I was Lord Mayor of Hobart I would start a mural program around the city. People would be chosen or compete to have their work displayed on approved buildings. Schools could have art competitions, then the winner would be able to paint their work onto a decided building for everyone to see. Famous artists would be chosen to exhibit their pieces. I am aware we would need approvals from people or businesses who own the buildings, but I know that the community in Hobart is lovely and many of the great people here would willingly let their places be improved with vibrant art.

**How will your idea make a difference and who will it benefit? (no more than 200 words)*****"My idea will help..."***

My idea will benefit all of Hobart in many ways. More mural art will boost tourism, for a start. Tourists could take tours around the city admiring the brilliant pieces all around the area. This will improve our economy and raise money for other projects. Along with this benefit, more murals will also boost people's morale. Say you were walking along after a bad day, and you wandered past a feel-good mural like a smiling sun; it would put a smile on even the gloomiest of faces and brighten anyone's day. This would also help people to learn about cultures like the indigenous people of Australia through artwork. Every picture tells a story, and murals are a great way to show this while teaching people about the unique and beautiful culture. Artists who aren't given a chance to show their stunning artworks could showcase them as murals and publicise them by doing this.

5

**How can others in your community including other children help with your idea ( no more than 100 words)***"Others can help by..."*

Others can help by contributing to murals and allow their building to be used as a showcase for the murals. Along with this, volunteers could apply for their artwork to be presented. In the competitions entry fees would go towards things like healthcare and various other things for the community.

*Written by Elsie Elson*

6

**Entry Form & Permissions**

FULL NAME	Gabriella
SCHOOL	Princes School Primary Years
DATE OF BIRTH	16/04/13
GENDER	Female
MEDIA and PHOTO CONSENT	We want to share your amazing ideas with Hobart! All entries must include a signed media consent form (Attached) and a picture of the student (to be sent by email)
SUMMARY Your idea in one statement. (Think slogans!)	Help the homeless
<b>Your Idea (no more than 200 words)</b>	

6

*"If I was Lord Mayor of the City of Hobart I would..."*

If I were Lord Mayor I'd help the homeless. I believe everyone deserves a safe place to stay. I would create a designated area where homeless people can rest without needing to move every day. Stability is important, and it helps people feel respected.

I'd also start a program where buying certain products leads to a tent being donated to someone in need. For parents with babies or young children, I'd work with local churches to offer support groups and provide essentials like nappies, baby formula, and dummies. Women would have access to hygiene products like tampons, pads, and sanitary bags.

**How will your idea make a difference and who will it benefit? (no more than 200 words)**

*"My idea will help..."*

Helping people meet their basic needs can reduce problems like drug and alcohol use, making our streets safer and cleaner.

6

**How can others in your community including other children help with your idea ( no more than 100 words)***"Others can help by..."*

The community can help by donating clothes, hygiene items, nappies, and tents.  
Homeless people are just like us they deserve kindness and support. If we show love and care, we might help them turn their lives around and build a safer Tasmania for everyone.

7

**Entry Form & Permissions**

FULL NAME	Kate
SCHOOL	Lansdowne Cresent Primary School
DATE OF BIRTH	4/10/2013
GENDER	Female
MEDIA and PHOTO CONSENT	We want to share your amazing ideas with Hobart! All entries must include a signed media consent form.  (Attached) and a picture of the student (to be sent by email)
SUMMARY Your idea in one statement. (Think slogans!)	<b>"Care with Every Package—Because Everyone Deserves Comfort."</b>
<b>Your Idea (no more than 200 words)</b>	

7

*"If I was Lord Mayor of the City of Hobart I would launch a city-wide Care Package Initiative to support people who are less fortunate and experiencing hardship. Every day, we walk past individuals living on the streets with barely enough to survive—no warm clothing, no food, sometimes not even a blanket. It's time we stop walking past and start reaching out.*

These care packages would be filled with essential items to meet basic needs and offer comfort. They would include things like granola bars, dried fruit, noodle cups, non-perishable food, feminine hygiene products, first aid kits, toothpaste, toothbrushes, raincoats, combs, milk powder, and child-friendly food. But there would be a most important item. Each package would contain a handwritten note from us—a message of hope and kindness to remind people they are not forgotten.

Some people need more, some need less, but every person deserves dignity, warmth, and a better chance at life. This initiative would be powered by donations and volunteers, showing that when a community comes together, real change is possible.

As one of these children, I would make it my mission to ensure no one is left behind and that Hobart becomes a city known for compassion, care and connection.

7

**How will your idea make a difference and who will it benefit? (no more than 200 words)**

*"My idea will help many* people in our community who are struggling—those living on the streets, going hungry, caring for pets, or raising young children. These care packages will provide more than just essentials like food, hygiene products, pet supplies, and child-friendly items. They're not just about survival—they're about dignity, comfort, and hope.

Each package will include a handwritten note from a child, offering encouragement and reminding recipients that they are seen valued and supported. These messages could inspire people to make positive choices and feel connected to their community.

The people receiving these packages aren't greedy—they're simply in need. By helping them, we also help ourselves. Giving feels amazing! It brings people together, builds empathy, and strengthens our city.

This project could grow far beyond Hobart, inspiring volunteers, schools, and businesses to join in.

This initiative will also benefit schools and families by encouraging empathy, teamwork and social responsibility.

Together, we can create a movement of care and kindness—one package, one person, one act of kindness at a time.

7

**How can others in your community including other children help with your idea ( no more than 100 words)**

*"Others can help by volunteering to sort donated items, pack and labelling care packages, coordinating where they go, and delivering them to those in need. Children can write notes of encouragement, hand out flyers and help spread the word. Each role is vital to making sure the right items reach the right people.*

Donations would also be welcome. Things like hygiene products, snacks, warm clothing, and small gifts. Every contribution, big or small, helps someone feel cared for and supported. This project is about more than giving—it's about building a kind, connected community where everyone feels seen and valued.

Together, we can make a real difference in people's lives!

8



City of HOBART

## Hobart Children's Mayor Program

### Entry Form and Permissions

FULL NAME	Isabelle
SCHOOL	Lansdowne Crescent Primary School
DATE OF BIRTH	20/7/13
GENDER	Female
MEDIA and PHOTO CONSENT	We want to share your amazing ideas with Hobart! All entries must include a signed media consent form (Attached) and a picture of the student (to be sent by email)
<b>Your idea (no more than 200 words)</b>	

If I were Lord Mayor I would build a new training grounds for sports. I might sound crazy but hear me out.

My idea is having a fresh and brand new practicing ground for many sports. It would have a lot to offer. Obviously it won't have all sports but the core ones. It would be called the Olympic stadium. We won't build a whole new building but instead we would use other buildings instead. My idea was if the brand-new stadium was getting built then we would use Blundstone Arena since it would be out of use but if the stadium isn't getting built then we would use the area where the stadium would've been built.

It would be colourful and inviting. All ages would be allowed to enter the stadium. There would be sessions that would be hosted for many different sports. Even schools can have access to them. I would make sure all kids would be safe while they train. There will be gear you are allowed to buy if you have forgotten your gear you can use it for the whole session.

**How will your idea make a difference and who will it benefit? (No more than 200 words)**

My idea is to improve exercise because not a lot Aussie's exercise anymore and not a lot of people use the Queens Domain anymore, due to it getting old and worn out which wouldn't help with training at all. Do you really want a worn out training track? Do you? Well, I think its time for something new if we build this. This could save money since a lot of people might train internationally but if we have a training stadium down here people would save money and it could boost the economy and bring tourists and athletics from other countries across the world. My goal is to make sure people are well exercised and learning something new, something enjoyable whilst getting exercise. I strongly believe that more people need to start doing exercise since it could help your body because it could prevent you from suffering

multiple mental illnesses with your heart if we build this then more people will feel committed to train more often and improve their sport. More people could adventure out with different sports they've never tried before. This could help people drastically and help people develop motivation and persistence throughout their sport.

**How can others in your community including other children help with your idea (no more than 100 words)**

Others in the community can help by suggesting what sports they want added. It could help boost engagement and by the end of their training sessions they could sign in a form with a bit of feedback and what we could do better next time. If we keep on listening to feedback and working from that feedback we can improve the Olympic stadium. More people would come and use it if we listen to the peoples input then it would bring in more people and make the Olympic stadium a better place for training and improvement.

9

**Entry Form & Permissions**

FULL NAME	Ellie
SCHOOL	Mount Carmel College
DATE OF BIRTH	30/5/2013
GENDER	Female
MEDIA and PHOTO CONSENT	We want to share your amazing ideas with Hobart! All entries must include a signed media consent form (Attached) and a picture of the student (to be sent by email)
SUMMARY Your idea in one statement. (Think slogans!)	A historic scavenger hunt, to promote the history of Hobart, and increase tourism.
<b>Your Idea (no more than 200 words)</b>	

Ellie

9

## Children's Mayor Writing Task

If I was Lord Mayor of the City of Hobart I would design a self-guided 'Choose Your Own Adventure Scavenger Hunt' around Hobart city and the outskirts in parks, shops, and any public space. Then you would get a starting clue and use that clue to work out where to go. When you get to the next location you would click a button on the app/website and if you're in the correct location, the app/website would recognize that and would give you the next part of a historic story about Hobart. You would then pick an option from the story, for example the story went like "What should I do next, run or hide?" You would then pick the option that you would like and go to the next place with the clue that's given. If you're in the wrong place the app/website would say something like "wrong, try again!" After a while when the story ends, you will get a printable certificate that you can print out to hang on your wall or do whatever you want with it. There will be multiple endings encouraging people to do the scavenger hunt again.

My idea of creating a scavenger hunt will help by letting people get more exercise while searching for the right place to go to. Creating a scavenger hunt around Hobart would also advertise businesses as the clues could lead the person to a shop that wants their business advertised, which could also mean that the person might think "While I'm here I might as well get that jacket I've been eyeing." Another perk is that the

9

story is going to be historic, that would mean while having fun you would also be learning about the history of Hobart, and not only that, but it would also help their navigational skills. It would also be a fun challenge for all ages which would boost their problem solving skills. Not only that, but it would teach everyone how to use their device in a safe and educational way. So that would mean adding a scavenger hunt would help people get more exercise, advertise businesses, teaches people about history, helps with problem solving skills, and so on.

### 3. Others can help by...

Others can help create the historic scavenger hunt around Hobart by finding out which businesses would like to participate in letting one of the scavenger hunt locations be at their shop, and ask them for their consent for the location to be there. Another way other people can help is that someone could research about the history of Hobart and they could turn their research into a historic story for the scavenger hunt. One more way other people can help is someone could create the clues that lead to the next location of the hunt.

Thanks for reading, I hope you like the idea!

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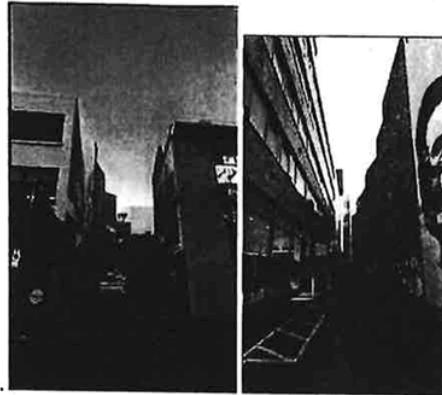
**Entry Form & Permissions**

FULL NAME	Bella
SCHOOL	Mount Carmel College , Sandy Bay
DATE OF BIRTH	June 23 2013
GENDER	Female
MEDIA and PHOTO CONSENT	We want to share your amazing ideas with Hobart! All entries must include a signed media consent form (Attached) and a picture of the student (to be sent by email)
SUMMARY Your idea in one statement. (Think slogans!)	"From Shortcut to spotlight - your Hobart alleys await."
<b>Your Idea (no more than 200 words)</b>	

10

**If I was lord mayor of hobart** I would make hobarts alleyways and dead ends a safer place for the community. Hobart is an amazing place for shopping, sightseeing and festivals such as dark mofo but the one thing people dread is taking shortcuts through the alleyways and walking past the dead end car parks!

**My idea** is to host a competition for all the shop owners that own alleyways or dead end



alleyways such as...

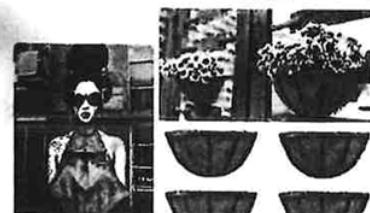
This competition, which is the following...

The government funds a certain amount of money to each contestant. There is also a small prize for the winner.

They use the money to make their alleyway a better, more comfortable place for people passing by. That might be lights, murals, graphite artists, flower walls, fake plants, anything they



want. Here are some ideas



10

**My idea will help** the community and tourists when walking by making them feel more comfortable and welcome and not making them feel icky in the stomach. As a kid I would always run past those alleyways cause I was scared and I still do to this day.

**How can others in your community help?** Community is a big thing in my eyes so it is a major thing that the community helps in this project by adding in ideas. All competitors must have one idea from the community to make the community feel like they made Hobart a better place.



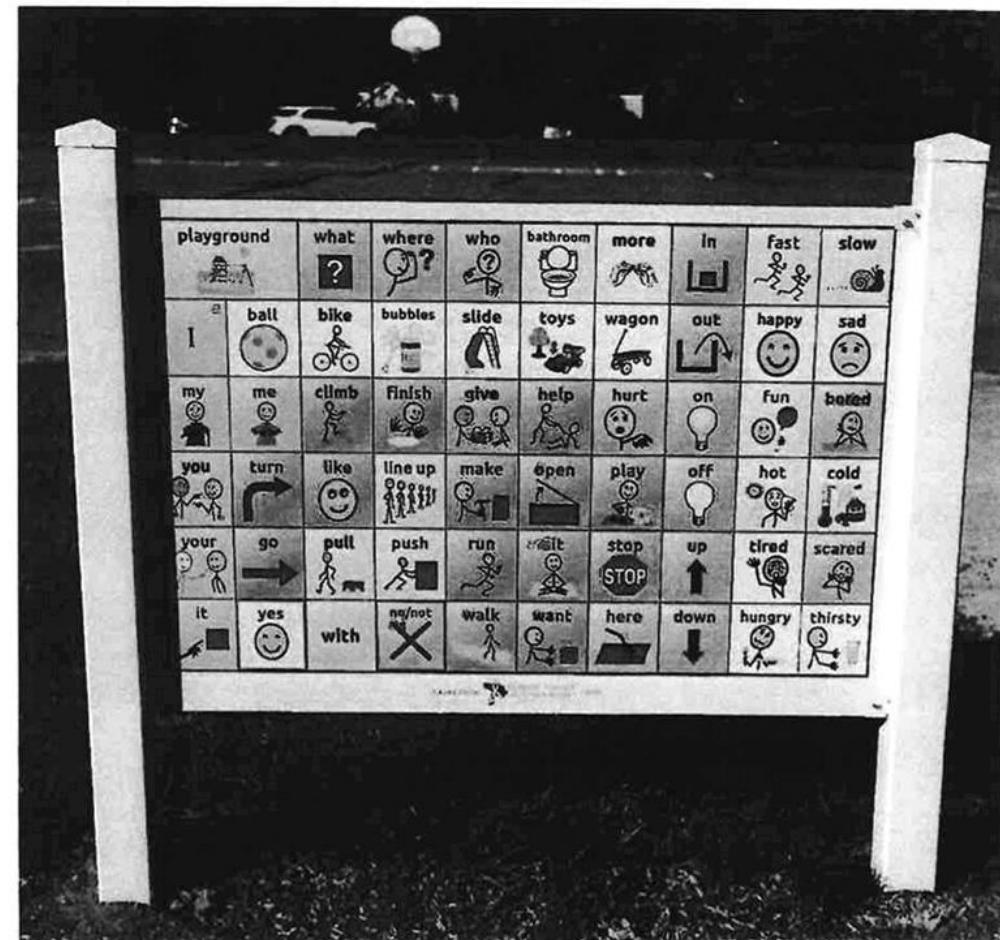
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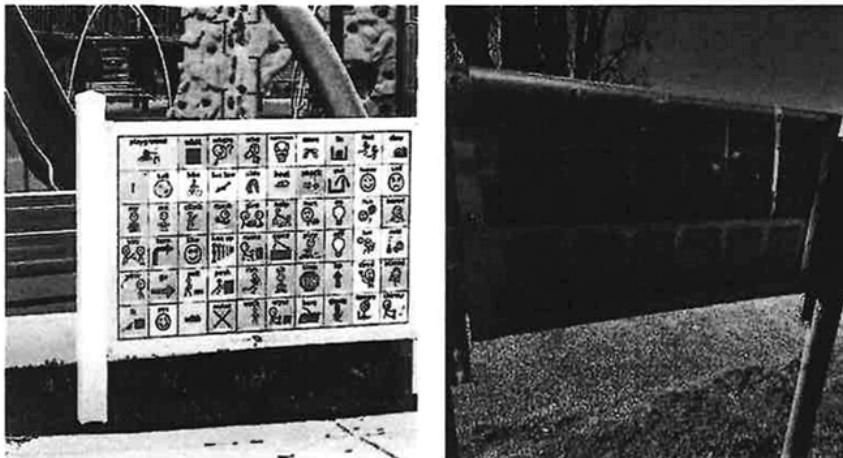
## Communication Boards

By Noah .

## My Idea In One Statement

My idea is to introduce communication boards into playgrounds across Hobart, for non-speaking community members.





## **If I were Lord Mayor, I would...**

If I were Lord Mayor, I would add communication boards into every playground in Hobart, for non-speaking community members, to point at the different symbols on the sign, like they would on an AAC (Augmentative and Alternative Communication) device. They would have symbols like "hungry", "home", "swing", etc and will be using the universally used symbols that are used on apps like LAMP (Language Acquisition through Motor Planning) and are on teacher's lanyards.

Right now, there is only one singular communication board in the entire Hobart City Council, which is bland, hard to see and has extremely limited options. There are 38 playgrounds in the Hobart City area that don't, and I believe this is completely unacceptable.

I have two younger brothers that are both non-speaking, and if they don't have their AAC device, then my brothers cannot say anything. Can you imagine that? If my idea was in every playground in Hobart, then any playground my brothers (and hundreds of other non-speaking people) go to, they can have a say on what they do, or they can tell their family how they feel. Why hasn't the Hobart City Council, already introduced countless more communication boards into playgrounds across Hobart?

41

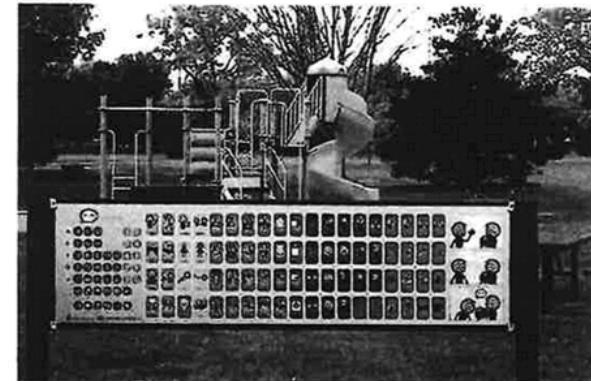
## My Idea Will Help...

My idea will help, not just every playground in Hobart, but maybe even every playground in Tasmania. I know, this is a Hobart idea, but I believe, that if the Hobart City Council starts introducing these signs into playgrounds inside the Hobart City area, other councils around Tasmania, might be inspired to introduce the signs into their own playgrounds.

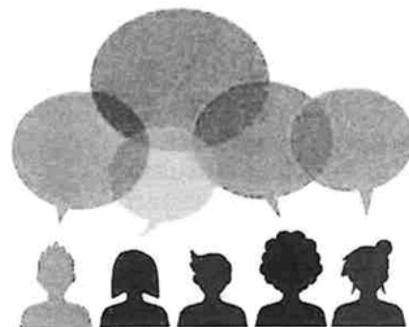
I know that many of the playgrounds in the Hobart City area (and Tasmania in general) are already very inclusive, but if my idea is put in place, it will make every playground in Hobart EVEN MORE inclusive!

My idea will help any community member who is non-speaking, by giving them a say on what they do, and any parent/carer looking after a non-speaking person, by letting them respond and listen, to what the person they are caring for, wants, or by telling the parent/carer how the non-speaking community member feels. The carer could also have a simple conversation with the non-speaking person.

My idea will also help the safety of the non-speaking community member, because with this sign, they can tell anyone if they are hurt, feel sick or are hungry or thirsty, letting the community member act or help.



11



## Others can help by...

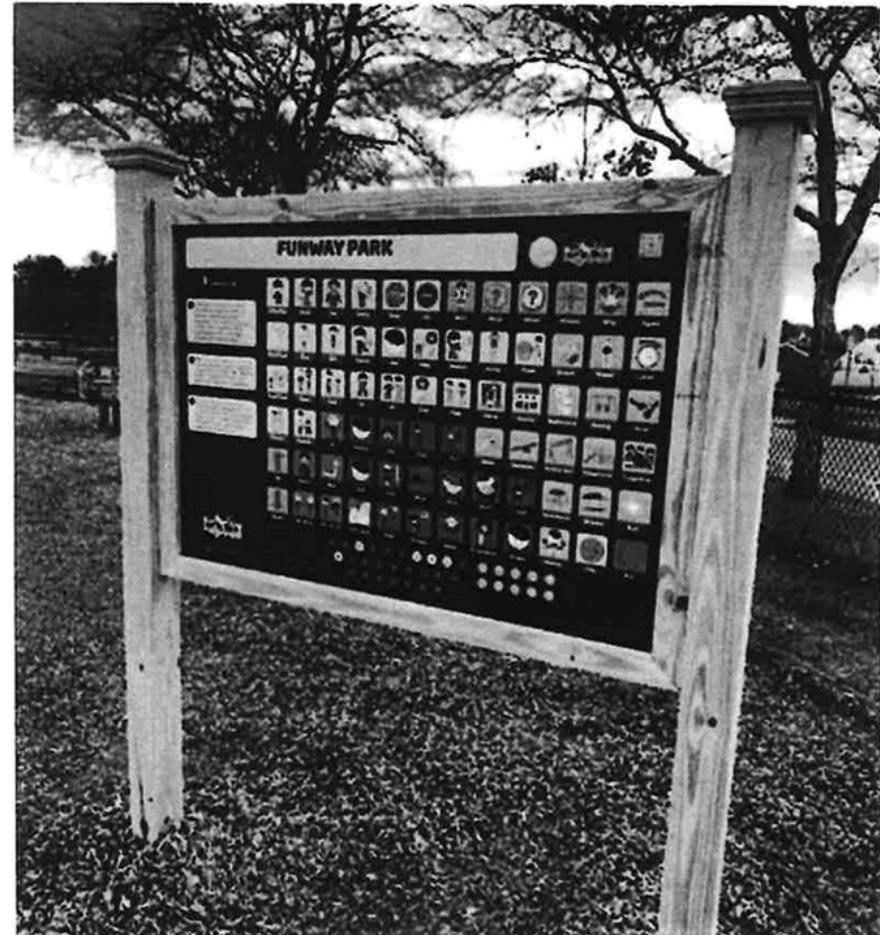
Others can help by choosing which playgrounds should have these communication boards, by doing an online survey. Anyone in the community will be able to complete these surveys. This will help make sure that when the boards are introduced, the people of the community (including children) can have a say on which playgrounds they are introduced into.

Also, certain volunteers can help design these boards, catering to the playground's equipment and areas. For example: Legacy Park could have a symbol saying, "rock-climbing wall", while John Turnbull Park could have a symbol saying, "oval". This is how the community can help.

11

## **Hobart's Challenge**

So, Hobart City Council. I challenge you to introduce these communication boards, into at least 10 different playgrounds inside the Hobart City area before December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026!

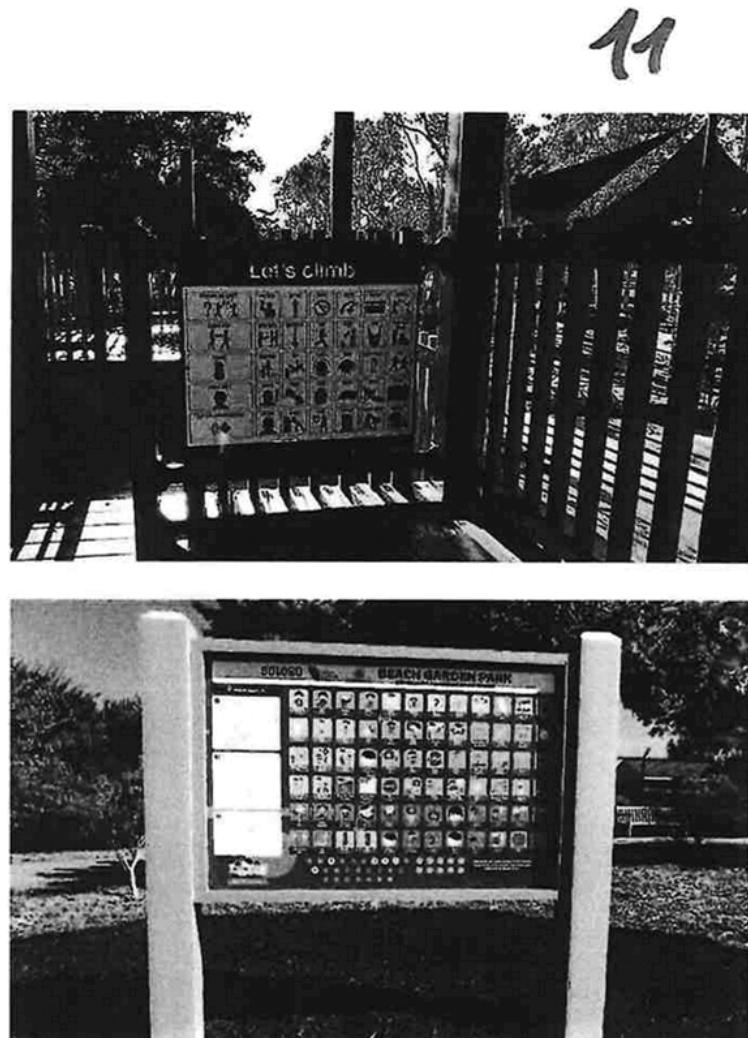


# Conclusion

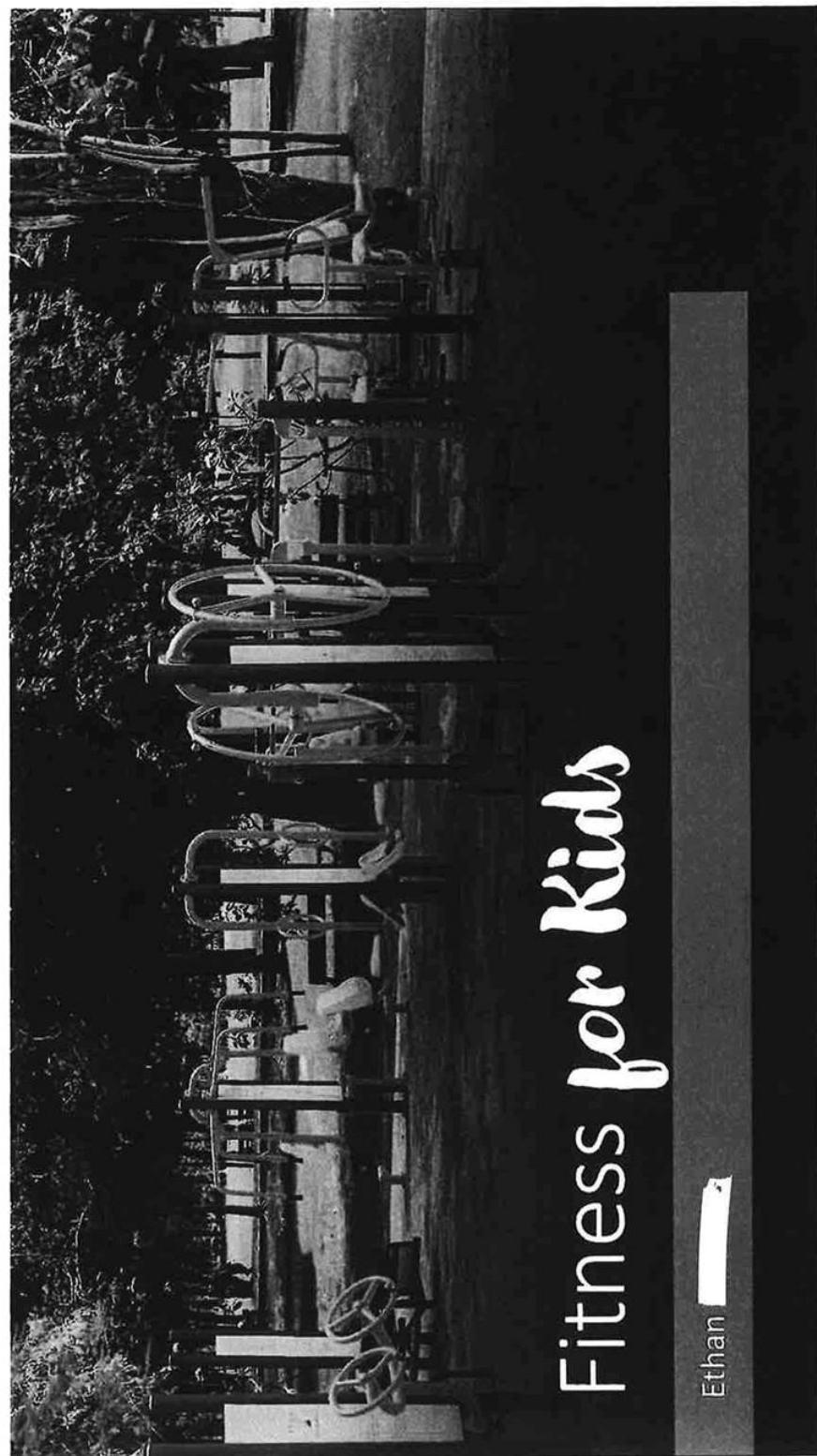
In conclusion, I believe my idea will make a big difference in as many playgrounds in Hobart as possible.

I think that with these signs implemented into parks around Hobart, hundreds of non-speaking children, will finally be able to have a conversation with their family, friends, carers and the rest of the community, even without their AAC device.

However, these signs don't only have to be in playgrounds. Maybe one day, these communication boards could be all over Hobart (and Tasmania) at everywhere from airports, to hospitals, to schools, to even lookout spots? That's my idea of an inclusive future!



12



Fitness for Kids

Ethan [REDACTED]

12

## My idea:

If I were gifted the incredible opportunity to be Lord Mayor, I would create a fantastically fun and conveniently free public fitness program to ensure children from 5 to 13 stay healthy. Once a week, there would be three indoor or outdoor sessions, where children come along and have lots of fun. The sessions would be split by age, for example, 5-7s, 8-10s, and 11-13s, which would help kids to make more friends and play with children their ages. Each week, the session would also focus on different muscle groups, like upper body, core, lower body, cardio and more, educating children about health and fitness so they can continue to stay fit outside of the program.



12



## Who this will benefit and how it will help

This idea will benefit all children around the Hobart City Council area by helping them to socialise, stay healthy, learn about fitness and get outside more. Most of adults nowadays don't seem to be active enough, so this program will teach children to stay active throughout their whole lives, helping them to live healthier and happier. According to the Australian Department of Health, 70% of Australian children aren't getting enough physical activity, 98% of teenagers aren't getting enough exercise either, and one in four Australian kids are overweight or obese! We must make sure these statistics do not apply to Hobart, another reason that keeping children fit and healthy is vital to our community.

12

## Program Details:

### Activities:

Each week, a different game of sport would be played, focusing on muscle groups and fitness. For example, some of the games could be:

- Infection (aka gangs up)
- Hide and go seek
- Dodgeball

Some examples of sports could be:

- Soccer
- AFL
- Tennis
- Climbing

### Sessions

The sessions would be run mostly by volunteers, who would be told what to do by council workers, physios, or health workers, who would be helping kids to understand fitness better.

The sessions would also be split by age into three groups:

- 5 – 7s (more fun and relaxed)
- 8 – 10s (wider variety of activities)
- 11 – 13s (more fitness-focused sessions)

12

## How the community can help:

This amazing program wouldn't be able to happen without many amazing volunteers, people who are qualified to work with children and want to support this program. Volunteering will also help to build a stronger community and bridge gaps between children and adults alike. To help fund the program, donations could be brought in on special days to go to charity and to hiring equipment for the activities. Kids coming along to participate would also be fantastic for the program, and suggestions from children would continue grow it as well.

This will be a program that will almost entirely revolve around the community, and will need a lot of support to continue, but if this works out, kids living in the HCC area will all be fit and healthy so they can live out long happy lives.

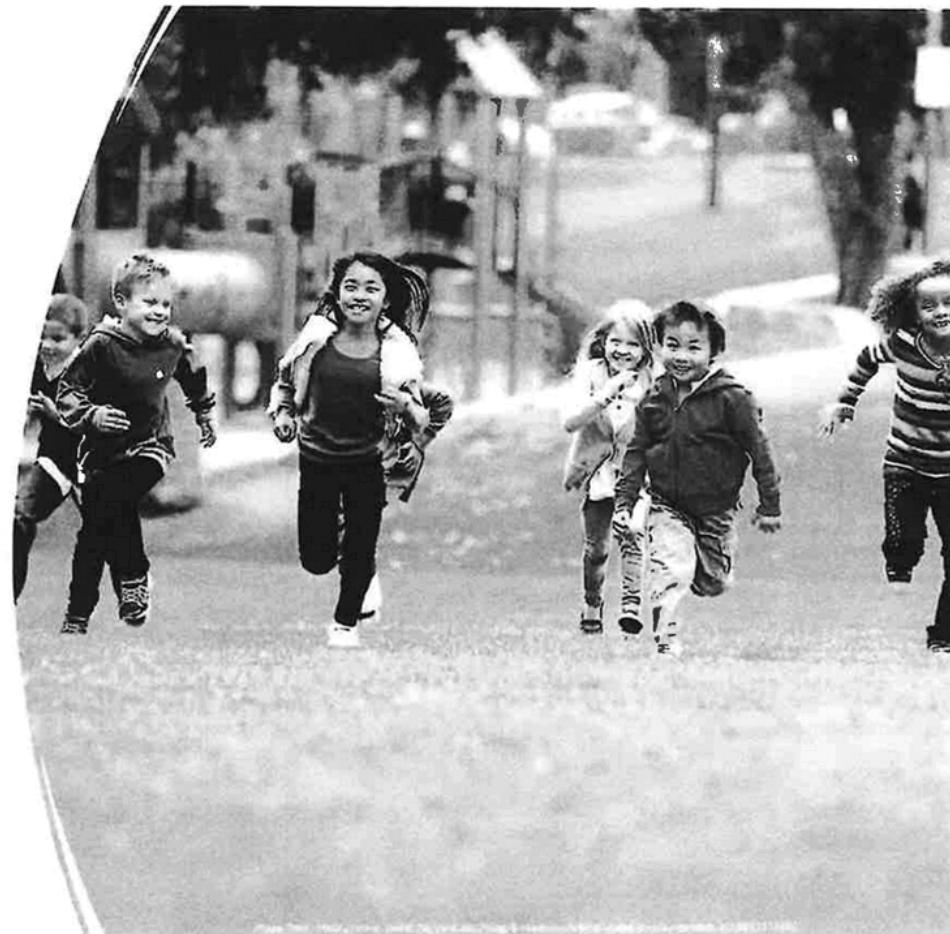


# Conclusion

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Now you see that keeping kids fit and healthy is vital for Hobart, and this program will do so much good for our community. Fun free fitness for kids and education about fitness is something that isn't available for most families and is something that is constantly overlooked. Fitness provides kids with discipline and gives them a goal to consistently work towards. It also helps with mental health, providing something to focus on when times get tough and helping people to socialise with others working towards similar goals. Getting kids to know responsibility for their own bodies and having fitness routines will also help them develop vital skills for later in their lives, which will in turn help to solve many other problems in Hobart.

This program will be an incredible opportunity for kids to learn to get active and go outside, which will benefit Hobart for generations to come.



13

**OLIVER****If I Was Mayor for a Day**

Transform the number of homeless tents that we have in the Hobart City Council into sustainable container houses.

How would you like to live outside in the weather we've had in Hobart the last couple of months. get rid of the tents in Hobart, give them a house to live in, the State Government hasn't done anything about it so WE WILL make a difference. If I was mayor for a day I would build lots of small cheap houses for people that cannot afford a place to live. I would get the money to do this by building a less expensive or not building a stadium because we don't need a stadium. The houses would be energy efficient by having solar panels on the roofs and building them out of old shipping containers. I would make sure that no one bought them to use as investment properties. They would cost around 3,000 dollars to make and around 700 dollars to furnish, this would be incredibly inexpensive and if you put solar panels on all of them it would only cost an extra 300 dollars. They could all have an area of around 150 square meters including a small yard. In the area the stadium is meat to take up you could build 200-300 small houses at the small cost of 800,000-1,170,000 dollars, the cost of an average house, this would leave an additional \$944,000,000 to build them in more places. This would make a major difference for people that can't put a roof over the head of them and their family.

This would benefit all the homeless people in Hobart by giving them a place to live here are some more reasons.

**Shelter and Safety:** It provides a safe, protected space from the elements, reducing exposure to weather, cold, or heat, and offering security from potential harm or violence.

**Privacy and Dignity:** Having a personal space allows for privacy, dignity, and a sense of ownership, which can be crucial for mental health and self-esteem.

**Health Benefits:** A stable shelter can improve physical health by reducing exposure to unsanitary conditions, pests, and environmental hazards.

**Stability and Routine:** A fixed residence offers a base from which to seek employment, healthcare, and social services, helping to re-establish routines and stability.

**Social Connection:** Small homes can serve as a foundation for reconnecting with family, friends, or community support networks.

**Pathway to Independence:** It can be a stepping stone toward longer-term housing solutions and self-sufficiency. Everyone in our community can help, you could help by donating money and helping to build them.

14

## Oscar Annan

### Broad Experiences around Hobart

*If I was Lord Mayor of the City of Hobart, I would help the community by creating more accessible experiences for both children and adult age groups, both outside in nature and the city, or inside libraries and businesses. Here are my focused points to further explain why this is a good idea, and how it will benefit everyone, big and small.*

*First, I will talk about some experiences that we can do out and about in our glorious Tasmania. Now, I understand that we do some experiences, such as native tree planting and rock pool exploration, but, while these events are fun, they cost excessive amounts of money that is, frankly, too much for the amounts of time that are spent doing them. \$280 is a lot for an hour of exploration is too ludicrous. On average, it takes us around 10 hours to save up for one hour of fun is just too much.*

*Next, inside experiences. On average, it has been found that many adventures run by Council are run outside rather than inside. I propose that we balance the amount of both inside and outside expeditions, so that the community can get a equilibrium of both inside and outside ways to enjoy their day.*

*Lastly, the way that this will help our community. I believe that this will help by increasing ways to meet new people and see new things. By focusing on just these two things, we can create a new, stronger community, tighter knit, and happy.*

*All in all, I personally think that by using this idea we can help everyone by decreasing prices to create more accessible ways to experience Hobart, balancing inside and outside endeavours, and helping to create a strong community. Thank you.*

15

**Entry Form & Permissions**

FULL NAME	Eleanor
SCHOOL	South Hobart Primary
DATE OF BIRTH	28.03.25
GENDER	Female
MEDIA CONSENT	We want to share your amazing ideas with Hobart! All entries must include a signed media consent form.
SUMMARY Your idea in one statement. (Think slogans!)	Inclusive, connected, happy. Together.

**Your Idea (no more than 200 words)**

"If I was Lord Mayor of the City of Hobart I would..." make an event where everyone, of all ages and abilities, joins together for a day to share their stories, traditions, meals, tags and games, setting aside mobile devices, playing with the young and old, to create a comfortable environment where everyone can be themselves. Market stalls would be planted around the city and suburbs, made and supported by local businesses. In the afternoon, everyone could join on a walk through the native bush, those less able helped by the able. For people with dogs or a love of dogs, there would be a social walk through the suburbs of Hobart to make new friends, or walking companions. The whole event would be to connect people with the same interests, traditions, languages, cultures, or even people with completely different views or opinions. It would be a free, family-friendly event, where people can come and go as they please.

**How will your idea make a difference and who will it benefit? (no more than 200 words)**

"My idea will help..." people connect with the local community, feel safe in their neighbourhoods, share their thoughts, have some fresh air, colour the city, make new friends, meet up with old friends, and bring family and friends together.

**How can others in your community including other children help with your idea ( no more than 100 words)**

"Others can help by..." donating clothing, food, books, paints, art materials, etc.; set up stalls or garage sales; and just joining in on the celebrations to have fun.

16

**Entry Form & Permissions**

FULL NAME	Neve
SCHOOL	South Hobart Primary School
DATE OF BIRTH	28/2/2014
GENDER	Female
MEDIA CONSENT	We want to share your amazing ideas with Hobart! All entries must include a signed media consent form.
SUMMARY Your idea in one statement. (Think slogans!)	Free educational script for all
<b>Your Idea (no more than 200 words)</b>	
<p>"If I was Lord Mayor of the City of Hobart I would..." Create a safe and free place where children and adults who don't have access to learning facilities could learn and be supported. People could volunteer or be paid to teach these people. There would be regular lessons, and it could be supported by the council to keep it running. Anyone could attend if they needed that support and no matter what age, gender or race you are you would be supported with education. To get started we would ask the Council for some basic supplies and see how many people would attend. This would also be a place where people could socialise and meet new people and talk about what they're dealing with in their life.</p>	
<b>How will your idea make a difference and who will it benefit? (no more than 200 words)</b>	

d

*"My idea will help..."* People in need and people who don't have enough money to get an education to learn basic things they need to know. Eg. Reading, writing, basic math etc. These people could also make new friends and talk to people about what they have going on in their life and get further support if needed. This could help kids and adults in further life to learn about talking about their feelings and things that later on could get them a job.

**How can others in your community including other children help with your idea ( no more than 100 words)**

*"Others can help by..."* If you see someone struggling on the streets tell them about safe places they can go to get supported. People could also volunteer to teach and help them like retired teachers, tutors, therapist (to help them with their feelings) or just people who think they can help in any way they can.

## Summary of Children's Mayor Program Manifesto's and Council Response 2025

NAME	Matilda
SCHOOL	The Friends School
MANIFESTO IDEA	If I was Lord Mayor of this city, I would encourage children of all ages to learn a musical instrument.
CITY'S RESPONSE	Matilda's Manifesto aligns with existing programs and projects that take place at Youth ARC.  The manifesto has inspired the Youth ARC to explore a pilot "Try It Out" music space, where young people can experiment with instruments and singing in a relaxed, supportive environment.  This will be a pilot project during Term 1 of 2026.

NAME	Isabella
SCHOOL	The Friends School
MANIFESTO IDEA	If I was Lord Mayor of Hobart city I would have fun, cool places with learning opportunities like the TMAG and maritime museum offer free entry/visits to kids.
CITY'S RESPONSE	While the City isn't responsible for TMAG or the Maritime Museum, it does work with these and other similar organisations to support projects and programs.  The City also provides free activities and projects at the Youth ARC.

NAME	Archer
SCHOOL	The Hutchins School
MANIFESTO IDEA	If I were Lord Mayor of Hobart, I would commission the Words and Numbers Wonder Fest (WNWF). The WNWF would be an annual one-day event for Tasmanians of all ages to boost their literacy and numeracy skills in a fun way.
CITY'S RESPONSE	Archer's idea has inspired the City to consider a youth-led literacy and numeracy activation during the summer school holidays at YARC, potentially as a pilot contribution to a future WNWF.  Planning could begin in Term 4, with delivery in January 2026.

## Summary of Children's Mayor Program Manifesto's and Council Response 2025

NAME	Gabriella
SCHOOL	Princes Street Primary School
MANIFESTO IDEA	Help the Homeless
CITY'S RESPONSE	Gabriella's manifesto aligns with a number of initiatives delivered by local community and charitable organizations that the City supports, as well as projects that the City delivers that support people experiencing homelessness as well as people in extreme need. These include the provision of free food and meals, as well as hygiene products and free health care.

NAME	Kate
SCHOOL	Lansdowne Crescent Primary School
MANIFESTO IDEA	Care with Every Package
CITY'S RESPONSE	Kate's manifesto aligns with the provision of emergency backpacks, which the City funds, and which St Vincent de Paul provide. The inclusion of a note of care and support form children in Hobart is being developed by City of Hobart staff in collaboration with staff from St Vincent de Paul for implementation early in 2026.

NAME	Izzy
SCHOOL	Lansdowne Crescent Primary School
MANIFESTO IDEA	A new training venue for all ages.
CITY'S RESPONSE	The Domain Athletic Centre and all of the City's recreation and sports grounds are accessible to the public when not in use by sporting clubs.

## Summary of Children's Mayor Program Manifesto's and Council Response 2025

NAME	Ellie
SCHOOL	Mount Carmel College
MANIFESTO IDEA:	A 'Historic Scavenger Hunt' to promote the history of Hobart and increase tourism
CITY'S RESPONSE	Council is working to complete a Heritage Strategy in 2026. This Manifesto will be added to ideas for future promotional activities that aimed to creatively involve younger participants in exploring the City on foot.

NAME	Noah
SCHOOL	Lenah Valley Primary School
MANIFESTO IDEA	An inclusive future: To introduce communication boards into playgrounds across Hobart,
CITY'S RESPONSE	The City's Open Space team are looking to develop a communication board that includes the communication symbols, braille and key concept signs as suggested by Noah.  The idea is to develop a prototype that can be rolled out across the City with input and guidance from people with lived experience.

NAME	Ethan
SCHOOL	Lenah Valley Primary School
MANIFESTO IDEA	Active Programs for children through to teenagers
CITY'S RESPONSE	This manifesto supports the currently delivered 'Healthy Hobart' activity program. There is scope to incorporate specific activities within that program that target the health and wellbeing of children and young people.

## Summary of Children's Mayor Program Manifesto's and Council Response 2025

NAME	Oliver
SCHOOL	South Hobart Primary School
MANIFESTO IDEA	Turn Tents into Houses
CITY'S RESPONSE	Oliver's manifesto is more strongly aligned to the responsibilities of the Tasmanian government, however there may be aspects to the City of Hobart's new Housing Strategy that supports the development and promotion of tiny houses as well as different forms of transitional or emergency housing.

NAME	Neve
SCHOOL	South Hobart Primary School
MANIFESTO IDEA	Free Educational Support For All
CITY'S RESPONSE	Neve's manifesto is strongly aligned with the City of Hobart's work at both Mathers House and Youth ARC. Both venues provide safe, free and accessible opportunities for people of all ages to participate in lifelong learning.

NAME	Bella
SCHOOL	Mount Carmel College
MANIFESTO IDEA	From Shortcuts to Spotlight – Your Hobart ally await.
CITY'S RESPONSE	Bella's manifesto is strongly aligned with the City of Hobart's work in the Creative City and Activation areas. There are a number of murals and activities centered around the City's laneways, with the primary focus being on Bidencope's Lane, off Murray Street.

## Summary of Children's Mayor Program Manifesto's and Council Response 2025

NAME	Elsie
SCHOOL	Princes Street Primary School
MANIFESTO IDEA	Less sadness – more murals.
CITY'S RESPONSE	<p>Elsie's manifesto is strongly aligned with the City of Hobart's work in the Creative City area.</p> <p>The City has had an Urban Art Walls Program (murals) which has existed for about 10 years. We have over 50 murals around the city particularly along Elizabeth St between the City and North Hobart, in Purdy's Mart off Collins St and in Bidencope's Lane.</p>

NAME	Eleanor
SCHOOL	South Hobart Primary School
MANIFESTO IDEA	Inclusive, connected, happy. Together.
CITY'S RESPONSE	<p>Eleanor's manifesto is strongly aligned with the City of Hobart's work in the Events and Activation area.</p> <p>As well as supporting a diverse range of community events, festivals and activities through the Community, Creative and Events Grants program, the City also supports local neighborhoods to facilitate opportunities to gather and build social connections through the 'My Streets' program.</p>



## RISK AND AUDIT PANEL

Report for 2025

Provides a summary of the functions and membership of the Panel, critical ongoing issues for consideration by Council and the proposed work schedule of the Panel for 2026

**Panel Functions**

The Risk and Audit Panel of the City of Hobart (the Panel) was established in accordance with section 85 of the *Local Government Act 1993* and the *Local Government (Audit Panels) Order 2014*.

The Panel is an advisory body made up of elected members and independent members that oversees Management on behalf of Council with the functions of the Panel outlined in Appendix A.

The Panel collaborates with Management in relevant functions to seek to support the implementation of better practice and continuous improvement as required.

The Panel fosters a positive working relationship with Management and seeks to consider and enquire into the right areas at the right time at the right level in accordance with its Charter and Work Plan.

The Panel has continued to focus on the overall effectiveness and efficiency of Council (as opposed to its operation as a Planning Authority) in delivering outputs and outcomes for stakeholders which includes Elected Members as well as ratepayers.

The Panel held 6 formal meetings during the 2025 calendar year which oversighted things such as:

- financial statements submitted by the CEO to Audit Tasmania (formerly the Tasmanian Audit Office) and the issues that have arisen;
- development and implementation of risk management strategies and practices through a focus on the strategic material risks and the application of controls across the organisation;
- integration of the Part 7 Plans including the Long Term Strategic Asset Management Plan and the Long Term Financial Management Plan;
- development and implementation of the internal audit program which is outsourced to specialists in their areas of expertise; and
- value add areas such as procurement, contract management and purchasing.

The critical issues for Council to consider on an ongoing basis as well as the work schedule of the Panel are outlined in this Report.

The previous annual report provided to Council noted there are no “quick fixes” and significant work is being undertaken by Management to address issues which need appropriate budget and resource allocations as well as a clear focus and commitment to implementing the required actions over time.

A shared understanding between Management and Council of what success looks like and the prioritisation of required actions will assist to drive organisational performance.

The achievement of the strategy of Council underpins the risk management framework including the risk appetite of Council compared to the inherent risk (before controls) and residual risk (after controls) of particular areas of activity.

**Panel Membership**

The membership of the Panel comprises:

Name	Role	Expiry of Current Term
Wayne Davy	Independent Chair  Appointed 1 January 2011 for 4 years until 31 December 2024 and reappointed 1 January 2025 for 4 years	31 December 2028
Paul McTaggart	Independent Member  Appointed 1 May 2023 for 4 years until 30 April 2027  Option of further term of 4 years subject to Council approval	30 April 2027
Ric De Santi	Independent Member  Appointed 27 October 2025 for 4 years until 26 October 2029  Option of further term of 4 years subject to Council approval	26 October 2029
Alderman Louise Bloomfield	Elected Member  Appointed for period of 2 years coinciding with Councillor's mid-term review of Committee membership	End of current term of Council
Councillor Louise Elliott	Elected Member  Appointed for period of 2 years coinciding with Councillor's mid-term review of Committee membership	End of current term of Council

**Meeting Attendance**

	Risk and Audit Panel
<b>Total meetings held</b>	<b>6</b>
Mr Wayne Davy	6
Mr Paul McTaggart	5
Mr Ric De Santi <i>*Appointed 27 October 2025</i>	1*
Alderman Louise Bloomfield	5
Councillor Louise Elliott	5
Mr Frank Barta (former Risk and Audit Panel Chair) <i>*Resigned 17 October 2025</i>	4*

**Critical issues for Council identified by Panel**

The Panel has identified four critical issues for consideration by Council going forward:

**1. Strategic asset management and sound financial management**

The strategic management of assets as well as sound financial management continue to be areas of focus going forward. These functions needed to be underpinned by a connection to the purpose of Council so as to ensure service delivery and cost structures support the financial sustainability of Council. The organisational structure has recently been changed to incorporate a Director of Infrastructure and Assets which will complement the role of the Chief Financial Officer to undertake these functions.

*The Panel recommends an ongoing uplift in fit for purpose systems and processes as well as organisational capability and capacity to support strategic asset management and sound financial management and reporting to underpin the robustness and reliability of decision making going forward.*

**2. Service delivery and cost structures**

The review of the service delivery catalogue and cost structures which drive the effectiveness and efficiency of Council in meeting the expectations of ratepayers and other stakeholders is being undertaken by Management. The cost base of Council has exceeded the benchmark comparison to other surveyed comparable Councils in Tasmania and interstate. A cost benefit analysis including the benefits provided to ratepayers and the cost to serve (including overhead allocation) should be undertaken for specific services to identify strategic and operational changes to be implemented. The implementation of generative Artificial Intelligence provides an opportunity to improve efficiency and reduce the cost base of Council.

*The Panel recommends the ongoing review of the service delivery catalogue and operational model including outsourcing with alignment to the purpose of Council and the ongoing reduction of the cost base which underpins effectiveness and efficiency going forward.*

**3. Key business systems, processes and data management**

An uplift is being implemented in key business systems, processes and data management including cyber security which are critical for the operation of Council and the management of risks which may adversely impact the reputation of Council and result in delivery failure.

An Improvement Plan was put in place to address the audit findings by Audit Tasmania for the 2024/25 financial year which requires a series of actions relating to systems, processes and policies which affect the production of the financial statements (including the treatment of depreciation) which are still being implemented.

The employment of the Chief Information Officer (CIO) and the development of an Information Technology (IT) Strategy with an increased IT budget and changes to the operating model are driving an uplift in Information Technology across a range of critical business areas over the coming years. The progress in the undertaking of the actions

required to implement fit for purpose systems, processes and data management and to effectively manage key risks is critical going forward.

*The Panel recommends continued investment in IT as well as ongoing focus on building capability and capacity both internally and through service providers as required to ensure fit for purpose business systems, processes and data management which will support robust decision making and reporting.*

#### 4. Performance management and reporting

The monitoring of the performance of the organisation and the achievement of outcomes for ratepayers is an area being developed with the recent employment of a Manager of Strategy, Planning and Performance. The continued articulation of Key Performance Indicators which measure progress in the achievement of the strategic and operational objectives at the Council, Executive Leadership Team and staff levels would greatly assist the focus and alignment of the organisation. A shared understanding of what success looks like should drive a focus in the areas of organisational performance required in both the short and longer term time horizons. The provision of appropriate budget allocations and resources reflecting the priorities of Council is required to achieve both the strategic and operational objectives.

*The Panel recommends the ongoing development of performance measurement which is appropriate for all levels of the organisation and drives a high performance culture through alignment, engagement and capability across the organisation. The undertaking of proposed actions relating to people and culture and the implementation of the IT Strategy will be critical for performance going forward.*

#### **Panel Work Schedule**

The work schedule of the Panel is undertaken through six formal meetings per year and includes consideration of:

##### a) Risk Management

The evolution of the risk management functions and practices across Council and the operation of key controls which support the risk culture continue to be an area of focus of the Panel.

The Australian Local Government Risk Rankings from the 2024/25 JLT Risk Survey are outlined in Appendix B.

A review of the strategic risks of Council was completed by the Executive Leadership Team in April 2025 and the Risk Appetite Statement and Risk Management Statement subsequently adopted by Council.

The strategic risks of Council together with the appetite and ratings of each of these risks are set out in Appendix C. The alignment between target risk rating and risk appetite needs to continue to be assessed as treatments are implemented and greater maturity levels are achieved.

##### b) Corporate Plans

The ongoing review and uplift of the robustness of the Interim Long Term Strategic Asset Management Plan 2024 – 2034 and the Long Term Financial Management Plan 2024 – 2034 in accordance with Part 7 of the *Local Government Act 1993* continue to be an area of focus.

c) *Financial Management*

Audit Tasmania provided reasonable assurance that the financial report for the period ended 30 June 2025 was presented fairly under the Australian Accounting Standards and the *Local Government Act 1993*.

d) *Compliance with Legislation*

No significant breaches were reported based upon self identification and reporting by the organisation as a compliance system which requires comprehensive attestation and verification is not employed.

e) *Internal Audit Program*

A three year internal plan is in place which is reviewed annually to ensure it is focused on appropriate strategic risks and their drivers taking into account the functions which are operating at low maturity levels as proactively identified by Management. The internal audit program involves the independent assessment of controls currently in place to mitigate risks with suggestions for improvement to be implemented by Management.

Any input of Council is sought on priorities or areas for consideration in the Internal Audit Plan going forward which currently incorporates the following areas:

*Recently completed internal audit activities*

Topic	Risk perspective	Overview
Leave and overtime management	Financial management of labour and safety, health and wellbeing of employees	Overall the control environment was considered to be lacking. Identified <b>3 High rated findings</b> relating to governance and framework, process gaps and fatigue management and <b>2 Medium rated findings</b> relating to technology enablement and reporting and oversight
Leasing and property management	Extensive range of properties leased including residential, commercial and community based in decentralised operating model	Identified <b>2 High rated findings</b> relating to operating model and governance and strategy and <b>4 Medium findings</b> relating to tracking, reporting and monitoring, record keeping, decision making and legal and governance input/oversight
Strategic Asset Management (including asset maintenance)	Review of Long Term Strategic Asset Management Plan and planned and unplanned asset maintenance	The significant of findings from a process perspective was assessed as “Needs Improvement” with <b>4 High rated findings</b> relating to the context of the organisation, leadership, planning and operations, <b>1 Medium rated finding</b> relating to support and

		<b>2 Low rated findings</b> relating to performance evaluation and improvement
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*Scheduled internal audit activities*

Topic	Risk perspective	Overview
Rates compliance	Implementation of new rating and valuation base from AAV to Capital Value	To consider rates policy, rate raising process, supplementary valuations, remissions, exemptions and rebates in relation to short stay accommodation and vacant land, rate collection processes and data analysis of rating base
Privacy and data management (including payment data compared to industry standards)	Compliance with the Privacy Act 1988 and application of Australian Privacy Principles	To consider Australian Privacy Principles and Notifiable Data Breaches of the Australian Privacy Commissioner including Pricing Card Industry compliance
Cashflow, liquidity and investment management	Fit for purpose governance, management and reporting policies and practices	To consider the management of cashflow and liquidity and investment management undertaken

*f) Assessment of the performance of the internal auditor*

The Panel assesses the performance of the internal auditor periodically to provide any feedback and ensure Council receives value for money.

*g) Assessment of the performance of the Panel*

The Panel annually undertakes a self-assessment of its performance to identify areas for improvement within the constraints of its meeting schedule. The recent survey of Panel Members and relevant Management indicates that the Panel is generally viewed as effective and valuable, with most respondents expressing confidence in its governance and oversight responsibilities. However, some concerns were raised about the engagement as well as the adequacy of meeting logistics and access to materials. The key insights include:

- the Panel is perceived as fulfilling its core responsibilities, with strong agreement on its effectiveness and value to the City of Hobart;
- there is a desire for improvements in meeting processes, such as access to annotated materials and more focused agendas; and
- the respondents suggest that the Panel could enhance its impact by conducting deeper dive risk analysis.

The 2026 Work Plan of the Panel outlined in Appendix D is proposed for approval with any required variations identified by Council.

*h) Ongoing monitoring of actions to be undertaken by Management*

The Panel continues to monitor the material actions being implemented by Management in the achievement of better practice and continuous improvement as captured in the work undertaken by the Panel such as oversight of the external and internal audits undertaken each year.

**Appreciation of Management and Staff**

The Panel acknowledges the work and continued commitment of Management and staff in supporting the effective operation of the Panel.

**Feedback from Council**

The feedback from Council is sought on the work plan and priorities of the Panel including the Internal Audit Plan to ensure it remains focused on the areas of importance to Council.

**Appendix A – Clause 3 of Charter of Risk and Audit Panel**

<b>Functions (section 3 of the Panel Terms of Reference)</b>	<p>The Panel will contribute to the good governance of the City.</p> <p>The following are matters that the Panel will consider in its review of the Council's performance incorporating all requirements of the <i>Local Government Act 1993</i> and the <i>Local Government Act 1993 (Local Government (Audit Panels) Order 2014)</i>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Council's financial system, financial governance arrangements and financial management;</li> <li>(b) The management of risk associated with the Council and its activities and services, including the identification, assessment, management and review of those risks;</li> <li>(c) All Plans under Part 7 of the Act (the strategic plan, long-term financial management plan, financial management strategies, long-term asset management plans, asset management policies and strategies, annual plan, annual report), whether and how these are integrated, and the processes and assumptions undertaken to prepare the plans;</li> <li>(d) Policies, systems and controls (including accounting, internal control, anti-fraud, anti-corruption, risk management including controls over strategic risk and compliance), that the Council has in relation to safeguarding its long term financial position;</li> <li>(e) The Council's procurement and purchasing framework and controls, as set out in the <i>Local Government Act 1993</i> and <i>Local Government (General) Regulations 2015</i>, including probity, tendering, quoting for goods, services and works and contract management;</li> <li>(f) Whether the annual financial statements of the Council accurately represent the state of affairs of the Council;</li> <li>(g) Whether the Council is complying with the provisions of the <i>Local Government Act 1993</i> and all other relevant legislation;</li> <li>(h) Whether the Council has taken any action in relation to previous recommendations provided by the Panel to the Council and, if it has taken action, what that action was and its effectiveness; and</li> <li>(i) Any other activities within the Panel's remit which are requested by the Council or as determined by the Panel.</li> </ul>
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## Appendix B – Australian Local Government Risk Rankings from the 2024 JLT Risk Survey

01	02	03
<b>FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY</b> Financial sustainability remains the foremost risk for Australian councils, primarily driven by funding challenges. Cost shifting from higher levels of government and insufficient rate revenue exacerbates this issue. Many councils face the ongoing challenge of prioritising various risks that impact financial sustainability while striving to maintain service delivery and community well-being.	<b>CYBER SECURITY</b> Cybersecurity is an increasing concern for Australian councils, with many expressing doubts about their IT infrastructure's capacity to manage emerging threats. This underscores the necessity for councils to implement robust preventive measures and effective incident response plans to mitigate potential breaches and ensure continuity of services.	<b>ASSETS &amp; INFRASTRUCTURE</b> Managing assets and infrastructure ranks as a significant challenge for councils, influenced by financial constraints, workforce shortages, and inflation. These factors hinder maintenance and upgrades, while declining financial capacity and difficulties in attracting skilled personnel complicate effective management. Strategic planning and innovative funding solutions are essential for long-term sustainability.
04	05	06
<b>DISASTER &amp; CATASTROPHE</b> The risk of disasters, both natural and man-made, is a top concern for Australian councils. While confidence in disaster preparedness is improving, councils increasingly acknowledge the unpredictable nature of climate change, prompting the need for adaptive planning and community engagement to enhance resilience.	<b>PEOPLE &amp; CULTURE</b> Attracting and retaining professional staff remains a significant challenge for Australian councils. While improvements in staffing levels and health and safety compliance are noted, substantial issues persist, emphasising the continuation of strategic initiatives to enhance workforce engagement and well-being.	<b>CLIMATE CHANGE</b> Climate change is a critical concern for Australian councils, particularly due to insufficient revenue for necessary adaptation measures. Key challenges include inadequate assessments of climate impacts and limited disaster recovery funding, highlighting the need for federal and state government support to bolster resilience and facilitate the transition to a net-zero economy.
07	08	09
<b>BUSINESS CONTINUITY PLANNING</b> Business continuity planning is a key risk area for councils, particularly regarding asset destruction from disasters. Other significant factors include workforce stability and IT outages, emphasising the need for councils to strengthen resilience strategies and invest in risk management to ensure operational continuity.	<b>STATUTORY/REGULATION</b> Many councils face ongoing risks related to non-compliance with regulatory requirements, with access to qualified staff being a major concern. Growing apprehensions about legislative changes and planning regulations underscore the need for strategic workforce development and enhanced compliance.	<b>WASTE MANAGEMENT</b> Waste management has emerged as a leading concern for councils, driven by rising costs and environmental challenges. Councils are increasingly aware of the need to continually reassess their strategies, enhance recycling programs, and improve community communication to maintain public trust and satisfaction.
10	11	12
<b>INEFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE</b> Despite slight improvements in financial controls, ethical standards, and human resources, significant governance challenges remain. Councils are encouraged to continue to address issues of ethical governance and effective management to meet community expectations for transparency and accountability.	<b>REPUTATION</b> A council's reputation depends on informed investment decisions, value-for-money services, and financial management. Trust-building efforts are compromised by a loss of confidence in a council's capacity to manage local affairs. Consequently, community engagement has shifted from merely informing to fostering conversation, highlighting the importance of a strong brand, leadership, and strategy to enhance trust.	<b>LIABILITY CLAIM</b> Civil liability claims against councils can harm their reputation and erode public trust if not managed effectively. Often arising from negligence in land management, planning, and service delivery, these claims can lead to financial losses and damage the council's image, especially with media attention. Implementing strong risk management strategies is essential to prevent incidents and minimise claims.

## Appendix C – Strategic Risks of the City of Hobart – Appetite and Risk Ratings

CAMMS / (JLT) #	Risk Category	Description	Risk Appetite	Inherent Risk	Residual Risk	Target Risk Rating
SR1 (4)	Environment and sustainability	Failure to adequately prepare for the impacts of climate change	Low	Extreme (Likely / Catastrophic)	High (Possible / Catastrophic)	High
SR2 (2)	Cyber security and IT	Failure to provide, protect, integrate and secure critical operational systems and data.	Low	Extreme (likely / Catastrophic)	High (Possible / Catastrophic)	Medium
SR4 (1) (12)	Financial Sustainability	Failure to meet current and future financial needs of Council and our community	Medium	Extreme (Likely / Catastrophic)	Medium (Unlikely / Moderate)	Medium
SR5 (6)	People and culture	Failure to have a high performing culture and attract, retain and develop a capable workforce.	Medium	Extreme (Almost certain / Major)	High (Likely / Major)	Medium
SR6 (3)	Assets and infrastructure	Failure to consistently maintain, renew, dispose of and acquire the City's assets	Medium	High (Likely / Major)	High (Possible / Major)	Medium
SR7 (5)	Emergency and disaster recovery	Failure to prevent, prepare, respond and recover from emergencies and disasters	Medium	Extreme (Likely / Catastrophic)	High (Possible / Catastrophic)	High
SR8 (6)	Safety and wellbeing	Failure to create and maintain a safe environment for elected members, staff, contractors, volunteers and the general public	None	Extreme (Possible / Catastrophic)	High (Possible / Major)	Medium
SR10 (8)	Governance	Failure to provide effective governance for the City of Hobart	Low	High (Almost certain / Moderate)	Medium (Possible / Moderate)	Medium
SR 10 (9)	Regulatory and legal	Failure to manage compliance with legislative requirements	Low	High (Almost certain / Moderate)	Medium (Possible / Moderate)	Medium
SR 12 (10)	Service delivery and performance	Failure to deliver quality essential services to meet community needs	Low to Medium	Extreme (Catastrophic / Likely)	High (Catastrophic / Possible)	Medium
SR 13 (7)	Business continuity	Failure to prevent, prepare, respond and recover from business disruption events	Medium	Extreme (Catastrophic / Likely)	High (Catastrophic / Possible)	Medium
SR 14 (11)	Brand and reputation	Failure to effectively respond to protect the City's brand and reputation	Low	Extreme (Catastrophic / Likely)	High (Catastrophic / Possible)	Medium





## Risk and Audit Panel

### 2026 Work Plan and Meeting Schedule

#### Functions (section 3 of the Panel Terms of Reference)

The Panel will contribute to the good governance of the City.

The following are matters that the Panel will consider in its review of the Council's performance incorporating all requirements of the *Local Government Act 1993* and the *Local Government Act 1993 (Local Government (Audit Panels) Order 2014)*:

- (a) Council's financial system, financial governance arrangements and financial management;
- (b) The management of risk associated with the Council and its activities and services, including the identification, assessment, management and review of those risks;
- (c) All Plans under Part 7 of the Act (the strategic plan, long-term financial management plan, financial management strategies, long-term asset management plans, asset management policies and strategies, annual plan, annual report), whether and how these are integrated, and the processes and assumptions undertaken to prepare the plans;
- (d) Policies, systems and controls (including accounting, internal control, anti-fraud, anti-corruption, risk management including controls over strategic risk and compliance), that the Council has in relation to safeguarding its long term financial position;
- (e) The Council's procurement and purchasing framework and controls, as set out in the *Local Government Act 1993* and *Local Government (General) Regulations 2015*, including probity, tendering, quoting for goods, services and works and contract management.
- (f) Whether the annual financial statements of the Council accurately represent the state of affairs of the Council;
- (g) Whether the Council is complying with the provisions of the *Local Government Act 1993* and all other relevant legislation;
- (h) Whether the Council has taken any action in relation to previous recommendations provided by the Panel to the Council and, if it has taken action, what that action was and its effectiveness; and
- (i) Any other activities within the Panel's remit which are requested by the Council or as determined by the Panel.

TERMS OF REFERENCE ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES	SCHEDULED 2026 MEETING DATES					
	25 FEBRUARY 2026	15 APRIL 2026	3 JUNE 2026	11 AUGUST 2026	15 OCTOBER 2026	2 DECEMBER 2026
<b>1. Risk Management oversight</b>						
Oversight the Strategic Risk and Resilience system.		Overview of current risk register and KRIs				Overview of current risk register and KRIs Risk appetite statement review
Briefings on individual risks on the Strategic Risk and Resilience Register on a rotating basis: risk status, movement, KRI's, tolerance, treatment and progress	As per schedule	As per schedule	As per schedule	As per schedule		As per schedule
New and emerging risks	As required	As required	As required	As required	As required	As required
<b>2. Integrated Planning Process</b>						
Long Term Financial Sustainability	Long Term Financial Management Plan (LTFMP)	Long Term Financial Management Plan (LTFMP) Update	Advice Council in the preparation of the annual budget and its adherence with the LTFMP		Long Term Strategic Asset Management Plan (LTSAMP)	
Council's integrated planning process						Processes for Strategic Plan; LTFMP; LTSAMP; Annual Plan; and Annual Report
<b>3. Accounting, internal control, anti-fraud, anti-corruption and risk management</b>						
System of financial internal controls		Financial controls briefing				
System of non-financial internal controls – rolling schedule of reports on internal control systems			As per schedule	As per schedule	As per schedule	As per schedule
Fraud and anti-corruption controls	Fraud and Corruption Control briefing					
<b>4. Procurement and Purchasing Framework</b>						
Procurement, purchasing and contract management controls					Procurement, contract management and purchasing briefing	

TERMS OF REFERENCE ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES	SCHEDULED 2026 MEETING DATES					
	25 FEBRUARY 2026	15 APRIL 2026	3 JUNE 2026	11 AUGUST 2026	15 OCTOBER 2026	2 DECEMBER 2026
<b>5. Internal Governance Audit (Oversee the coordination of the Council's governance audit program)</b>						
Review the internal audit work plan and long term strategy.		Internal Audit Program review		Internal Audit Plan 2026-27		
Internal audit reports and special reports	Table on completion	Table on completion	Table on completion	Table on completion	Table on completion	Table on completion
Annually review the performance of the contracted internal audit			Internal Audit service review of KPIs and contract			
Monitor implementation of audit recommendations			Internal audit recommendation s progress report			Internal audit recommendations progress report
<b>6. External Audit (oversee the external audit programs)</b>						
External Audit (Auditor General)	Follow up on progress of action items					
External Audit – Annual Financial Statements		Tasmanian Audit Office Financial Audit Strategy In camera discussion		Review draft financial statements	Review audited financial statements and audit report	
<b>7. Compliance</b>						
Reports on compliance with Local Government Act 1993 and other relevant legislation	Compliance breaches		System of compliance monitoring	Compliance breaches		
<b>8. Financial Management</b>						
Review the Management Representation letter				Review draft financial statements	Review management representation letter and advise Council on audited financial statements Adherence to LTFMP	Review TAO report to Parliament
<b>9. Panel management</b>						
Review Panel operations				Review the Panel's operations and activities	Review the work plan for 2027	RAP Annual Report to Council Panel work plan to Council
Membership					Appointments and reappointments	Recommendations to Council

TERMS OF REFERENCE ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES	SCHEDULED 2026 MEETING DATES					
	25 FEBRUARY 2026	15 APRIL 2026	3 JUNE 2026	11 AUGUST 2026	15 OCTOBER 2026	2 DECEMBER 2026
Remuneration						Report to Council outcome of the review and any resulting recommendations for change

Key: **Items reporting through to Council**

Drafted in the Office of  
Parliamentary Counsel

TASMANIA

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**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTORAL BILL 2025**

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**CONTENTS**

**PART 1 – PRELIMINARY**

- 1. Short title
- 2. Commencement
- 3. Interpretation

**PART 2 – ELECTION OF MAYORS, DEPUTY MAYORS AND COUNCILLORS**

*Division 1 – Election of mayors and deputy mayors*

- 4. Election of mayor by electors
- 5. Eligibility for nomination as mayor
- 6. Election of mayor by councillors in certain cases
- 7. Election of deputy mayor by councillors and term of office of deputy mayor
- 8. Term of office of mayor

*Division 2 – Election of councillors*

- 9. Election of councillors
- 10. Term of office of councillors
- 11. Resignations
- 12. Acting general manager
- 13. Prescribed procedures for certain elections

**PART 3 – ELECTORS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTORAL ROLLS**

- 14. Entitlement for electors to vote in election

15. Entitlement to be enrolled on Local Government Electoral Roll
16. Nomination of natural persons to vote on behalf of corporate bodies
17. Local Government Electoral Roll
18. Inspection of Local Government Electoral Roll
19. Closure of Local Government Electoral Roll
20. List of electors
21. Inspection of list of electors
22. Reviews

**PART 4 – COMPULSORY VOTING**

23. Compulsory voting in elections for certain persons
24. Notice of failure to vote
25. Second notice of failure to vote if no response from person
26. Consideration and determination of notices
27. Service of notices under this Part
28. Payment of failure to vote penalty
29. Infringement notices

**PART 5 – METHOD OF ELECTION, ISSUING AND RECEIVING PLACES, POLLING PLACES AND ELECTION OFFICIALS***Division 1 – Method of election, issuing and receiving places, polling places and assistance to electors*

30. Method of election
31. Appointment of issuing and receiving places
32. Appointment of polling places, pre-poll polling places and mobile polling places
33. Arrangements for operation of polling places, pre-poll polling places and mobile polling places
34. Assistance to certain electors at polling places, pre-poll polling places and mobile polling places

*Division 2 – Returning officers, electoral officers and electoral officers in charge*

35. Appointment of returning officers

36. Appointment of electoral officers and electoral officers in charge
37. Powers of electoral officers in charge
38. Returning officer, electoral officer and electoral officer in charge not prevented from voting
39. Expenses of elections incurred by returning officers and Electoral Commission

**PART 6 – NOTICES OF ELECTIONS AND NOMINATIONS**

40. Closing day and polling period
41. Notice of election
42. Eligibility for nomination as councillor
43. Notices of nomination
44. Determination and rejection of nominations for councillor
45. Publication of candidate information package by Electoral Commission
46. Withdrawal of nomination or death of candidate
47. Election without poll
48. Election with poll
49. Display of notice of nominations

**PART 7 – VOTING AND BALLOTS***Division 1 – Election conducted by voting by post*

50. Application of Division
51. Ballot material
52. Voting procedures
53. Supplementary issue of ballot materials
54. When ballot papers issued as supplementary ballot materials may be accepted
55. Certain postal vote ballot papers not to be accepted

*Division 2 – Availability of postal voting at elections conducted by voting by attendance*

56. Application of Division
57. Applications for postal voting
58. Issue of postal voting material

59. Re-issue of replacement postal voting material
60. Postal voting procedures

***Division 3 – Ballot papers***

61. Ballot papers
62. Instructions of ballot papers
63. Marking of ballot papers

**PART 8 – SCRUTINEERS AND PRESENCE AT POLLING PLACES**

64. Appointment of scrutineers
65. Presence of scrutineers
66. Scrutineering
67. Persons entitled to be present at certain places

**PART 9 – ALTERNATIVE VOTING PROCEDURES**

68. Interpretation of Part
69. Tasmanian Electoral Commission may approve alternative voting procedures
70. Entitlement to vote by approved alternative voting procedures
71. Counting of votes cast by approved alternative voting procedures
72. Confidentiality of votes case under approved alternative voting procedures
73. Publication of approved alternative voting procedures
74. Independent auditing of approved alternative voting procedures
75. Independent monitoring of approved alternative voting procedures

**PART 10 – DETERMINATION OF RESULTS OF ELECTIONS**

76. Counting votes
77. Informal ballot papers
78. Declaration of poll
79. Certificate of election
80. Recount of votes
81. Keeping of physical, digital and electronic electoral material

**PART 11 – CASUAL VACANCIES AND BY-ELECTIONS**

- 82. Casual vacancies
- 83. By-elections
- 84. Adjournment of poll
- 85. Non-application of Part

**PART 12 – OFFENCES RELATING TO ELECTIONS**

- 86. Offences relating to polling
- 87. Offences at issuing and receiving places, polling places and certain other places
- 88. Offences in violation of secrecy of ballot
- 89. Bribery, treating and undue influence
- 90. Electoral intimidation
- 91. False or misleading statements
- 92. Continuing offences

**PART 13 – INVESTIGATORY POWERS**

- 93. Interpretation of Part
- 94. Application of Part
- 95. Power to enter and inspect places
- 96. Power to require production of documents or information
- 97. Power to seize and detain
- 98. Power to require attendance and questioning
- 99. Obstruction offences
- 100. Warrants

**PART 14 – ELECTORAL ADVERTISING AND PUBLICATION OF ELECTORAL MATTER**

- 101. Electoral advertising
- 102. Publication of electoral matter

**PART 15 – ELECTORAL EXPENDITURE**

- 103. Interpretation
- 104. Incurring of electoral expenditure

105. Exceeding electoral expenditure limit
106. Final campaign return
107. Publisher's advertising return
108. Final campaign return and publisher's advertising return available for inspection
109. Electoral Commissioner's powers to require information and documents

**PART 16 – GIFTS AND DONATIONS**

110. Disclosure of gifts and donations accepted during election period by candidates or intending candidates
111. Disclosure of gifts and donations accepted during disclosure period by continuing candidates and candidates
112. Unlawful gifts and donations
113. Gifts and donations register
114. Publication of information contained in gifts and donations register

**PART 17 – MISCELLANEOUS**

115. Formal defects not to invalidate elections
116. Ministerial order in respect of elections
117. Invalidity of election not to affect proceedings
118. Instituting proceedings
119. Declaration of office
120. Vacancy of office on failure to make declaration
121. Right to information
122. Role of Electoral Commissioner
123. Regulations
124. Administration of Act

**SCHEDULE 1 – COUNTING OF VOTES****SCHEDULE 2 – RECOUNT TO FILL CASUAL VACANCY**

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTORAL BILL 2025**

*(Brought in by the Minister for Local Government, the Honourable Kerry John Vincent)*

**A BILL FOR**

**An Act to provide for the holding of elections to elect persons to a council, to regulate the conduct of those elections, to provide for the enrolment of electors for the purposes of those elections and to provide for related matters**

Be it enacted by Her Excellency the Governor of Tasmania, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and House of Assembly, in Parliament assembled, as follows:

**PART 1 – PRELIMINARY****1. Short title**

This Act may be cited as the *Local Government Electoral Act 2025*.

**2. Commencement**

The provisions of this Act commence on a day or days to be proclaimed.

**3. Interpretation**

In this Act, unless the contrary intention appears –

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

s. 3

Part 1 – Preliminary

***absolute majority*** means –

- (a) if no councillors are suspended, more than half of the total number of councillors to be elected to a council; or
- (b) if one or more councillors are suspended, more than half of the total number of councillors to be elected to a council after subtracting the number of councillors who are suspended;

***approved*** means approved by the Tasmanian Electoral Commission;

***ballot material*** means –

- (a) a ballot paper; and
- (b) instructions for the completion of the ballot paper; and
- (c) instructions for the manner in which the ballot paper is to be returned;

***by-election*** means a by-election held in accordance with section 83;

***candidate*** means a person whose notice of nomination for an election has been accepted under section 44(3);

***certificate of election*** means a certificate of the result of an election published by the

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

Part 1 – Preliminary

s. 3

Electoral Commissioner in accordance with section 79(2);

***closing day*** means the day and time fixed in accordance with section 40 on and at which polling for an election is to close in respect of all or specified electoral area;

***continuing candidate*** means a person who, at the time of lodging a notice of nomination –

- (a) holds the office of councillor; and
- (b) has held that office continuously since the day on which the certificate of election was issued in relation to the person's election to the office of councillor, whether the person was elected at –
  - (i) an ordinary election; or
  - (ii) a recount of votes under section 80; or
  - (iii) a recount to fill a casual vacancy under section 82; or
  - (iv) a by-election;

***corporate body nominee*** means a natural person whose nomination by a corporate body has been accepted by the Electoral Commissioner in accordance with section 44;

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

s. 3

Part 1 – Preliminary

**council** means a council established by section 18 of the *Local Government Act 1993*;

**council committee** means a council committee established under section 23 of the *Local Government Act 1993*;

**councillor** means a person elected to a council and includes the Lord Mayor, Deputy Lord Mayor, mayor, deputy mayor and alderman;

**declaration of a poll** means a declaration under section 78;

**deputy mayor** includes the Deputy Lord Mayor;

**Director** means the Director of Local Government appointed under 334 of the *Local Government Act 1993*;

**disclosure period** means the period commencing on the day on which the certificate of election was issued following the last ordinary election for the relevant electoral area and ending at the close of nominations for the following election;

**election period** means the period commencing on the day on which the notice of election for an election is published and ending on the declaration of a poll for that election;

**elector**, in relation to an election in an electoral area, means –

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025*  
*Act No. of 2025*

Part 1 – Preliminary

s. 3

---

- (a) a person, natural person or corporate body nominee who is included on the Local Government Electoral Roll for the electoral area; or
- (b) a person who is enrolled on the State roll, within the meaning of the *Electoral Act 2004*, for an address located within the electoral area;

*electoral area* means the municipal area or electoral district in which an election is to be held;

*electoral advertising*, in relation to an election, means any paid or unpaid matter that is communicated, or intended to be communicated, to the public, at the explicit direction or with the express authorisation of a candidate or intending candidate, for the dominant purpose of promoting the candidate's or intending candidate's campaign –

- (a) including, but not limited to, communication by any of the following means:
  - (i) notices, signs or posters;
  - (ii) pamphlets or handbills;
  - (iii) "how to vote" cards;

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

s. 3

Part 1 – Preliminary

---

- (iv) direct mail (including letterboxing);
- (v) print media;
- (vi) broadcast media;
- (vii) internet or social media;
- (viii) unsolicited automated telephone calls (including “robocalls”);
- (ix) direct electronic messages (including email, SMS or other messages via social media or messaging apps); but

(b) does not include communication made by or on behalf of any of the following, where the dominant purpose of the communication is to inform the public about the election or to promote public participation in the election process:

- (i) the Electoral Commissioner;
- (ii) the Tasmanian Electoral Commission;
- (iii) a council;
- (iv) the Local Government Association of Tasmania,

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025*  
*Act No. of 2025*

Part 1 – Preliminary

s. 3

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continued under section 326 of the *Local Government Act 1993*;

(v) the Crown or an instrumentality of the Crown;

***Electoral Commissioner*** means the person holding that office under the *Electoral Act 2004*;

***electoral district*** means an electoral district referred to in section 17 of the *Local Government Act 1993*;

***electoral expenditure***, in relation to an election, means any expenditure, including expenditure on electoral advertising, that is incurred or authorised for the dominant purpose of creating or communicating a particular electoral matter, or electoral matter generally, in relation to the election but does not include expenditure incurred to the extent that the expenditure is by a person who –

- (a) is providing a communication service, or communication platform, that is used to create or communicate electoral matter; or
- (b) is providing a service for another person who is engaged, on a commercial basis, to create or communicate electoral matter;

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

s. 3

Part 1 – Preliminary

***electoral material*** means –

- (a) physical, digital or electronic ballot papers; and
- (b) a voting declaration in accordance with section 51(3);

***electoral matter*** means any matter relating to an election, including electoral advertising, and any paid or unpaid matter that is communicated, or intended to be communicated, to the public for the dominant purpose of influencing the way that electors vote in the election, including, but not limited to, material that expressly or implicitly expresses support for or opposition to any of the following:

- (a) a candidate or intending candidate;
- (b) a registered political party;
- (c) a group of candidates;

***electoral officer*** means a person appointed as an electoral officer in accordance with section 36;

***electoral officer in charge*** means an electoral officer appointed under section 36 to be in charge of –

- (a) an issuing and receiving place; or
- (b) a polling place; or

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025*  
*Act No. of 2025*

Part 1 – Preliminary

s. 3

---

- (c) a pre-poll polling place; or
- (d) a mobile polling place;

***Local Government Electoral Roll*** means a roll kept under section 17;

***financial year*** means a period of 12 months starting on 1 July in one year and ending on 30 June in the next year;

***general manager*** means the person appointed as a general manager under section 61 of the *Local Government Act 1993* and includes a person nominated under section 12;

***gifts or donations*** means a gift or donation, monetary or in kind, (including but not limited to goods, services, discounts or benefits) –

- (a) with a value of \$50 or more; and
- (b) where the donor knew, or ought reasonably to have known, that all or part of the gift or donation was given for the purpose of supporting the candidate's campaign;

***gifts and donations register*** means a register of gifts and donations kept and maintained by the Tasmanian Electoral Commission in accordance with section 113;

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

s. 3

Part 1 – Preliminary

---

***initial gifts and donations return*** means a return, in an approved form, disclosing the nature, source and value of any gifts and donations received by a candidate during the disclosure period;

***intending candidate*** means a person who has publicly declared the person's intention to nominate for an election in accordance with section 43;

***issuing and receiving place*** means a place, vehicle or other mobile facility appointed by the Electoral Commissioner under section 31 in respect of an electoral area as a location where supplementary ballot material may be issued and ballot material may be received;

***list of electors*** means the list prepared and kept under section 20;

***mayor*** includes the Lord Mayor;

***mobile polling place*** means a place appointed as a mobile polling place by the Electoral Commissioner under section 32;

***municipal area*** means an area as defined in section 16 of the *Local Government Act 1993* and includes a proposed municipal area as defined in that Act;

***nomination period*** means the period beginning at 9 a.m. on the 8th Monday immediately before the closing day and ending at noon

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

Part 1 – Preliminary

s. 3

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on the 6th Monday immediately before the closing day;

***notice of election*** means a notice published by the Electoral Commissioner in accordance with section 41;

***notice of nomination*** means a notice of nomination referred to in section 43;

***ordinary election*** means an election under Part 2 that is not a by-election;

***place*** means any premises or place where electoral processes or ballot material handling occurs, including but not limited to issuing and receiving places, polling places, pre-poll polling places and mobile polling places;

***polling period*** means a period of one or more days determined by the Electoral Commissioner for the purposes of an election;

***polling place*** means a place appointed as a polling place by the Electoral Commissioner under section 32;

***pre-poll polling place*** means a place appointed as a pre-poll polling place by the Electoral Commissioner under section 32;

***public office*** means –

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

s. 3

Part 1 – Preliminary

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- (a) in the case of a municipal area, the place at which a council carries on its administrative activities; or
- (b) in the case of a proposed municipal area, the place at which a council or councils of that proposed municipal area carry out their administrative activities;

*registered party* means a registered party within the meaning of the *Electoral Act 2004*;

*regulations* means the regulations made under this Act;

*relevant period* means the period starting on the 30th day before the date of notice of election and ending at the end of the polling period;

*returning officer* means a person appointed as a returning officer by the Electoral Commissioner in accordance with section 35;

*review* means a review carried out by the Tribunal under section 22;

*roll closure day* means the day on which the Local Government Electoral Roll for an electoral area is closed under section 19;

*scrutineer* means a person appointed to be a scrutineer under section 64;

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025*  
*Act No. of 2025*

Part 1 – Preliminary

s. 3

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***simple majority*** means the majority of councillors of a council present and able to vote at a meeting of the council or council committee;

***Tribunal*** means the tribunal established under the *Tasmanian Civil and Administrative Tribunal Act 2020*;

***Tasmanian Electoral Commission*** means the Tasmanian Electoral Commission established by section 6 of the *Electoral Act 2004*.

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

s. 4

Part 2 – Election of Mayors, Deputy Mayors and Councillors

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**PART 2 – ELECTION OF MAYORS, DEPUTY  
MAYORS AND COUNCILLORS**

*Division 1 – Election of mayors and deputy mayors*

**4. Election of mayor by electors**

The mayor of a council is to be elected by the electors of the electoral area.

**5. Eligibility for nomination as mayor**

- (1) A person is eligible to nominate as a candidate for the office of mayor if the person is eligible to nominate as a candidate for the office of councillor under Part 6.
- (2) A person may not accept the office of mayor unless the person is a councillor.
- (3) The provisions of section 43 relating to notices of nominations apply to a person who is eligible to nominate as a candidate for the office of mayor.

**6. Election of mayor by councillors in certain cases**

If there is no nomination for the office of mayor of a council, the councillors of the council are to elect one of their number to the office in the prescribed manner.

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

Part 2 – Election of Mayors, Deputy Mayors and Councillors

s. 7

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**7. Election of deputy mayor by councillors and term of office of deputy mayor**

- (1) A councillor, who is not the mayor, is eligible to nominate as a candidate for the office of deputy mayor.
- (2) The councillors are to elect one of their number, who has nominated as a candidate under subsection (1), to the office of deputy mayor.
- (3) The election of a councillor to the office of deputy mayor under subsection (2) is to be –
  - (a) held in a prescribed manner; and
  - (b) held during the first or second ordinary meeting of the council held after the date of issue of the certificate of election in respect of an ordinary election for the election of the councillors participating in the election; and
  - (c) determined by a simple majority of councillors; and
  - (d) for the term of the council or for a lesser period that is agreed to by a simple majority of councillors.
- (4) If the office of deputy mayor becomes vacant for any reason, the councillors are to elect one of their number to the office of deputy mayor in the prescribed manner for the balance of the term.
- (5) If the deputy mayor is acting as mayor or is temporarily absent for any period, the councillors

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

**s. 8**

Part 2 – Election of Mayors, Deputy Mayors and Councillors

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may appoint one of their number to act as deputy mayor during that period.

**8. Term of office of mayor**

- (1) The mayor is to be elected for a period of 4 years and hold office from the date of issue of the certificate of election in respect of an ordinary election for that office until the date of issue of the next certificate of election in respect of an ordinary election for that office.
- (2) If the office of mayor becomes vacant for any reason, the deputy mayor is to act in that office –
  - (a) until the certificate of election for the by-election for that vacancy is issued; or
  - (b) if the vacancy is within 6 months before the notice of the election is to be given, until the certificate of election for that election is issued.

*Division 2 – Election of councillors*

**9. Election of councillors**

- (1) A councillor is to be elected –
  - (a) if a municipal area is not divided into electoral districts, by the electors in that municipal area; or
  - (b) if a municipal area is divided into electoral districts, by the electors of the

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025*  
*Act No. of 2025*

Part 2 – Election of Mayors, Deputy Mayors and Councillors

**s. 10**

electoral district in respect of which the councillor is to be elected.

- (2) The election of councillors is to be held in accordance with this Act.
- (3) The number of persons to be elected as councillors by each municipal area is specified in Column 3 of Schedule 3 to the *Local Government Act 1993* next to the name of that municipal area.
- (4) The Governor, on the recommendation of the Minister, may amend or substitute Column 3 of Schedule 3 to the *Local Government Act 1993*, or substitute that Column of that Schedule, in an order made under section 214E of that Act.

**10. Term of office of councillors**

- (1) A councillor is to be elected for a period of 4 years and holds office from the date of issue of the certificate of election in respect of an ordinary election for that office until the date of issue of the next certificate of election in respect of an ordinary election for that office.
- (2) The Governor, on the recommendation of the Minister, may make an order determining or altering the term of office of a councillor of a council elected –
  - (a) at an election following the dismissal of all the councillors of that council; or
  - (b) at a deferred poll.

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

s. 11

Part 2 – Election of Mayors, Deputy Mayors and Councillors

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**11. Resignations**

- (1) A councillor may resign from office at any time.
- (2) A resignation is to be made in writing and forwarded to the general manager.
- (3) Except as provided in subsection (6), on the date of receipt by the general manager of the resignation of a councillor –
  - (a) the resignation takes effect; and
  - (b) the office of councillor becomes vacant.
- (4) On receipt of a resignation, the general manager is to advise the council and the Electoral Commissioner of the resignation.
- (5) A councillor who has resigned as mayor or deputy mayor may continue in office as councillor.
- (6) A councillor who holds the office of a mayor or deputy mayor and resigns as councillor ceases to hold such office.

**12. Acting general manager**

The Electoral Commissioner may nominate a natural person to exercise the powers and perform the functions of a general manager under this Part in relation to an election for a proposed municipal area.

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

Part 2 – Election of Mayors, Deputy Mayors and Councillors

**s. 13**

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**13. Prescribed procedures for certain elections**

Regulations may provide for different procedures than specified in this Act for the purpose of an election for an existing municipal area or proposed municipal area to be held as a result of an order made under 214E of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

s. 14

Part 3 – Electors and Local Government Electoral Rolls

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**PART 3 – ELECTORS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
ELECTORAL ROLLS**

**14. Entitlement for electors to vote in election**

Each elector is entitled to one vote in an election for an electoral area.

**15. Entitlement to be enrolled on Local Government  
Electoral Roll**

(1) In this section –

*occupier*, in relation to land in an electoral area, means –

- (a) a natural person, or a corporate body, that holds a current lease of the land in the person's or body's own name; or
- (b) a natural person, or a corporate body, that holds a current licence in the person's or body's own name to occupy the land, including, but not limited to, a private purposes licence within the meaning of section 86AA of the *Local Government Act 1993*; or
- (c) a natural person whose ordinary place of residence is within the electoral area and who has resided in Tasmania for a continuous period of at least 12 months.

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

Part 3 – Electors and Local Government Electoral Rolls

**s. 15**

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(2) A person may apply to the Electoral Commissioner for an entitlement to be enrolled on the Local Government Electoral Roll for an address within an electoral area if, at the time of making the application –

- (a) in the case of an applicant who is a natural person, the natural person has resided in Tasmania for a continuous period of at least 12 months immediately before the date of making the application; and
- (b) in the case of an applicant who is a corporate body, the corporate body has maintained a registered office or principal place of business in Tasmania for a continuous period of at least 12 months immediately before the date of making the application; and
- (c) the applicant –
  - (i) is an owner or occupier of land in the electoral area; and
  - (ii) has attained the age of 18 years; and
  - (iii) is not currently serving a term of imprisonment.

(3) An application under subsection (2) must –

- (a) be in an approved form; and
- (b) include any information or documents that provide evidence that the applicant

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

**s. 15**

Part 3 – Electors and Local Government Electoral Rolls

meets all of the requirements set out in subsection (2)(a), (b) and (c); and

- (c) include any other approved information or approved documents; and
- (d) be signed by the applicant; and
- (e) be lodged with the Electoral Commissioner.

(4) Without limiting the information or documents that may be included in an application for the purposes of subsection (3)(b), the application may include any one or more of the following documents in the name of the applicant:

- (a) a residential tenancy agreement as defined in the *Residential Tenancy Act 1997*;
- (b) a private purposes licence within the meaning of section 86AA of the *Local Government Act 1993*;
- (c) an account for the supply of electricity;
- (d) an account for water services;
- (e) an account for gas services;
- (f) an account for telecommunication services.

(5) On receipt of an application under subsection (2), the Electoral Commissioner must –

- (a) approve the application, if the Electoral Commissioner is reasonably satisfied that

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

Part 3 – Electors and Local Government Electoral Rolls

**s. 16**

the applicant meets all of the requirements set out in subsection (2)(a), (b) and (c), and notify the applicant in writing of that approval; or

- (b) refuse to approve the application, if the Electoral Commissioner is not reasonably satisfied that the applicant meets all of the requirements set out in subsection (2)(a), (b) and (c), and notify the applicant in writing of that refusal.
- (6) If the Electoral Commissioner approves an application under subsection (5)(a) and the applicant is a natural person, the natural person is entitled to be enrolled on the Local Government Electoral Roll for the relevant address within the electoral area.
- (7) If the Electoral Commissioner approves an application under subsection (5)(a) and the applicant is a corporate body, the corporate body is entitled to be enrolled on the Local Government Electoral Roll for the relevant address within the electoral area.

**16. Nomination of natural persons to vote on behalf of corporate bodies**

- (1) Subject to this section, if a corporate body is entitled to be enrolled on the Local Government Electoral Roll under section 15(7), the corporate body may nominate one natural person to vote on its behalf at an election held for the electoral area.

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

**s. 16**

Part 3 – Electors and Local Government Electoral Rolls

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(2) The natural person nominated under subsection (1) must, at the time of the nomination –

- (a) be a director or the secretary of the corporate body; and
- (b) not already be enrolled on the on the State roll within the meaning of the *Electoral Act 2004* for an address in the electoral area to which the nomination relates; and
- (c) have attained the age of 18 years; and
- (d) not already be a corporate body nominee for another corporate body in the same electoral area to which the nomination relates; and
- (e) not be currently serving a term of imprisonment.

(3) A nomination under subsection (1) is to be –

- (a) in an approved form; and
- (b) include any approved information or approved documents; and
- (c) signed by the natural person nominated; and
- (d) lodged with the Electoral Commissioner.

(4) The Electoral Commissioner must do one of the following in respect of a nomination lodged under subsection (3):

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025*  
*Act No. of 2025*

Part 3 – Electors and Local Government Electoral Rolls

**s. 16**

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- (a) accept the nomination of the natural person as a nominee for the corporate body, unless paragraph (b) or (c) applies;
- (b) reject the nomination of the natural person as a nominee of the corporate body if satisfied that the corporate body does not have a registered office or principal place of business at an address in the electoral area;
- (c) reject the nomination of the natural person as a nominee of the corporate body if satisfied that the nominated natural person –
  - (i) has not attained the age of 18 years; or
  - (ii) is already a corporate body nominee for another corporate body in the electoral area; or
  - (iii) is not a director or the secretary of the corporate body; or
  - (iv) is currently serving a term of imprisonment; or
  - (v) is subject to an order under the *Guardianship and Administration Act 1995* that affects the nominee's ability to vote on behalf of the corporate body.

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

s. 17

Part 3 – Electors and Local Government Electoral Rolls

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(5) A nomination accepted by the Electoral Commissioner under subsection (4) remains valid until –

- (a) a new nomination is made by the corporate body; or
- (b) the corporate body revokes the nomination; or
- (c) the Electoral Commissioner is satisfied that –
  - (i) the corporate body no longer has a registered office or principal place of business on land in the electoral area; or
  - (ii) the corporate body nominee no longer meets the eligibility requirements specified under subsection (4)(b) or (c).

(6) A corporate body may nominate only one natural person as a corporate body nominee to vote on its behalf at an election held for an electoral area, regardless of whether the corporate body has more than one registered office or principal place of business on land in that electoral area.

**17. Local Government Electoral Roll**

- (1) The Electoral Commissioner is to keep, in a manner determined by the Electoral Commissioner, a Local Government Electoral Roll for each electoral area, which is to include –

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

Part 3 – Electors and Local Government Electoral Rolls

s. 17

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- (a) the persons entitled to be enrolled under section 15(2) and the address or location of the land in respect of which each such person is entitled to be enrolled on the Local Government Electoral Roll; and
- (b) the natural persons entitled to be enrolled under section 15(6) and the relevant address for each natural person within the electoral area; and
- (c) the corporate body nominees for the corporate bodies entitled to be on the Local Government Electoral Roll under section 15(7) and the address or location of the land in respect of which the corporate body is entitled to be enrolled on the Local Government Electoral Roll; and
- (d) any other matter or information that the Electoral Commissioner considers necessary or appropriate for the proper maintenance or operation of the Local Government Electoral Roll.

- (2) The Electoral Commissioner is to make any alterations and additions to the Local Government Electoral Roll that are necessary to ensure that the roll remains accurate and up to date.
- (3) The Electoral Commissioner may remove or withhold from the Local Government Electoral Roll an address or location of land if satisfied that the removal or withholding is necessary to protect the safety of –

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

**s. 18**

Part 3 – Electors and Local Government Electoral Rolls

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- (a) a person, natural person or corporate body nominee; or
- (b) a family member of a person, natural person or corporate body nominee.

**18. Inspection of Local Government Electoral Roll**

- (1) A person may inspect the Local Government Electoral Roll at any reasonable time and free of charge.
- (2) A person, natural person or corporate body nominee who is included under section 17 on a Local Government Electoral Roll for an electoral area may object, by notice in writing to the Electoral Commissioner, to –
  - (a) an error in the details recorded on the Local Government Electoral Roll in relation to that person, natural person or corporate body nominee; or
  - (b) the omission of the person's, natural person's or corporate body nominee's name from the Local Government Electoral Roll.
- (3) On receipt of an objection, the Electoral Commissioner –
  - (a) must review the Local Government Electoral Roll; and
  - (b) may decide to make any corrections to the Local Government Electoral Roll that the Electoral Commissioner determines are

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

Part 3 – Electors and Local Government Electoral Rolls

**s. 19**

necessary to ensure the accuracy of the Local Government Electoral Roll.

**19. Closure of Local Government Electoral Roll**

- (1) The Electoral Commissioner is to determine the day and time at which the Local Government Electoral Rolls are to be closed for an election, having regard to the method or methods of conducting the election determined under section 30.
- (2) The Electoral Commissioner must publish the determination made under subsection (1) on the Electoral Commissioner's website as soon as practicable after making it.
- (3) If the Electoral Commissioner does not make a determination under subsection (1), the Local Government Electoral Rolls are to be closed at 6:00 p.m. on the 7th Thursday before the closing day for the election.

**20. List of electors**

- (1) The Electoral Commissioner is to –
  - (a) prepare and keep a list of electors from the Local Government Electoral Roll as at the closing day; and
  - (b) is to certify that the list is correct.
- (2) A list of electors prepared under subsection (1) forms one list but may consist of 2 or more parts.

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

**s. 21**

Part 3 – Electors and Local Government Electoral Rolls

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- (3) The Electoral Commissioner is to provide the relevant returning officer with a copy of the certified list of electors.
- (4) Until after the closing day–
  - (a) no additional names or details may be included on the list of electors except names omitted in error; and
  - (b) no other alterations or cancellations may be made to the list of electors except to correct any error.
- (5) The returning officer on request is to provide each candidate in an electoral area with one copy of the list of electors free of charge as soon as practicable after the roll closure day determined under section 19.
- (6) A person, body or organisation must not, without reasonable excuse, use information obtained from a list of electors provided under subsection (5), unless the information is used for purposes connected with an election.

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 100 penalty units.

**21. Inspection of list of electors**

Any person may, at any reasonable time and free of charge, inspect the list of electors.

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

Part 3 – Electors and Local Government Electoral Rolls

s. 22

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## 22. Reviews

- (1) A corporate body or person may apply to the Tribunal for a review of the Electoral Commissioner's –
  - (a) refusal of an application under section 15(5)(b); or
  - (b) rejection of a nomination under section 16(4)(b) or (c); or
  - (c) decision to make or not to make a correction under section 18(3).
- (2) The determination of the Tribunal does not affect the conduct or outcome of an election held before the determination is made.
- (3) If the Tribunal sets aside or varies a decision made by the Electoral Commissioner under section 18(3) after the roll closure day, the Local Government Electoral Roll is not to be amended until it is reopened under this Act.
- (4) If the variation by the Tribunal would entitle the objector to vote at an election in the relevant electoral area, the objector may vote at the forthcoming election in that electoral area.

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

s. 23

Part 4 – Compulsory Voting

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## PART 4 – COMPULSORY VOTING

### 23. Compulsory voting in elections for certain persons

- (1) Subject to subsection (2), a person who, at the time of an election for an electoral area, is enrolled on the State roll, within the meaning of the *Electoral Act 2004*, for an address within the electoral area, must vote at the election.

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 0.2 penalty units.
- (2) Subsection (1) does not apply if the person satisfies the Tasmanian Electoral Commissioner that the person had a valid and sufficient reason for failing to vote in the election.
- (3) Without limiting subsection (2), a person is taken to have had a valid and sufficient reason for the purposes of that subsection if the person –
  - (a) was medically, physically or otherwise incapacitated from voting on the day of the election; or
  - (b) ceased to be enrolled on the State roll within the meaning of the *Electoral Act 2004* or otherwise was not entitled to vote at any time on the day of the election; or
  - (c) abstained from voting in the election because voting was contrary to the person's genuinely held religious beliefs.
- (4) Proceedings for an offence under subsection (1) may only be instituted by the Tasmanian Electoral Commissioner, the Director of Public

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

Part 4 – Compulsory Voting

s. 24

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Prosecutions or a person authorised in writing by either the Commissioner or the Director.

**24. Notice of failure to vote**

- (1) As soon as practicable after each election held in an electoral area, the Electoral Commissioner must compile a list of persons who –
  - (a) were required under section 23 to vote in the election; and
  - (b) appear not to have voted in that election.
- (2) As soon as practicable after compiling the list under subsection (1), the Electoral Commissioner must serve a notice of failure to vote on each person on the list, unless the Commissioner is satisfied that the person provided a valid and sufficient reason for not voting in accordance with section 23(2).
- (3) A notice under subsection (2) must –
  - (a) be in an approved form; and
  - (b) specify a date (the *response date*) that is at least 21 days after the day on which the notice is served; and
  - (c) include a statement about compulsory voting in accordance with subsection (4).
- (4) The statement about compulsory voting must inform the person that –

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

s. 25

Part 4 – Compulsory Voting

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- (a) the person appears to have failed to vote in the election; and
- (b) it is an offence for the person to fail to vote in an election without a valid and sufficient reason; and
- (c) on or before the response date the person may respond in writing to the Electoral Commissioner –
  - (i) explaining why the person believes they voted in the election; or
  - (ii) stating the reason why the person failed to vote in the election; and
- (d) as an alternative to providing a response, the person may pay the failure to vote penalty in accordance with section 28.

**25. Second notice of failure to vote if no response from person**

- (1) If a person has not provided a written response or payment by the response date specified in the failure to vote notice issued under section 24(2), the Electoral Commissioner must, as soon as practicable, send a second notice of failure to vote to the person by post.
- (2) The second notice of failure to vote must –
  - (a) be in an approved form; and

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

Part 4 – Compulsory Voting

s. 26

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- (b) specify a date (the *second response date*) that is at least 14 days after the date on which the notice is sent to the person by post; and
- (c) include a statement about compulsory voting in accordance section 24(4); and
- (d) include a statement that –
  - (i) no response or payment has been received by the Electoral Commissioner; and
  - (ii) failure to respond or pay by the second response date may result in an infringement notice being issued under section 29.

**26. Consideration and determination of notices**

- (1) If the Electoral Commissioner receives, on or before the response date specified in a failure to vote notice under section 24 or the second response date specified in a second notice of failure to vote under section 25, written reasons from a person setting out any explanation for the failure to vote, the Commissioner must determine whether those reasons are valid and sufficient.
- (2) If the Electoral Commissioner determines that the person has a valid and sufficient reason for failing to vote at an election, no further action under this Part is to be taken in respect of that election for that person.

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

s. 26

Part 4 – Compulsory Voting

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- (3) If the Electoral Commissioner determines that the person does not have a valid and sufficient reason for failing to vote at an election, the Commissioner must, as soon as practicable, serve a determination notice on the person by post.
- (4) A determination notice under subsection (3) must –
  - (a) be in an approved form; and
  - (b) specify a date (the **determination response date**) that is at least 14 days after the date on which the notice is sent by post to the person; and
  - (c) include a statement that –
    - (i) the Electoral Commissioner has not accepted the reasons provided by the person for failing to vote in the election; and
    - (ii) it is an offence to fail to vote in an election without a valid and sufficient reason; and
    - (iii) the person may, on or before the determination response date, pay to the Electoral Commissioner the notice of failure to vote penalty in accordance with section 28, to avoid the issue of an infringement notice under section 29.

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

Part 4 – Compulsory Voting

s. 27

**27. Service of notices under this Part**

- (1) A notice under this Part is taken to be effectively served on a person if it is –
  - (a) delivered personally to the person; or
  - (b) addressed to the person and left at, posted to, the person's last known postal or residential address as recorded on the Local Government Electoral Roll or otherwise notified to the Electoral Commissioner; or
  - (c) transmitted by electronic transmission to an email address nominated by the person, whether in correspondence or otherwise, for the purpose of receiving notices under this Part.
- (2) A person is deemed to have consented to the service of a notice under this Part by electronic transmission if –
  - (a) the person has provided the Tasmanian Electoral Commission with a document containing the person's email address; and
  - (b) the person has not indicated, in writing or otherwise, that the email address is not to be used for the service under this Part.
- (3) A notice served by electronic transmission under subsection (1)(c) is taken to have been received at the time at which the transmission has

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

s. 28

Part 4 – Compulsory Voting

entered the recipient's electronic inbox or electronic message repository, unless –

- (a) the sender receives a notification that the transmission failed; or
- (b) the Tasmanian Electoral Commission is aware, or ought reasonably to be aware, that the email address is not current or operative.

(4) A notice sent by post under subsection (1)(b) is taken to have been served on the date of posting (or if the postal item is delivered, on the date of delivery), unless the postal item is returned to sender.

**28. Payment of failure to vote penalty**

- (1) A person may, on or before the applicable response date or determination response date under this Part, whichever is earlier, pay to the Electoral Commissioner a penalty of 0.2 penalty units in respect of the person's failure to vote in the election.
- (2) If the penalty referred to in subsection (1) is paid –
  - (a) the person's liability under section 23(1) is discharged; and
  - (b) no proceedings for an offence against section 23(1) may be instituted against the person in respect of that failure to vote; and

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

Part 4 – Compulsory Voting

s. 29

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- (c) an infringement notice under section 29 may not be issued to the person in respect of the failure to vote.

#### **29. Infringement notices**

- (1) The Electoral Commissioner may issue an infringement notice to a person if –
  - (a) a second failure to vote notice has been served under section 25; and
  - (b) by the second response date specified in that second failure to vote notice, the person has not –
    - (i) submitted written reasons to the Electoral Commissioner as to why the person believes they voted in the election; or
    - (ii) submitted written reasons to the Electoral Commissioner explaining why the person failed to vote in the election; or
    - (iii) paid the penalty under section 28.
- (2) The Electoral Commissioner may also issue an infringement notice to a person if –
  - (a) a determination notice has been served under section 26(3); and
  - (b) the person has not paid the penalty under section 28 by the determination response date specified in the determination notice.

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

s. 29

Part 4 – Compulsory Voting

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(3) An infringement notice must –

- (a) be issued in accordance with section 14 of the *Monetary Penalties Enforcement Act 2005*; and
- (b) specify whether it is issued on the ground that –
  - (i) the person failed to respond to the second failure to vote notice under section 25; or
  - (ii) the person failed to pay the penalty under section 28.

(4) A notice issued under section 24 or 25 is not an infringement notice for the purposes of the *Monetary Penalties Enforcement Act 2005*.

(5) The penalty payable for an infringement notice is 0.4 penalty units.

(6) If the person pays the amount specified in the infringement notice within the time allowed, their liability under section 23(1) is discharged and no further proceedings may be taken in respect of that failure to vote in that election.

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

Part 5 – Method of Election, Issuing and Receiving Places, Polling Places and Election Officials      s. 30

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**PART 5 – METHOD OF ELECTION, ISSUING AND  
RECEIVING PLACES, POLLING PLACES AND  
ELECTION OFFICIALS**

***Division 1 – Method of election, issuing and receiving places,  
polling places and assistance to electors***

**30. Method of election**

- (1) Subject to subsection (2) and before the publication of the notice of election, the Electoral Commissioner must determine the method by which the election is to be conducted.
- (2) For the purposes of subsection (1), the Electoral Commissioner must determine that an election is to be conducted by any one or more of the following methods:
  - (a) voting by post, including provision for the hand delivery of completed postal ballots to issuing and receiving places or by attending any pre-poll polling place;
  - (b) voting by attendance at any polling place, pre-poll polling place or mobile polling place;
  - (c) any alternative voting procedures;
  - (d) arrangements to facilitate voting by electors who are interstate or overseas.
- (3) The Electoral Commissioner may only determine that an election is to be conducted by the method

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

**s. 31** Part 5 – Method of Election, Issuing and Receiving Places, Polling Places and Election Officials

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of attendance voting referred to in subsection (2)(b) if satisfied that –

- (a) the available postal services are inadequate to ensure the reliable conduct of the election by postal ballot; or
- (b) the estimated cost of conducting the election by postal ballot would exceed the estimated cost of conducting the election by attendance voting.

(4) The Electoral Commissioner must, at least 6 months before the day on which the notice of election is published –

- (a) notify the Minister for Local Government, in writing, of the method or methods by which the election is to be conducted; and
- (b) publish a statement on the Electoral Commissioner’s website setting out the method or methods of voting to be used for the election, including any alternative voting procedures.

**31. Appointment of issuing and receiving places**

(1) Subject to the method of conducting an election determined by the Electoral Commissioner under section 30 and this section, the Electoral Commissioner may appoint a place, vehicle or other mobile facility within, or in close proximity to, an electoral area as a location where ballot

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

Part 5 – Method of Election, Issuing and Receiving Places, Polling Places and  
Election Officials

**s. 31**

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material may be issued, and ballot material may be received, for an election for the electoral area.

- (2) The Electoral Commissioner may appoint a hospital, convalescent home, nursing home or other similar place at which a mobile facility may be operated for the purposes of issuing and receiving ballot material for an election in an electoral area.
- (3) In determining the number and location of issuing and receiving places under subsection (1), the Electoral Commissioner must have regard to –
  - (a) the size and geography of the electoral area; and
  - (b) the population distribution and density of electors in the electoral area; and
  - (c) the accessibility of locations to electors, including those in remote areas; and
  - (d) any other matter that the Electoral Commissioner considers relevant to ensure equitable access to voting in the election.
- (4) The Electoral Commissioner is to determine the hours during which each issuing and receiving place is to operate.
- (5) The Electoral Commissioner is to publish a notice setting out –

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

s. 32 Part 5 – Method of Election, Issuing and Receiving Places, Polling Places and Election Officials

(a) the location and type of each issuing and receiving place; and

(b) the hours during which each issuing and receiving place is to operate –

by any means that the Electoral Commissioner considers appropriate, including on a website maintained by or on behalf of the Electoral Commissioner.

(6) An election is not invalid merely because an issuing and receiving place is not operating during the hours determined under subsection (4).

(7) Once a notice of election is given under this Act, each issuing and receiving place appointed under this section remains an issuing and receiving place for the purposes of that election unless revoked by the Electoral Commissioner in accordance with this Act.

(8) The Electoral Commissioner may appoint, in respect of an electoral area for an election, an issuing and receiving place located outside the boundaries of the electoral area.

**32. Appointment of polling places, pre-poll polling places and mobile polling places**

(1) Subject to the method of conducting an election determined by the Electoral Commissioner under section 30 and this section, the Electoral Commissioner may appoint a polling place, pre-poll polling place or mobile polling place as a

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

Part 5 – Method of Election, Issuing and Receiving Places, Polling Places and  
Election Officials

s. 32

place at which electors may attend in person to  
cast their votes in an election for an electoral area.

- (2) The Electoral Commissioner may appoint polling places, pre-poll polling places or mobile polling places within, or where appropriate outside, the boundaries of an electoral area for an election.
- (3) The Electoral Commissioner may appoint a hospital, convalescent home, nursing home or other similar place as a location at which a mobile polling place may be operated for the purposes of conducting attendance voting for an election in an electoral area.
- (4) The Electoral Commissioner must have regard to the matters listed in section 31(3) when appointing places as polling places, pre-poll polling places or mobile polling places.
- (5) The Electoral Commissioner is to determine the hours during which each polling place, pre-poll polling place or mobile polling place is to operate.
- (6) The Electoral Commissioner is to publish a notice setting out –
  - (a) the location of each polling place, pre-poll polling place or mobile polling place; and
  - (b) the hours during which each polling place, pre-poll polling place or mobile polling place is to operate –

by any means that the Electoral Commissioner considers appropriate, including on a website

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025*  
*Act No. of 2025*

s. 33      Part 5 – Method of Election, Issuing and Receiving Places, Polling Places and Election Officials

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maintained by or on behalf of the Electoral Commissioner.

- (7) An election is not invalid merely because a polling place, pre-poll polling place or mobile polling place is not operating during the hours determined under subsection (5).
- (8) Unless it is necessary to do so due to circumstances beyond the control of the Electoral Commissioner, the Electoral Commissioner may terminate the appointment of a place as a polling place, pre-poll polling place or mobile polling place only if –
  - (a) the termination is made before the notice of election is published or after the closing day for the election in the electoral area; and
  - (b) notice of the termination is published in the *Gazette* as soon as practicable after the termination is made.

**33. Arrangements for operation of polling places, pre-poll polling places and mobile polling places**

The Electoral Commissioner is to make any arrangements that the Electoral Commissioner considers necessary for the operation of a polling place, pre-poll polling place or mobile polling place including but not limited to making the following arrangements:

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

Part 5 – Method of Election, Issuing and Receiving Places, Polling Places and Election Officials      s. 34

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- (a) providing an appropriate number of electoral officers and electoral officers in charge, at each polling place, pre-poll polling place or mobile polling place;
- (b) providing at each polling place, pre-poll polling place or mobile polling place an appropriate number or amount of –
  - (i) certified copies of the Local Government Electoral Roll; and
  - (ii) ballot material; and
  - (iii) electoral material; and
  - (iv) voting screens; and
  - (v) ballot boxes which can be securely fastened;
- (c) ensuring the security of ballot material and voting equipment at all times.

**34. Assistance to certain electors at polling places, pre-poll polling places and mobile polling places**

- (1) The Electoral Commissioner may approve procedures that are reasonable and appropriate to assist an elector at a polling place, pre-poll polling place or mobile polling place who is unable to vote without assistance.
- (2) If an elector is to be assisted in voting at a polling place, pre-poll polling place or mobile polling place, an electoral officer or an electoral officer in

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

**s. 35** Part 5 – Method of Election, Issuing and Receiving Places, Polling Places and Election Officials

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charge must advise any scrutineers present of the approved procedure by which the elector will be voting.

*Division 2 – Returning officers, electoral officers and electoral officers in charge*

**35. Appointment of returning officers**

- (1) For the purposes of conducting an election under this Act, the Electoral Commissioner is to appoint a person as the returning officer for the election for the electoral area.
- (2) The Electoral Commissioner may issue directions to the returning officer in relation to –
  - (a) the conduct of an election; and
  - (b) the functions and powers of the returning officer for the election.
- (3) The returning officer is to comply with any directions issued by the Electoral Commissioner under subsection (2).
- (4) If the returning officer is absent or unable to act, or if the office becomes vacant, the Electoral Commissioner is to appoint a substitute person to act as the returning officer as soon as practicable.

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

Part 5 – Method of Election, Issuing and Receiving Places, Polling Places and  
Election Officials

**s. 36**

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**36. Appointment of electoral officers and electoral officers in charge**

- (1) The returning officer, in consultation with the Electoral Commissioner, may, by instrument in writing, appoint persons to act as electoral officers to assist in the conduct of an election in an electoral area.
- (2) The returning officer, in consultation with the Electoral Commissioner, may appoint an electoral officer as the electoral officer in charge of one of the following places for an election in a electoral area:
  - (a) an issuing and receiving place;
  - (b) a polling place;
  - (c) a pre-poll polling place;
  - (d) a mobile polling place.
- (3) If an electoral officer in charge is absent, unable to act, or if the position becomes vacant, the returning officer, in consultation with the Electoral Commissioner, may appoint another person to act as the electoral officer in charge of the issuing and receiving place, polling place, pre-poll polling place or mobile polling place.
- (4) An electoral officer appointed under this section is, for the purposes of this Act, a worker within the meaning and for the purposes of the *Workers Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988* and

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

s. 37      Part 5 – Method of Election, Issuing and Receiving Places, Polling Places and Election Officials

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the *Asbestos-Related Diseases (Occupational Exposure) Compensation Act 2011*.

**37. Powers of electoral officers in charge**

- (1) An electoral officer in charge is responsible for maintaining order and ensuring the peace at the issuing and receiving place, polling place, pre-poll polling place or mobile polling place.
- (2) The electoral officer in charge may require a person who the officer reasonably suspects has committed an offence under this Part to leave the issuing and receiving place, polling place, pre-poll polling place or mobile polling place, and may use such force as is reasonably necessary to remove the person.
- (3) Any police officer must, if requested by an electoral officer in charge, assist in removing a person under subsection (2).

**38. Returning officer, electoral officer and electoral officer in charge not prevented from voting**

A returning officer, electoral officer and electoral officer in charge are not prevented from voting in an election by virtue of holding office in relation to that election.

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

Part 5 – Method of Election, Issuing and Receiving Places, Polling Places and s. 39  
Election Officials

---

**39. Expenses of elections incurred by returning officers  
and Electoral Commission**

All expenses reasonably incurred in connection with conducting an election in an electoral area by a returning officer and the Electoral Commissioner are to be paid by the council of the electoral area within 30 days of receiving an invoice or request for payment.

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

s. 40

Part 6 – Notices of Elections and Nominations

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**PART 6 – NOTICES OF ELECTIONS AND  
NOMINATIONS**

**40. Closing day and polling period**

- (1) Subject to the method of conducting an election determined by the Electoral Commissioner under section 30, and this section, the day and time on and at which the poll for an election in respect of all councils is to close in any year is 6:00 p.m. on the last Tuesday in October in that year, unless the Governor by order made under this section or section 214E of the *Local Government Act 1993* –
  - (a) fixes another day in another month or year as the closing day; or
  - (b) determines that an election in respect of all or specified councils is to be postponed.
- (2) If the day fixed for polling at an Australian parliamentary or Tasmanian parliamentary election falls within the polling period for an election in an electoral area, the Electoral Commissioner may determine the earliest practicable alternative closing day for the election in the electoral area.
- (3) The Governor, by order, may –
  - (a) fix a different day as the closing day for an election in respect of one or more specified councils; or

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

Part 6 – Notices of Elections and Nominations

s. 41

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- (b) determine that an election in respect of all or specified councils is to be postponed.
- (4) If a notice of election has been issued and an election is being conducted, the Governor by order, may –
  - (a) fix a new closing day for that election; or
  - (b) declare the election to be abandoned and give reasons for the abandonment.
- (5) The Electoral Commissioner may determine –
  - (a) the day on which a polling period is to commence; and
  - (b) the hours of operation for that polling period.
- (6) If an elector is present at a polling place at the time at which polling is due to close at that polling place and the elector wishes to vote, the elector is to be given a reasonable opportunity to do so and the ballot paper completed by the elector is to be included in the poll.

**41. Notice of election**

- (1) The Electoral Commissioner is to, on the Saturday 12 weeks before closing day, cause a notice of election to be published prominently in a daily newspaper circulating in the relevant electoral area.

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

**s. 41**

Part 6 – Notices of Elections and Nominations

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- (2) A notice of election under subsection (1) must include the following information in relation to an election:
  - (a) the date and time on and at which the Local Government Electoral Roll for the relevant electoral area will close;
  - (b) the number and nature of the vacancies to be filled;
  - (c) the qualifications for, and entitlement to vote;
  - (d) any additional information that the Electoral Commissioner considers appropriate to promote public understanding of the election process.
- (3) If two or more elections are to be held simultaneously within an electoral area, or across multiple electoral areas, the Electoral Commissioner may publish a single combined notice of election, provided that the notice satisfies the requirements of this section in respect of each election included in the notice.
- (4) The returning officer must ensure that a copy of the notice of election is displayed at the public office of the relevant council, in a location where it is clearly visible and accessible to the public during ordinary business hours.

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025*  
*Act No. of 2025*

Part 6 – Notices of Elections and Nominations

s. 42

**42. Eligibility for nomination as councillor**

(1) A person is eligible to nominate as a candidate for the office of councillor in respect of an electoral area if the person–

- (a) is enrolled on the Local Government Electoral Roll for an address in the electoral area or is enrolled on the State roll within the meaning of the *Electoral Act 2004* for an address in the electoral area; and
- (b) is an Australian citizen; and
- (c) is not a councillor of another council whose term of office is to end after the certificate of election is issued in respect of that other council’s elections; and
- (d) has not been barred by a court or the Tribunal under this Act, the *Local Government Act 1993* or any other Act from nominating as a candidate at any election; and
- (e) is not an employee of the council in that electoral area; and
- (f) has not been removed from the office of councillor because of inadequacy or incompetency; and
- (g) is not an undischarged bankrupt; and
- (h) is not undergoing a term of imprisonment.

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

s. 43

Part 6 – Notices of Elections and Nominations

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- (2) A person is not eligible to nominate as a candidate for the office of councillor if the person has been sentenced for a crime and the sentence is suspended or has not yet begun to be served.
- (3) If an electoral area is divided into electoral districts, a candidate is not required to be enrolled on a Local Government Electoral Roll in respect of the particular electoral district for which the candidate is nominated.
- (4) A person may not be a candidate for the office of councillor in more than one electoral district in an electoral area or in more than one electoral area.

**43. Notices of nomination**

- (1) In this section –  
*endorsed* means formally nominated by a registered political party, within the meaning of the *Electoral Act 2004*, in accordance with the internal rules and nomination procedures of the party.
- (2) A person who is eligible under section 42 may give notice of the person's intention to nominate for the office of councillor in an electoral area.
- (3) A notice of nomination under subsection (2) must be lodged with the returning officer before the close of the nomination period –
  - (a) by the person so nominating; or

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

Part 6 – Notices of Elections and Nominations

**s. 43**

---

(b) if the person so nominating is endorsed by a registered political party, by a registered officer of the party.

(4) A notice of nomination under subsection (2) must –

- (a) be in an approved form; and
- (b) include a declaration by the candidate of the candidate's intention to stand for election as a councillor for the electoral area; and
- (c) include the candidate's personal details, including name, residential address and principal place of residence in Tasmania; and
- (d) if the candidate is endorsed by a registered political party for the election, include a statement specifying the ballot-paper name of the party under which the candidate is formally endorsed, or a group name not associated with a registered political party, under which the candidate is endorsed; and
- (e) include a statement that the candidate is lawfully eligible to nominate for the office of councillor; and
- (f) include an attestation confirming whether the candidate has completed the approved pre-nomination training (if applicable); and

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

s. 44

Part 6 – Notices of Elections and Nominations

---

- (g) include the signature of at least 30 electors, or 1% of electors (whichever is lesser), from the electoral area supporting the nomination; and
- (h) include the candidate's signature.

**44. Determination and rejection of nominations for councillor**

- (1) Subject to this section, upon receipt of a notice of nomination, the returning officer must determine whether the notice complies with the requirements of section 43 and this section and may –
  - (a) request the person, or the registered officer of a registered party within the meaning of the *Electoral Act 2004*, who lodged the notice of nomination, in writing to provide the returning officer with any additional information that the officer may require for the purposes of enabling that officer to determine whether the notice complies with the requirements of section 43 and this section; or
  - (b) accept the nomination of the person as a candidate for the office of councillor in the electoral area; or
  - (c) reject the nomination of the person as a candidate for the office of councillor in the electoral area.

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

Part 6 – Notices of Elections and Nominations

s. 44

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(2) Upon receipt of a notice of nomination, and any additional information provided in accordance with subsection (1)(a), the returning officer must reject the nomination if, in the opinion of the returning officer –

- (a) the nominated candidate is not enrolled on either the Local Government Electoral Roll in respect of the electoral area or the State roll within the meaning of the *Electoral Act 2004*; or
- (b) the ballot paper name of the registered political party, or the group name, with which the nominated candidate is endorsed, as specified in the statement submitted by the nominated candidate under section 43(4)(d) is –
  - (i) obscene or offensive; or
  - (ii) frivolous; or
  - (iii) intended or likely to mislead or confuse electors, including by resembling the name or ballot paper name of a registered political party within the meaning of the *Electoral Act 2004*; or
- (c) the notice of nomination does not contain the requisite number of signatures in accordance with section 43(4)(g); or
- (d) the notice of nomination is materially incomplete or not in the approved form; or

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

**s. 45**

Part 6 – Notices of Elections and Nominations

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- (e) the information provided in the notice of nomination is found to be false or misleading in a material way; or
- (f) the nominated candidate is otherwise not lawfully eligible to nominate under the *Local Government Act 1993*, the *Electoral Act 2004* or any other applicable law.

(3) The returning officer is to advise the person, or the registered officer of a registered party within the meaning of the *Electoral Act 2004*, who lodged the notice of nomination, in writing whether the nomination of the candidate has been accepted or rejected.

(4) If the returning officer rejects a nomination under this section, the returning officer must notify the person, and where applicable the registered officer of the relevant registered party, in writing of the rejection and the reasons for it.

(5) A decision of the returning officer under this section is final.

**45. Publication of candidate information package by Electoral Commission**

As soon as practicable after the close of the nomination period for an election in an electoral area, the Electoral Commission must publish, on a website maintained by or on behalf of the Commission, and make available in printed form for distribution, including by mail drop where appropriate, a candidate information package containing the following information:

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

Part 6 – Notices of Elections and Nominations

**s. 46**

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- (a) the list of candidates for the election;
- (b) whether each candidate is –
  - (i) endorsed by a registered party within the meaning of the *Electoral Act 2004*; or
  - (ii) standing under a group name that is not associated with a registered party within the meaning of the *Electoral Act 2004*; or
  - (iii) standing as an independent candidate;
- (c) each candidate's personal statement.

**46. Withdrawal of nomination or death of candidate**

- (1) In this section –  
*notice of nomination period*, in relation to a notice of nomination, means the period referred to in section 43(2) within which the notice of nomination must be lodged.
- (2) A candidate may withdraw the candidate's notice of nomination by lodging or posting a notice in an approved form, which must be received by the returning officer before the end of the notice of nomination period.
- (3) If a candidate dies before the end of the notice of nomination period –

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

s. 46

Part 6 – Notices of Elections and Nominations

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- (a) the candidate is not capable of being a candidate for the election; and
- (b) the returning officer, with the approval of the Electoral Commissioner, may extend the notice of nomination period for the election by no more than 24 hours.

(4) If a candidate for the office of mayor dies between the end of the notice of nomination period and the end of the polling period, the Electoral Commissioner is to –

- (a) declare that election to be abandoned; and
- (b) fix another day as the closing day for a new election in respect of that office.

(5) If, on the death of a candidate for the office of councillor between the end of the notice of nomination period and the end of the polling period, the number of candidates remaining exceeds the number required to be elected –

- (a) the returning officer is to give public notice of the death of the candidate in an approved manner; and
- (b) a poll is to be conducted under Part 7; and
- (c) the votes cast for the deceased candidate on the ballot papers are to be counted as votes cast for the candidate shown as the elector's next preference on the ballot papers.

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

Part 6 – Notices of Elections and Nominations

s. 47

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- (6) If, on the death of a candidate for the office of councillor between the end of the notice of nomination period and the end of the polling period, the number of candidates remaining does not exceed the number required to be elected –
  - (a) those candidates are to be declared to be elected; and
  - (b) the returning officer is to proceed in the manner specified in section 47(1).
- (7) If a candidate dies after the end of the polling period and before the declaration of the poll, the returning officer is to conduct or continue to conduct a count of the votes as if the candidate had not died, but only for the purposes of determining the outcome of the election.
- (8) If a candidate referred to in subsection (7) received sufficient votes to be elected, the office to which the candidate would have been elected to is to be treated as if it were a casual vacancy.
- (9) If a candidate referred to in subsection (7) did not receive sufficient votes to be elected, the successful candidates are to be declared elected.

**47. Election without poll**

- (1) If, at the end of the nomination period, the number of candidates whose nominations have been accepted and not withdrawn does not exceed the number of vacancies to be filled in the election, those candidates are to be declared elected.

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

s. 48

Part 6 – Notices of Elections and Nominations

---

(2) If candidates are duly elected under subsection (1), the returning officer must –

- (a) as soon as practicable, declare the result of the election in an approved manner; and
- (b) issue a certificate of election to each candidate, which must not be issued before the closing day; and
- (c) notify the Electoral Commissioner of the names of the candidates declared elected.

(3) If the number of accepted nominations for an office is less than the number of vacancies to be filled –

- (a) the Electoral Commissioner may call for new nominations for the unfilled vacancies; and
- (b) the Electoral Commissioner is to determine and publish the period within which such nominations may be made, which must end no later than 12 noon on the 8th Monday before the closing day.

**48. Election with poll**

(1) If, at the end of the nomination period, the number of candidates whose nominations have been accepted and not withdrawn exceeds the number of vacancies to be filled, a poll is to be conducted in accordance with Part 7.

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025*  
*Act No. of 2025*

Part 6 – Notices of Elections and Nominations

**s. 48**

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- (2) If a poll is required under subsection (1), the returning officer must, as soon as practicable, notify the Electoral Commissioner.
- (3) The Electoral Commissioner must cause a notice to be published in a daily newspaper circulating in the relevant electoral area and displayed at all public offices of the relevant council in the electoral area, stating –
  - (a) the names, and localities of the residences, of the candidates; and
  - (b) the offices to be filled at the election; and
  - (c) the polling period; and
  - (d) the locations and opening hours of issuing and receiving places, polling places, pre-poll polling places and mobile polling places and the hours during which each is open; and
  - (e) the method by which the election is to be conducted, in accordance with section 30, including whether it is to be by postal voting, or attendance voting, during the polling period; and
  - (f) information about any alternative voting methods available; and
  - (g) any other matter that the Electoral Commissioner considers appropriate.
- (4) If more than one election is to be conducted at the same time for one or more electoral areas, the

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

**s. 49**

Part 6 – Notices of Elections and Nominations

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Electoral Commissioner may publish a single notice that satisfies the requirements of subsection (3) for all the relevant elections.

**49. Display of notice of nominations**

- (1) As soon as practicable after 12 noon on the day following the close of the nomination period, the returning officer must –
  - (a) display at the public office of the relevant council a notice specifying the name, and address if not removed or excluded from the Local Government Electoral Rolls under section 17, of each person whose nomination for the election has been accepted; and
  - (b) promptly advise the Electoral Commissioner of those details.
- (2) The returning officer must not publicly disclose any information about any nomination until after the end of the nomination period.

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

Part 7 – Voting and Ballots

s. 50

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## PART 7 – VOTING AND BALLOTS

### *Division 1 – Election conducted by voting by post*

#### **50. Application of Division**

This Division applies if the Electoral Commissioner has determined under section 30(2)(a) that an election is to be conducted by voting by post.

#### **51. Ballot material**

- (1) Subject to this section, during the polling period, the Electoral Commissioner must send or deliver to each elector, at the address shown on the list of electors, the following:
  - (a) the ballot material for the election;
  - (b) a return envelope and any other approved envelope required for the return of the ballot;
  - (c) a voting declaration printed on the envelope to be completed by the elector;
  - (d) a written statement from the Electoral Commissioner specifying the latest date by which the elector must complete the voting procedure and return the ballot, so that the ballot is received before the closing day;
  - (e) any other document or information that the Electoral Commissioner considers

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

**s. 52**

Part 7 – Voting and Ballots

appropriate for the proper conduct of the election.

- (2) Any envelope used for the issue or return of ballot papers must –
  - (a) be approved; and
  - (b) provide space on the return envelope for the voting declaration; and
  - (c) be designed to protect the secrecy of the vote.
- (3) A voting declaration is to be in an approved form and must state that the elector –
  - (a) is the person named on the return envelope; and
  - (b) has completed the enclosed ballot paper.
- (4) The Electoral Commissioner may include with the ballot material printed copies of each candidate's personal statement.
- (5) This section does not limit the Electoral Commissioner's obligations under section 45 to publish candidates' personal statements.

**52. Voting procedures**

- (1) An elector must vote in accordance with the instructions provided on the ballot material by –
  - (a) marking the ballot paper as instructed; and

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

Part 7 – Voting and Ballots

**s. 53**

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- (b) placing the completed ballot paper in the provided envelope or envelopes; and
- (c) completing the voting declaration; and
- (d) unless subsection (2) applies, returning the ballot so that it is received before the close of the polling period by –
  - (i) delivering it to the returning officer; or
  - (ii) delivering it to an electoral officer in charge of an issuing and receiving place.

(2) If an elector is unable to return the ballot in person as described in subsection (1)(d), the elector may instead –

- (a) complete a voting declaration specifying the reasons for which the elector is returning the ballot by post; and
- (b) ensure that the ballot is posted in sufficient time for it to be received by the Tasmanian Electoral Commission before the return mailing date specified on the envelope under section 60(1)(e).

**53. Supplementary issue of ballot materials**

- (1) Subject to this section, the Electoral Commissioner, the returning officer or an electoral officer in charge of an issuing and receiving place may issue supplementary ballot material to a person if satisfied that the person –

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

s. 53

Part 7 – Voting and Ballots

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- (a) is an elector in the electoral area and has not received the original ballot material; or
- (b) is an elector in the electoral area and has spoiled any part of the original ballot material; or
- (c) is entitled to vote in the electoral area in accordance with section 14; or
- (d) will be absent from the person's address during the polling period and is unable to attend an issuing and receiving place to collect the original ballot material.

(2) Supplementary ballot material may be issued to an elector –

- (a) by means of the elector collecting the supplementary ballot material from an issuing and receiving place; or
- (b) if the elector cannot attend an issuing and receiving place, by the Electoral Commissioner, returning officer or electoral officer in charge of an issuing and receiving place posting the supplementary ballot material to –
  - (i) the address shown on the list of electors for the elector; or
  - (ii) an alternative address nominated by the elector.

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

Part 7 – Voting and Ballots

s. 54

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- (3) Supplementary ballot material must not be issued by post if the Electoral Commissioner, returning officer or electoral officer in charge of an issuing and receiving place considers that the material is unlikely to be received by the elector before the return mailing date specified on the envelope under section 60(1)(e).
- (4) A record, in an approved form, is to be kept of –
  - (a) the name and address of each person to whom supplementary ballot material is issued; and
  - (b) the reason for the issue of the supplementary ballot material to the person.

**54. When ballot papers issued as supplementary ballot materials may be accepted**

A ballot paper issued to a person under section 53 in respect of an electoral area may be accepted as a formal vote despite any of the following:

- (a) the person's name was omitted in error from the list of electors for the electoral area;
- (b) the person's name was omitted in error from a Local Government Electoral Roll;
- (c) the person's name was on the State roll within the meaning of the *Electoral Act 2004* for an address in the electoral area at any time since the closure of the roll for

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

**s. 55**

Part 7 – Voting and Ballots

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the most recent ordinary election for the area and the person has continuously resided in the electoral area since that time.

**55. Certain postal vote ballot papers not to be accepted**

A postal vote ballot paper is not to be accepted as a formal vote if, even when received on or before the close of the polling period –

- (a) it is contained in an envelope on which the voting declaration required under section 51 has not been completed by the elector in accordance with that section; or
- (b) it is not contained in an envelope approved under section 51; or
- (c) it is received from a person who is not entitled to vote in the election.

*Division 2 – Availability of postal voting at elections conducted by voting by attendance*

**56. Application of Division**

This Division applies if the Electoral Commissioner has determined under section 30(2)(b) that an election is to be conducted by voting by attendance.

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

Part 7 – Voting and Ballots

s. 57

**57. Applications for postal voting**

- (1) An elector who is entitled to vote at an election for an electoral area may apply to the Electoral Commissioner for approval to vote by postal vote in the election if the elector –
  - (a) is unable, or reasonably expects on reasonable grounds to be unable, to attend a polling place during the polling period; or
  - (b) is an elector whose address is not included on the Local Government Electoral Roll, or the State roll, within the meaning of the *Electoral Act 2004*, due to a determination by the Electoral Commissioner that the inclusion of the address would place the personal safety of the elector or a member of their household at risk.
- (2) An application under subsection (1) must –
  - (a) be in an approved form; and
  - (b) include details sufficient to identify the elector; and
  - (c) specify the address for which the elector claims to be enrolled; and
  - (d) specify the address to which postal vote materials are to be sent; and
  - (e) include a declaration by the elector stating that they are unable to attend a polling

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

s. 57

Part 7 – Voting and Ballots

place or mobile polling place during the polling period; and

- (f) be signed by the elector; and
- (g) be lodged with a returning officer, or person approved by the Electoral Commissioner, before 4 p.m. on the eighth day before polling day.

(3) The Electoral Commissioner may approve arrangements to obtain details of electors registered as general postal voters under the *Electoral Act 1918* of the Commonwealth.

(4) An elector whose details are obtained under subsection (3) is deemed to have made a valid application under this section.

(5) Subject to subsection (6), the Electoral Commissioner must make applications lodged in accordance with this section, and details of electors obtained for the purposes of subsection (4), available for public inspection at the Electoral Commissioner's office –

- (a) from the third day after polling day; and
- (b) until the expiry of the applicable period for the preservation of electoral material under this Act.

(6) If the address of an elector is not included on the Local Government Electoral Roll, or the State roll, within the meaning of the *Electoral Act 2004*, due to a determination by the Electoral Commissioner that the inclusion of the address

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

Part 7 – Voting and Ballots

s. 58

would place the personal safety of the elector or a member of their household at risk, the Electoral Commissioner must redact all identifying address details from the publicly available version of an application made, or deemed to be made, under this section.

**58. Issue of postal voting material**

- (1) On receipt of an application under section 57(1) and if satisfied that the application complies with the requirements of that section, the Electoral Commissioner must issue to the elector the following postal vote materials that correspond to the electoral area for which the elector claims to be enrolled:
  - (a) a ballot paper initialled by an electoral official;
  - (b) approved instructions for the completion and return of the ballot paper;
  - (c) a postal vote declaration envelope in an approved form and any other approved return envelope;
  - (d) any other approved electoral material.
- (2) The Electoral Commissioner must issue the postal vote materials referred to in subsection (1) to the elector by –
  - (a) post or other approved delivery method to the address specified on the application

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

**s. 59**

Part 7 – Voting and Ballots

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made by the elector under section 57(1);  
or

- (b) delivery in person to the elector; or
- (c) delivery to a person approved by the Electoral Commissioner to deliver the material to the elector.

(3) The Electoral Commissioner must keep a record, in an approved manner for an approved time, of all postal vote materials issued by the Electoral Commissioner under this section.

**59. Re-issue of replacement postal voting material**

- (1) An elector may make a request to the Electoral Commissioner, in an approved form, before 4 p.m. on the eighth day before polling day for replacement postal vote materials issued under section 58 if the elector –
  - (a) has not received the postal vote materials; or
  - (b) the postal vote materials have been damaged or destroyed.
- (2) On receipt of a request under subsection (1), the Electoral Commissioner must issue replacement postal vote materials in accordance with section 58.
- (3) The Electoral Commissioner must keep a record, in an approved manner for an approved time, of all postal vote materials re-issued by the Electoral Commissioner under this section.

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

Part 7 – Voting and Ballots

**s. 60**

**60. Postal voting procedures**

- (1) Before the closing day, an elector who is issued the postal vote materials under section 58, or issued replacement postal vote materials under section 59, must vote by postal vote by –
  - (a) marking the ballot paper in accordance with the approved instructions; and
  - (b) placing the marked ballot paper in the declaration envelope provided; and
  - (c) completing and dating the declaration on the envelope stating that the elector voted on the enclosed ballot paper; and
  - (d) completing the statement on the declaration envelope affirming the elector's identity and eligibility to vote; and
  - (e) returning the envelope –
    - (i) by delivering it to an issuing and receiving place or pre-polling polling place before the closing day; or
    - (ii) by posting it to the returning officer so that it is received before the closing day.
- (2) The Electoral Commissioner may approve procedures to assist electors who are unable to vote without assistance.

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

**s. 61**

Part 7 – Voting and Ballots

***Division 3 – Ballot papers***

**61. Ballot papers**

- (1) Subject to subsection (3), the Electoral Commissioner is to approve the form and content of ballot papers for mayoral and council elections for each election, including the order of names of candidates for the office of mayor or councillor and any information essential to the conduct of the election, to be printed on the ballot paper.
- (2) Subject to subsection (3), the Electoral Commissioner is to approve the form and content of ballot papers for each councillor election, including the order of names of candidates for the office councillor and any information essential to the conduct of the election, to be printed on the ballot paper.
- (3) The Electoral Commissioner may approve variations to the layout or appearance of ballot papers approved under subsection (1) or (2) to ensure clarity or accessibility for electors, provided that the approved variation does not alter the substantive content of the ballot papers approved under subsection (1) or (2), including but not limited to the order of names of candidates for the office of councillor or mayor.
- (4) The Electoral Commissioner is to prepare and print ballot papers approved under subsections (1) and (2) for each election, including any variations to the layout or appearance approved under subsection (3).

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

Part 7 – Voting and Ballots

s. 62

**62. Instructions of ballot papers**

Instructions printed on the ballot paper for an election –

- (a) are to include a statement that the elector is to mark the ballot paper by numbering the boxes, starting from the number 1 and continuing in order, up to the same number of boxes as there are candidates, in accordance with the elector's preferences; and
- (b) are to include one of the following statements, depending on the number of councillors to be elected:
  - (i) if fewer than 5 councillors are to be elected – a statement that the elector's vote will not be counted unless the elector numbers at least the same number of boxes as the number of councillors to be elected;
  - (ii) if 5 or more councillors are to be elected – a statement that the elector's vote will not be counted unless the elector numbers at least 5 boxes.

**63. Marking of ballot papers**

- (1) In an election for mayor or for a single councillor, an elector –

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

**s. 63**

Part 7 – Voting and Ballots

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(a) must mark the ballot paper by placing the number 1 in the box next to the name of the candidate of the elector's first preference; and

(b) may mark the ballot paper further by placing consecutive numbers, in order of preference, in the boxes next to the names of the remaining candidates.

(2) In an election –

(a) if more than one councillor but fewer than 5 councillors are to be elected –

(i) the elector must mark the ballot paper by placing consecutive numbers, starting from number 1, in the boxes next to the names of the candidates, up to the number of councillors to be elected; and

(ii) the elector may place further consecutive numbers in the boxes next to the names of the remaining candidates; or

(b) if 5 or more councillors are to be elected –

(i) the elector must mark the ballot paper by placing the numbers 1 to 5, in order of preference, in the boxes next to the names of the candidates; and

(ii) the elector may place further consecutive numbers in the boxes

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

Part 7 – Voting and Ballots

**s. 63**

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next to the names of the remaining candidates.

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

s. 64

Part 8 – Scrutineers and Presence at Polling Places

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**PART 8 – SCRUTINEERS AND PRESENCE AT  
POLLING PLACES**

**64. Appointment of scrutineers**

- (1) A candidate at an election may appoint one or more persons who are not candidates at that election to be scrutineers on the candidate's behalf.
- (2) The appointment of a scrutineer is to be –
  - (a) made in an approved form; and
  - (b) signed by both the candidate and the person appointed as scrutineer.

**65. Presence of scrutineers**

- (1) A scrutineer is entitled to be present at each of the following places:
  - (a) any issuing and receiving place open to electors during the polling period;
  - (b) any place where ballot material is issued, received, sorted, checked or counted;
  - (c) any polling place.
- (2) The returning officer is to determine the number of scrutineers who may be present on behalf of a candidate at each place referred to in subsection (1).
- (3) Before a scrutineer acts in that capacity at a place referred to in subsection (1), the scrutineer is to

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

Part 8 – Scrutineers and Presence at Polling Places

**s. 66**

produce to an electoral officer evidence of their appointment as a scrutineer under section 64(1).

(4) Upon production of evidence under subsection (3), the electoral officer is to issue the scrutineer with an identity badge, which the scrutineer is to wear or display visibly while scrutineering at any place referred to in subsection (1).

**66. Scrutineering**

(1) A scrutineer may bring to the attention of an electoral officer any matter that the scrutineer reasonably believes may be contrary to the election procedures or may affect the integrity of the election.

(2) A scrutineer must not –

- (a) fail to comply with any reasonable direction given to the scrutineer by an electoral officer; or
- (b) interfere with, or attempt to influence, an elector or other person present; or
- (c) communicate with any person except as necessary to perform the scrutineer's duties as a scrutineer; or
- (d) touch or interfere with any ballot material except with the express authority of an electoral officer; or
- (e) otherwise behave in a manner that amounts to misconduct.

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

**s. 67**

Part 8 – Scrutineers and Presence at Polling Places

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Penalty: Fine not exceeding 10 penalty units.

**67. Persons entitled to be present at certain places**

Except as otherwise authorised under this Act, the only persons entitled to be present at any place referred to in section 65(1) are –

- (a) electors for the purpose of casting their votes, or returning a postal vote envelope, in an election for an electoral area; and
- (a) the electoral officers appointed for that place; and
- (b) scrutineers appointed under section 64 and acting in accordance with section 66; and
- (c) any other person authorised by the Electoral Commissioner, the returning officer or an electoral officer for that place.

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

Part 9 – Alternative Voting Procedures

**s. 68**

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## **PART 9 – ALTERNATIVE VOTING PROCEDURES**

### **68. Interpretation of Part**

In this Part –

*accessibility and inclusion organisation* means –

- (a) an organisation or peak body that focuses on advocacy, support or services for people with diverse needs (whether arising from disability, impairment or other circumstances); and
- (b) any other group or body approved for the purposes of this definition;

*alternative voting procedures* means voting procedures approved by the Tasmanian Electoral Commission under this Part;

*remote voting area* means –

- (a) the Australian Antarctic Territory, including Macquarie Island and the Territory of Heard Island and McDonald Islands; and
- (b) a ship in transit to or from a place mentioned in paragraph (a) that has been declared by the Tasmanian Electoral Commission to be an Antarctic ship; and

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

s. 69

Part 9 – Alternative Voting Procedures

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- (c) an area within Tasmania declared by the Tasmanian Electoral Commission to be a remote voting area; and
- (d) an area outside of Tasmania but within Australia declared by the Tasmanian Electoral Commission to be a remote voting area; and
- (e) an area outside of Australia declared by the Tasmanian Electoral Commission to be a remote voting area.

**69. Tasmanian Electoral Commission may approve alternative voting procedures**

- (1) Subject to subsections (2), (3) and (4), the Tasmanian Electoral Commission may approve alternative voting procedures considered necessary and appropriate in the circumstances, including, but not limited to, electronic voting methods such as online voting or voting by telephone, to enable –
  - (a) electors, or classes of electors, in a remote voting area, to vote at an election by an alternative method; and
  - (b) electors, or classes of electors, who the Tasmanian Electoral Commission is satisfied do not have a reasonable opportunity to vote at an election under any other provisions of this Act, to vote at an election by an alternative method; and

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

Part 9 – Alternative Voting Procedures

s. 69

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- (c) any other electors, or classes of electors, who the Tasmanian Electoral Commission is satisfied have a reasonable opportunity to vote at an election under any other provisions of this Act, to vote at an election by methods not already provided for under any other provisions of this Act.
- (2) The Tasmanian Electoral Commission may act under subsection (1) –
  - (a) on its own motion; or
  - (b) on the request of an accessibility and inclusion organisation.
- (3) Before acting under subsection (1)(b) the Tasmanian Electoral Commission is to, as far as is practicable, consult with any accessibility and inclusion organisation that the Commission considers necessary and appropriate.
- (4) The Tasmanian Electoral Commission must not approve any proposed alternative voting procedure under subsection (1) unless the Commission is satisfied that –
  - (a) the approval is warranted, having regard to –
    - (i) the practicality, security and integrity of the proposed alternative voting procedure; and
    - (ii) the resources required to establish, implement and maintain the

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

s. 69

Part 9 – Alternative Voting Procedures

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proposed alternative voting procedure; and

- (iii) the technological capacity, cost-effectiveness and operational feasibility of the proposed alternative voting procedure; and
- (iv) the risks and mitigations associated with the proposed alternative voting procedure; and

(b) as far as practicable, the proposed alternative voting procedure provides for –

- (i) the authentication and verification of the vote of an elector; and
- (ii) the preservation of the secrecy of the vote of an elector; and
- (iii) the security of data transmission.

(5) The Tasmanian Electoral Commission is to approve procedures to enable votes cast in accordance with approved alternative voting procedures to be securely transmitted or forwarded to the Commission in a manner that ensures accuracy, accountability and compliance with all applicable laws.

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

Part 9 – Alternative Voting Procedures

s. 70

---

**70. Entitlement to vote by approved alternative voting procedures**

An elector enabled to vote at an election under approved alternative voting procedures is entitled to vote in accordance with those procedures.

**71. Counting of votes cast by approved alternative voting procedures**

A vote cast by an elector in accordance with approved alternative voting procedures and transmitted or forwarded to the Tasmanian Electoral Commission in accordance with procedures approved under section 69(5), is to be counted as a postal vote for the purposes of the election.

**72. Confidentiality of votes cast under approved alternative voting procedures**

A person who becomes aware of how an elector voted at an election using approved alternative voting procedures must not disclose that information to any other person, except in accordance with a procedure approved under section 69(5).

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 10 penalty units.

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

s. 73

Part 9 – Alternative Voting Procedures

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**73. Publication of approved alternative voting procedures**

The Tasmanian Electoral Commission is to publish on its website a statement, in an approved form, setting out –

- (a) the approved alternative voting procedures and the electors or classes of electors to whom they apply; and
- (b) a summary of any consultation undertaken by the Tasmanian Electoral Commission under section 69(3); and
- (c) information about compliance with this Division; and
- (d) any other information approved for publication relating to access by electors to approved alternative voting procedures.

**74. Independent auditing of approved alternative voting procedures**

- (1) The Tasmanian Electoral Commission must engage an independent person (the *independent auditor*) to conduct audits of any information technology used under any approved voting procedures.
- (2) Audits under this section are to be conducted and the results of those audits must be provided to the Tasmanian Electoral Commission –
  - (a) at least 7 days before voting opens in each ordinary election at which approved

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

Part 9 – Alternative Voting Procedures

s. 75

alternative voting methods will be used;  
and

- (b) within 60 days after the last declaration of the result of an election at which approved alternative voting methods were used.
- (3) Without limiting the content of the audit, the independent auditor must determine whether test votes cast in accordance with the approved alternative voting procedures were accurately reflected in the corresponding test ballot-papers produced under those procedures.
- (4) The independent auditor may make recommendations to the Tasmanian Electoral Commission to reduce or eliminate a risk that could affect the security, accuracy or secrecy of voting in accordance with the approved alternative voting procedures.

**75. Independent monitoring of approved alternative voting procedures**

- (1) The Tasmanian Electoral Commission may appoint one or more independent persons (an independent monitor) to monitor and observe the approved alternative voting procedures used at an election, including the counting of votes cast and the general operation of the approved alternative voting procedures.
- (2) An independent monitor must report to the Tasmanian Electoral Commissioner and may make recommendations about the approved alternative voting procedures, including but not

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

**s. 75**

Part 9 – Alternative Voting Procedures

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limited to the effectiveness, security and accessibility of the procedures.

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

Part 10 – Determination of Results of Elections

**s. 76**

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**PART 10 – DETERMINATION OF RESULTS OF  
ELECTIONS**

**76. Counting votes**

- (1) At the end of the polling period, the electoral officer in charge is to –
  - (a) seal any ballot box at the issuing and receiving place or polling place; and
  - (b) deliver any ballot box as directed by the returning officer.
- (2) The counting of votes is to be carried out by the returning officer in accordance with –
  - (a) Part 2 of Schedule 1, if the ballot paper approved under Section 61(1) is used; or
  - (b) Part 3 of Schedule 1, if the ballot paper approved under Section 61(2) is used.
- (3) In order to ensure the secrecy of the votes, the Electoral Commission may approve the combining or mixing of ballot papers received at an issuing and receiving place or a polling place with the ballot papers received at another issuing and receiving place or polling place.

**77. Informal ballot papers**

- (1) A ballot paper is informal if any of the following apply:

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

s. 77

Part 10 – Determination of Results of Elections

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- (a) the ballot paper is not correctly authenticated by at least one of the following methods:
  - (i) the initials of the electoral officer who issued the ballot paper;
  - (ii) the signature of that electoral officer;
  - (iii) an approved security mark;
- (b) no vote has been recorded on the ballot paper;
- (c) subject to subsection (3), the vote is marked on the ballot paper otherwise than in accordance with section 63;
- (d) there is a mark or writing on the ballot paper that, in the opinion of the returning officer or electoral officer in charge, could reasonably identify the elector who marked the ballot paper.

(2) Despite subsection (1), a ballot paper is not to be treated as informal or rejected at the counting of votes if, in the opinion of the returning officer or electoral officer in charge, the elector's intention is clearly indicated.

(3) If –

- (a) an elector has marked one or more numbers on the ballot paper to indicate preferences that are higher than the

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

Part 10 – Determination of Results of Elections

s. 77

maximum number that the elector is required to mark under section 63; and

- (b) one or more of those higher numbers is either omitted or duplicated; and
- (c) the ballot paper would otherwise be formal –

then those omitted or duplicated numbers, and any higher numbers following the first such omission or duplication, are to be disregarded, and the ballot paper is to be treated as formal.

- (4) A decision under this section to treat a ballot paper as informal may be reviewed on written request to the returning officer, or electoral officer in charge, by a candidate or the candidate's scrutineer.
- (5) On receipt of a written request under subsection (4), a returning officer, or electoral officer in charge, must consider the request and may confirm or overturn the decision to treat a ballot paper as informal.
- (6) If a person who made a request under subsection (4) is dissatisfied with the decision made under subsection (5), the person may request a review by the Tasmanian Electoral Commission.
- (7) The Tasmanian Electoral Commission's decision on the review of a decision to treat a ballot paper as informal under this section is final.

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

s. 78

Part 10 – Determination of Results of Elections

**78. Declaration of poll**

- (1) As soon as practicable after the counting of all votes is completed, the returning officer is to –
  - (a) declare the names of the candidates elected at the election; and
  - (b) issue a certificate stating the result of the election.
- (2) If elections of councillors and the mayor are conducted at the same time, the returning officer is to declare the results in the following order:
  - (a) councillor;
  - (b) mayor.

**79. Certificate of election**

- (1) The returning officer is to forward the certificate of the result of the election to the Electoral Commissioner.
- (2) The Electoral Commissioner is to cause a copy of the certificate of election to be published in a daily newspaper circulating generally in the relevant electoral area.
- (3) Any elector or candidate may dispute the result of an election by lodging an application with the Supreme Court within 90 days after the date on which the certificate of election is published under subsection (2).

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

Part 10 – Determination of Results of Elections

**s. 80**

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- (4) A dispute is to be heard and determined in the approved manner.

**80. Recount of votes**

- (1) A candidate at the election may, at any time before the declaration of a poll, request a recount of the votes cast at the election.
- (2) The returning officer may –
  - (a) agree to recount the votes; or
  - (b) refuse to recount the votes.
- (3) If the returning officer refuses to recount the votes, the candidate may apply to the Tasmanian Electoral Commission for a review of that decision.
- (4) The Tasmanian Electoral Commission may direct the returning officer to conduct a recount of the votes.
- (5) A recount of votes under this section is final and conclusive of the results of the election and no further request for a recount of those votes may be made.

**81. Keeping of physical, digital and electronic electoral material**

- (1) The returning officer is to parcel, seal and store –
  - (a) all physical electoral material in an approved manner; and

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

**s. 81**

Part 10 – Determination of Results of Elections

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- (b) any digital or electronic electoral material in an approved manner.
- (2) The returning officer is to give, in the approved manner, to the Electoral Commissioner the following:
  - (a) all used ballot papers;
  - (b) all digital or electronic electoral material;
  - (c) any other sealed parcels of electoral material or other material, digital, electronic or otherwise, that the Electoral Commissioner may require.
- (3) The Electoral Commissioner is to keep –
  - (a) all used ballot papers referred to in subsection (2)(a) in respect of councillors until the certificate of election is issued for the next ordinary election for those councillors; and
  - (b) the parcels of electoral material referred to in subsection (2)(b) in respect of councillors until the certificate of election is issued for the next ordinary election for those councillors; and
  - (c) all other electoral materials, electronic, digital or otherwise, for as long as is necessary to allow any dispute relating to the election to be determined.

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

Part 10 – Determination of Results of Elections

**s. 81**

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(4) Ballot papers and any digital or electronic voting material may only be examined for the purpose of –

- (a) filling a vacancy; or
- (b) another purpose approved by the Electoral Commissioner.

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

s. 82

Part 11 – Casual Vacancies and By-elections

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**PART 11 – CASUAL VACANCIES AND BY-ELECTIONS**

**82. Casual vacancies**

- (1) A casual vacancy in the office of a councillor is to be filled by a recount to fill a casual vacancy conducted in accordance with Schedule 2, using the physical, digital or electronic ballot papers from the election at which the councillor causing the vacancy was elected.
- (2) For the purpose of a recount to fill a casual vacancy, only the physical, digital or electronic ballot papers that contributed to the election of the vacating councillor are to be included, and only in respect of candidates who –
  - (a) remain eligible to hold office as councillor at the time of the recount; and
  - (b) have given written consent, in the approved form, to be included in the recount.
- (3) The Electoral Commissioner is not to carry out a recount to fill a casual vacancy if the vacancy occurs during the period commencing 6 months before, and ending on the Thursday before, the day on which the notice of election for a forthcoming election is to be given –
  - (a) beginning 6 months before the date on which the notice of election is to be given for a forthcoming ordinary election; and

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

Part 11 – Casual Vacancies and By-elections

s. 82

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(b) ending on the Thursday before that day.

(4) Despite subsection (3), the Electoral Commissioner is to conduct a recount to fill a casual vacancy if the number of councillors holding office is, as a result of the vacancy, insufficient to constitute a quorum.

(5) The Electoral Commissioner is to notify that a recount to fill a casual vacancy is to be conducted by –

- (a) delivering, in person or by post, written notice to each eligible candidate; or
- (b) publishing an advertisement in a daily newspaper circulating generally in the relevant electoral area.

(6) An eligible candidate who wishes to be included in a recount to fill a casual vacancy must –

- (a) consent in writing using the approved form; and
- (b) lodge the form with the Electoral Commissioner by noon on the 8th day after the date on which a notice is given under subsection (5).

(7) The term of office of a councillor elected by means of a recount to fill a casual vacancy ends on the date of issue of the certificate of election for the next ordinary election.

(8) The Electoral Commissioner must not disclose to any person the results, of a recount in respect of a

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

**s. 83**

Part 11 – Casual Vacancies and By-elections

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hypothetical casual vacancy, that may be obtained by performing an electronic calculation based on any electronic records of ballot papers, completed by electors or former electors, that are held in an electronic form by the Electoral Commissioner.

**83. By-elections**

- (1) A by-election for a vacancy in the office of councillor is to be held if –
  - (a) it is not possible to carry out a recount of votes; or
  - (b) not all the offices have been filled at an election.
- (2) Subject to subsection (3), the Electoral Commissioner may fix a day as the closing day for a by-election.
- (3) The Electoral Commissioner must not fix a closing day for a by-election if doing so would cause the polling period or polling date for the by-election to fall within the polling period for an Australian or Tasmanian parliamentary election.
- (4) A by-election is not to be held during the period specified in section 82(3).
- (5) Except as provided in subsection (6), a by-election is to be held in accordance with this Act as if it were an election.
- (6) The Electoral Commissioner, in consultation with the relevant general manager in relation to a by-election, may determine –

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

Part 11 – Casual Vacancies and By-elections

s. 84

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- (a) the day on which notice of the by-election is to be given; and
- (b) the nomination period; and
- (c) the closure of Local Government Electoral Rolls.

(7) The deputy mayor is eligible to nominate at a by-election as a candidate for the office of mayor without having to resign the office of deputy mayor and, if so elected, ceases to hold the office of deputy mayor.

(8) If a mayor vacates office as both mayor and councillor, the vacancy in the office of councillor is to be filled by a by-election held concurrently with the by-election for the office of mayor.

(9) The term of office of a councillor or mayor at a by-election to fill a casual vacancy is the remainder of the term of office of the councillor or mayor who caused the vacancy.

**84. Adjournment of poll**

- (1) The Tasmanian Electoral Commission may adjourn the conduct of a poll for a period not exceeding 30 days if satisfied that the adjournment is necessary to ensure the proper conduct of the poll.
- (2) The Tasmanian Electoral Commission, by public notice, is to specify –
  - (a) the period of the adjournment; and

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

**s. 85**

Part 11 – Casual Vacancies and By-elections

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(b) the reasons for the adjournment.

**85. Non-application of Part**

This Part does not apply in relation to vacancies in the offices of councillors of a council that arise due to the dismissal of all the councillors under this, or any other, Act.

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

Part 12 – Offences Relating to Elections

s. 86

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## PART 12 – OFFENCES RELATING TO ELECTIONS

### 86. Offences relating to polling

(1) A person must not –

- (a) vote at an election if the person is not entitled to vote at the election; or
- (b) obtain or attempt to obtain more ballot papers at an election than the number to which the person is entitled.

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 5 penalty units.

(2) A person must not –

- (a) obstruct an elector while the elector is marking a ballot paper; or
- (b) use any word or action to directly or indirectly assist in discovering the name of a person for whom an elector has voted or intends to vote.

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 10 penalty units.

(3) A person must not –

- (a) personate, or attempt to personate, another elector; or
- (b) vote, offer to vote, or attempt to vote, more than once in the person's own name at the same election; or

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

s. 87

Part 12 – Offences Relating to Elections

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- (c) attempt to vote using a ballot paper that has been issued or delivered to another person; or
- (d) during the polling period, enter the residence of an elector and attempt to induce the elector to vote, or not to vote, for a particular candidate; or
- (e) steal, misdirect, conceal, destroy, tamper with or otherwise interfere with any of the documents sent or delivered for the purposes of this Act.

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 50 penalty units.

**87. Offences at issuing and receiving places, polling places and certain other places**

- (1) In this section –

*place* means a place referred to in section 65(1);

- (2) An electoral officer, electoral officer in charge or a police officer acting under the direction of an electoral officer in charge, may require a person who is –
  - (a) not an elector voting or about to vote at a place; or
  - (b) not entitled under section 67 to be present at a place –

to leave the place.

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

Part 12 – Offences Relating to Elections

s. 87

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(3) A person referred to in subsection (2) who is required to leave a place, by an electoral officer, electoral officer in charge or a police officer acting under the direction of an electoral officer in charge under that subsection, must immediately leave the place.

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 10 penalty units.

(4) A person must not at a place –

- (a) act in a disorderly manner; or
- (b) refuse or fail to comply with a lawful direction given by the electoral officer in charge of the place or a police officer; or
- (c) display or leave any printed, written, electronic, or other material that contains directions, instructions, or suggestions, as to how an elector should or might vote at the election.

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 10 penalty units.

(5) Except in accordance with a procedure approved under section 34, a person must not enter or occupy a screened private voting area at a place while another person is occupying that screened private voting area.

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 10 penalty units.

(6) A person must not, without lawful authority –

- (a) occupy a screened private voting area at a place for longer than is necessary for marking the person's ballot paper; or

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

s. 88

Part 12 – Offences Relating to Elections

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- (b) obstruct, delay, or interfere with the efficient conduct of polling or ballot processing at any place; or
- (c) remove any ballot material from any place.

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 10 penalty units.

**88. Offences in violation of secrecy of ballot**

A person must not –

- (a) at an election, attempt to find out, or directly or indirectly aid in finding out, the person for whom a vote is given; or
- (b) disclose any knowledge of the person for whom an elector has voted at an election, if that knowledge was obtained in the course of performing duties at the election.

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 10 penalty units.

**89. Bribery, treating and undue influence**

(1) In this section –

*election conduct*, in relation to a person, means any one or more of the following:

- (a) whether or not the person votes at an election;
- (b) the way in which the person votes at an election;

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

Part 12 – Offences Relating to Elections

s. 89

---

- (c) whether or not the person nominates as a candidate at an election;
- (d) whether or not the person withdraws the person's nomination as a candidate at an election;
- (e) whether the person expresses support for, or opposition to, a candidate or group of candidates at an election;

***relevant period*** means the period commencing on the day on which the notice of election is published and ending at the close of the poll.

- (2) A person must not, during the relevant period, directly or indirectly promise, offer, give, solicit or receive any property or benefit of any kind, with the intention of influencing a person's election conduct at an election.

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 1 000 penalty units or imprisonment for a term not exceeding 5 years, or both.

- (3) Without limiting subsection (2), a person commits an offence against this section if, during the relevant period, the person supplies or offers to supply to another person food, drink or entertainment with the intention of influencing that person's election conduct at an election.

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

s. 89

Part 12 – Offences Relating to Elections

---

(4) For the purposes of this section, the following do not constitute an offence under this section:

- (a) a declaration of public policy or a promise of public action;
- (b) the voluntary provision of transport of electors to or from polling places for the purpose of voting, where no payment or other benefit is given or arranged for the elector in consideration for the transport.

(5) A candidate or intending candidate must not, during the relevant period, directly or indirectly offer, promise or give a gift, donation or prize to or for the benefit of –

- (a) any specific club, association or body; or
- (b) clubs, associations or bodies generally –

if the gift, donation or prize is made with the intention of influencing a person's election conduct at an election.

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 50 penalty units.

(6) In proceedings for an offence against subsection (5), it is a defence if the accused person proves on the balance of probabilities that gifts, donations or prizes similar in nature and value have, over a period preceding the relevant period, been regularly given by the accused to the relevant club, association or body.

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025*  
*Act No. of 2025*

Part 12 – Offences Relating to Elections

s. 90

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- (7) An offence against subsection (2) is an indictable offence under the *Criminal Code* and may be prosecuted on indictment.
- (8) Despite subsection (7), if both the defendant and the prosecutor consent, the Magistrates Court may deal with an offence against subsection (2) summarily, if the Court is satisfied that it is proper to do so.
- (9) If, under subsection (8), the Magistrates Court deals with an offence against subsection (2) summarily and finds the person guilty, the Court may impose a fine not exceeding 20 penalty units or imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months, or both.

**90. Electoral intimidation**

- (1) In this section –  
*election conduct* has the same meaning as in section 89.
- (2) A person must not, by violence or intimidation, influence or attempt to influence a person's election conduct at an election.  
Penalty: Fine not exceeding 1 000 penalty units or imprisonment for a term not exceeding 5 years, or both.
- (3) A person who contravenes subsection (2) is guilty of the crime of *electoral intimidation*, punishable on indictment under the *Criminal Code*.

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

s. 91

Part 12 – Offences Relating to Elections

---

(4) Despite section 389 of the *Criminal Code*, a person convicted of the crime of electoral intimidation is liable to the penalty specified in subsection (2).

**91. False or misleading statements**

(1) A person must not, in giving any information, making a notification under this Act, filing a return or making an application under this Act—

- (a) make a statement knowing it to be false or misleading; or
- (b) omit any matter from a statement knowing that without that matter the statement is misleading.

(2) A person must not contravene or fail to comply with subsection (1).

(3) An offence against subsection (1) is an offence punishable on indictment under the *Criminal Code*.

(4) Despite an offence against subsection (1) being punishable on indictment under the *Criminal Code*, a court of summary jurisdiction may hear and determine proceedings in respect of the offence if the court is satisfied that it is proper to do so and the defendant and the prosecutor consent.

(5) In accordance with subsection (4), a court of summary jurisdiction finds a person guilty of an offence against subsection (1), the penalty that

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025*  
*Act No. of 2025*

Part 12 – Offences Relating to Elections

s. 92

the court may impose is a fine not exceeding 300 penalty units or a term of imprisonment not exceeding 12 months, or both.

**92. Continuing offences**

(1) If –

- (a) by or under a section, or a subsection of a section, of this Act an act or thing is required or directed to be done within a particular period or before a particular time; and
- (b) failure to do that act or thing within the period, or before the time, referred to in paragraph (a) constitutes an offence; and
- (c) that act or thing is not done within the period, or before the time, referred to in paragraph (a) –

the following provisions of this subsection have effect:

- (d) the obligation to do that act or thing continues, notwithstanding that that period has expired or that time has passed, until that act or thing is done;
- (e) if a person is convicted of an offence that is constituted by failure to do that act or thing within that period or before that time, as the case may be, that person is guilty of a separate and further offence in respect of each day after the day of the

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

s. 92

Part 12 – Offences Relating to Elections

conviction during which the failure to do that act or thing continues;

(f) the fine applicable to each such separate and further offence is an amount not exceeding 0.5 penalty units.

(2) Where –

- (a) by or under a section, or a subsection of a section, of this Act an act or thing is required or directed to be done but no period within which or time by which that act or thing is to be done is specified; and
- (b) failure to do that act or thing constitutes an offence; and
- (c) a person is convicted of an offence in respect of a failure to do that act or thing –

that person is guilty of a separate and further offence in respect of each day after the day of the conviction during which the failure to do that act or thing continues, and the fine applicable to each such separate and further offence is an amount not exceeding 0.5 penalty units.

- (3) Charges against the same person for any number of offences under subsection (1)(e) or subsection (2) may be joined in the same complaint if those offences relate to a failure to do the same act or thing.
- (4) If a person is convicted of more than one offence under subsection (1)(e) or more than one offence under subsection (2), the court may impose one

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

Part 12 – Offences Relating to Elections

**s. 92**

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penalty in respect of all the offences of which the person is so convicted under that subsection, but that penalty is not to exceed the sum of the maximum penalties that could be imposed if the penalty were imposed in respect of each offence separately.

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

s. 93

Part 13 – Investigatory powers

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## PART 13 – INVESTIGATORY POWERS

### 93. Interpretation of Part

In this Part –

***authorised officer*** means a person authorised in writing by the Electoral Commissioner to exercise powers under this Part.

### 94. Application of Part

- (1) The powers under this Part are in addition to, and do not limit, any other powers under this Act or any other law.
- (2) This Part applies to investigations relating to an election conducted under this Act.

### 95. Power to enter and inspect places

- (1) An authorised officer may enter and inspect any place, at any reasonable time, where the authorised officer reasonably suspects electoral material, ballot material or any records or documents relevant to an election under this Act are kept or may be found.
- (2) The authorised officer, entering and inspecting a place under subsection (1), may examine, make copies of and take possession of, any electoral material, ballot material, records, documents or equipment relating to the conduct of the election at the place.

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

Part 13 – Investigatory powers

s. 96

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**96. Power to require production of documents or information**

- (1) An authorised officer may require a person to –
  - (a) produce any electoral material, documents or records in the person's possession or control relevant to an election; and
  - (b) provide information relevant to an election.
- (2) The authorised officer may examine and copy any electoral material, documents or records produced by a person under subsection (1).

**97. Power to seize and detain**

- (1) An authorised officer may seize and detain any ballot material, electoral material or documents if the officer reasonably believes the material or documents are relevant to an investigation under this Act.
- (2) An authorised officer must provide a receipt, for any ballot material, electoral material or documents seized and detained under subsection (1), specifying the following:
  - (a) the name of the authorising officer;
  - (b) the date on which the material or documents were seized;
  - (c) a description of the material or documents seized.

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

s. 98

Part 13 – Investigatory powers

**98. Power to require attendance and questioning**

- (1) An authorised officer may require a person to attend and answer questions relevant to an investigation under this Act.
- (2) A person referred to in subsection (1) must attend and answer questions if required to do so under the subsection.

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 200 penalty units.

- (3) A person required to attend and answer questions under subsection (1) may be accompanied by a legal representative.

**99. Obstruction offences**

A person must not –

- (a) obstruct, hinder or delay an authorised officer in the exercise of the officer's powers under this Part; or
- (b) refuse or fail to comply with a lawful requirement or direction under this Part.

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 200 penalty units.

**100. Warrants**

- (1) If an authorised officer is unable to enter a place under section 95, the Electoral Commissioner may apply to a magistrate for a warrant authorising entry and search of the place.

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

Part 13 – Investigatory powers

**s. 100**

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- (2) On receipt of an application under subsection (1), a magistrate may issue a warrant if satisfied that there are reasonable grounds to suspect a breach of this Act.

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

**s. 101** Part 14 – Electoral advertising and publication of electoral matter

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**PART 14 – ELECTORAL ADVERTISING AND  
PUBLICATION OF ELECTORAL MATTER**

**101. Electoral advertising**

(1) A person must not, during the relevant period, use electoral advertising to promote or procure the election of any candidate at an election unless the use of the electoral advertising is approved.

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 100 penalty units.

(2) If a court convicts under this section a candidate who is successful at an election, the court must declare that candidate's election void, unless the court is satisfied that the offence did not materially affect the result of the election.

(3) A person, within the relevant period, must not print, publish, keep on display, broadcast or distribute electoral advertising that refers to the offering, promising or giving by a candidate or intending candidate of a gift, donation or prize to any specific club, association or body, or to clubs, associations or bodies generally.

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 50 penalty units.

(4) A person must not use or keep on display the arms of a council, or a logo of a council, in any electoral advertising.

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 20 penalty units.

(5) Subsection (4) does not apply to –

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

Part 14 – Electoral advertising and publication of electoral matter

s. 102

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- (a) any matter printed, published or distributed by or on behalf of the Electoral Commissioner in the exercise or performance of the Commissioner's powers or functions; or
- (b) any electoral advertising by means of a broadcast by television.

**102. Publication of electoral matter**

- (1) The purpose of this section is to ensure transparency, accountability and traceability in the communication of electoral matter to the public during a council election.
- (2) This section applies to the electoral matter communicated during the election period in relation to a council election.
- (3) This section does not apply to the communication of electoral matter where –
  - (a) it is a private communication between individuals not intended for public distribution; or
  - (b) it is an unpaid communication by a natural person expressing personal political views, including on social media, provided that the communication is not –
    - (i) made on behalf of a candidate or registered party; or
    - (ii) an express endorsement of a candidate; or

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025*  
*Act No. of 2025*

s. 102

Part 14 – Electoral advertising and publication of electoral matter

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- (c) it is communicated orally in a live and unrecorded public meeting; or
- (d) it is published by or on behalf of any of the following entities:
  - (i) the Electoral Commissioner;
  - (ii) the Tasmanian Electoral Commission;
  - (iii) a council;
  - (iv) the Local Government Association of Tasmania continued under section 326 of the *Local Government Act 1993*;
  - (v) the Crown or an instrumentality of the Crown; or
- (e) it is a letter to the editor published in a newspaper or periodical where –
  - (i) the author's name and locality are published; or
  - (ii) the publisher keeps a record of the author's full name and address for 6 months; or
- (f) it is media reporting or commentary, provided it does not constitute paid advertising.

(4) A person must not, during the election period, print, publish or distribute, or permit or authorise

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

Part 14 – Electoral advertising and publication of electoral matter

**s. 102**

the printing, publishing or distribution of, any electoral matter –

- (a) unless the electoral matter includes the following particulars at the end of the electoral matter:
  - (i) if the electoral matter is published by the candidate, the full name and address, other than a post office box or electronic address, at which the candidate resides or at or through which the candidate may be readily contacted;
  - (ii) if the electoral matter is published by an official agent of a candidate, the full name and address, other than a post office box or electronic address, at which the official agent resides or at or through which the official agent may be readily contacted; and
- (b) if the electoral matter –
  - (i) contains incorrect or misleading information about whether a person is a candidate at an election, or a member of, or endorsed by, a registered political party within the meaning of the *Electoral Act 2004*; or
  - (ii) uses the name, or a derivative of the name, of a registered political party within the meaning of the

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

**s. 102**

Part 14 – Electoral advertising and publication of electoral matter

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*Electoral Act 2004* in a way that is intended, or likely, to mislead; or

- (iii) is calculated to, or likely to, result in an elector completing an informal ballot paper; or
- (iv) contains a statement, whether express or implied, to the effect that voting is not compulsory; or
- (v) contains a statement that is intended, or is likely, to mislead an elector into believing that the material is an official communication from the Tasmanian Electoral Commission, the Electoral Commissioner or another recognised electoral authority.

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 200 penalty units or imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months, or both.

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

Part 15 – Electoral Expenditure

s. 103

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**PART 15 – ELECTORAL EXPENDITURE**

**103. Interpretation**

(1) In this Part –

***annual increment***, in relation to the maximum electoral expenditure limit, means the cumulative increase, calculated from **1 July 2027**, in accordance with the following:

- (a) in the case of Hobart City Council, Clarence City Council, Glenorchy City Council, Kingborough Council or Launceston City Council – \$500 for each financial year commencing on or after **1 July 2027**; and
- (b) in the case of any other council not referred to in paragraph (a) – \$300 for each financial year commencing on or after **1 July 2027**;

***final campaign return*** means a final campaign return prepared and lodged by a candidate or official agent in accordance with section 106;

***maximum electoral expenditure limit***, in relation to a financial year, means –

- (a) for a candidate for election to the Hobart City Council, Clarence

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025*  
*Act No. of 2025*

s. 103

Part 15 – Electoral Expenditure

City Council, Glenorchy City Council, Kingborough Council or Launceston City Council – \$16 000 plus the applicable annual increment for that financial year; and

(b) for a candidate for election to any other council not referred to in paragraph (a) – \$10 000 plus the applicable annual increment for that financial year;

*official agent*, in relation to a candidate, means a natural person appointed by the candidate under section 104(2) to be the official agent of the candidate;

*publisher's advertising return* means a publisher's advertising return prepared and lodged by a person in accordance with section 107.

(2) For the avoidance of doubt, “cumulative increase” in the definition of *annual increment* in subsection (1) means the aggregate amount obtained by multiplying the specified amount (\$500 or \$300) by the number of financial years commencing on or after [1 July 2027](#) and up to and including the financial year in question.

(3) For the purposes of this Division, the maximum electoral expenditure limit applicable to a candidate for election is the limit calculated for the financial year in which the election is held,

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

Part 15 – Electoral Expenditure

s. 104

regardless of the date within that financial year on which the election occurs.

**104. Incurring of electoral expenditure**

- (1) A person must not incur, or authorise, any electoral expenditure with a view to promoting or procuring the election of a candidate unless the person is –
  - (a) the candidate; or
  - (b) the candidate's official agent.

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 100 penalty units.

- (2) A candidate may appoint, in an approved form, a natural person to be the official agent of the candidate for the purposes of this Division.
- (3) A person must not incur, or authorise, any electoral expenditure for or on behalf of a registered party with a view to promoting or procuring the election of a candidate.

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 100 penalty units.

- (4) For the avoidance of doubt, this section does not prevent a person, official agent or registered party from making a gift or a donation to a candidate's election campaign, provided that such gifts or donations are not electoral expenditure and are recorded and disclosed in accordance with the provisions of Part 16.

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

s. 105

Part 15 – Electoral Expenditure

**105. Exceeding electoral expenditure limit**

A candidate, or an official agent, must not incur, or authorise, electoral expenditure that exceeds the maximum electoral expenditure limit applicable to the candidate for the financial year in which the election is held.

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 50 penalty units.

**106. Final campaign return**

(1) A candidate, or an official agent, must lodge a final campaign return with the Electoral Commissioner, setting out the electoral expenditure incurred by the candidate, or official agent, for an election, within 45 days after the date on which the certificate of election is published for the election.

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 30 penalty units.

(2) The final campaign return must –

(a) be in an approved form; and

(b) contain the following information:

(i) the name and address of the candidate;

(ii) the name and address of the official agent, if applicable; and

(c) relate to the period beginning on the day on which nominations under this Act close for all candidates and ending on the

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

Part 15 – Electoral Expenditure

**s. 106**

day on which the certificate of election is published for the election; and

- (d) be accompanied by any invoice, account or receipt in respect of any electoral expenditure incurred by the candidate, or official agent, that is set out in the final campaign return; and
- (e) be signed by the candidate, or official agent, and include a declaration that the information contained in the final campaign return is complete and accurate to the best of the candidate's, or official agent's, knowledge.

(3) The Electoral Commissioner may, on written application in an approved form, by a candidate or official agent, extend the period for lodgement of the final campaign return under subsection (1) by not more than 30 days, if satisfied that –

- (a) the final campaign return cannot reasonably be lodged by the candidate or official agent within the original 45-day period; and
- (b) the delay is not due to the neglect or default of the candidate or official agent.

(4) If a court convicts a candidate or official agent under subsection (1), the court must declare the candidate's election void unless satisfied that the failure of the candidate, or official agent, to lodge the final campaign return did not materially affect the result of the election.

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

s. 107

Part 15 – Electoral Expenditure

**107. Publisher's advertising return**

- (1) Within 45 days after the day on which a certificate of election is published for an election, any person who prints, publishes or broadcasts electoral advertising must sign and declare before a justice or a commissioner for declarations, and lodge with the Electoral Commissioner, a publisher's advertising return, in an approved form, setting out electoral advertising printed, published or broadcast by the person for the election.

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 30 penalty units.

- (2) A publisher's advertising return under subsection (1) is to be accompanied by any invoice, account or receipt in respect of any electoral expenditure incurred by the person that is set out in the return.

**108. Final campaign return and publisher's advertising return available for inspection**

- (1) The Electoral Commissioner is to give a copy of any final campaign return, or publisher's advertising return, lodged with the Electoral Commissioner under this Division to the general manager.
- (2) The Electoral Commissioner and the general manager are to–
  - (a) keep final campaign returns, and publisher's advertising returns, or copies of the returns, lodged with the Electoral

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

Part 15 – Electoral Expenditure

s. 109

Commissioner or given to the general manager, for a period of 12 months; and

- (b) during that period of 12 months, make those returns, or copies of those returns, available for inspection, free of charge, by a member of the public.
- (3) At the end of the 12-month period referred to in subsection (2)(a), the Electoral Commissioner and the general manager must destroy the final campaign returns, and publisher's advertising returns, or copies of the returns, unless proceedings concerning the relevant election have been instituted and remain ongoing, in which case the returns must be retained until the final determination of such proceedings.

**109. Electoral Commissioner's powers to require information and documents**

- (1) For the purpose of verifying any final campaign returns or publisher's advertising returns lodged under this Division, the Electoral Commissioner may require any person, whom the Electoral Commissioner reasonably believes possesses relevant information or documents, to provide further information or explanation that the Commissioner considers necessary.
- (2) In addition to the powers of the Electoral Commissioner under subsection (1), the Electoral Commissioner may require any person whom the Electoral Commissioner reasonably believes to be in possession of information or records relating to electoral expenditure to –

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

s. 109

Part 15 – Electoral Expenditure

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- (a) provide that information; or
- (b) produce those records for inspection at a specified time and place; or
- (c) answer any question relating to the electoral expenditure; or
- (d) make a statement providing an explanation of the information or records.

(3) The Electoral Commissioner may make and retain copies of any records produced under subsection (2).

(4) A person must not, without reasonable excuse, fail to comply with a requirement made under subsection (1) or (2).

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 200 penalty units.

(5) Any information, answer or statement given by a person in response to a requirement under this section may not be used in evidence against the person except in proceedings under subsection (7) in relation to that information, answer or statement.

(6) Before requiring a person to comply with subsection (1) or (2), the Electoral Commissioner must provide the person with written notice specifying the nature of the information or documents required, the time and place for compliance and the consequences for failure to comply.

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

Part 15 – Electoral Expenditure

s. 109

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(7) A person must not provide information, produce records, answer questions or make statements which the person knows to be false or misleading.

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 10 penalty units or imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 months.

(8) In any proceedings for an offence under this Division, a copy of a record or part of a record made under subsection (3) is admissible in evidence and, in the absence of evidence to the contrary, is presumed to be the same as the original record.

(9) In this section, **records** includes books, accounts, minutes, registers, deeds, writings, documents, electronic communications, digital data or any other sources of information compiled, recorded or stored in any form by any means.

(10) The Electoral Commissioner must ensure that any information or record obtained under this section is treated confidentially and is not disclosed except as permitted under this Act or any other Act.

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

s. 110

Part 16 – Gifts and Donations

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#### **PART 16 – GIFTS AND DONATIONS**

**110. Disclosure of gifts and donations accepted during election period by candidates or intending candidates**

(1) During the election period a candidate, or intending candidate, must, within 7 days after accepting any gift or donation, disclose the gift or donation to the Tasmanian Electoral Commission.

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 200 penalty units.

(2) The disclosure of a gift or donation under subsection (1) must be made in an approved form and must include the following information:

- (a) the full name of the donor;
- (b) the locality of residence, if the donor is a natural person;
- (c) the donor's business name and business address, if the donor is not a natural person;
- (d) the date on which the candidate accepted the gift or donation;
- (e) the nature and estimated value of the gift or donation;
- (f) a declaration signed by the candidate, or intending candidate, stating that the information is true and correct to the best

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

Part 16 – Gifts and Donations

**s. 111**

of the candidate's, or intending candidate's, knowledge.

(3) A candidate, or intending candidate, must not knowingly or recklessly make a false or misleading disclosure under this section.

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 100 penalty units.

(4) A gift or donation with a value of less than \$50 is not required to be disclosed under this section, unless the gift or donation is one of a series of gifts or donations from the same donor that, when aggregated within the election period, exceeds \$50.

**111. Disclosure of gifts and donations accepted during disclosure period by continuing candidates and candidates**

(1) A continuing candidate must, within 7 days after the acceptance of the continuing candidate's notice of nomination, submit to the Tasmanian Electoral Commission an extract from the gifts and donations register kept under section 56B of the *Local Government Act 1993* containing all entries relevant to the continuing candidate during the disclosure period.

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 100 penalty units.

(2) A candidate who is not a continuing candidate must, within 7 days after the acceptance of the candidate's notice of nomination, submit to the Tasmanian Electoral Commission an initial gifts and donations return for the disclosure period.

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

**s. 112**

Part 16 – Gifts and Donations

---

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 100 penalty units.

(3) A continuing candidate, or a candidate who is not a continuing candidate, must not knowingly or recklessly make a false or misleading submission under this section.

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 100 penalty units.

**112. Unlawful gifts and donations**

(1) A person, other than a candidate or intending candidate, must not accept a gift or donation if the person knows, or ought reasonably to know, that all or part of the gift or donation is intended to be subsequently given to a candidate or intending candidate for campaign purposes.

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 50 penalty units.

(2) A candidate or intending candidate must not accept a gift or donation if –

- (a) the gift or donation is in the form of cash and either has a value of more than \$50, or forms part of a series of cash gifts or donations from the same donor, which, when aggregated within the election period, exceed \$50; or
- (b) the gift or donation has a value of more than \$50 and is not accompanied by the donor information required for disclosure under section 110; or
- (c) the gift or donation is made by a person known, or reasonably believed, to be a

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

Part 16 – Gifts and Donations

**s. 113**

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foreign donor within the meaning of the *Electoral Disclosure and Funding Act 2023*.

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 50 penalty units.

- (3) A person who receives a gift or donation under subsection (1), or a candidate or intending candidate who receives a gift or donation under subsection (2), must within 6 weeks after accepting the gift or donation take one of the following actions:
  - (a) return the gift or donation to the donor;
  - (b) pay, or transfer, to the State an amount equal to the value of the gift or donation.

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 50 penalty units.

- (4) The person or candidate must notify the Tasmanian Electoral Commission in writing within 7 days after taking action under subsection (3).

**113. Gifts and donations register**

- (1) The Tasmanian Electoral Commission must keep and maintain a gifts and donations register containing all information disclosed, or submitted, to the Commission under sections 110 and 111 that complies with the requirements of those sections.
- (2) The Tasmanian Electoral Commission must retain all information kept in the gifts and donations register for at least 5 years from the

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

s. 114

Part 16 – Gifts and Donations

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date on which the information was disclosed, or submitted, to the Commission under section 110 or 111.

**114. Publication of information contained in gifts and donations register**

- (1) The Tasmanian Electoral Commission must publish on its website, within 7 days after receiving a disclosure or submission under section 110 or 111, the information contained in the disclosure or submission.
- (2) The Tasmanian Electoral Commission must ensure that the information published under this section remains publicly accessible until the certificate of election is issued for the election to which the information relates.
- (3) Nothing in this section limits the Tasmanian Electoral Commission's ability to update, amend or correct information, and publish any corrected or updated information as soon as practicable after the correction or update is made, including to reflect the outcome of investigation or errors.
- (4) The Tasmanian Electoral Commission may redact personal information from any document published under this section where necessary to protect the safety or privacy of a person, having regard to public interest in transparency and electoral integrity.

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

Part 17 – Miscellaneous

s. 115

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## PART 17 – MISCELLANEOUS

### **115. Formal defects not to invalidate elections**

An election is not invalid by reason only –

- (a) of any defect in the title, or want of title, of the person by or before whom the election, or any polling in it, has been held or conducted; or
- (b) of any formal error or defect in any notice, advertisement, notification, list, declaration, application, statement or envelope, or in any publication of any of them; or
- (c) that any such publication was out of time; or
- (d) of any delay in holding the election; or
- (e) of the failure to provide any electoral material; or
- (f) of any defect, impediment or omission of a merely formal nature.

### **116. Ministerial order in respect of elections**

The Minister, by order and on the recommendation of the Electoral Commissioner, may –

- (a) provide for such matters as the Minister considers desirable to enable a particular

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

**s. 117**

Part 17 – Miscellaneous

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election or elections, at a particular time, to be held; or

- (b) validate a defect or an informality in an election or an irregularity in the holding of an election that appears to the Minister not to affect materially the result of the election.

**117. Invalidity of election not to affect proceedings**

The invalidity of an election or a court's declaration that a candidate's election is void does not affect –

- (a) any action or other proceedings by or against the council; or
- (b) any decision made by the council or council committee.

**118. Instituting proceedings**

- (1) The returning officer is to report all alleged offences under this Part to the Electoral Commissioner.
- (2) The Electoral Commissioner is to determine whether or not proceedings are to be instituted in respect of any offence under this Part.

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

Part 17 – Miscellaneous

s. 119

**119. Declaration of office**

- (1) Any person elected as councillor must make an approved declaration of office in an approved manner.
- (2) A person elected as a councillor who has not made a declaration of office under subsection (1) must not –
  - (a) act in the office of councillor, mayor or deputy mayor; or
  - (b) take part in the proceedings of any meeting of the council or a committee.
- (3) A council is to acknowledge the making of a declaration of office under subsection (1) at its meeting and the general manager is to record that fact in the minutes of that meeting.

**120. Vacancy of office on failure to make declaration**

The office of a councillor becomes vacant if the councillor fails to make a declaration under section 119 within 60 days of the issue of the certificate of election for the election at which the councillor was elected.

**121. Right to information**

The provisions of the *Right to Information Act 2009* do not apply to any electoral material.

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

s. 122

Part 17 – Miscellaneous

**122. Role of Electoral Commissioner**

- (1) The Electoral Commissioner may –
  - (a) require any person to provide information or advice in relation to any matter arising under this Part; and
  - (b) use that information and advice for the purposes of this Part.
- (2) The Electoral Commissioner is to –
  - (a) prepare and publish information and statistics in respect of elections; and
  - (b) promote public awareness and understanding of elections; and
  - (c) encourage enrolment and voting for elections.

**123. Regulations**

- (1) The Governor may make regulations for the purposes of this Act.
- (2) The regulations may be made so as to apply differently according to matters, limitations or restrictions, whether as to time, circumstance or otherwise, specified in the regulations.
- (3) The regulations may authorise any matter to be from time to time determined, applied or regulated by the Tasmanian Electoral Commission or Electoral Commissioner.

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025*  
*Act No. of 2025*

Part 17 – Miscellaneous

s. 124

(4) The regulations may –

- (a) provide that a contravention of, or a failure to comply with, any of the regulations is an offence; and
- (b) in respect of such an offence, provide for the imposition of a fine not exceeding 10 penalty units and, in the case of a continuing offence, a further fine not exceeding 2 penalty units for each day during which the offence continues.

**124. Administration of Act**

Until provision is made in relation to this Act by order under section 4 of the *Administrative Arrangements Act 1990* –

- (a) the administration of this Act is assigned to the Minister for Local Government; and
- (b) the department responsible to the Minister for Local Government in relation to the administration of this Act is the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

**sch. 1**

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**SCHEDULE 1 – COUNTING OF VOTES**

Section 76

**PART 1 – GENERAL**

**1. Interpretation**

(1) In this Schedule –

*absolute majority of votes*, in relation to a candidate, is a number of votes which is greater than one-half of the total number of ballot papers, other than exhausted and informal ballot papers, on which electors have recorded their votes for the candidate;

*informal ballot paper* means a ballot paper which is informal as specified in section 77;

*quota* means the number of votes sufficient to elect a candidate;

*second preference recorded for a candidate* means the preference on a ballot paper recorded by the number “2” in the square opposite the name of the candidate on the ballot paper;

*surplus* means the number of votes which a candidate obtained at any stage of the counting of votes in excess of the quota;

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

**sch. 1**

***transfer value*** means that portion of a vote which is unused by –

- (a) an elected candidate who has obtained a surplus; or
- (b) a candidate excluded on account of being lowest on the poll and which is transferred to the candidate next in the order of the elector's preference.

(2) For the purpose of the definition of “*transfer value*”, the transfer value is either one or a fraction of one.

## **PART 2 – MAYORAL OR COUNCILLOR ELECTIONS**

### **2. First preferences**

- (1) The number of first preferences recorded for each candidate is to be counted and all informal ballot papers are to be rejected.
- (2) The candidate who obtains an absolute majority of votes is to be elected.

### **3. Second and subsequent preferences**

- (1) If no candidate has an absolute majority of votes, the candidate who has the fewest votes is to be excluded and each ballot paper counted to that candidate, unless exhausted, is to be counted to the unexcluded candidate next in the order of the elector's preference.

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

**sch. 1**

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- (2) The process specified in subclause (1) is to be repeated until one candidate has an absolute majority of votes.

**4. Ballot paper counted and exhausted**

- (1) Every ballot paper, not rejected as informal, is to be counted in every count until it becomes exhausted, when it is to be rejected in all further counts.
- (2) If a candidate is excluded, any ballot paper counted to the candidate is exhausted if there is not indicated on it a consecutive preference for one or more unexcluded candidates.

**5. Returning officer to decide exclusion and election**

- (1) If, on any count, 2 or more candidates have an equal number of votes and one of them has to be excluded, the returning officer is to decide which candidate is to be excluded by the drawing or casting of lots in the prescribed manner.
- (2) If, in the final count, 2 candidates have an equal number of votes, the returning officer is to decide which of them is to be elected by the drawing or casting of lots in the prescribed manner.

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

**sch. 1**

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**PART 3 – COUNCILLOR ELECTIONS**

**6. Quota**

- (1) The quota is calculated in accordance with the following formula:
- (2) Any remainder in calculating the quota is to be disregarded.
- (3) Subject to clause 13(6), a candidate is not to be elected until the candidate obtains a number of votes equal to or greater than the quota.

**7. First preferences**

- (1) The number of first preferences recorded for each candidate is to be counted and all informal ballot papers are to be rejected.
- (2) A candidate who, after the first preferences have been counted, has a number of preferences equal to or greater than the quota is to be elected.

**8. First preferences equal to quota**

If the number of first preferences obtained by a candidate is equal to the quota, all the ballot papers on which a first preference is recorded for that candidate are to be set aside as finally dealt with.

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

**sch. 1**

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**9. First preferences in excess of quota**

If the number of first preferences obtained by a candidate exceeds the quota, the proportion of those preferences in excess of the quota is to be transferred to the other candidates not yet elected next in the order of the electors' respective preferences in the following manner:

- (a) all the ballot papers on which a first preference is recorded for the elected candidate are to be re-examined and the number of second preferences, or in the case provided for in clause 10, third or next consecutive preferences, recorded for each unelected candidate are to be counted;
- (b) the surplus of the elected candidate is to be divided by the total number of votes obtained by the candidate on the counting of the first preferences and the resulting fraction is the transfer value;
- (c) the number of second or other preferences recorded for each unelected candidate is to be multiplied by the transfer value;
- (d) the resulting number of votes, truncated to 2 decimal places, is to be transferred to each unelected candidate and added to the number of votes obtained by the candidate on the counting of the first preferences.

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

**sch. 1**

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**10. Surplus**

- (1) If, on the counting of the first preferences or on a transfer, more than one candidate has a surplus, the largest surplus is to be dealt with first.
- (2) If at that stage more than one candidate has a surplus, the then largest surplus is to be dealt with next, and so on.
- (3) If one candidate has obtained a surplus at a count or transfer previous to that at which another candidate obtains a surplus, the surplus of the former is to be dealt with first.
- (4) If 2 or more surpluses are equal, the surplus of the candidate who was the highest at the count or transfer at which they last had an unequal number of votes is to be dealt with first.
- (5) If the 2 or more candidates had an equal number of votes at all preceding counts or transfers, the returning officer is to decide which candidate's surplus is to be dealt with first.

**11. Quota by transfer**

- (1) If the number of votes obtained by a candidate is increased to a number which is equal to, or exceeds, the quota by a transfer, the candidate is to be elected.
- (2) Notwithstanding the fact that the candidate has reached the quota, the transfer is to be completed and all the votes to which the candidate is entitled from the transfer are to be transferred to the

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

**sch. 1**

---

candidate, but no votes of any other candidate are to be transferred to the candidate.

- (3) If the number of votes obtained by a candidate is increased by a transfer to a number which is equal to the quota, all of the ballot papers on which the votes are recorded are to be set aside as finally dealt with.
- (4) If the number of votes obtained by a candidate is increased by a transfer to a number which exceeds the quota, the surplus is to be transferred to the candidates next in the order of the voters' respective preferences, in the following manner:
  - (a) the ballot papers on which are recorded the votes obtained by the elected candidate in the last transfer are to be re-examined and the number of third preferences, or in the case provided for in clause 10, next consecutive preferences, recorded for each unelected candidate counted;
  - (b) the surplus of the elected candidate is to be divided by the total number of ballot papers mentioned in paragraph (a) and the resulting fraction is the transfer value;
  - (c) the number of third or other preferences recorded for each unelected candidate is to be multiplied by the transfer value;
  - (d) the resulting number, truncated to 2 decimal places, is to be credited to each unelected candidate and added to the

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

**sch. 1**

---

number of votes previously obtained by the candidate.

**12. Transfer of votes**

- (1) If, after the first preferences have been counted and any surplus has been transferred, no candidate, or fewer than the number of candidates required to be elected, has or have obtained the quota –
  - (a) the candidate who at that time has the least number of first preference votes transferred is to be excluded; and
  - (b) all the votes obtained by that candidate are to be transferred to the candidates next in the order of the electors' respective preferences in the same manner as provided by clause 4.
- (2) The votes received by the excluded candidate are to be sorted into groups according to their transfer values when received by that candidate.
- (3) The groups are to be transferred at the transfer value at which they were received in the following order:
  - (a) firstly, the group with the highest transfer value;
  - (b) secondly, the remaining groups in descending order of transfer value.
- (4) Each transfer under subclause (3) is a separate transfer.

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

**sch. 1**

---

**13. Votes increased by transfer**

- (1) If the number of votes obtained by a candidate by a transfer is increased to a number which is equal to, or exceeds, the quota, the candidate is to be elected.
- (2) Notwithstanding that the candidate has reached the quota, the transfer is to be completed and all the votes to which the candidate is entitled from the transfer are to be transferred to the candidate, but no other votes are to be transferred.
- (3) If the number of votes obtained by a candidate is increased by a transfer to a number of votes which is equal to, but does not exceed, the quota, all the ballot papers on which those votes are recorded are to be set aside as finally dealt with.
- (4) If the number of votes obtained by a candidate is increased by a transfer to a number which exceeds the quota, the surplus is to be transferred to the candidates next in the order of the electors' respective preferences in the same manner as provided by clause 11(4), but that surplus is not to be dealt with until all the votes of the excluded candidate have been transferred.
- (5) If there is a surplus, it is to be dealt with before any other candidate is excluded.
- (6) The process of excluding the candidate who has polled the next lowest number of votes and transferring the vote to other candidates is to be repeated until all the candidates, except the number required to be elected, have been

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

**sch. 1**

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excluded and the unexcluded candidates who have not already been elected are then elected.

**14. Order of preference**

In determining which candidate is next in the order of an elector's preference –

- (a) any candidate who has been elected or excluded is not to be considered; and
- (b) the order of the elector's preference is to be determined as if the names of those candidates had not been on the ballot paper.

**15. Exclusion of candidates**

- (1) If it is necessary to exclude a candidate, and 2 or more candidates have an equal number of votes, having at that time the least number of first preference votes transferred to them, whichever of those candidates was the lowest on the poll at the last count or transfer at which they had an unequal number of votes is excluded first.
- (2) If the candidates had an equal number of votes at all preceding counts or transfers, the returning officer is to decide which candidate is to be excluded first by the drawing or casting of lots in the prescribed manner.

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

**sch. 1**

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**16. Exhausted ballot paper**

If, on a transfer, it is found that on a ballot paper there is no candidate opposite whose name a number is placed, other than a candidate whose name has already been elected or excluded, the ballot paper is to be set aside as exhausted.

**17. Order of election**

- (1) The order of election of councillors is the order in which the candidates receive a quota.
- (2) If more than one candidate receives a quota at the same count or transfer, the candidate with the highest number of votes is elected first, the candidate with the next highest number of votes is elected second and so on.
- (3) If under clause 13(6) one candidate is elected without a quota, that candidate is elected last.
- (4) If under clause 13(6) more than one candidate is elected without a quota and it is necessary to determine the order of election of those candidates for any reason, the votes received by the remaining unelected candidates are to be distributed until only one candidate has received less than a quota.

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

**sch. 2**

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**SCHEDULE 2 – RECOUNT TO FILL CASUAL  
VACANCY**

Section 82

**PART 1 – GENERAL**

**1. Interpretation**

In this Schedule –

*completed ballot papers counted* means –

- (a) if, after the first preferences were counted at the relevant election, the number of first preferences recorded for the vacating councillor was equal to or exceeded the quota, all the ballot papers on which those first preferences were recorded; and
- (b) in any other case, all the ballot papers counted for that councillor at the time of that councillor's election, including ballot papers relating to votes that were transferred to the councillor;

*consenting candidate* means a candidate not elected at the relevant election who consents to be included in a recount for a vacancy;

*consent period* means the period within which a consent form is to be lodged under section 82;

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

**sch. 2**

---

***quota*** means the number of votes sufficient to elect a candidate;

***relevant election*** means the election last held to fill the office of the vacating councillor;

***vacating councillor*** means a councillor who is vacating the office of councillor.

**PART 2 – ORIGINAL ELECTION WAS FOR MORE THAN ONE COUNCILLOR**

**2. One consenting candidate**

If there is only one consenting candidate, the Electoral Commissioner is to –

- (a) declare the candidate elected; and
- (b) notify the Minister in writing of the election of the candidate.

**3. More than one consenting candidate**

If there are 2 or more consenting candidates, the Electoral Commissioner, within 7 days after the end of the consent period, is to ascertain in accordance with this Schedule which consenting candidate is to be elected.

**4. Transfer of votes**

- (1) If –

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

**sch. 2**

---

- (a) a vacating councillor was, by virtue of clause 13(6) of Schedule 1, elected at the relevant election after the candidate who was lowest on the poll at that election had been excluded from the counting; and
- (b) the votes obtained by the excluded candidate were not required to be transferred to the candidates next in the order of the electors' preferences –

so many of those votes as would have been transferred to that vacating councillor, if the votes of the excluded candidate had been transferred to the candidates next in the order of the electors' representative preferences, are taken to have been so transferred to, and to be obtained by, that vacating councillor and the completed ballot papers representing those votes are to be counted for that councillor.

- (2) The ballot papers counted for the vacating councillor are to be examined, and all the votes obtained by the councillor are to be transferred to and counted for the consenting candidates first or next in the order of the electors' respective preferences.
- (3) The votes received by the vacating councillor as first preferences are to be transferred at the transfer value as determined under subclause (6).
- (4) The other votes received by the vacating councillor that are not first preferences are to be transferred at the transfer value as determined under subclause (7).

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

**sch. 2**

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- (5) All the votes received by the vacating councillor are to be –
  - (a) sorted into groups according to their transfer values; and
  - (b) transferred in the following order:
    - (i) firstly, the group with the highest transfer value;
    - (ii) secondly, the remaining groups in descending order of transfer value.
- (6) If the votes obtained as first preferences by the vacating councillor –
  - (a) were sufficient to elect the councillor, the transfer value of those votes is the fraction determined by dividing the number of votes sufficient to elect the councillor by the total number of votes obtained by the councillor; or
  - (b) were insufficient to elect the councillor, the transfer value of those votes is one.
- (7) If the number of votes obtained by the vacating councillor at an individual count, other than the votes obtained as first preferences –
  - (a) were not sufficient to elect the councillor, the transfer value of the votes obtained on that count is that at which they were obtained by the councillor; or

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

**sch. 2**

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- (b) were sufficient to elect the councillor, the transfer value of the votes received at that count is that which would have been sufficient to elect the councillor immediately before that count.
- (8) Each transfer under subclause (5) is a separate transfer.

**5. Counting of votes**

- (1) After the number of votes for each consenting candidate has been ascertained, the method of counting votes set out in Part 2 or 3 of Schedule 1 applies with the necessary modifications.
- (2) The Electoral Commissioner is to declare the consenting candidate who obtains an absolute majority of the votes within the meaning of that Schedule to be elected.
- (3) As soon as practicable after declaring a consenting candidate to be elected, the Electoral Commissioner is to notify the Minister in writing of the election of the candidate.

**6. Exclusion of candidate**

- (1) If it is necessary to exclude a consenting candidate, and 2 or more consenting candidates have an equal number of votes and are lowest on the poll, whichever of those candidates was lowest on the poll at the last count or transfer at which they had an unequal number of votes is excluded first.

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

**sch. 2**

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(2) If the candidates had an equal number of votes at all preceding counts or transfers, the returning officer is to decide which consenting candidate is to be excluded first.

**7. Previous election under Schedule**

If a vacating councillor was elected under the provisions of this Schedule, the Electoral Commissioner is to –

(a) examine the ballot papers that at the relevant election were counted for the councillor in whose place the vacating councillor was elected (including votes transferred to the last-mentioned councillor); and

(b) ascertain which consenting candidate is to be elected in accordance with this Schedule.

**8. Order of preferences**

To determine which consenting candidate is first or next in the order of the electors' preferences –

(a) the name of, and the first preferences recorded at the relevant election for, an excluded candidate who is a consenting candidate are not to be omitted from any completed ballot papers transferred to the vacating councillor, but the preferences are to be counted for that consenting candidate; and

*Local Government Electoral Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

**sch. 2**

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- (b) any candidates who were elected at the relevant election or who are not consenting candidates are to be disregarded and the order of the electors' preferences are to be determined as if the names of those candidates had not been included on the ballot papers.

**9. Ballot papers exhausted**

A complete ballot paper is exhausted if there is no candidate next to whose name a number has been placed other than a candidate –

- (a) who has already been elected; or
- (b) who is not a consenting candidate.

Drafted in the Office of  
Parliamentary Counsel

TASMANIA

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**LOCAL GOVERNMENT AMENDMENT  
(ELECTORAL REFORMS) BILL 2025**

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**CONTENTS**

1. Short title
2. Commencement
3. Repeal of Act
4. Principal Act
5. Section 3 amended (Interpretation)
6. Section 25 amended (Constitution of council)
7. Section 28A amended (Information and documents relating to functions)
8. Part 4 repealed
9. Section 51 amended (Close associate)
10. Section 52 amended (Non-application of Part)
11. Section 54 amended (Register of pecuniary interests of councillors)
12. Parts 5B and 5C inserted
  - PART 5B – Personal Interest Returns
    - 56C. Interpretation of Part
    - 56D. Lodgement of personal interest returns
    - 56E. Personal interest return order
    - 56F. Requirement to submit revised personal interest return
    - 56G. Publication of personal interest returns
    - 56H. Restriction on access to non-public information
    - 56I. Retention of personal interest returns
    - 56J. Offences
  - PART 5C – Conduct of Council During Election Period

- 56K. Interpretation of Part
- 56L. Conduct of council during election period
- 13. Section 58 amended (Tabling petition)
- 14. Section 59 amended (Petitions seeking public meetings)
- 15. Section 60C amended (Petition requesting elector poll)
- 16. Section 214A amended (Scope of review)
- 17. Section 214E amended (Result of review)
- 18. Part 15 repealed
- 19. Schedules 6, 7 and 8 repealed

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT AMENDMENT (ELECTORAL REFORMS) BILL 2025

*(Brought in by the Minister for Local Government, the Honourable Kerry John Vincent)*

### A BILL FOR

#### An Act to amend the *Local Government Act 1993*

Be it enacted by Her Excellency the Governor of Tasmania, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and House of Assembly, in Parliament assembled, as follows:

##### **1. Short title**

This Act may be cited as the *Local Government Amendment (Electoral Reforms) Act 2025*.

##### **2. Commencement**

The provisions of this Act commence on a day or days to be proclaimed.

##### **3. Repeal of Act**

This Act is repealed on the first anniversary of the day on which the last uncommenced provision of this Act commenced.

*Local Government Amendment (Electoral Reforms) Act 2025*  
*Act No. of 2025*

s. 4

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#### 4. Principal Act

In this Act, the *Local Government Act 1993*\* is referred to as the Principal Act.

#### 5. Section 3 amended (Interpretation)

Section 3 of the Principal Act is amended as follows:

- (a) by omitting the definition of *ballot material*;
- (b) by omitting the definition of *by-election*;
- (c) by omitting the definition of *candidate* and substituting the following definition:

*candidate* means *candidate* as defined in the *Local Government Electoral Act 2025*;

- (d) by omitting the definition of *certificate of election*;
- (e) by omitting the definition of *closing day*;
- (f) by inserting “in accordance with the *Local Government Electoral Act 2025*” after “council” in the definition of *councillor*;
- (g) by omitting the definition of *declaration of a poll*;

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\*No. 95 of 1993

*Local Government Amendment (Electoral Reforms) Act 2025*  
*Act No. of 2025*

s. 5

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- (h) by omitting the definitions of *election agent* and *elector*;
- (i) by omitting the definitions of *electoral advertising* and *electoral area*;
- (j) by omitting the definitions of *electoral material*, *electoral officer*, *electoral officer in charge* and *electoral roll*;
- (k) by omitting “, in Part 15, includes a person nominated under section 253A” from the definition of *general manager* and substituting “includes a person nominated as the general manager under the *Local Government Electoral Act 2025*”;
- (l) by omitting the definitions of *intending candidate* and *issuing place*;
- (m) by omitting the definition of *list of electors*;
- (n) by omitting “, in Part 15,” from the definition of *municipal area*;
- (o) by omitting the definitions of *nomination period*, *notice of election* and *ordinary election*;
- (p) by omitting the definition of *polling period*;
- (q) by omitting the definitions of *relevant period* and *returning officer*;

*Local Government Amendment (Electoral Reforms) Act 2025*  
*Act No. of 2025*

**s. 6**

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- (r) by omitting the definitions of *roll closure day* and *scrutineer*.

**6. Section 25 amended (Constitution of council)**

Section 25(1) of the Principal Act is amended by omitting “in accordance with Part 4.” and substituting “in accordance with the *Local Government Electoral Act 2025*.”

**7. Section 28A amended (Information and documents relating to functions)**

Section 28A(3) of the Principal Act is amended by inserting after paragraph (a) the following paragraph:

- (ab) the general manager believes that the information –
  - (i) is not publicly available; and
  - (ii) is a matter in relation to which the councillor has completed a personal interest return under Part 5B; or

**8. Part 4 repealed**

Part 4 of the Principal Act is repealed.

*Local Government Amendment (Electoral Reforms) Act 2025*  
*Act No. of 2025*

s. 9

**9. Section 51 amended (Close associate)**

Section 51 of the Principal Act is amended by inserting after paragraph (g) the following paragraphs:

- (ga) a person from whom the councillor or member has received a *gift or donation*, as defined in the *Local Government Electoral Act 2025*, that has been disclosed by the councillor in accordance with Part 16 of that Act; or
- (gb) a person from whom the councillor or member has received a gift or donation that is recorded in the register of gifts and donations referred to in section 56B(1); or
- (gc) a relative of the councillor or member who resides with that councillor or member on a regular basis; or

**10. Section 52 amended (Non-application of Part)**

Section 52 of the Principal Act is amended as follows:

- (a) by omitting paragraph (a) from subsection (1);
- (b) by omitting paragraph (c) from subsection (1);
- (c) by omitting paragraph (e) from subsection (2);

*Local Government Amendment (Electoral Reforms) Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

**s. 10**

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(d) by inserting the following subsections after subsection (2):

(2A) It is a defence to a prosecution under this Part if the councillor charged reasonably believes that –

(a) the pecuniary interest of the councillor, being a pecuniary benefit received or reasonably expected to be received as a result of the decision in question, is one held in common with a substantial proportion of electors in the municipal area; and

(b) the extent of the councillor's pecuniary interest is not greater than the extent of the pecuniary interest that is held in common by that substantial proportion of electors.

(2B) It is a defence to a prosecution under this Part if the councillor or member charged reasonably believes that –

(a) the pecuniary interest of the councillor or member, being a pecuniary benefit

*Local Government Amendment (Electoral Reforms) Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

**s. 10**

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received or reasonably expected to be received as a result of the decision in relation to an application or request for approval, authorisation, licence, permit, exemption or other right under this or any other Act, is one held in common with a substantial proportion of electors in the municipal area; and

(b) the extent of that pecuniary interest is not greater than the extent of the pecuniary interest that is held in common by that substantial proportion of electors.

(2C) It is a defence to a prosecution under this Part if the councillor or member charged reasonably believes that –

(a) the pecuniary interest of the councillor or member, being a beneficial interest in shares of a company or other body, is one held in common with a substantial proportion of electors in the municipal area; and

*Local Government Amendment (Electoral Reforms) Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

**s. 11**

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(b) the extent of that pecuniary interest is not greater than the extent of the pecuniary interest that is held in common by that substantial proportion of electors.

**11. Section 54 amended (Register of pecuniary interests of councillors)**

Section 54 of the Principal Act is amended by omitting subsections (2) and (3) and substituting the following subsection:

(2) The general manager must publish the register of interests on the council's official website.

**12. Parts 5B and 5C inserted**

After section 56B of the Principal Act, the following Parts are inserted:

**PART 5B – PERSONAL INTEREST RETURNS**

**56C. Interpretation of Part**

In this Part –

***associated person*** means, in relation to a councillor –

(a) the councillor's spouse or partner; or

*Local Government Amendment (Electoral Reforms) Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

s. 12

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- (b) a child or other member of the councillor's family who ordinarily resides with the councillor; or
- (c) any body corporate or trust in which the councillor or a person referred to in paragraph (a) or (b) has a controlling interest;

***non-pecuniary interest*** means an interest that does not involve financial gain or loss but arises from personal relationships, affiliations or beliefs that may influence a person's decision making;

***pecuniary interest*** means an interest that a person has in a matter if there is a reasonable likelihood or expectation of financial gain or loss, whether direct or indirect, to the person or to an associated person;

***personal interest return*** means a return completed by a councillor under this Part, in the form and containing the information specified in a personal interest return order, and includes a revised personal interest return lodged under this Part;

*Local Government Amendment (Electoral Reforms) Act 2025*  
*Act No. of 2025*

s. 12

---

***personal interest return order*** means an order made under section 56E specifying the form, content and procedural requirements for personal interest returns.

**56D. Lodgement of personal interest returns**

A councillor must lodge a completed personal interest return with the general manager –

- (a) within 28 days after the date on which the certificate of election, as defined in the *Local Government Electoral Act 2025*, is issued in respect of the councillor; and
- (b) on or before 31 July in each subsequent year in which the person holds office as a councillor.

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 100 penalty units.

**56E. Personal interest return order**

- (1) The Governor, on the recommendation of the Minister, may make an order specifying –
  - (a) the form and content of a personal interest return; and

*Local Government Amendment (Electoral Reforms) Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

s. 12

(b) the matters that are to be disclosed in a personal interest return; and

(c) any procedural or administrative requirements relating to the lodgement of personal interest returns.

(2) Without limiting subsection (1), an order may specify the following matters:

(a) the assets and classes of assets to be disclosed, including real property and financial interests;

(b) the liabilities and classes of liabilities to be disclosed;

(c) the associated persons and classes of persons whose interests are to be disclosed, including individuals, bodies corporate and trustees;

(d) employment, offices and other sources of income to be disclosed;

(e) gifts, donations or contributions to other entities, and the classes of such gifts, donations or contributions, to be disclosed;

(f) memberships of associations, including trade or professional associations, political parties and

*Local Government Amendment (Electoral Reforms) Act 2025*  
*Act No. of 2025*

**s. 12**

---

other organisations to be disclosed;

- (g) thresholds for disclosure and time periods to which the disclosures relate;
- (h) management strategies to be documented by councillors for managing actual, potential or perceived pecuniary interests or non-pecuniary interests arising from the matters disclosed;
- (i) the information to be withheld from publication under section 56G(b).

(3) The Minister may amend, revoke or revoke and substitute an order.

(4) Before recommending that an order be made, amended or revoked, the Minister must consult with councils.

(5) An order is a statutory rule within the meaning of the *Rules Publication Act 1953*.

(6) An order is subordinate legislation for the purposes of the *Subordinate Legislation Act 1992*.

*Local Government Amendment (Electoral Reforms) Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

s. 12

---

**56F. Requirement to submit revised personal interest return**

- (1) The general manager may, by written notice to a councillor, require the councillor to submit a revised personal interest return if the general manager reasonably believes that a return lodged by the councillor –
  - (a) is incomplete or does not comply with the requirements of this Part; or
  - (b) contains an error.
- (2) A councillor must submit a revised personal interest return within 14 days after receiving the notice under subsection (1).

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 50 penalty units.

**56G. Publication of personal interest returns**

The general manager must publish each personal interest return, and any revised personal interest return, on the council's official website –

- (a) as soon as practicable after it is lodged; and
- (b) in accordance with any requirements or exemptions specified in the personal interest

*Local Government Amendment (Electoral Reforms) Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

s. 12

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return order in relation to the publication of information contained in a personal interest return.

**56H. Restriction on access to non-public information**

- (1) The general manager must not provide to a councillor any information, other than information included on a public agenda or otherwise available to members of the public, if it is reasonably apparent to the general manager, from a personal interest return or other information known to the general manager, that the councillor has a pecuniary interest in the matter.
- (2) A councillor must not seek or obtain information, other than information included on a public agenda or otherwise available to members of the public, if the councillor has, or is likely to have, a pecuniary interest in the matter were it to be considered by the council or a council committee.

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 100 penalty units.

**56I. Retention of personal interest returns**

The council must retain each personal interest return, and each revised personal interest return, until 2 years after the

*Local Government Amendment (Electoral Reforms) Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

**s. 12**

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expiration of the term of the council during which the return was lodged.

**56J. Offences**

(1) A councillor must not –

- (a) provide information in a personal interest return that the councillor knows is false or misleading in a material particular; or
- (b) omit from a personal interest return any information knowing that the omission renders the return misleading; or
- (c) fail to lodge a personal interest return or a revised personal interest return, within the period specified under this Part, with the intention of avoiding disclosure of a pecuniary interest.

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 100 penalty units.

(2) In addition to any penalty imposed under this section, a court may make an order –

- (a) barring the councillor from nominating as a candidate at any election for a period not exceeding 7 years; and
- (b) dismissing the councillor from office.

*Local Government Amendment (Electoral Reforms) Act 2025*  
*Act No. of 2025*

s. 12

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**PART 5C – CONDUCT OF COUNCIL DURING  
ELECTION PERIOD**

**56K. Interpretation of Part**

In this Part –

*election period*, in relation to an election conducted in accordance with the *Local Government Electoral Act 2025*, other than a by-election or a recount within the meaning of that Act, means the period –

- (a) commencing on the date and time of the closure of an *electoral roll*, as defined in the *Local Government Electoral Act 2025*, that is specified in a *notice of election* as defined in that Act; and
- (b) ending on the date on which the *certificate of election*, as defined in the *Local Government Electoral Act 2025*, for the election conducted in accordance with that Act is issued;

*prohibited decisions* means a decision by a council –

*Local Government Amendment (Electoral Reforms) Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

s. 12

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- (a) that relates to the appointment, reappointment or remuneration of a general manager, other than the appointment, reappointment or remuneration of an acting general manager; or
- (b) that relates to the termination of a general manager; or
- (c) to enter into a contract, arrangement or agreement the total value of which exceeds whichever is the greater of –
  - (i) \$100 000; or
  - (ii) 1% of the council's revenue from general and service rating and fees and charges in the preceding financial year; or
- (d) that would enable the use of council resources in a way that is intended to influence, or is likely to influence, voting at an election conducted in

*Local Government Amendment (Electoral Reforms) Act 2025*  
*Act No. of 2025*

s. 12

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accordance with the *Local Government Electoral Act 2025*; or

(e) that relates to a matter, that is not of a routine or operational nature, that could be reasonably deferred until the election period ends –

but does not include a decision by the council required or authorised by or under any law to be made within a timeframe prescribed by or under that law.

**56L. Conduct of council during election period**

(1) During an election period a council must not –

- (a) use council resources for the advantage of a particular candidate, or group of candidates; or
- (b) publish any information in any format which promotes any candidate or group of candidates; or
- (c) publish any information in any format in relation to the election, conducted in accordance with the *Local Government Electoral Act*

*Local Government Amendment (Electoral Reforms) Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

s. 12

2025, other than information published by the Electoral Commissioner; or

- (d) make council resources available for the advantage of a particular candidate, which are not equally available to all candidates.

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 100 penalty units.

- (2) Subject to subsection (3), a council must not make a prohibited decision during an election period.
- (3) If a council is satisfied that it is necessary and in the public interest for a prohibited decision to be made during an election period, the council may make an application to the Minister for an exemption from the application of this section to the prohibited decision specified in the application.
- (4) An application under subsection (3) must –
  - (a) be in writing; and
  - (b) set out the reasons why the prohibited decision must be made by the council during the election period.
- (5) On receipt of an application under subsection (3), if the Minister is satisfied

*Local Government Amendment (Electoral Reforms) Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

**s. 13**

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that there are extraordinary circumstances, the Minister may grant an exemption from the application of this section to the prohibited decision specified in the application, subject to any conditions or limitations that the Minister considers appropriate.

- (6) A prohibited decision made by a council in contravention of this section is invalid.
- (7) Any person who suffers loss or damage as a result of acting in good faith on a prohibited decision made in contravention of this section is entitled to compensation from the council for that loss or damage.

**13. Section 58 amended (Tabling petition)**

Section 58 of the Principal Act is amended by omitting subsection (3) and substituting the following subsection:

- (3) A general manager is only required to table a petition if the general manager is satisfied that the petition –
  - (a) relates to the functions and powers of the council; or
  - (b) relates to the incorporation of the council.

*Local Government Amendment (Electoral Reforms) Act 2025*  
*Act No. of 2025*

s. 14

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**14. Section 59 amended (Petitions seeking public meetings)**

Section 59 of the Principal Act is amended by omitting subsection (2) and substituting the following subsection:

(2) A council must hold a public meeting if the petition complies with section 57 and section 58(3) and it is signed by at least 20% of the electors in the municipal area.

**15. Section 60C amended (Petition requesting elector poll)**

Section 60C(1)(b) of the Principal Act is amended by omitting “least 5% of the electors in the municipal area or 1 000 of those electors, whichever is the lesser” and substituting “least 20% of the electors in the municipal area”.

**16. Section 214A amended (Scope of review)**

Section 214A of the Principal Act is amended as follows:

(a) by inserting in paragraph (j) “in accordance with the *Local Government Electoral Act 2025*” after “area”;

(b) by inserting in paragraph (k) “in accordance with the *Local Government Electoral Act 2025*” after “district”.

*Local Government Amendment (Electoral Reforms) Act 2025  
Act No. of 2025*

s. 17

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**17. Section 214E amended (Result of review)**

Section 214E of the Principal Act is amended as follows:

- (a) by omitting from subsection (2) “closing day, within the meaning of Part 15” and substituting “*closing day* within the meaning of the *Local Government Electoral Act 2025*”;
- (b) by omitting from subsection (7) “in accordance with Part 15 and any regulations made for the purpose of that Part” and substituting “in accordance with the *Local Government Electoral Act 2025*”.

**18. Part 15 repealed**

Part 15 of the Principal Act is repealed.

**19. Schedules 6, 7 and 8 repealed**

Schedules 6, 7 and 8 to the Principal Act are repealed.

OFFICIAL

Local Government Code of Conduct Panel  
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PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

Mr Michael Stretton  
Chief Executive Officer  
Hobart City Council  
[michael.stretton@hobartcity.com.au](mailto:michael.stretton@hobartcity.com.au)

Dear Mr Stretton

**Outcome of Magistrates Court Review  
Code of Conduct Panel determination  
Councillor Ryan Posselt against Councillor Louise Elliot (C33689)**

I write in relation to the above Code of Conduct Panel determination. As previously advised, in November 2024 Councillor Elliot applied to the Magistrates Court (Administrative Appeals Division) for a review of the determination.

The Court determined the appeal on 22 December 2025, affirming the determination of the Code of Conduct Panel. The appeal is now concluded. Accordingly, the determination report should now be included within an item on the agenda for the first meeting of the Council at which it is practicable to do so, and which is open to the public. I have enclosed a copy of the determination report dated 23 October 2024.

With respect to the sanctions imposed by the Panel, please note the following:

- Councillor Elliot has already served the 7-day suspension imposed by the Panel. This was served prior to the lodgement of her application for review; and
- Councillor Elliot is required to attend the training specified by the Panel within 6 weeks of the tabling of the report. The Office of Local Government will be in contact in the New Year to confirm details of the training.

Please note that the determination report remains confidential until it is included within an item on the agenda for a meeting of the Council.

I have written to Councillor Posselt and Councillor Elliot in similar terms.

Please contact me on (03) 6232 7220 or by email at [lgconduct@dpac.tas.gov.au](mailto:lgconduct@dpac.tas.gov.au) if you have any queries.

Yours sincerely



**Frances Smythe**  
Executive Officer  
Code of Conduct Panel

16 December 2025

*Encl. Determination Report – C33689*  
cc: Ms Sarah Cornish – City of Hobart

Section 28ZK (7) of the *Local Government Act 1993* requires that any person who receives a determination report must keep the determination report confidential until the report is included within an item on the agenda for a meeting of the relevant council. Failure to do so may result in a fine of up to 50 penalty units.

*Local Government Act 1993*

**CODE OF CONDUCT PANEL DETERMINATION REPORT**

**HOBART CITY COUNCIL CODE OF CONDUCT**

**Complaint brought by Councillor Ryan Posselt against Councillor Louise Elliot**

**Code of Conduct Panel**

- Jill Taylor (Chairperson)
- Frank Neasey (Legal Member)
- David Sales (Local Government Member)

Date of Determination: 16 October 2024

Content Manager Reference: C33689

**Summary of the complaint**

A code of conduct complaint was submitted by Councillor (Cr) Ryan Posselt to the General Manager – Hobart City Council under cover of a statutory declaration dated 10 July 2023. Cr Posselt's complaint was investigated and determined by a previous Panel that found the whole or part of the complaint proven. Cr Elliot appealed that decision.

On 19 March 2024, a Consent Order was issued by the Hobart Magistrates Court setting aside the original decision ordering that it be remitted to a differently constituted Panel for redetermination in accordance with procedural fairness.

The complaint alleges that Cr Elliot breached the following parts of the City of Hobart Elected Member Code of Conduct adopted by Council on 20 February 2023.

**PART 7 - RELATIONSHIPS WITH COMMUNITY, COUNCILLORS AND COUNCIL EMPLOYEES**

**7.1 A councillor –**

- (a) *must treat all persons fairly; and*
- (b) *must not cause any reasonable person offence or embarrassment; and*
- (c) *must not bully or harass any person*

**PART 8 - REPRESENTATION**

1. *When giving information to the community, an elected member must accurately represent the policies and decisions of the Council.*

5. *An elected member's personal views must not be expressed publicly in such a way as to undermine the decisions of the Council or bring the Council into disrepute.*

6. *An elected member must show respect when expressing personal views publicly*

7. *The personal conduct of an elected member must not reflect, or have the potential to reflect, adversely on the reputation of the Council.*

**Initial assessment**

Following the decision of the Court, the Executive Officer forwarded Cr Posselt's complaint of 10 July 2023, to the Chairperson to conduct an initial assessment in accordance with the requirements of section 28ZA of the *Local Government Act 1993* (the Act). Apart from Cr Posselt's complaint of 10 July 2023 no other documentation from the original investigation and determination was made available to the Panel.

Having assessed the complaint against the provisions of sections 28ZB and 28ZC of the Act, the Chairperson determined that:

- the complaint should not be dismissed on the grounds that it was frivolous or vexatious regarding the social media posts made by Cr Elliot that he found to be personally offensive, and which have undermined Council decisions and her fellow councillors;
- the complainant had made a reasonable effort to resolve the complaint. The Chairperson arrived at this conclusion having regard to email requests by Cr Posselt to Cr Elliot requesting her to remove some of the posts and desist from re-tweeting others;
- the complaint substantially related to a contravention of City of Hobart Elected Member Code of Conduct, namely Parts 7.1. (a), (b) and (c) and Parts 8.1, 8.5, 8.6 and 8.7;
- the complaint does not disclose that an offence may have been committed or that it should more appropriately be dealt with by another person or authority;
- having made enquiries of the Code of Conduct Executive Officer, there was no relevant direction under section 28ZB(2) or 28ZI of the Act that would apply to the complainant and the complaint.

On this basis, the Chairperson determined that the complaint be investigated.

The complainant, respondent councillor and the General Manager were notified of the outcome of the initial assessment by letter dated 9 May 2024.

**Claim of apprehended bias**

On 8th July 2024, Cr Elliot sent an email to the Acting Director of Local Government, Michael Mogridge, expressing concern that the Panel would be unable to bring an open, unbiased mind to the determination of the complaint and that the panel should be replaced.

Upon being informed of this, ultimately the Panel wrote to Cr Elliot on 23rd July 2024 requesting that she make a submission in respect of her claim of apprehended bias, detailing the reasons to support her allegation. Cr Posselt was also invited to make a submission regarding apprehended bias, but he declined to do so.

Cr Elliot provided her written response on 29 July 2024 which the Panel considered. The Panel concluded that Cr Elliot had not provided sufficient reasons for the Panel to recuse itself and Cr Elliot was advised of this on 8 August 2024.

**Investigation**

In accordance with section 28ZE of the Act, the Code of Conduct Panel investigated the complaint.

**Material considered by the Panel**

The following documents have been presented to the Panel to consider as evidence in this matter and have been so considered:

- Cr Posselt's complaint under cover of a statutory declaration dated 10 July 2023 with attachments (19 pages in all)

- City of Hobart Elected Member Code of Conduct adopted by Council on 20 February 2023
- Cr Elliot's response to the complaint under cover of a statutory declaration dated 17 June 2024
- City of Hobart Policy – Elected Members' Development and Support – Corporate Governance – Part T – adopted by Council on 24 April 2023

Cr Posselt alleges that Cr Elliot has used social media (Twitter now X and Facebook) to post information that brings the Hobart City Council into disrepute, undermines its decisions and contains inaccurate information resulting in misinformation. He further alleges that Cr Elliot has bullied him and other councillors and has named him in a defamatory manner which he claims is unfair, embarrassing and offensive. Cr Posselt submitted eight examples of social media posts by Cr Elliot supporting his complaint.

Cr Elliot provided her response under cover of a statutory declaration dated 17 June 2024. Whilst not denying she engaged in the social media, Cr Elliot pointed out that in some instances the initial posts were made by others.

### **Hearing**

As per section 28ZH of the Act the Code of Conduct Panel held a hearing on 9 September 2024 at Floor 6 of the Executive Building, 15 Murray Street, Hobart.

Following the Panel's decision to proceed to a hearing in accordance with section 28ZG (1) the Executive Officer contacted the parties to arrange for a mutually convenient day and time for the hearing. On 15 August 2024 Cr Elliot advised by email that for her own safety and mental health she would not be attending a hearing and that she did not wish to receive any more correspondence from the Panel. Considering this advice, the Panel wrote to Cr Elliot on 15 August 2024 advising her that she could have a support person attend a hearing with her or alternatively appear electronically. Ultimately neither of these options were taken up by Cr Elliot.

In order to meet the requirements of section 28ZE (1)(c), observing the rules of natural justice, the Panel provided written notice to both Cr Elliot (on 19th August 2024) and Cr Posselt (on 20th August 2024) of the date, time and location of the hearing.

As a matter of protocol, the Executive Officer called Cr Elliot in the foyer of the Executive Building prior to the commencement of the hearing. Cr Elliot was not in attendance.

Given that only Cr Posselt was in attendance, the process was adopted whereby Cr Posselt spoke to each of the eight examples of the alleged social media posts made by Cr Elliot. He was then questioned by Panel members in relation to each one. The Panel drew Cr Elliot's submission to each of the social media posts to his attention asking Cr Posselt to respond.

Each of the eight social media posts were allocated (by the Panel) a reference identifier as follows:

- A A tweet and re-tweet on 4 July 2023 by Cr Elliot referring to Cr Posselt as "Clown Man"
- B A tweet dated 2 July 2023 by Cr Elliot with headline "HOBART HATES WOMEN"
- C A tweet dated 28 February 2023 by Cr Elliot with headline "MALE COLLEAGUE AT BOILING POINT AS FEMALE COUNCILLOR PROPOSES MOTION TO MAKE PUBLIC SPACES SAFE FOR ALL"
- D A Facebook post by Cr Elliot on 7 July 2023 (as noted by Cr Posselt) with headline "POLICY DEVELOPMENT – The Hobart Way". The Panel noted that the date on the post was 24 June 2023.
- E A Facebook post by Cr Elliot on 7th July 2023 relating to the absence of policy consultation and policy to support major changes
- F A Facebook post by Cr Elliot dated 21 June 2023 with headline "VACANT LAND TAX"

- G A Facebook post by Cr Elliot dated 15 April 2023 with headline "EMPTY HOUSE WARNING"
- H A retweet on 6 July 2023 by Cr Elliot to a tweet by Mr. Man containing graphic content

**Exhibit A**

Cr Posselt alleges that this breaches Parts 7.1 (a), (b) and (c). Cr Posselt said that this was entirely intended to undermine him by inferring he is not a kind person and is adversarial. Cr Posselt also claims this is one example of Cr Elliot bullying and harassing him. Cr Posselt further alleges that because Cr Elliot has many followers, she intentionally tweets and retweets knowing her followers will make offensive remarks of Cr Posselt. He added that it is not reasonable for Cr Elliot to name call referring to him as a hypocrite and a clown. Cr Posselt sent an email to Cr Elliot on 4 July 2023 asking her to delete a tweet which she replied that she would not.

When questioned by the Panel as to why Cr Elliot referred to him as "Clown Man", Cr Posselt said that she regularly called him that on social media and it stemmed from a Council meeting where he referred to that Council as being a circus, which he said he apologised for and withdrew the comment within one minute. Regarding Cr Elliot referring to him as a hypocrite, the Panel questioned him about comments he made about Cr Zucco. It was put to Cr Posselt that this was the reason Cr Elliot may have called him a hypocrite as Cr Zucco may have been offended by his comments. Cr Posselt said that he could see how Cr Elliot was trying to draw a comparison, but Cr Posselt said that a previous Panel deemed it to be "political discourse". This related to a complaint that Cr Elliot had lodged against Cr Posselt, which Cr Zucco co-signed. The Panel asked whether Cr Posselt was being unkind to or trashing Cr Zucco with his comment. Cr Posselt replied by saying he did not agree that he had been unkind to Cr Zucco or had trashed him as the context was different, although he could see that Cr Elliot was trying to draw the link to show him in a bad light. Cr Posselt stressed that he takes offence to being called a hypocrite and a "Clown Man" and, in his complaint, alleges Cr Elliot's posts target him, and she refuses to refrain when requested to do so.

In her written response to the complaint Cr Elliot stated that she did not support name-calling, adding it was a mistake by her to call Cr Posselt "Clown Man". However, she said that this should be considered in the context of how Cr Posselt has treated her and the lasting impact it has had on her.

**Exhibit B**

In his written complaint Cr Posselt alleges this breaches Part 7.1 (a), (b) & (c), as well as Part 8.1, 8.5 and 8.7. Cr Posselt claims this was "way beyond the limit of the code of conduct". He said it was completely inaccurate and outrageous. The Council and the councillors in this photo to his knowledge have never intimidated women as a cohort.

Cr Posselt said that the trigger for Cr Elliot was that a specific motion (relating to public toilets) she put to Council did not get majority support. Cr Posselt told the hearing that he chose to walk out of the meeting and did not participate. Despite this his photo was included. Cr Posselt said that social media is all about exposure and in this instance over 6000 people had seen this tweet. Cr Elliot has tagged people with the same views on the subject matter. The Panel asked Cr Posselt what he thought Cr Elliot's post was referring to with the descriptor "Nazi name calling and like Hitler calling others rats". Cr Posselt said that this was a comment linked to Posie Parker's visit to Australia where there were Nazi salutes at her speech in Melbourne.

Cr Posselt said in his view women are equals and probably the most offensive thing to say about him is to call him a misogynist. When asked by the Panel whether he was only concerned about himself in relation to this tweet, Cr Posselt responded by saying that whilst he can only speak for himself, he was positive that everyone in the photograph would be offended. Cr Posselt stated that the action of this tweet by Cr Elliot led to some councillors identified being bullied online.

In her written response, Cr Elliot stated that she did not create the post, but she was empathetic to

Women Speak Tasmania. Cr Elliot added that she reconsidered her post and deleted it within hours. When asked by the Panel whether he thought Cr Elliot had deleted the post within hours Cr Posselt said he didn't know but he thought she probably did because at that time the Director of

Local Government became involved. Cr Posselt said that irrespective, once a tweet is made you lose complete control. At that point it had been seen by 6,700 people and possibly many more before it was deleted.

The Panel questioned Cr Posselt in relation to his allegation that this tweet breached Part 8.1, not accurately representing policies and decisions of council. Cr Posselt said Council had adopted "the modern way of providing public toilets", that is single cubicles and all gender use. Cr Posselt added that the motion was defeated because Council already had a policy on this, and that defeat of the motion was not aimed at women's right to speak without fear and intimidation. Cr Posselt said that this post was inaccurate because Cr Elliot made it an issue about women's safety. Cr Posselt was then asked if the post represented an inaccurate decision of Council. Cr Posselt responded that the post does not reflect exactly what Council's position is in relation to public toilets.

Cr Posselt added that this post adversely effects the reputation of Council by showing a majority of councillors who Cr Elliot wrongly claims hate women.

#### Exhibit C

Cr Posselt alleges this breaches Parts 7.1 (a), (b) and (c).

Cr Posselt told the hearing that he made a complaint to Tasmania Police following receiving thousands of twitter notifications within a 48-hour period, some of which were threatening. Cr Posselt said it was hard to estimate how many views Cr Elliot's tweet received but suggested it was "in the order of millions". As a result of this Cr Posselt claimed that he received many threats to him and his family. Cr Posselt said he received so many messages that he was forced to turn his phone off for a time. Cr Posselt said he went to Tasmania Police on the advice of the CEO, Hobart City Council. Cr Posselt alleges that during this period Cr Elliot kept responding to messages asking who he was and replying that he was a councillor and member of the Australian Labor Party. Cr Posselt said that Cr Elliot could have resisted responding to these comments, but she did respond to keep debate alive. Cr Posselt said that Tasmania Police suggested that he install security lights and consider resigning as a councillor.

Following this advice from Tasmania Police, Cr Posselt sent Cr Elliot an email on 24 February 2023 at 9.47am headed "Cease and Desist" asking her "to cease and desist from fuelling the fire". At 10.22am on the same day with the same heading Cr Posselt received an email from Sall Grover asking him to "...cease and desist from ... stating that a Tweet I posted of Louise Elliot's speech is causing 'damage' to you and your family...", being a demonstrably false claim. Cr Posselt made the point that Cr Elliot had deliberately passed Cr Posselt's email on to Sall Grover, who was making a big deal of this matter, with the intention of making the situation worse. Cr Posselt stated that he was so concerned that he sent an email on 24 February 2023 to the then Director of Local Government, the CEO of Hobart City Council and the Minister for Local Government.

When questioned by the Panel, Cr Posselt agreed that he did roll his eyes, going on to say that he is prone to moving around and does not like sitting still. Cr Posselt said that he rolled his eyes in response to evidence Cr Elliot had cited that he felt was clearly incorrect. Cr Posselt claimed that the post Cr Elliot made on social media was a select clip of a debate that went for over one hour.

The Panel asked Cr Posselt to comment on some of the descriptors Cr Elliot used to describe him in her written response to his complaint. She had described his behaviour as "immature, atrocious, and that he was highly unprofessional and disrespectful". Cr Posselt said that he disagreed adding, in his opinion, those words could be used to describe Cr Elliot.

Cr Elliot made it clear in her submission that she did not create the post, but did agree that she shared it. In her submission Cr Elliot expressed concern about Cr Posselt's body language stating that he was "huffing and puffing, shaking his head and rolling his eyes". Cr Posselt does not disagree with this assessment but says that the context is missing. Cr Elliot claims that Cr Posselt ridiculed her to the Chamber when there were members of the public watching in person and online.

At the conclusion of the hearing Cr Posselt provided a hard copy of an email he sent on 24 February 2023 to the Minister for Local Government, the Director of Local Government and the CEO, Hobart City Council, to which was attached an email to him of the same date from Cr Elliot. An electronic version of the email was later sent on 20 September 2024 to Cr Elliot by the Executive Officer for her information, given that she was not present at the hearing. The Panel, however, determined that it did not make any material difference to its investigation. Both Cr Posselt and Cr Elliot were advised of this on 20 September 2024.

**Exhibit D**

Cr Posselt alleges this breaches Parts 8.1 and 8.5. Cr Posselt said that this post is inaccurate and goes to undermining Council process.

Cr Posselt was asked by the Panel whether there is any written documentation that once all councillors have debated an issue and voted on it, councillors are expected to support the Council position irrespective of how they voted on the motion. Cr Posselt said that this goes to the heart of the part of the Code that says councillors cannot undermine Council policy and decisions. Cr Posselt went on to say that a councillor may make comment on any matter, but they must portray it in an accurate, delicate and sensitive manner and make it very clear that it is a personal view.

Cr Posselt said that Cr Elliot's post suggests that Council policy is being developed through social discourse and is being changed on the fly. Cr Posselt said that is not how policy is developed at the Hobart City Council. In the case of doubling Council rates for some properties, Cr Posselt said that Council made the decision to do so, and it was up to the officials to work out how it is done. The Panel asked Cr Posselt what in Cr Elliot's post was inaccurate. Cr Posselt replied that Cr Elliot had thrown a lot of doubt about the process that led to the decision thereby undermining the decision. Cr Posselt went on to say that Cr Elliot may not have agreed with the decision, but her post inferred a lack of governance and no policy, thus relating to the process. The Panel then put the question to Cr Posselt whether Cr Elliot was wrong when she said there was no policy. Cr Posselt replied that there was a Council paper so effectively there was policy on this matter.

In her written response to the complaint, Cr Elliot states that she is permitted to disagree and highlight areas of concern, and she believes that she communicates honestly. She points to a recent determination where a Panel found that an expression of criticism in itself is not disrespectful. Cr Elliot states that some of the comments made by the councillor in that particular case were highly critical of his Council.

**Exhibit E**

Cr Posselt alleges this breaches Part 8.5. Cr Posselt said that his post was still in relation to the previous one, i.e. the doubling of Council rates. The motion was put and passed 8 votes to 4. The Panel asked Cr Posselt whether the debate on the rates item was specific to it or part of the overall budget documentation. Cr Posselt said his recollection was that there was a paper on the rate increase which was not pointed but it formed part of the overall budget documentation. The Panel asked Cr Posselt how Cr Elliot's posts brought the Council into disrepute. Cr Posselt replied by saying Cr Elliot's post "NO consultation, NO policy NO idea" suggests that Council does not do due diligence which is totally incorrect. According to Cr Posselt, Cr Elliot claims that there was no deep detailed consultation, but he believes that consultation did occur as he remembers having discussion with landowners and short-stay proprietors.

The Panel put to Cr Posselt that merely inaccurately reporting what a council is doing doesn't necessarily go to undermining its decisions or bringing Council into disrepute. Cr Posselt agreed with this as a general rule but claims that Cr Elliot's post, particularly saying Council has no idea, does bring Council into disrepute and she deliberately tried to undermine the decision of the 8 councillors who had voted for the motion. Cr Posselt added that this post suggested the Council is unworkable.

In her response Cr Elliot says she has done no more than express fair, albeit critical, comment about her own Council for the purpose of highlighting areas of concern. Cr Elliot claims this permits her to use hyperbole. Cr Posselt disagreed with this but said a councillor can make comment if they believe something is inaccurate, but they should do it in a respectful manner. Cr Posselt said that Cr Elliot's post said there was no consultation when, in fact, there was.

**Exhibit F**

Cr Posselt alleges this breaches Part 8.5. Cr Posselt said that this post is like the previous one in terms of the breach of the Code, in that it undermines a Council decision and suggests that there was no policy to support the decision. Cr Posselt added that Cr Elliot's post suggesting that the policy is a form of punishment is inaccurate. Cr Posselt said the reason Council passed this policy was to provide a disincentive for land banking in the current housing market. He added that Cr Elliot may take a different view.

Cr Posselt agreed that Cr Elliot has the right to make comment on issues she does not agree with but stressed that it must be done in an accurate, respectful and sensitive manner. Cr Elliot saying it is a "punitive broad-brush punishment by a Council that believes that they own your property" is inaccurate and inflammatory, he said.

In her response, Cr Elliot said that she was sharing her concerns with the community relating to how she perceives Council decisions and policy change is made at Council. She added that in her opinion her posts are true.

**Exhibit G**

Cr Posselt alleges this breaches Part 8.6. The Panel asked Cr Posselt if he could identify any of the people in the photograph. He said he recognised the women with curly blonde hair as someone who sits on the Council's Housing with Dignity committee, but he did not know her name. The other one he knew, sitting at the right of the photo, was Ben Bartl from the Tenant's Union.

Cr Posselt said that he made a complaint in relation to this post because he had been contacted by a "multitude" of people complaining about Cr Elliot's comments, saying it was "bad and dangerous". Cr Posselt went on to say that it had the potential to put people in the photograph at risk and to cause them to be treated unfairly. Cr Posselt said that the concern was that Cr Elliot raised the level of anxiety by suggesting that property owners of empty dwellings need to assess their security arrangements.

Cr Posselt said that not all people in the community are reasonable and posts such as this could be antagonistic and a trigger for some. Cr Posselt added that by making the allegation about what someone said in a post with a photograph of four people, infers that one of those in the photograph made that statement. This means that there are three people there who could be targeted and did not make such a comment. Cr Posselt questioned the ethics of doing this.

The Panel asked Cr Posselt if there was a problem with Cr Elliot reporting what she had heard. Cr Posselt responded by saying the issue is not what was said but the implication that someone in the accompanying photograph has said it.

The Panel asked Cr Posselt if the comments were made without the photograph would it be disrespectful. Cr Posselt said that if the picture wasn't there, he still felt the comments were inappropriate, but it may not have breached the Code.

In her written response, Cr Elliot did not dispute she made this post on Facebook, which included the photograph, adding that she did not name the person who made the comment. Cr Elliot said she made the post with genuine concern for property owners saying that it was a "highly credible threat of trespass and squatting."

**Exhibit H**

Cr Posselt alleges this breaches Part 8.7. Cr Posselt stated that this tweet contained sexually explicit content with disrespectful and inflammatory language. In her written response Cr Elliot submitted that she re-considered the matter and deleted the photographs within 24 hours. Cr Posselt did not dispute Cr Elliot's claim but pointed out that in a 24-hour period these could have been shared a multitude of times.

The Panel noted that in her response, Cr Elliot indicated that she did not refer to herself as a

councillor in this tweet. Cr Posselt claimed that this was irrelevant as Cr Elliot has a public profile as a councillor and just because she omits that from one social media post, the general public would not pick up on this omission as they are continually seeing her posts as a councillor of the Hobart City Council. Cr Posselt added that the fact that she uses the same photo on all her posts ties her to council activities. Cr Posselt added Cr Elliot has a national profile as a Hobart City councillor regularly appearing on Sky news.

Cr Elliot also said in her written response said the images were subject to a warning. Cr Posselt replied by saying that all that does is require someone to make "one extra click" to see the images. Cr Elliot also made the point that the images of the genitalia were blurred and not graphic. Cr Posselt said that he totally disagreed.

The Panel asked Cr Posselt how Cr Elliot's post has the potential to adversely affect the reputation of Council. Cr Posselt responded by saying that the behaviour of one person (who is a councillor) must reflect badly overall upon Council membership. Cr Posselt said that as he had lodged this complaint some time ago, on reflection now he may not have identified the correct part of the Code, but still believes it is a breach.

Prior to the conclusion of the hearing, the Panel provided Cr Posselt with an opportunity to comment on Cr Elliot's response of 17 June 2024. Cr Posselt said he considered he had been given the opportunity to comment on that during the hearing.

In his summation, Cr Posselt said that there was some confusion about "where the bar is set" in relation to social media commentary. Cr Posselt said that the social media posts he submitted with his complaint were only a selection and there were several more of that vein posted by Cr Elliot during the period covered by his complaint. He added that in his view they went beyond what was acceptable in relation to the Code. Cr Posselt completed his presentation by saying it was up to the Panel to establish a threshold in making its determination.

### **Determination**

As per section 28ZI of the Act the Code of Conduct Panel determines the complaint by upholding part of the complaint and dismissing the remainder of it, as outlined below.

The Code of Conduct Panel considered the information provided by Cr Ryan Posselt and the written response to the complaint submitted by Cr Louise Elliot as well as evidence given by Cr Posselt at the hearing. The Code of Conduct Panel concludes that Cr Elliot has breached Parts 7.1 (a), (b) and (c) and 8.5, and to that extent upholds the complaint, but did not breach Parts 8.1, 8.6 and 8.7, of the Code of Conduct which was current at the time of the alleged contraventions between 28 February 2023 and 7 July 2023, to that extent dismissing the complaint.

### **Reasons for determination**

Having provided commentary on each of the Exhibits Cr Posselt provided to support his complaint, the Panel refers to those it has determined are evidence of a breach of the Code under the various Parts. Where an Exhibit is not referenced in relation to a specific Part of the Code, the Panel was not satisfied that it amounted to sufficient evidence of a breach of the Code.

The Panel finds that Cr Elliot was in breach of the following Parts of the Code

#### **Part 7.1 (a)**

Having regard to the evidence before it, the Panel determined that Exhibits A and B, being tweets and/or retweets of Cr Elliot, amounted to breaches of this part of the code by her. The Panel determined that Cr Posselt had been unfairly singled out by Cr Elliot, often referring to him as 'Clown Man' and by including him in a photograph under the heading "HOBART HATES WOMEN". Cr Posselt stated that he has the utmost respect for women and felt his treatment in relation to this post in particular was unfair. Furthermore, in the Panel's view the fact that Cr Posselt absented himself from that debate is evidence of unfair treatment of him by Cr Elliot.

The Panel determines that Cr Elliot breached this part of the Code.

**Part 7.1(b)**

Cr Posselt submitted that Exhibits A, B and C demonstrated a breach of this part of the Code. The Panel accepted Cr Elliot's reference in exhibit A to Cr Posselt as a clown and a hypocrite publicly would have caused him embarrassment and offence. As to exhibit B, the Panel accepts that there was no evidence presented that demonstrates Cr Posselt "hates women". Cr Posselt indicated that any suggestion that he is misogynistic is the most offensive allegation that can be made against him. The Panel accepts that Cr Posselt was not present in the Chamber when the motion in question was debated and yet he was included in the photograph. The Panel concludes this tweet was aimed at offending Cr Posselt and possibly others.

In relation to Exhibit H, Cr Posselt contended that it demonstrated a breach of Part 8.7 of the Code. The Panel concluded that there was insufficient evidence that this post brought or had the potential to bring the Council into disrepute. However, the Panel is satisfied that Cr Posselt was, as a reasonable person, offended by the post and therefore determined that based on the evidence before it this Exhibit demonstrated a breach of Part 7.1 (b).

The Panel determines that Cr Elliot breached this part of the Code.

**Part 7.1 (c)**

Cr Posselt submitted that exhibits A, B and C demonstrated a breach by Cr Elliot of this part of the Code. Cr Posselt claimed in evidence that he was regularly referred to as 'Clown Man' by Cr Posselt in her social media posts. In her statement, Cr Elliot admitted that, in relation to exhibit A, she did call Cr Posselt 'Clown Man' whilst also admitting that it was a mistake. In relation to that exhibit the Panel accepted Cr Posselt's contention that Cr Elliot retweeted comments for the primary purpose of inciting others to make derogatory comment in relation to him. However, these intentional re-tweets resulted in Cr Posselt receiving many threats to his and his family's safety. In considering whether, in the context of exhibit A, Cr Elliot had breached this part of the Code, the Panel concluded that there was insufficient evidence establishing that she had bullied Cr Posselt, but it did agree that he had been harassed by the constant derogatory comments of Cr Elliot, either posted or re-tweeted on her social media.

The Panel determines that Cr Elliot breached this part of the Code

**Part 8.5**

Cr Posselt submitted Exhibits B, D, E and F are evidence that Cr Elliot made comment on Twitter that is inaccurate and misleading and as a result undermines the decisions of the Council. Cr Posselt said that a councillor can make comment in relation to a Council decision that they do not personally agree with provided that they make it clear it is their view only and that the content is factual and portrayed in a sensitive manner.

The evidence before the Panel shows that Cr Elliot, as an elected member, made public statements expressing personal views and asserting or implying that the Council as a body holds strong views against certain groups of people ('Hobart Hates Women'-exhibit B; several members of Council want to punish short-stay permit holders and owners of vacant land-exhibit F) and is effectively hopelessly inefficient and lacks any structure around policy development and decision making ('EPIC governance failure'-exhibit D; 'NO consultation NO policy NO idea'-exhibit E).

In her response Cr Elliot submits that the content she has posted is correct. However, the Panel does not accept these assertions or implications as factually correct. On the contrary, the Panel is of the view that these posts, particularly the bolded content, are aimed at "grabbing the headline" thereby deliberately conveying a poor perception of the Council. The Panel agrees that Cr Elliot could have posted her opinion in these instances and about these matters in an objective and less inflammatory manner, while still being critical of the relevant decisions by Council.

In respect of exhibits D, E and F Cr Elliot makes reference to an earlier decision of another Code of Conduct Panel, namely the matter of Keygan v Dorsey (Determined 1 August 2022; Content Manager Reference: C23924)

In that matter complaint had been made by Cr Keygan against Cr Dorsey about his strong and critical statements about the Burnie City Council and its councillors (of which he was one), both on Facebook and in the Advocate newspaper, concerning alleged inaction by the Council to protect fairy penguins that had been killed in a dog attack on the north-west coast near Burnie. In reasonably strong terms Cr Dorsey in both media expressed extreme disappointment with his fellow councillors in basically being unable to make even a simple decision to protect the penguins and effectively doing nothing.

Cr Keygan alleged a breach of a number of parts of the relevant Code of Conduct, including (relevant to the current matter) Part 8.5.

While Cr Dorsey did not dispute making the relevant personal and public statements, before the Panel proceeded to determine the matter (on the papers) it asked the complainant to identify the Council decision about which she alleged Cr Dorsey expressed a personal view. Apparently, she was unable to do so because ultimately the Panel dismissed the complaint under Part 8.5 of the Code as made (undermining decisions of Council) on the basis that the complainant could identify no relevant decision that was undermined by Cr Dorsey's remarks.

No such problem exists in the present case as the Panel had sufficient evidence before it to identify two relevant decisions, namely the motion relating to public toilets Cr Elliot put to Council that did not get majority support (see exhibit B) and the decision to increase rates (see exhibits D, E and F). The relevant decisions were, we are satisfied, undermined in the sense intended by Part 8.5, by the nature of Cr Elliot's public statements.

However, the Panel did make some general comments about the circumstances in which a councillor may criticise his/her fellow councillors, in saying:

*'There is a line between legitimate criticism and expression of opinion by a councillor about his or her fellow councillors or council and statements that are misleading, insulting, abusive or otherwise causative of reputational damage. The line must be clearly crossed before the Panel can determine that a breach of the Code has occurred. Here, the Panel could not be satisfied that the line was crossed'.*

The Panel is satisfied that in the present case Cr Elliot did 'cross the line'. The statement that 'Hobart hates women' is plainly absurd and the idea that a body of councillors has set out to deliberately punish a particular group of landowners equally so. So too is the suggestion that the Hobart City Council, as a decision-making body with a budget of millions of dollars, is essentially incapable of discharging its primary function, namely, to make decisions. Responsible political debate is one thing. Inflammatory, attention grabbing, wholly unobjective and essentially child-like statements like the above are quite another.

The Panel does not find that the decision in Keygan v Dorsey is of any particular assistance to Cr Elliot.

The Panel determines that Cr Elliot has breached this part of the Code, at least to the extent of undermining Council decision making.

**The Panel does not find that Cr Elliot was in breach of the following parts of the Code**

#### **Part 8.1**

Cr Posselt submitted that exhibits B and D demonstrated that Cr Elliot breached this part of the Code. The Panel determined that whilst Cr Elliot may have been selective with the information she posted, it does not necessarily follow that she misrepresented the policies and decisions of Council. On this basis, the Panel was not convinced that there was sufficient evidence that Cr Elliot had inaccurately misrepresented Council policies and decisions.

The Panel dismisses this part of the complaint.

**Part 8.6**

Cr Posselt submitted that Exhibit G demonstrated that Cr Elliot breached this part of the Code, by linking her comments to those individuals photographed. Whilst the Panel acknowledged that some if not all of those individuals photographed might have been inappropriately considered to have made the alleged statement, the Panel did not agree that Cr Elliot had been disrespectful in making this Facebook post.

The Panel dismisses this part of the complaint.

**Part 8.7**

Cr Posselt submitted that Exhibit H demonstrated that Cr Elliot breached this part of the Code. Whilst Cr Posselt contended that the actions of one must necessarily reflect on others within a particular body of people. The Panel does not support this view. The Panel concluded that there was insufficient evidence that this post reflected, or had the potential to reflect, adversely on the reputation of the Council. However, based on Cr Posselt's evidence that he found this post "offensive and derogatory", the Panel is satisfied that Cr Posselt, as a reasonable person, was caused offence and embarrassment by it.

The Panel therefore dismisses this part of the complaint to the extent that it relates to Part 8.7. However, based on the evidence presented and accepting that Cr Posselt said that he was offended by it, determined that a breach of Part 7.1(b) had occurred.

**Sanctions**

In accordance with section 28ZI(2) of the Act the Code of Conduct Panel may impose one or more of the following sanctions on the respondent if the complaint is upheld either fully or in part.

- a. A caution;
- b. A reprimand;
- c. A requirement to apologize to a person affected by the failure to comply with the code of conduct;
- d. A requirement to attend counselling or a training course, or
- e. A suspension.

On 18 September 2024, the Panel wrote to Cr Elliot inviting her to make a submission on sanction should the Panel find that the whole or part of the complaint was to be upheld. As Cr Posselt did not state what sanction he considered appropriate at the time of lodging his complaint, the Panel offered him the same opportunity to provide comment.

Cr Posselt responded by email on 18 September 2024 at 2.37pm stating that he considered a suspension was warranted given their number and varied nature and the continued insistence by Cr Elliot that she is innocent of any wrongdoing. Cr Posselt also submitted that Cr Elliot be required to make an apology to the elected members pictured in the post "Hobart Hates Women".

During the hearing Cr Posselt stated that he was offended and embarrassed by the post "Hobart Hates Women" for the reasons described above but when asked by the Panel whether he thought the other councillors photographed were offended, he replied that he could only speak for himself, but he thought that they would be. As the Panel was not satisfied based on the evidence before it, that all the councillors were offended by Cr Elliot's post, the Panel determined that there was no basis to require Cr Elliot to make an apology to those councillors.

Cr Elliot responded by email on 19 September 2024 at 9.59 am submitting that she considered no penalty should be applied. Cr Elliot stated that she had already served 17 days of a 30-day suspension in relation to this very complaint, prior to her appeal to the Magistrate's Court being upheld. The Executive Officer confirmed this to be the case.

The Panel determined that some form of sanction was required as it agreed with Cr Posselt's contention that Cr Elliot had re-tweeted content intentionally to cause offence and embarrassment to Cr Posselt. Furthermore, when requested by Cr Posselt that the posts be removed, owing to him receiving threats against himself and his family, Cr Elliot refused to do so.

The Panel concluded that whilst Cr Elliot stated that she did not initiate some of the posts, she understood by re-tweeting reference to Cr Posselt, it would draw negative comment about him. Even though Cr Elliot had subsequently removed two of the posts, she would have known that once posted, there is an immediate impact, especially when that person has a wide following.

The Panel determined, in relation to Part 8.5 of the Code, that some of Cr Elliot's comments about the Hobart City Council were inaccurate and misleading, using headlines implying that it was dysfunctional, thus undermining council decision making.

Given her insistence that her behaviour has not breached the Code, the Panel concluded that Cr Elliot fails to understand that an elected member has obligations over and above that of the everyday citizen. Specifically, the need to comply with the Code of Conduct.

The Panel is conscious that Cr Elliot has already served 17 days of a 30-day suspension imposed by the previous Panel in respect of breaches of the same complaint as found by that Panel. Nevertheless, it considers in all the circumstances that a sanction is required, both in terms of a short period of suspension and a requirement to attend a training course.

Cr Elliot is suspended from performing and exercising the functions and powers of her office as a councillor for a period of 7 days. The commencement of the suspension should take effect on the date following the completion of appeal period (section 28ZP of the Act), which is 28 days from the date of determination report.

In addition, Cr Elliot is required to attend a training course within a period of 6 weeks of the tabling of this determination to enable her to distinguish between her role as an elected member and private citizen when making posts using social media.

The Panel recommends that the Office of Local Government identify a suitable training person/organisation.

#### Timing of the Determination

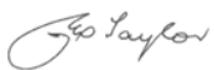
In accordance with section 28ZD (1) a Code of Conduct Panel is to make every endeavour to investigate and determine a code of conduct complaint within 90 days of the chairperson's determination that the whole complaint is to be investigated and determined.

The Panel has been unable to investigate and determine the complaint within 90 days of that determination, for the following reasons:

- Unavailability of Panel members, complainant and/or respondent at mutually convenient times for hearing due to other commitments
- Deliberating and deciding on the issue of apprehended bias

**Right to review**

A person aggrieved by the determination of the Code of Conduct Panel, on the ground that the Panel failed to comply with the rules of natural justice, is entitled under section 28ZP of the Act to apply to the Magistrates Court (Administrative Appeals Division) for a review of that determination on that ground. In accordance with section 17 of the Magistrates Court (Administrative Appeals Division) Act 2001, an appeal must be lodged within 28 days of the date of receipt of this determination.



Jill Taylor  
**Chairperson**



Frank Neasey  
**Legal Member**



David Sales  
**Member**

DATE: 16 October 2024

Minister for State Development, Construction and Housing  
Minister for Energy and Renewables  
Minister for Veterans' Affairs

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25 NOV 2022

Cr Anna Reynolds  
Lord Mayor  
Hobart City Council  
Email:

Dear Lord Mayor AMA,

Thank you for writing to me on 14 October 2022 and raising the potential of developing a 'Code Blue' system in Hobart to provide shelter for rough sleepers during extreme weather events. Safe Spaces have been an initiative developed by the Tasmanian Liberal Government to support rough sleepers and those in need of crisis accommodation, and one we are proud to continue to work with councils around the State to deliver. As we have also discussed, I am supportive of the idea of a Code Blue protocol being further explored to help our most vulnerable.

I understand that Hobart City Council officers in the Council's Connected City Division have been engaged with Department of Communities Tasmania staff through the expansion of the winter Safe Space beds. I am advised that discussions on a Code Blue protocol have also been held between these staff at officer level.

There are a number of partners that need to be involved in developing a Code Blue protocol, including our new housing authority Homes Tasmania and the State Emergency Service, as the Tasmanian Emergency Management Arrangements (TEMA) would need to align with the TEMA. Amongst other details, financial implications, security, liability and roles and responsibilities would need to be determined.

To progress this initiative, I encourage Council to work closely with all relevant government agencies to develop a proposal that can be considered by the Tasmanian Government.

Thank you for raising this matter with me and your focus on improving outcomes for those in need of housing, particularly during extreme weather events.

Yours sincerely,



Hon Guy Barnett MP  
Minister for State Development, Construction and Housing

## Extreme Weather Emergency Response Protocol

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- In the 2021 Census there were 2,350 Tasmanians recorded as homeless, which is a 45% increase in homelessness within Tasmania between 2016 and 2021.
- The Salvation Army's *Street to Home* program have regular contact with approximately 150 people experiencing homelessness within greater Hobart at any one time.
- The current capacity for the Hobart Night Safe Space is 35.
- Severe and increasingly frequent extreme weather events adversely impact the health and wellbeing of people experiencing homelessness more than people who are adequately housed.
- The development and implementation of an Extreme Weather Protocol will provide the administrative structure as well as the financial, physical, and human resources to stand up an 'overnight emergency refuge' to accommodate a greater number of people experiencing homelessness during extreme weather events, within Hobart.

### KEY ELEMENTS

- The impacts of extreme weather events such as severe winds, high rainfall, or extended periods of extreme heat or cold can have serious health and potentially life-threatening impacts on people who are experiencing homelessness.
- Funded through Homes Tasmania as a homelessness response, an Extreme Weather Protocol utilises the resources of specialist homelessness services and the facilities of local government to provide emergency support for people experiencing homelessness.
- A combined approach that utilises relevant venue, staff, and administrative resource contributions from the Tasmanian Government, the City of Hobart and specialist homelessness services to support the development, implementation and delivery of the Extreme Weather Protocol and standing up of the overnight emergency refuge.
- Based on BOM records the likelihood of an extreme weather event triggering the protocol is potentially five (5) times in any 12-month period.
- The City of Hobart financial contribution towards the development of the protocol would be staff time to the value of \$20,000, with a material, resource, staff and venue contribution up to the value of \$5,000 each time the protocol is stood up.

### RECOMMENDATION

- \$110,000 be allocated by the Tasmanian Government annually within the Homes Tasmania budget towards the implementation of an Extreme Weather Protocol within Hobart.

## Extreme Weather Emergency Response Protocol

### KEY ELEMENTS - DETAILS

THE IMPACTS OF EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS SUCH AS SEVERE WINDS, HIGH RAINFALL, OR EXTENDED PERIODS OF EXTREME HEAT OR COLD CAN HAVE SERIOUS HEALTH AND POTENTIALLY LIFE-THREATENING IMPACTS ON PEOPLE WHO ARE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS.

In Tasmania, studies have demonstrated that during severe/extreme heatwaves there are increased ambulance dispatches, increased ED presentations, and for all heatwave types combined, an increase in all-cause mortality.<sup>1-3</sup>

Research exploring the health impacts of climate change and weather on people experiencing homelessness is limited, though some observations can be drawn from the available evidence.<sup>4</sup>

Exposure to climate-related health risks from air pollution, extreme heat and cold, and foodborne, waterborne and vector borne diseases, are greater for people experiencing homelessness, particularly for those sleeping rough. These risks are exacerbated by the already compromised health of this population, difficulties accessing health and social services, and until recently, infrequently included in climate risk mitigation and disaster response planning.<sup>5,6</sup>

People experiencing homelessness, and particularly rough sleepers, have been shown to be more likely to visit an Emergency Department during heatwaves, and are at greater risk of heat-related illness and death during these events due to pre-existing vulnerabilities and patterns of heat exposure.<sup>7-9</sup>

During cold weather, at moderate and extreme levels, people experiencing homelessness are at higher risk of cold-related illness and death.<sup>10,11</sup> A qualitative study from South Australia found that people experiencing homelessness in South Australia reported adverse health impacts due to extreme cold due to wet bedding, clothing and that they were less able to keep themselves well.<sup>11</sup>

People experiencing homelessness are likely to face difficulties in accessing public water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) facilities (drinking water fountains, toilets, handwashing facilities, showers, etc.). Reduced access to WASH facilities is associated with increased health risks due to inability to maintain personal hygiene measures. Extreme weather events exacerbate WASH access challenges for this population and may reduce the ability of service providers to delivery additional support.<sup>12</sup>

## Extreme Weather Emergency Response Protocol

**FUNDED THROUGH HOMES TASMANIA AS A HOMELESSNESS RESPONSE, AN EXTREME WEATHER PROTOCOL UTILISES THE RESOURCES OF SPECIALIST HOMELESSNESS SERVICES AND THE FACILITIES OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT TO PROVIDE EMERGENCY SUPPORT FOR PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS.**

Sometimes referred to as a 'Code Blue' or 'Code Red' an Extreme Weather Protocol provides a framework for State and Local Government, and community sector organisations involved in delivering specialist homelessness services, to respond quickly to extreme weather events.

A protocol enables a community to quickly stand-up a local overnight emergency refuge and engage appropriate support for rough sleepers who may be impacted by extreme weather events. In order to do this, the protocol identifies the stakeholders, roles, responsibilities, the resource contribution of each party as well as the necessary triggers for action, mechanisms for implementation and communication channels.

The need for an Extreme Weather Protocol was raised at the Homelessness Summit held at the Hobart Town Hall in 2019. This was then included as a key goal identified for priority action when the Greater Hobart Homelessness Alliance (GHHA) was formed in that year. At the time the GHHA also advocated with the Salvation Army and the Hobart City Mission to initiate the Safe Space in Hobart, with the Hobart City Council providing the initial venue for 24 months at the Youth Arts & Recreation Centre and the rear of the Hobart City Hall.

The Tasmanian Government committed to funding the Safe Space in Hobart in 2019, and then Launceston and Burnie. The provision of extra beds to the Hobart Safe Space resulted in an increased capacity from 21 to 35 beds in 2022. Further to this the Tasmanian government provided for five extra beds per night during the winter months as a one-off arrangement in 2022.

The 35 beds allocated to the Hobart Safe Space are utilised almost every night, with the spaces usually booked out early each morning for the existing clients of local support services. Under the current arrangements this capacity cannot be increased without additional staff and resourcing. It is also well understood that the Safe Spaces are at capacity and that there are many community members experiencing homelessness who do not access Safe Spaces. At the 2021 Census a total of 2,350 people in Tasmania were homeless, up from 1,622 in 2016, a 44.8% increase in the five years since the previous Census in 2016.

The latest available information from the Salvation Army's *Street to Home* program, which has regular contact with visible rough sleepers within greater Hobart indicates that currently there are over 150 rough sleepers in the area. This figure however is likely to be an underestimation of the actual number as it may not include people sleeping in cars or inadequate, unsafe, or inappropriate situations.

Given the decreasing stock of affordable housing across Tasmania, increasing rental costs as well as increasing impacts of cost-of-living pressures on the community it is likely that the number of people experiencing homelessness, or sleeping in cars and unsafe locations will increase.

With climate change impacts forecast to result in an increase in the frequency, duration and severity of extreme weather events, an extreme weather protocol has the potential to significantly decrease the likelihood of injury or even death for the most vulnerable members of the community.

## Extreme Weather Emergency Response Protocol

**A COMBINED APPROACH THAT UTILISES RELEVANT VENUE, STAFF, AND ADMINISTRATIVE RESOURCE CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE TASMANIAN GOVERNMENT, THE CITY OF HOBART AND SPECIALIST HOMELESSNESS SERVICES TO SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT, IMPLEMENTATION AND DELIVERY OF THE EXTREME WEATHER PROTOCOL AND STANDING UP OF THE OVERNIGHT EMERGENCY REFUGE.**

The development of an Extreme Weather Protocol would be part of the government's operational homelessness response, not an emergency management response.

Targeted funding allocated to Homes Tasmania would provide the resources to engage the Hobart City Mission, the charity that is currently managing the Hobart Safe Space, as well as security to staff an overnight emergency refuge.

The Hobart City Mission staff would provide the expertise to manage the cohort of people presenting at the overnight emergency refuge.

The Hobart City Council would provide Mathers House as the venue for the overnight emergency refuge, and utilise the equipment, materials, and supplies within the City's mobile emergency response container. The City would also provide emergency response trained staff to facilitate the opening and management of the overnight emergency refuge in collaboration with Hobart City Mission specialist homelessness staff.

The development of the protocol will include a MOU between participating State and Local Governments, as well as specialist homelessness and relevant health services.

A Communication Plan would be an integral part of the protocol, to ensure that the Housing Connect Front door, all local specialist homelessness, and community services as well as local governments within the greater Hobart area are aware of the protocol, the relevant triggers and how to direct people to the overnight emergency refuge. There are two phases to this request, each with different resource requirements.

### **Phase 1**

The development of the Extreme Weather Protocol documentation. This is a relatively low to no cost activity for the Tasmanian Government as the City of Hobart and stakeholders involved in the development of this submission have committed staff and resources to participating in the protocol's development.

### **Phase 2**

Resource the administration and implementation of the protocol. This element of the process requires staffing the overnight emergency refuge for 12-hour periods, depending on the duration an extreme weather event. This would require the following.

- Administration of the Protocol– Provided by Homes Tasmania, funded by the Tasmanian Government.
- Overnight Emergency Refuge Venue, Equipment and Staffing – Funded by the City of Hobart.
- Specialist Staffing – Provided by specialist homelessness services and security personnel, funded by Tasmania Government.
- Evaluation of the implementation of the protocol, funded by Tasmanian Government.

## Extreme Weather Emergency Response Protocol

**BASED ON BOM RECORDS THE LIKELIHOOD OF AN EXTREME WEATHER EVENT TRIGGERING THE PROTOCOL IS POTENTIALLY FIVE (5) TIMES ANY 12-MONTH PERIOD.**

While the detail of the triggers and the stages and steps to enact the protocol would be developed in greater detail during the first stage of this project, the protocol would be enacted if one of the extreme weather events were forecast.

- The Bureau of Meteorology issue a severe or extreme heatwave warning.
- The Bureau of Meteorology forecast a minimum temperature of 0°C or lower.
- The Bureau of Meteorology issue a severe or extreme storm warning.

As well as the above the forecast weather event will need to be of at least 12 hours duration and take place overnight (i.e. 6pm – 6am) in order to enact the protocol.

Utilising historical data provided by BOM, this submission is based on the likelihood of there being five (5) extreme weather events of twelve hours duration of two consecutive nights, within a 12-month period.

## Extreme Weather Emergency Response Protocol

**CITY OF HOBART FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PROTOCOL WOULD BE STAFF TIME TO THE VALUE OF \$20,000, WITH A MATERIAL, RESOURCE, STAFF, AND VENUE CONTRIBUTION UP TO THE VALUE OF \$5,000 EACH TIME THE PROTOCOL IS STOOD UP.**

City of Hobart contributions to the development and implementation of the protocol include the following.

- Material Costs – this includes all perishable and single use items such as food, cleaning products, bedding, clothing, etc.
- Resource Costs – this includes emergency management resources required to stand up the emergency shelter, such as beds, pet storage, generators, etc.
- Staff – this includes time to coordinate the development of the protocol with other agencies, as well as staff to open and manage the emergency shelter for the duration of any event.
- Venue Costs – this includes the use of administrative equipment such as laptops and mobile phones, and vehicles, as well as electricity and heating/cooling costs.

## Extreme Weather Emergency Response Protocol

### RECOMMENDATION - DETAILS

This submission recommends that \$110,000 be allocated by the Tasmanian Government annually within the Homes Tasmania budget towards the implementation of an Extreme Weather Protocol within Hobart.

While the timing and duration of any extreme weather event cannot be accurately forecast, funding allocations for specialist homelessness and security staff working at the overnight emergency refuge needs to consider the difference in costs between weekdays and weekends.

The following estimates, therefore, based on specialist homelessness sector advice, would provide sufficient staffing for up to 24 people being accommodated at the overnight emergency refuge at Mathers House for a 12-hour period. This includes the following staff

- 1 Senior Worker
- 2 Support Staff
- 2 Security Guards

12 hours

Monday to Friday \$6,000

Saturday/Sunday \$11,000

Should more than 24 people be required to be accommodated during any 12-hour period, then the numbers of staff required by the specialist homelessness service would need to be increased accordingly, impacting the overall cost of implementation for each event.

In order to ensure sufficient funding to staff up to five extreme weather events of twelve hours duration, for two consecutive nights, within a 12-month period, the total cost being requested within this submission to be allocated annually to the Homes Tasmania budget is \$110,000.

## Extreme Weather Emergency Response Protocol

### THE GREATER HOBART HOMELESSNESS ALLIANCE

This submission has been initiated by the Greater Hobart Homelessness Alliance (GHHA) which was established by the City of Hobart in 2019. The GHHA is focused on improving policy, practice, and service delivery to achieve better long-term outcomes for people who are experiencing homeless or at risk of homelessness. The GHHA includes representation from a broad range of perspectives including:

- Commercial and business sector representation.
- Greater Hobart councils.
- People with a lived experience of homelessness.
- Representation from the health, housing and homelessness service sector (peak body/non government/community sector/government sector).
- University of Tasmania

The GHHA works to:

- Raise awareness of the complex issues about people who are experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness.
- Share information about the prevalence of homelessness in Greater Hobart.
- Provide a forum for the development of considered advocacy and lobbying.
- Enable engagement with all levels of government and across community sector organisations, policy makers and funding providers.
- Provide a forum for communication and collaboration between stakeholder organisations involved in housing and homelessness work in Greater Hobart.
- Inform government policy, programs and funding structures that facilitate collaborative approaches to service delivery which meet the needs of people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.
- Build partnerships between organisations, across different sectors and the tiers of government to deliver services and support to people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.
- Promote research to build the evidence base about good practice and inform improvements in service delivery.
- Consider new innovations or interventions aimed at responding to those experiencing homelessness, identifying, and monitoring risk.
- Share best practice in providing homelessness services and solutions.

### ORGANISATIONS & AGENCIES PARTICIPATING IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THIS PROPOSAL

**Extreme Weather Emergency Response Protocol**

As well as members of the Greater Hobart Homelessness Alliance staff from the following organisations and agencies were involved in developing this submission.

Bureau of Meteorology	Hobart City Mission
City of Hobart	Local Government Association of Tasmania
Clarence City Council	Neighbourhood Houses Tasmania
Department of Health	State Emergency Services
Department of Premier & Cabinet	University of Tasmania
Glenorchy City Council	

## Extreme Weather Emergency Response Protocol

### REFERENCES

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