



CITY OF HOBART

# AGENDA

OPEN PORTION OF THE COUNCIL MEETING  
MONDAY, 30 MARCH 2026  
AT 4.00PM



# The Mission

Working together to make Hobart a better place for the community.

## Our values

The Council is:



### People

We care about people – our community, customers and colleagues.



### Teamwork

We collaborate both within the organisation and with external stakeholders drawing on skills and expertise for the benefit of our community.



### Focus and Direction

We have clear goals and plans to achieve sustainable social, environmental and economic outcomes for the Hobart community.



### Creativity and Innovation

We embrace new approaches and continuously improve to achieve better outcomes for our community.



### Accountability

We are transparent, work to high ethical and professional standards and are accountable for delivering outcomes for our community.



City of **HOBART**

# Vision

**Our vision, mission values Hobart:  
A community vision for our island capital.**



**Hobart breathes.**



**Connections between nature, history, culture, businesses  
and each other are the heart of our city.**



**We are brave and caring.**



**We resist mediocrity and sameness.**



**As we grow, we remember what makes this place special.**



**We walk in the fresh air between all the best things in life.**



City of **HOBART**

# Elected Member Commitments\*

## **Respectful and Cooperative Behaviour:**

We will treat each other, staff, and stakeholders respectfully, fostering a collaborative environment.



## **Conduct and media use:**

We will advocate using transparent, evidence-based arguments, respect majority decisions, avoid public criticism of employees, and maintain workplace safety by refraining from harmful communication.



**We commit to acting respectfully, cooperatively, and with the city's best interests in mind.**



## **Objective, evidence-based communication:**

Our discussions and advocacy are grounded in reliable, shared evidence, avoiding personal attacks and promoting respectful debate before public commentary.



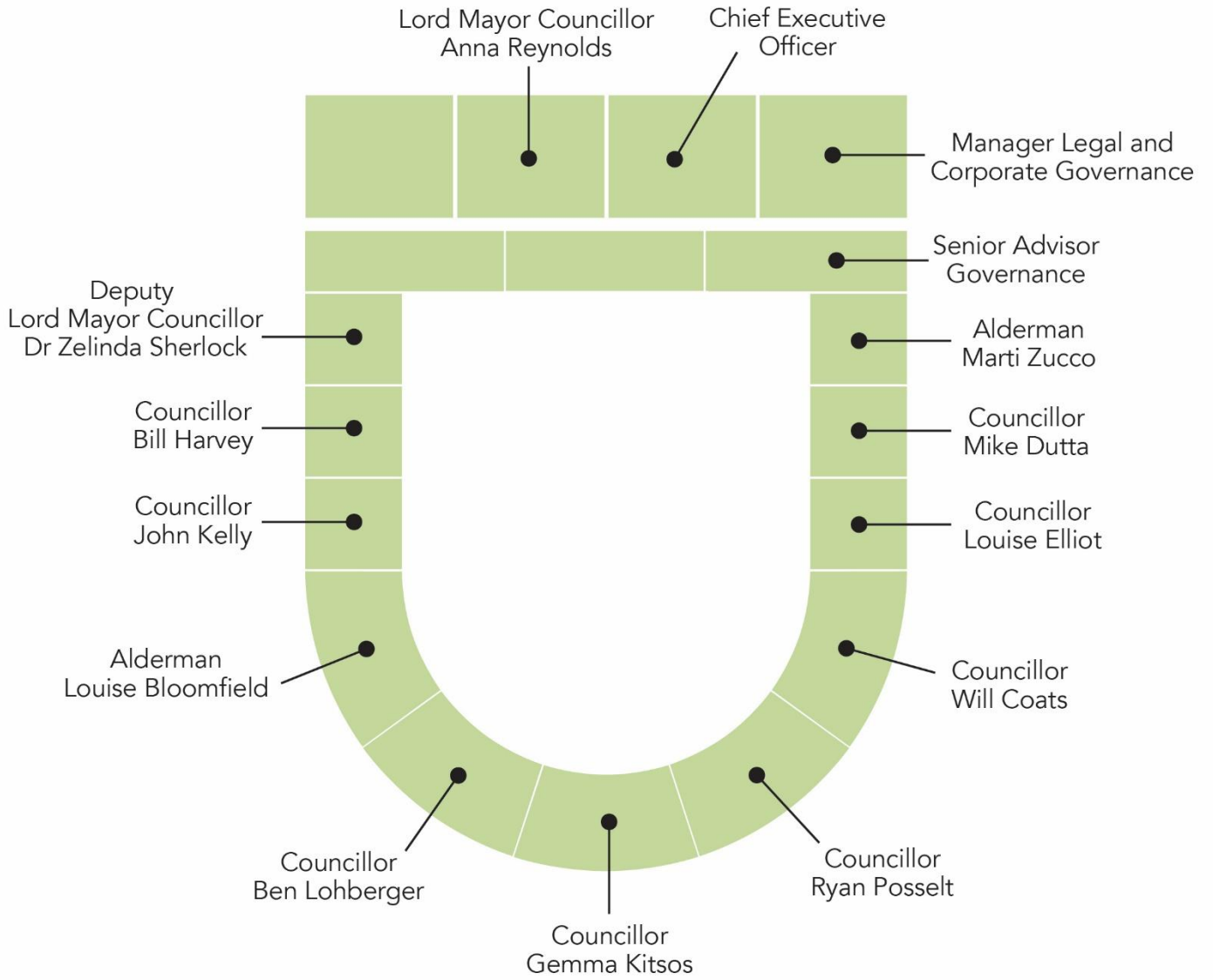
## **Roles and responsibilities:**

We recognise our duty to represent our community while being accountable, engaging in critical debate and holding others to account respectfully.

\*Endorsed by Council in February 2023 and recommitted to in February 2024



City of **HOBART**



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**A MEETING OF THE OPEN PORTION OF THE COUNCIL WILL BE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL ON MONDAY, 30 MARCH 2026 AT 4.00PM.**

**Michael Stretton  
Chief Executive Officer**

The title Chief Executive Officer is a term of reference for the General Manager as appointed by Council pursuant s.61 of the *Local Government Act 1993* (Tas).

**ELECTED MEMBERS:**

Lord Mayor Councillor A M Reynolds  
Deputy Lord Mayor Councillor Dr Z E Sherlock  
Alderman M Zucco  
Councillor W F Harvey  
Councillor M S C Dutta  
Councillor J L Kelly  
Councillor L M Elliot  
Alderman L A Bloomfield  
Councillor R J Posselt  
Councillor B Lohberger  
Councillor W N S Coats  
Councillor G H Kitsos

**APOLOGIES:**

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE: Nil.**

**1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

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**2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

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The Chairperson reports that she has perused the minutes of the meeting of the Open Portion of the Council meeting held on [Monday, 23 February 2026](#), finds them to be a true record and recommends that they be taken as read and signed as a correct record.

**3. TRANSFER OF AGENDA ITEMS**

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Are there any items, which the meeting believes, should be transferred from this agenda to the closed agenda or from the closed agenda to the open agenda, in accordance with the procedures allowed under Section 17 of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025*?

#### **4. COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIRPERSON**

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#### **5. NOTIFICATION OF COUNCIL WORKSHOPS**

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In accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025*, the Chief Executive Officer reports that the following workshops have been conducted since the last ordinary meeting of the Council.

Date: 2 March 2026  
Purpose: Halls Saddle Multi-Purpose Precinct – Project Plan Overview | Draft Creative City Strategy | Proposed Relocation of Farm Gate Market

**Attendance:**

Deputy Lord Mayor Councillor Dr Z E Sherlock, Councillor's W F Harvey, M S C Dutta, J L Kelly, L M Elliot, Alderman L A Bloomfield, Councillor's R J Posselt, B Lohberger and G H Kitsos

**Apologies:**

Lord Mayor Councillor A M Reynolds and Alderman M Zucco

**Leave of Absence:**

Nil

Date: 16 March 2026  
Purpose: Argyle Street Car Park – 24-Hour Parking | Hobart Bike Plan 2026 | Waterfront Interpretation Project | Dorney House: Update of Status and Future Options

**Attendance:**

Lord Mayor Councillor A M Reynolds, Deputy Lord Mayor Councillor Dr Z E Sherlock, Alderman M Zucco, Councillor's W F Harvey, M S C Dutta, J L Kelly, L M Elliot, Alderman L A Bloomfield, Councillor's R J Posselt, B Lohberger, and G H Kitsos

**Apologies:**

Nil

**Leave of Absence:**

Nil

Date: 23 March 2026  
Purpose: Soldiers Memorial Avenue and the Role of FOSMA – Context, Challenges and Future Partnership | Summer Events 2025-26 Debrief and Future Planning | Governance of Motions – Notices of Motions Audit | Chief Executive Officer’s Performance Plan – 6-monthly Update

**Attendance:**

Lord Mayor Councillor A M Reynolds, Deputy Lord Mayor Councillor Dr Z E Sherlock, Councillor’s W F Harvey, M S C Dutta, J L Kelly, L M Elliot, Alderman L A Bloomfield, Councillor’s R J Posselt, and B Lohberger

**Apologies:**

Alderman M Zucco and Councillor G H Kitsos

**Leave of Absence:**

Nil

## **6. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

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Regulation 36,37 and 38 *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025*.  
File Ref: 16/119-001

### **6.1 Public Questions**

## **6.2 Responses to Public Questions Taken On Notice**

“In accordance with the procedures approved in respect to Public Questions Time, the following responses to questions taken on notice are provided to the Council for information.

The Council is reminded that in accordance with Regulation 36(2) of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025*, the Chairperson is not to allow discussion or debate on either the question or the response.”

### **RECOMMENDATION**

***That the following responses to public questions taken on notice, be received and noted.***

#### **6.2.1 Dog Bite South Hobart Oval File Ref: F26/9497**

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Response of the Chief Executive Officer of 23 February 2026.

#### **6.2.2 Unfair allocation of South Hobart Oval usage times File Ref: F26/9503**

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Response of the Chief Executive Officer of 23 February 2026.

#### **6.2.3 South Hobart Oval Community Use File Ref: F26/9506**

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Response of the Chief Executive Officer of 23 February 2026.

#### **6.2.4 Relocation of Farmer's Market File Ref: F26/14907**

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Response of the Lord Mayor Councillor A M Reynolds of 12 February 2026.

#### **6.2.5 Public Statement Accuracy File Ref: F26/20301**

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Response of Alderman M Zucco of 24 March 2026.

**Meeting date:** 24 November 2025  
**Raised by:** Ed Swan  
**Response Author:** Michael Stretton  
**Topic:** **DOG BITE SOUTH HOBART OVAL**

**Question 1:**

What action has the Council undertaken to ensure that this dog which has now attacked a person is not continuing to use the ground with the potential to cause harm to legitimate recreational users?

**Question 2:**

Does Council believe that residents should be warned of the potential for future dog attacks?

**Question 3:**

It appears that Council Officers have determined, in conjunction with insurers, that the risk of dog attacks is an acceptable risk that sports and recreational users of the oval must accept. In this case the bite injury is on the thigh of a grown adult. Are elected members happy to accept this risk position and will you still hold this position if this attack was to happen to a young child?

**Response:**

As previously advised, Elected Members will consider the City's Dog Management Policy at the 23 February 2026 Council meeting, at which time the issues raised in his questions will be broadly addressed by the officer report.

Officers are also preparing a comprehensive Sportsground Policy for the 19 sportsgrounds managed by the City which will clarify expectations and responsibilities for both the City and sportsground users and guide how ground allocations are prioritised.

This will be considered after the finalisation of the Dog Management Policy.

**Meeting date:** 15 December 2026

**Raised by:** Sara Callaghan

**Response Author:** Michael Stretton

**Topic:** **UNFAIR ALLOCATION OF SOUTH HOBART OVAL  
USAGE TIMES**

**Preamble:**

Whilst the new booking system is welcome, the current allocation of South Hobart Oval to South Hobart Football Club (SHFC) is unreasonable and inconsistent with the Oval's role as a shared community space.

Bookings currently show SHFC booking the Oval up to seven days a week during the first three months of next year, including almost every weekend and after school hours. These bookings monopolise the prime times for community use. There is also evidence to date that the bookings times are not being fully utilised.

**Question 1:**

Will the Council review the current booking allocations for the Oval against its Open Space Inclusion and Community Access objectives, including the reasonableness of both the frequency and duration of the bookings?

**Question 2:**

Will the Council commit to guaranteed unbooked access times for the general community, particularly weekends, after school hours, and school holidays with priority given to informal community use rather than exclusive club bookings?

**Question 3:**

When does the Council, as an aside, expect to finalise and adopt the updated dog management policy, and will it specifically address dog access arrangements at South Hobart?

**Response:**

In order to answer your questions, it will be necessary for the Council to implement a new Dog Management Policy, and Sportsground Policy.

Elected Members will first consider the City's Dog Management Policy at the 23 February 2026 Council meeting.

Officers are also preparing a comprehensive Sportsground Policy for the 19 sportsgrounds managed by the City which will clarify expectations and responsibilities for both the City and sportsground users and guide how ground allocations are prioritised.

This will be considered after the finalisation of the Dog Management Policy.

**Meeting date:** 15 December 2025

**Raised by:** Roslyn Saltmarsh

**Response Author:** Michael Stretton

**Topic:** **SOUTH HOBART OVAL COMMUNITY USE**

**Preamble:**

We are very distressed at the ongoing divisive behaviour of the South Hobart Football Club which threatens our joy of living in South Hobart, by demanding so much use of the South Hobart Oval to the exclusion of we members of the community.

**Question 1:**

Do we as a community have to block book our green open spaces in order to use them?

**Question 2:**

If so, can we as a community block book 3 months ahead?

**Question 3:**

If so, when do the next bookings open and how much do we have to pay?

**Question 4:**

If not, why not?

**Response:**

Officers extend their thanks for communicating your questions and specifically express that the questions have been helpful in officers confirming that there is possible confusion and misunderstanding that exists around the sportsground booking process.

In response to your specific questions around the community use and booking of South Hobart Oval, officers advise that:

- All Sportsgrounds are available for use by members of the public for informal sporting or recreational uses at any time where there is no booking. There is of course, no fee for this use.

- If a member of the community wishes to use a Sportsground for an activity that is not informal sporting or recreational use, a booking is required to allow for the City to properly consider the proposed use. To book the ground, information, please visit the [City of Hobart website](#):
- Some fees and charges may apply, and these are:
  - **Assessment Fee** only for Charitable events.
  - **Booking Fee** only for non-sport Community Events, defined as: *Events organised by a community member or a community organization who wish to conduct an activity to provide a benefit for the community. Any / all profits generated from the activity is used to support the club, organisation presenting the activity or to receive the community rate any / all profits generated from the activity are used to support the club, organisation presenting the activity, or local charities.*
  - More information on these fees and charges can be found on the City's sportsground booking webpage.

**Meeting date:** 27 January 2026  
**Raised by:** Andrew Edwards  
**Response Author:** Lord Mayor Councillor Anna Reynolds  
**Topic:** **RELOCATION OF FARMER'S MARKET**

**Question 1:**

Lord Mayor, is it true that you are supporting investigations into moving the Farmer's Market to Collins Street?

**Question 2:**

If so – and I know council staff have raised the matter with at least two retailers – does this imply your lack of support for the bicycle lane program you supported when you voted against your own motion, to reject the advice originally sought?

**Response:**

I am aware the owner and operator of the Farm Gate Market has expressed interest in looking at an alternative site, because of the wind and slope issues they experience at the current Bathurst Street location. As with any such proposal, I will consider the professional advice when it comes before the Council.

I am not entirely sure what question two is referring to. The link between the Farm Gate Market's operational consideration and the bicycle lane program is unclear and the question is confusing.

What I can say is that I have consistently supported our city's bike lane program. I voted in favour of the Collins Street Tactical Bicycle Infrastructure trial on the following occasions: 27 May 2024; 16 September 2024 and 14 October 2024. My position on cycling infrastructure is clear and has not changed.

**Meeting date:** 23 February 2026  
**Raised by:** Trenton Hoare  
**Response Author:** Alderman Marti Zucco  
**Topic:** **PUBLIC STATEMENT ACCURACY**

**Question 1:**

Alderman Zucco, can you confirm that your public statement made on 21 December 2025 is accurate and does not potentially mislead the community? And if your statement is incorrect have you issued an apology to the community, and if not, why not?

**Response 1:**

It also does not change the facts that we had a large protest group who made comments that were inappropriate during the open council meeting when Cr Dutta moved a motion for a ceasefire plus more and to write to the Prime Minister and more.

This is all publicly available on the HCC Website.

My serious concern does not change *who was at that meeting on the 27th November 2023 supporting those chanting* the well-known antisemitic slogan "from the river to the sea." These are photos from that evening.

Two of them are very clear, Helen Burnett MP and a member of the Dutta family, and the photos speak for themselves.

NO in my opinion my comments do not "potentially" mislead the Public.

**Question 2:**

What specific evidence do you rely upon to support your claim that Mrs Dutta (a private citizen) was "clearly supporting" the phrase "from the river to the sea"? Did you witness her say explicit words, gestures, or make public statements demonstrating her endorsement of that phrase? Do you consider that a mere attendance at a public meeting in the Town Hall automatically means that an individual supports a specific political slogan or position that slogan may insinuate? And do you accept that public attribution of political views to a named individual, without clear evidentiary foundation, may give rise to reputational damage?

**Response 2:**

As a private Citizen Mrs Dutta is member of a political family who has the ability to put forward a direct question to me as has Cr Dutta via email previously and I amended the face-book post to reflect the points raised by Cr Dutta.

I did not make the comment that Mrs Dutta said anything the above is clear as per the face-book post large protest group, the photos speak for themselves. Who was at that meeting on the 27th November 2023 supporting those chanting photos from that evening.

In closing I find the public question as politically motivated. I will not answer any further politically motivated questions in the future.

**7. CONSIDERATION OF SUPPLEMENTARY ITEMS**

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Ref: Part 2, Regulation 10(7) of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025*.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the Council resolve to deal with any supplementary items not appearing on the agenda, as reported by the Chief Executive Officer in accordance with the provisions of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025*.

**8. INDICATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

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Ref: Part 2, Regulation 10(8) of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025*.

Elected Members are requested to indicate where they may have, or are likely to have, an interest in any item appearing on the agenda.

**9. PETITIONS**

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**9.1. Tabling of a Petition - Ridgeway Waterworks Zipline**  
**File Ref: F26/17146**

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Report of the Director Strategic and Regulatory Services of 19 March 2026 and attachment.

Delegation: Council

**REPORT TITLE:                   TABLING OF A PETITION - RIDGEWAY  
  WATERWORKS ZIPLINE**

**REPORT PROVIDED BY:** Director Strategic and Regulatory Services

**1.     Report Summary and Key Issue**

- 1.1.   The purpose of this report is to table a petition received by the City calling for the Council to oppose the proposed zipline on Ridgeway Road as the community is concerned about the Zipline due to expected impact on wildlife / biodiversity and peacefulness.
- 1.2.   There are 124 signatures to the petition.

**2.     Recommendation**

***That:***

1.   ***The petition titled ‘Ridgeway Waterworks Zipline’, calling for the Council to oppose the proposed zipline on Ridgeway Road as the community is concerned about the Zipline due to expected impact on wildlife / biodiversity and peacefulness, and marked as Attachment A to this report, be received and noted.***
2.   ***The Council notes that any application for a zipline on Council land would require:***
  - (i)   ***planning approval by the Council (as Planning Authority) and that process would allow for public input; and***
  - (ii)  ***approval by the Council as landowner and that process would also allow for public input.***
3.   ***No further action be taken in response to the petition and the lead petitioner be advised of the Council’s position and be invited to participate in these processes.***

### **3. Discussion and Background**

- 3.1. The City has received a petition from Sara Maloney in relation to Ridgeway Waterworks Zipline. The petition contains 124 signatures.
- 3.2. The action sought by the petitioners is:
  - 3.2.1. *We would like the Hobart City Council to oppose the proposed zipline on Ridgeway Road, as the community is concerned about the zipline due to expected impact on wildlife/biodiversity and peacefulness.*
- 3.3. A copy of the petition is provided as Attachment A to this report.
- 3.4. The petition complies with the requirements of section 57 of the *Local Government Act 1993* (Act) and is tabled in accordance with section 58 of the Act.
- 3.5. The Council, as planning authority, has received a proposal for a zipline on Council land. In order to lodge that application, the General Manager (CEO) must provide his consent. That consent is procedural only and does not impact on the substantive assessment of the application.
- 3.6. The proposal for General Manager Consent (GMC) is still being considered by officers and the CEO has not formed a view on whether or not that consent will be provided.
- 3.7. If the CEO does provide GMC then the application will be considered as a normal planning application by the Council, as planning authority. This is an assessment against the planning scheme. The application would be publicly advertised, which is part of the statutory process.
- 3.8. As a separate process, the Council as landowner would consider whether it agreed to allow use and development of its land for a zipline. This consideration will also allow for public consultation, under a separate legislative process. The considerations at this point will be much broader and will not be constrained by the planning scheme.
- 3.9. While the concerns of the petitioners are noted, the Council must ensure that statutory processes are properly followed. Public concerns will be address as appropriate at a later date.
- 3.10. It is therefore proposed that no further action be taken in response to the petition at this time.

### **4. Legal, Risk and Legislative Considerations**

- 4.1. As noted above, the Petition is compliant with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1993*, therefore tabled accordingly.

**5. Strategic Planning and Policy Considerations**

5.1. Consideration of the action sought aligns with the objects of the City’s Strategy Plan, specifically Pillar 5 – Movement and Connectivity

5.1.1. *We are a city where everyone has effective, safe, healthy and environmentally friendly ways to move and connect, with people, information and goods and to and through spaces and the natural environment. We are able to maintain a pace of life that allows us to fulfil our needs, such as work, study, business, socialising, recreation, accessing services, shopping, entertainment and spending time with loved ones.*

**6. Financial Viability**

6.1. Financial Considerations:

	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
<b>Revenue</b>	N/A			
Existing Revenue				
Additional Revenue				
<b>Total Revenue</b>				
<b>Expenditure</b>	N/A			
Operating				
Capital				
<b>Total Expenditure</b>				
<b>Net Cost</b>	<b>N/A</b>			

**FTE Impact**

	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29
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Change in FTE

*Detail the change in the level of full-time equivalents within the group should the requested level of additional funding be required.*

6.1.1. This petition does not have any financial implications.

**7. Community and Business Engagement and Collaboration**

7.1. Should the CEO provide GMC then the application will be considered as a normal planning application by the Council, as planning authority. This is an assessment against the planning scheme and the application would be publicly advertised.

7.2. It is recommended the lead petitioner be invited to participate in these processes at the appropriate time.

*As signatory to this report, I certify that, pursuant to Section 55(1) of the Local Government Act 1993, I hold no interest, as referred to in Section 49 of the Local Government Act 1993, in matters contained in this report.*



Karen Abey  
**DIRECTOR STRATEGIC AND  
REGULATORY SERVICES**

Date: 19 March 2026  
File Reference: F26/17146

Attachment A: Petition Ridgeway - Waterworks Zipline (Supporting information) 

**OFFICER REPORTS**

**10. Dog Management Policy Review**  
**File Ref: F26/17062; 17/250**

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Report of the Manager Development Compliance, Manager Place Design, Sport and Recreation and Director Strategic and Regulatory Services of 25 March 2026 and attachments.

Delegation: Council

**REPORT TITLE: DOG MANAGEMENT POLICY REVIEW**

**REPORT PROVIDED BY:** Manager Development Compliance  
Manager Place Design, Sport and Recreation  
Director Strategic and Regulatory Services

## **1. Report Summary and Key Issue**

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to present the results of the public submissions undertaken on modifications to the declared areas in accordance with the requirements of the *Dog Control Act 2000* (the **Act**).
- 1.2. At its meeting on 23 February 2026, Council:
  - 1.2.1. Adopted the *Dog Management Policy 2026-2031*;
  - 1.2.2. Declared areas under section 25 of the Act (see **Attachment A**); and
  - 1.2.3. Resolved to notify amended declared areas (see **Attachment B**) in accordance with the requirements of the Act.
- 1.3. The amended declared areas were notified for public submissions in February – March 2026. 272 submissions were received the public with approximately 90% of the submissions in response to the proposal for South Hobart Oval.
- 1.4. The Council is required to consider the submissions received in response to the public notification of the amended declared areas. The Elected Members have been provided with a full copy of the submissions that were received, for their consideration.
- 1.5. Having considered the matters raised in the submissions, officers have carefully reviewed the issues and arguments presented. On balance, officers do not consider the submissions raised new information or issues of sufficient weight to warrant changes to the amended declared areas.
- 1.6. Having regard to the submissions, it is recommended that the Council declare the areas in **Attachment B** as modifications to the areas already declared contained in **Attachment A**.
- 1.7. If this recommendation is not followed and the Council would like to make further amendments to the declared areas then there will need to be a further statutory notification period, and further consideration by the Council.

- 1.8. It is noted that there was a separate public consultation process regarding the design of an enclosed dog exercise area at Lower Wellesley Park. Those submissions are being considered by our Open Space team and are not addressed in this report.

## 2. **Recommendation**

### **That:**

1. ***Pursuant to section 24 of the Dog Control Act 2000, the Council notes the public submissions received during the public consultation period and provided under separate cover.***
2. ***Pursuant to section 20 of the Dog Control Act 2000, having considered the submissions referred to in paragraph 1, the Council declare the areas in Attachment B as modifications to the areas already declared contained in Attachment A.***
3. ***Council notifies the declared areas in Attachment B pursuant to section 25 of the Dog Control Act 2000 by public notice to take effect 20 business days after the notice is published and remain in force for a period of 5 years.***

## 3. **Discussion and Background**

- 3.1. The Council at its meeting on 23 February 2026:
  - 3.1.1. Adopted the *Dog Management Policy 2026-2031*;
  - 3.1.2. Declared areas under section 25 of the Act (see **Attachment A**); and
  - 3.1.3. Resolved to notify amended declared areas (see **Attachment B**) in accordance with the requirements of the Act.
- 3.2. The amendments included:
  - 3.2.1. Restricting dogs at South Hobart Oval at all times from 1 July 2026.
  - 3.2.2. Minor changes to Wellington Park to ensure consistency with Wellington Park Management Trust requirements.
  - 3.2.3. Maintaining the current on-lead designation for John Doggett Park (previously proposed to be restricted at all times) except for the playground and skate bowl which are restricted at all times.

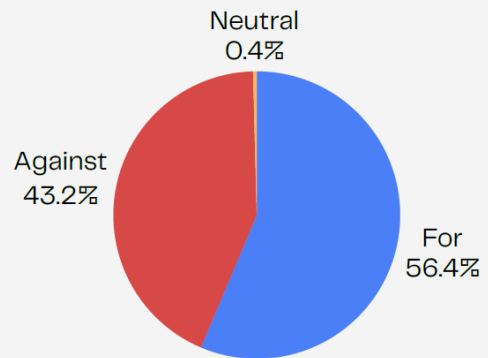
- 3.2.4. Restricting dogs from sportsgrounds when the ground is booked to respect the terms of the private booking and ensure exclusive, uninterrupted use of the ground by the hirer.
- 3.2.5. Allowing dogs on lead at the cenotaph and within 50m of the monument as requested by the RSL.
- 3.2.6. Maintaining dogs off-lead from 6pm daylight savings time at Nutgrove Beach consistent with current restrictions.
- 3.2.7. Clarifying the existing restriction at Knocklofty to remove potential confusion with current wording.
- 3.3. Submissions were open on the amended declared areas between 25 February 2026 and 18 March 2026. 272 submissions were received.
- 3.4. A full copy of all submissions is provided under separate cover due to the requirement to comply with the *Personal Information Protection Act 2004*. In summary:
  - 3.4.1. 243 submissions referred to South Hobart Oval. 137 submissions supported the proposal to restrict dogs at all times, 105 submissions were against the proposal to restrict dogs at all times and 1 submission was neutral.
  - 3.4.2. 9 submissions referred to sportsgrounds without referring to a location with 5 submissions in support of restricting dogs at all times from sportsgrounds and 4 in favour of retaining sportsgrounds as shared spaces.
  - 3.4.3. The balance of the submissions referred to Nutgrove Beach, Knocklofty Reserve, Soldiers Memorial Oval, Skyline Reserve, Greyhounds, New Town, GIRRABONG Reserve, John Turnbull Oval and the Rivulet.
- 3.5. A number of submissions raised matters that fall outside the scope of the amended declared areas that were released for public consultation. While responses have been provided to these submissions, they relate to issues that were not included in the amendments that were open for comment as part of this process. Where changes are sought beyond the amended declared areas open for submission, the requirements of the Act must be followed, including the release of those areas for public submissions in accordance with the legislative process.
- 3.6. Key themes are depicted below.

### SUBMISSIONS:

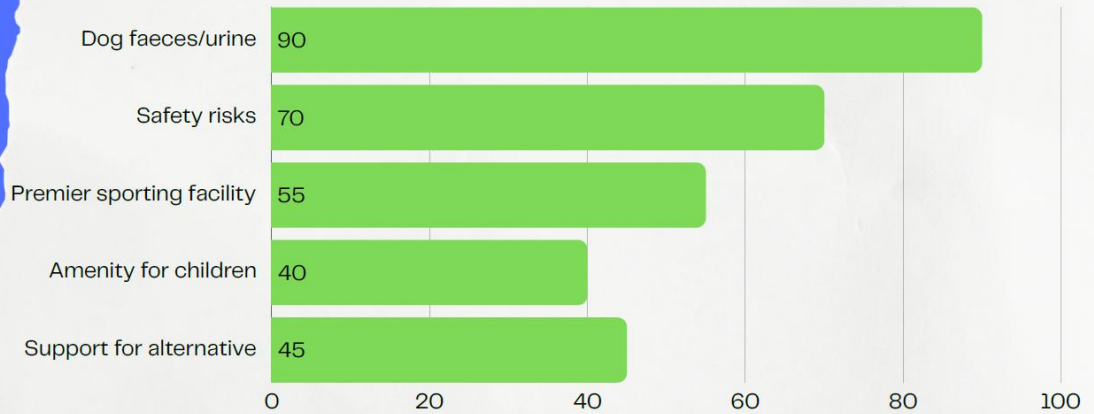
Almost 90% of submissions were related to South Hobart Oval. Other submissions referred Nutgrove Beach, Knocklofty Reserve, Soldiers Memorial Oval, Skyline Reserve, Greyhounds, New Town, GIRRABONG Reserve, John Turnbull Oval and the Rivulet

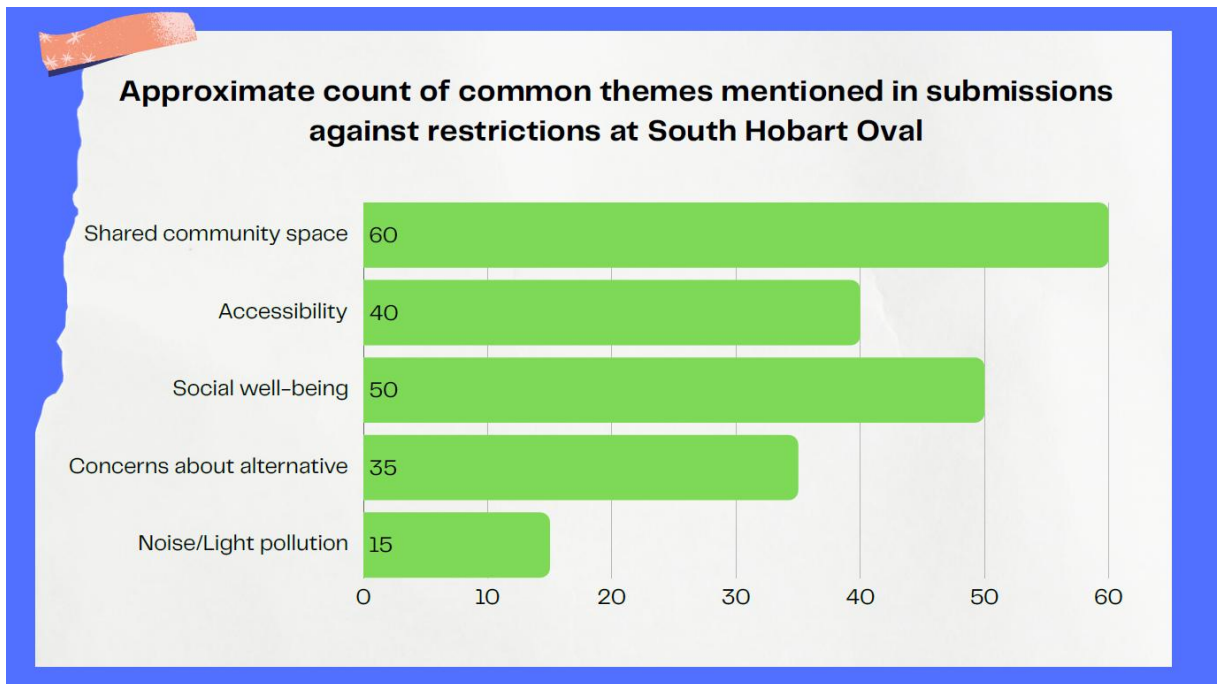


### FOR AND AGAINST PROPOSED RESTRICTIONS AT SOUTH HOBART OVAL



### Approximate count of common themes mentioned in submissions in favour of restrictions at South Hobart Oval





3.7. Key issues are addressed below.

3.8. The table below reflects consideration of the key issues raised in the submissions received. It is not intended to provide a comprehensive account of all matters raised by submitters and regard should be had to the full copies of submissions, which are provided under separate cover.

**Key issues – other than South Hobart Oval specific issues**

Topic	Submission	Officer Response
Nutgrove Beach – Off-lead	Support is expressed for retaining off-lead access with submissions noting Long Beach is restricted at all times and other alternative beaches in the area are not suitable substitutes.	The proposal seeks to retain the existing arrangement.
Nutgrove Beach – Daylight Savings	Seeks alignment with Clarence (off lead 1 December to 28 Feb) and questions when this will occur.	The proposal seeks to retain the existing arrangement. Clarence City Council restrict dogs on beaches between 10am and 6pm 1 Dec – 1 March and all other times dogs may be exercised off lead. Retaining the current arrangement

		avoids a reduction in on-lead opportunities during the summer months and ensures dog owner continue to have access while still managing peak daytime use and shared amenity.
	Suggests aligning Nutgrove Beach off-lead dog access hours with fixed seasonal months rather than daylight savings wording, and proposes a low-cost solution using vinyl overlays on existing signage to implement the change immediately without full sign replacement	Vinyl overlaps are not supported. Regulatory signage must be clear, durable, consistent and easily interpreted by all users. Applying overlays introduces risks of reduced legibility, premature wear, vandalism and inconsistent appearance across the City, which may undermine compliance and enforcement. In addition, ad-hoc modifications to individual signs conflicts with Council's approach to integrated and standardised signage, which requires signage to be updated systematically and budgeted through the normal budgetary processes. Given that daylight savings-based restrictions apply across multiple locations, any change must be implemented consistently city-wide rather than on a site-by-site basis.
Nutgrove Beach – on-lead restriction due to little penguin habitat	Submissions request greater transparency around: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• consultation outcomes from earlier rounds,</li> <li>• data relied upon to justify proposed amendments, particularly</li> </ul>	The issues raised fall outside the scope of the amended declared areas which was open for submissions. The on-lead requirement on Nutgrove Beach between the western entrance (adjacent to Lipscombe Avenue) and access on

	<p>ecological evidence. Specific concern is raised that community feedback may not have materially influenced outcomes.</p>	<p>the eastern side of Nutgrove Park was the subject of submissions between 25 August 2025 and 12 September 2025, was endorsed by Council at its meeting on 23 February 2026 and came into effect on 4 March 2026. In response to the issues raised it is noted: All submissions during review were considered alongside Council's statutory obligations, site-specific assessments, operational considerations and advice from relevant officers. While not all suggestions could be adopted, all feedback informed Council's assessment and decision-making. The proposed amendments are based on multiple considerations, including environmental values, public safety, shared use of public spaces and consistency across declared areas. Ecological information formed one component of the assessment and was considered together with community feedback and on-site observations.</p>
	<p>Designation of certain areas (particularly near Nutgrove) as little penguin habitat is questioned. Submissions indicate personal observations inconsistent with stated wildlife impacts and suggest the fence is sufficient to protect any</p>	<p>The issues raised fall outside the scope of the amended declared areas which was open for submissions however it is noted that little penguins are carefully and regularly monitored by experts through the Penguin Advisory Group,</p>

	colony.	confirming that colonies such as Nutgrove remain active but vulnerable. These birds often avoid areas where dogs are present, even when unseen, and can abandon or fail to re-establish nests if they feel disturbed. The changes aim not only to protect the existing colony but also to secure suitable breeding habitat for future generations. Because safe nesting areas along Hobart's coast are limited, displacing penguins from these sites risks long-term decline or relocation into less suitable and more dangerous areas.
Knocklofty Reserve – Wildlife Impacts	<p>Submissions include concern about off-lead dogs in Knocklofty Reserve, citing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• impacts on wildlife,</li> <li>• safety concerns for other users,</li> <li>• inconsistent compliance.</li> </ul>	<p>Dogs will continue to be permitted off-lead on defined tracks within Knocklofty Reserve as a balanced approach that recognises long-standing community use while prioritising the protection of bushland values. Off-lead access is limited to formal tracks only, with dogs required to remain on track and under effective control at all times, and surrounding bushland remaining on-lead to minimise disturbance to native flora and fauna. This approach supports shared recreational use while reducing impacts on wildlife, particularly during sensitive periods. Council will also undertake future assessments of the area to monitor environmental impacts and user</p>

		behaviour, with findings used to inform any future, ongoing management or changes to dog access in this reserve.
Knocklofty Reserve – Complexity of Rules	Submissions raise concerns that current arrangements are described as complex and difficult to understand, due to time-based and location-based rules.	The proposed modification is intended to remove potential confusion from existing wording and clarify the scope of current restriction.
Knocklofty Reserve – Signage	Current signage criticised as inadequate, unclear, or insufficiently prominent.	A full audit of dog related signage is scheduled to be undertaken following finalisation of the declared areas and all feedback received will be carefully considered to determine if any adjustments are warranted.
New Town Road	Request made for more dog waste bins in suburban streets, not just parks and designated dog areas.	The issues raised fall outside the scope of the amended declared areas which was open for submissions however it is noted dog tidy bags are provided at Council parks and reserves where high concentration of dog activity is expected. Dog owners are required to carry bags and immediately remove and dispose of dog faeces in public places. Installing dispensers in suburban streets is not supported as it would shift responsibility away from owners, increase installation and servicing costs and create unnecessary street clutter. Retaining dispensers at main exercise areas supports responsible dog ownership while

		reinforcing that bag provision is a convenience, not a substitute for personal responsibility.
Stoke Street Reserve	Identifies limited park provision in the New Town area between the Brooker Highway and Main Road and suggests that Stoke Street Reserve is a well-used dog walking route that lacks rubbish bins and dog poo bags, making it difficult to manage dog waste.	The issues raised fall outside the scope of the amended declared areas which was open for submissions however it is noted that this request will be considered as part of a broader audit of dog-related signage, bins and dispensers across the municipality following finalisation of the new Dog Management Policy, to ensure facilities are provided consistently, efficiently and in locations of highest need.
Greyhounds	No off-lead areas for ex-racing greyhounds in the municipality and urges Council to identify space to provide safe off-leash exercise opportunities.	The issues raised fall outside the scope of the amended declared areas which was open for submissions however it is noted opportunities to establish a dedicated greyhound exercise area within the municipal area have been investigated but at this time, land that is suitable for this purpose has not been identified, taking into account factors such as location, accessibility, safety, fencing requirements, and compatibility with surrounding uses. Neighbouring municipalities have introduced dedicated greyhound exercise areas, including Kingborough Council and the City of Clarence, which provide designated spaces for greyhounds to

		exercise off-lead. Future opportunities to establish a suitable dedicated greyhound exercise area in the City of Hobart will continue to be explored.
Soldiers Memorial Oval	Requests clearer wording on the off-lead status of Soldiers Memorial Oval, seeking confirmation that general off-lead provisions still apply when the ground is not booked, and asking that dog training access during bookings be explicitly limited to members of the booking organisation under instructor supervision.	The issues raised fall outside the scope of the amended declared areas which was open for submissions however it is noted no changes are proposed for Soldiers Memorial Oval nor have any changes been made during this review. Soldiers Memorial Oval has been a training area since Council's first Dog Management Policy in 2003. Outside dog training hours the Oval is subject to the usual restrictions, that is, dogs are restricted when sport is being placed, when being used by a school, when Council maintenance is being undertaken or when the Oval is subject to a booking.
Girrabong Play Area (also known as Girrabong Reserve)	Concern that Girrabong/Firth Road Park has effectively become a dog park, resulting in ongoing amenity impacts for nearby residents, including noise, intimidating behaviour, poor maintenance, and a reported dog attack. Suggest the park is no longer suitable for families and children, note dissatisfaction with the five-year policy review timeframe, and suggest relocating fenced dog	The issues raised fall outside the scope of the amended declared areas which was open for submissions. No changes are proposed for the Girrabong Play Area. The current restrictions are intended to balance the varying needs and desires of community members. No compelling rationale was provided during the substantive review to warrant a change. Rangeview Crescent is currently an off-lead exercise area.

	exercise to a more suitable nearby location, such as Rangeview Crescent, to reduce impacts on residents.	
John Turbull Park and John Turbull Oval	Objects to an on-lead only requirement for John Turnbull Oval.	The issues raised fall outside the scope of the amended declared areas which was open for submissions however it is noted that no changes are proposed nor have any changes been made during this review. Both areas have been on-lead only since 2019. This change was introduced following the opening of the John Turnbull Dog Park and was the subject of public consultation in January 2019.
MacFarlane Street, South Hobart – public open space over footbridge alongside Hobart Rivulet	Clarification sought about the section of the Hobart Rivulet Track suggesting there is conflicting information and noting that effective control was recommended in submissions.	The issues raised fall outside the scope of the amended declared areas which was open for submission. The change from off-lead to on-lead was the subject of public submissions between 25 August 2025 and 12 September 2025, was endorsed by Council at its meeting on 23 February 2026 and came into effect on 4 March 2026. While objections to the change from off-lead to on-lead were received, the on-lead declaration was maintained and no amendment was proposed to the restriction advertised in the notice of intention to declare areas as the on-lead requirement is intended to protect riparian habitat and local wildlife,

		<p>particularly platypus at one of their lowest distribution points along the rivulet. Protection of this corridor supports both aquatic and terrestrial biodiversity values, which are sensitive to dog disturbance. While suggestions of other measures in the submissions was noted, the prohibition of dogs within ten (10) metres from any creek or rivulet edge except on formal tracks and trails is regularly ignored in this area and therefore the on-lead requirement was maintained to protect sensitive wildlife.</p>
<p>Skyline Reserve (referred to as 29 Brimsmead Road, Mount Nelson in submissions)</p>	<p>Seeks the area be on-lead</p>	<p>The issues raised fall outside the scope of the amended declared areas which was open for submission. The change from off-lead to prohibited was the subject of public submissions between 25 August 2025 and 12 September 2025, was endorsed by Council at its meeting on 23 February 2026 and came into effect on 4 March 2026. Skyline Reserve is a bushland reserve that retains high ecological value, supporting diverse native flora and fauna. Given its high biodiversity value, and having regard to nearby alternative off-lead options, the conservation significance outweighs its use as a dog exercise area.</p>
<p>Dog Management Policy</p>	<p>Raises concerns about the Dog Management</p>	<p>The Policy establishes Council’s role in</p>

	<p>Policy suggesting it fails to adequately address education, citing limited current initiatives, a lack of school-based dog safety programs, and proposing region-wide collaboration on professional dog education services. It also questions assumptions about yard size, noting the increasing prevalence of high-density and apartment living in Hobart.</p>	<p>promoting responsible ownership, supported by education as well as other activities. Opportunities for partnerships and future education initiatives will be considered as part of ongoing implementation of the Policy, subject to available resources and funding. Council acknowledges that responsible dog ownership can occur across a range of housing types. The Policy is intended as general guidance to support prospective owners in considering their capacity to responsibly care for a dog, rather than to exclude particular living arrangements.</p>
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3.9. With the exception of the submissions for South Hobart Oval, the submissions primarily raise issues which fall outside the scope of the amended declared areas which was open for submission. Where relevant issues are raised, officers do not consider the issues raised to be of sufficient weight to warrant changes to the amended declared areas that where the subject of public submissions.

**Key issues – South Hobart Oval**

<b>Submission Theme</b>	<b>Specific Topic</b>	<b>Submission Detail</b>	<b>Officer Response</b>
<p><b>Points supporting restricting or banning dogs on South Hobart Oval</b></p>	<p>Hygiene / Public Health</p>	<p>Many submissions describe dog feces/urine on the playing surface as unhygienic for children and adults playing sport, including concerns about sliding on grass affected by waste.</p> <p>Some also raise heightened risks for immuno-compromised</p>	<p>The City’s operational records confirm frequent instances of faeces found after scheduled cleaning and urine burn patches affecting turf quality.</p> <p>Weekly Friday inspections before competitions have not prevented additional waste from being present on Saturday</p>

		people and argue health/safety should take priority.	mornings. Given the Oval's use for National Premier League (NPL) and Australian Championship fixtures, hygiene standards must meet the expectations for this level of competition, and shared use has proven incompatible with these requirements.
	<b>Safety risks (holes, uncontrolled dogs, dog attacks)</b>	Submissions cite holes/digging as trip hazards, dogs running through training or informal play, and owners not maintaining effective control.  Some mention dog attack risk and argue that rules are frequently ignored in practice.	The City's assessment shows these risks remain despite signage and expectations of effective dog control by owners. As higher-level sport requires predictable surface conditions and safe play environments, the presence of uncontrolled or off-lead dogs increases foreseeable safety risks. Combined with documented dog attack incidents, the City has concluded that shared use cannot safely continue.
	<b>Protecting Premier Sporting Asset</b>	A recurring view is that the oval is a key rectangular football/soccer venue and needs a safe, predictable surface for training and higher-level matches.  Some compare it to other major sportsgrounds where dogs are not permitted.	South Hobart Oval is the City of Hobart's only regional-level rectangular football (soccer) venue capable of hosting state and national competitions. The Oval has a 110-year association with South Hobart Football Club and is receiving \$1.9M in facility upgrades for 2026.  The standard of field presentation required for televised or

			<p>high-level competition cannot be maintained while the oval is used as an off-lead dog exercise area.</p> <p>Weekly turf repair, community conflict, and late reports of damage compromise readiness for game fixtures.</p>
	<b>Amenity for Families and Children</b>	<p>Several submissions say families avoid the oval when it is dominated by off-lead dogs, describing negative experiences (dogs approaching children, interfering with games, getting into bags/food, or causing fear).</p>	<p>The City acknowledges that community open space should feel safe for all users.</p> <p>The proposed restriction helps ensure predictable, safe use for all users, especially families and children outside sport bookings.</p>
	<b>Support for a dedicated alternative (Lower Wellesley Park)</b>	<p>Many supporters of restriction also support providing a dedicated off-lead area nearby, framing it as a compromise that protects sport while still providing dog exercise space.</p>	<p>The City has committed to constructing a fully fenced dog exercise area at Lower Wellesley Park, targeted to open by 1 July 2026.</p> <p>This project was subject to a separate community engagement exercise via the City's Your Say platform.</p>
	<b>Burden on volunteers and operations</b>	<p>Some state that club volunteers (or others) are left doing "poo patrols" and patching holes, and that this is an unreasonable burden to keep the ground match ready.</p>	<p>Officers note that volunteer burden, including "poo patrols" and ground patching, has become unsustainable.</p> <p>Officers have documented the ongoing turf damage, faeces contamination and weekly repair needs, which exceed what can reasonably be expected of volunteers or staff, contributing to the assessment that shared use is no longer viable.</p>

	<b>Risk/liability framing</b>	A subset argues the City and users carry liability exposure if injuries or health incidents occur linked to dog-related hazards.	Advice presented to Elected Members in February, confirms that liability must be managed through documented precautions, clear policies and enforcement. The City's insurer MAV advised that the Council is not automatically liable if reasonable safeguards are implemented. However, shared use at South Hobart Oval no longer meets practical or operational requirements due to conflict, compliance issues, and resource demands.
<b>Points opposing a ban (supporting continued dog access, usually outside booked sport times)</b>	<b>The oval as a long-standing shared community space</b>	Some opponents of the restriction have argued the Oval has served as a shared community asset for decades and should remain accessible to all.	The City recognises the value of unprogrammed space; however, data shows South Hobart retains high levels of open space per resident. This availability continues even after restrictions on dogs come into effect. Analysis of formal sport booking patterns against wider availability for community use of the City's sportsgrounds across the Hobart LGA estimate that there is an overall availability of community use around 83 percent of the year. South Hobart Oval will remain available for non-formal sporting use on average around 87 percent of the year.
	<b>Accessibility</b>	Submissions highlight	The City acknowledges

	<b>and inclusion</b>	<p>South Hobart Oval's flat, enclosed, centrally located space with parking as uniquely suitable for older residents and people with mobility limitations.</p> <p>They argue that proposed alternatives may be less accessible.</p>	<p>this benefit but must weigh accessibility against statutory safety requirements and the significant importance of maintaining the City's only regional-level soccer ground.</p> <p>Community access will not be impacted in any way other than its use by dogs.</p> <p>South Hobart Oval will remain available for non-formal sporting use on average around 87 percent of the year.</p> <p>The proposed new fenced dog park at Lower Wellesley Park will provide an alternative with improved accessibility features.</p> <p>This project was subject to a separate community engagement exercise via the City's Your Say platform.</p>
	<b>Social and wellbeing benefits</b>	<p>Some submissions describe the dog-walking community at the oval as providing strong social connection, reducing loneliness and supporting mental health and wellbeing.</p>	<p>The City acknowledges these benefits and does not dismiss the positive function of informal gathering spaces.</p> <p>A proposed new fenced dog park at Lower Wellesley Park is intended to provide the opportunity for these social benefits while removing conflict-prone shared use at the Oval.</p> <p>This proposed facility was subject to a separate community engagement exercise via the City's Your Say platform.</p>
	<b>Status quo works /</b>	<p>A frequent claim is that dog users already</p>	<p>The City's operational evidence shows</p>

	<b>respect for booking times</b>	respect sporting bookings and shared-use rules, and that improved management could address issues without a full prohibition.	persistent conflict, miscommunication around bookings, difficulties with enforcement, and ongoing surface damage. Even with regular cleaning, last-minute issues have affected match readiness. The status quo has therefore proven unsustainable.
	<b>Disputing damage scale and evidence</b>	Several submissions argue that dog-related damage and health concerns are overstated, noting that intensive sport use also creates significant seasonal wear and that the case for a full ban is not well evidenced.	The City's records show clear distinctions: digging, urine burn patches, faeces, and last-minute damage attributable to dog use directly affect the safety and presentability of the Oval. Sporting wear occurs seasonally and predictably, allowing planned maintenance, while dog impacts are unpredictable and require reactive intervention with significant resource implications.
	<b>Governance / fairness / process concerns</b>	Some submissions raise concerns about transparency and the precedent of effectively excluding general community use through heavy bookings plus dog restrictions.	The City notes that bookings follow established municipal processes and are visible publicly. The City's on-line sportsground booking portal has made booking information available to everyone, and this will be further enhanced by late July or August this year. There is no exclusive ownership of the South Hobart or Upper Wellesley Park ovals by

			<p>any club.</p> <p>South Hobart Oval will remain available for non-formal sporting (community use) use on average around 87 percent of the year.</p> <p>The proposed changes follow statutory consultation under the Dog Control Act and aim to balance equitable access with operational realities.</p> <p>Officers are preparing a comprehensive Sportsground Policy for the 19 sportsgrounds managed by the City which will clarify expectations and responsibilities for both the City and sportsground users and guide how ground allocations are prioritised.</p>
	<p><b>Concerns about the proposed alternative dog area. Passive surveillance, dead-end access, “not safe at night”</b></p>	<p>Objections include the alternative being smaller, potentially more crowded, less level, and requiring additional assessment/remediation to be safe and fit for purpose.</p> <p>Some submissions argue the proposed alternative is less safe (more isolated, less passively supervised), and that these matters, especially for evening use and for younger/older users</p>	<p>Officers acknowledge concerns about perceived safety, surveillance and topography issues at the alternative dog area. This project was subject to a separate community engagement exercise via the City’s Your Say platform, and this feedback will inform next stage design.</p>
	<p><b>Traffic, parking and local street congestion</b></p>	<p>Multiple submissions raise concerns that changes (either increased soccer</p>	<p>Traffic and parking concerns are noted. Officers acknowledge that changes in facility</p>

	<b>impacts</b>	activity or displaced dog-walking) will worsen already tight local traffic and parking, including effects on surrounding streets and visitor parking	use may influence local congestion, although the restrictions on dogs are unlikely to have a material impact. Current design work at Macquarie Street South Junction includes consideration of parking and access improvements. The City will work closely with users of the South Hobart Oval to ensure that its use takes close account of the potential impact on the local traffic network and local resident amenity. Officers will monitor demand and assess mitigations as part of ongoing planning for the precinct.
	<b>Noise and light pollution from upgrades / increased organised sport</b>	Residents are worried about noise and lighting impacts on nearby residents (including existing impacts and concern about increases)	Concerns regarding noise and lighting from organised sport are acknowledged, though these are actively managed. It is important to recognise that lighting upgrades support community safety and recreation, and any increase in organised sport remains subject to booking patterns and existing management frameworks. Officers will continue to balance formal sport use, with wider community amenity and recreation needs.
	<b>Booking system concerns</b>	Submissions include arguments that the oval is increasingly unavailable due to how bookings are used	Officers acknowledge submissions regarding booking transparency and perceived “blanket booking”.

		(including concern about “blanket-booking” and the oval being treated like private space).	However, South Hobart Football Club and Morton Soccer School bookings have not materially increased compared to previous years. The City has made bookings visible to the public and is developing a Sportsground Policy to improve clarity, expectations, and transparency.
<b>Common middle-ground suggestions</b>	<b>Deliver an accessible dedicated dog space (and/or deliver it first)</b>	Even some supporters of restrictions stress that an alternative space needs to be genuinely accessible and operational before any major change, while others support a new dog park but want the Oval to remain shared-use.	It is proposed that the new fenced space be completed prior to the Oval restrictions taking effect on 1 July 2026. This sequencing would support the transition and reduce negative impact on dog walkers. A proposed new fenced dog park at Lower Wellesley Park was subject to a separate community engagement exercise via the City’s Your Say platform.
	<b>Tighten Management</b>	Ideas include clearer signage, simplified rules, daylight-only dog access or improved lighting, and better communication (plain-English summaries).	The City assessed but determined that none of these measures would adequately address safety, damage, or conflict issues, nor reduce operational burdens. They would require increased monitoring in an already contested environment.
	<b>Enforcement and ‘user pays’</b>	Some submissions call for stronger enforcement of rules, potentially funded through increased registration fees and higher fines.	The City has determined that enforcement alone cannot resolve the underlying incompatibility between dog use and high level sport, particularly given

			escalating tensions, disputed interpretations of rules, and high resourcing requirements.
	<b>Waste Infrastructure</b>	More bins (including dog-specific disposal bins) and improved disposal options are suggested to encourage responsible clean-up.	While helpful for responsible owners, waste infrastructure does not address turf damage, digging, dog interference during sport, or safety risks. These issues remain even with improved waste services.
	<b>Mediation / collaboration</b>	Several submissions favour facilitated mediation between the dog walking community and the South Hobart Football Club to reduce conflict and agree on practical shared-use arrangements.	The officer report to Council in mid-2025, considered the idea of mediation and/or a consultative arrangement, which was included in the Council's initial decision on this matter. However, Senior Officers have held separate meetings with both the Dog Walking Association and the Club and identified that there is no willingness by either party to compromise on their respective positions in respect to the use and management of the recreation ground. Additionally, by late 2025 conflict between dog walkers and sporting groups had escalated. . It is considered that these factors would make mediation a futile endeavour. The City's insurer also advised that shared-use agreements would not be viable without enforceable, reliable

			compliance — conditions not met at this location.
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- 3.1. It is noted that officers are currently working on the following:
- 3.1.1. a formalisation of the existing approach to sportsground booking processes, asset management and related issues in a Sportsground Policy;
  - 3.1.2. the Greater Hobart Sport Facilities Strategy that will planning for new and upgraded sporting infrastructure will include the needs of soccer players in Hobart – however, it is unlikely this report will consider the potential for other spaces for high level soccer in Hobart, which has already been considered by Elected Members;
  - 3.1.3. the progression of design concept work for the *Macquarie Street South Junction project* (a proposed public space uplift of the retail and community activity centre at the junction of Macquarie, D’Arcy and Washington streets). This design work will also consider parking provision to better support the use of the Oval and the South Hobart Playground.  
  
An improved entrance to the Playground facing on to Macquarie Street (wider and set back further with stone pillar entrance blocks) will be delivered as part of the current replacement of the retaining wall on Darcey Street; and
  - 3.1.4. the South Hobart Oval Master Plan – the decision made by Elected Members in response to the current report will influence the finalisation of that body of work, including the provision of improved connectivity between the South Hobart Playground and the Oval (noting that consideration of this Master Plan was deferred by Elected Members for the resolution of the Dog Management Policy).
- 3.2. While we can appreciate the interest in those broader matters and that they need to be progressed, the recommendations in this report are not contingent on the resolution of these other issues.
- 3.3. Further, in the vast correspondence received outside the statutory process regarding South Hobart Oval, in summary, the following additional comments were made:

Issue	Officer Response
The Council has had a process which is not procedurally fair.	The consultation for this issue has been extensive, as outlined in section 7, below. This is the third round of public consultation. The statutory process has been followed as

	required by the <i>Dog Control Act</i> .
Council officers have not conveyed information to Elected Members.	Elected Members have been provided with a full copy of all submissions made in each round of consultation. Officers also sought to assist Elected Members with the significant amount of correspondence which was sent directly to them, outside that process.
South Hobart Oval was purchased by Council and local residents and set aside for community recreation, not sport.	Section 110(v) of the <i>Hobart Corporation Act 1930</i> includes the power to <i>prepare and make the [city recreation grounds] convenient and suitable for the purpose of any sport</i> . Community use will be maintained and there is no plan for the Oval to be converted to sport only.
Restricting dogs would be a stealth privatisation of public land.	All public recreation grounds within the city have major users who hire and utilise the grounds and facilities. The South Hobart Oval is no different. The South Hobart Football Club hires the South Hobart Oval and facilities. The Oval is not being privatised and community use will be maintained.
The sudden reversal of approach lacks reasoning and is not transparent.	A full, data-driven explanation for the change in position was provided in the officer report for the 23 February 2026 Council meeting. The agenda for the meeting was publicly available, and the decision was made in the open portion of a Council meeting. Accordingly, both the rationale and decision by the Council were transparent.
Changes to residential tenancy legislation means there will be more dogs and higher needs for exercise areas.	The Council has endorsed the development of the land at Lower Wellsley for a dog exercise area. This is in addition to the vast areas available for dog exercise throughout the municipality.
Changes to laws regarding greyhounds will mean there will be more greyhounds in the community to exercise.	The decision for community members to take on ownership of a greyhound involves taking responsibility for the exercise within suitable areas. Hobart does not currently have a space dedicated to greyhounds.
South Hobart Oval provides mental health benefits for the community and their	We have no doubt that this transition will be difficult for some people. It is hoped that the alternative exercise area at Lower Wellesley will continue to provide this support for the

dogs.	community.
Development at the South Hobart Oval and Wellesley by the Club is inappropriate.	All applications for planning permission at South Hobart Oval and Wellsley have been considered by the Council as planning authority. People often have divergent views on development proposals, which is why the State's Land Use Planning System enables public participation and transparent decision making.

- 3.4. For the reasons stated above, it is recommended that pursuant to section 20 of the Act, it is proposed the Council declare the amended areas in **Attachment B** as modifications to the areas already declared contained in **Attachment A**.
- 3.5. Pursuant to section 25 of the Act, the Council is to provide notice of:
- (a) The date on which a declaration under, being a date at least 20 working days after a notice under section 24 is published; and
  - (b) The period during which the declaration remains in force.
- 3.6. It is proposed the City notify of the declared areas pursuant to section 25 of the *Dog Control Act 2000* to take effect on 20 business days after the notice is published and to remain in force for a period of 5 years.

#### 4. Legal, Risk and Legislative Considerations

- 4.1. Section 7 of the Act requires a council to develop and implement a policy relating to dog management in its municipal area. The policy is required to include the following:
- 4.1.1. A code relating to responsible ownership of dogs;
  - 4.1.2. The provision of declared areas;
  - 4.1.3. A fee structure; and
  - 4.1.4. Any other relevant matter.
- 4.2. Section 7(4) of the Act requires a council to review its dog management policy once every 5 years.
- 4.3. Sections 20-24 of the Act give the City the power to declare areas where dogs may be exercised, where dogs may be trained, where dogs are prohibited and where dogs are restricted from entering.
- 4.4. Section 26 of the Act requires any declaration to be reviewed every 5 years.

- 4.5. The Dog Management Policy and declared areas, including the modifications to the declared areas, have been developed in accordance with the requirements of the Act.

## **5. Strategic Planning and Policy Considerations**

- 5.1. The Dog Management Policy aligns to the following strategic priorities listed in the Capital City Strategic Plan 2023:

5.1.1. *Pillar 2: Community Inclusion, Participation and Belonging:*

*Outcome 2.5 We are Healthy, Joyful and Content*

*2.5.2 We support each other to be active and to have lives that are meaningful and fulfilling to us.*

*2.5.3 Our natural and built spaces and facilities enable activity and support and enhance our health and wellbeing.*

*2.5.4 We encourage individual and team sports and recreation for a happy and healthy community, recognising that they are also opportunities to see diversity flourish.*

5.1.2. Pillar 6: Natural Environment

*Outcome 6.3 We Value and Enhance Biodiverse Ecosystems:*

*6.3.1 Hobart's biodiversity is preserved, secure, and flourishing. Protecting and rehabilitating native wildlife, vegetation and other species is central to how we live and work.*

*Outcome 6.7 We Value and Access Natural Areas for Sport, Recreation and Play*

*6.7.1 Our parks, reserves and natural areas continue to support outdoor pursuits such as bushwalking, trail running, mountain biking and rock climbing.*

*6.7.2 We respect each other and the spaces that we use for sport and recreation, so that all may enjoy them for generations to come.*

**6. Financial Viability**

## 6.1. Financial Considerations:

	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
<b>Revenue</b>	0	0		
Existing Revenue	0	0		
Additional Revenue	0	0		
<b>Total Revenue</b>				
<b>Expenditure</b>				
Operating	0			
Capital	0	0		
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>		
<b>Net Cost</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>		

**FTE Impact**

	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29
Change in FTE	0	0	0	0

*Detail the change in the level of full-time equivalents within the group should the requested level of additional funding be required.*

6.1.1. The cost of the review and any changes arising from declaring areas or modifying existing areas will be met from the City's current operational budget. The cost of the amendments is expected to be minor and can be met from the City's current operational budget.

6.1.2. The costs for the Lower Wellesley enclosed dog exercise facility were approved at the 23 February 2026 meeting and no further costs are proposed in this report.

**7. Community and Business Engagement and Collaboration**

7.1. The review commenced in 2024 with public consultation on the existing policy and declared areas undertaken during the period 8 to 28 April 2024.

7.2. 361 submissions were received from the public during the public comment period and amendments to the draft policy and proposed changes to declared areas were drafted having regard to the public submissions received.

7.3. The draft new policy and proposed declared areas were released for public comment during for the period 25 August 2025 to 12 September 2025.

- 7.4. 148 submissions were received during the public comment period and the new policy and declared areas were adopted at the Council meeting on 23 February 2026 with modifications to declared areas proposed to be released for submissions.
- 7.5. The amended declared areas were released for public comment during the period 25 February 2026 to 18 March 2026.
- 7.6. 272 submissions were received during the public comment period.

## 8. Innovation and Continuous Improvement

- 8.1. Use of public spaces by dogs can be a polarising issue within the community. It is recognised that there are members of the public who wish to restrict dogs from areas of the City while others wish to expand the areas available to dogs.
- 8.2. The proposed declared areas seek to achieve a balance and compatible relationship between dogs, dog owners, neighbours and other users of the City's public areas while protecting the natural environment and impact of dogs on native wildlife.
- 8.3. The policy is required to be reviewed every 5 years to ensure it remains relevant, effective and aligned with community needs and operational practices. The review provides a structured opportunity for consultation with the community, to incorporate feedback, identify gaps and apply best practice.

*As signatory to this report, I certify that, pursuant to Section 55(1) of the Local Government Act 1993, I hold no interest, as referred to in Section 49 of the Local Government Act 1993, in matters contained in this report.*



Kirsten Turner  
**MANAGER DEVELOPMENT  
COMPLIANCE**



Philip Holliday  
**MANAGER PLACE DESIGN, SPORT  
AND RECREATION**



Karen Abey  
**DIRECTOR STRATEGIC AND  
REGULATORY SERVICES**

Date: 25 March 2026  
File Reference: F26/17062; 17/250

Attachment A: Declared Areas 

Attachment B: Amended Declared Areas 

**11. Open Space Strategy**  
**File Ref: F26/3926; 16/119**

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Report of the Open Space Planner, Director Infrastructure and Assets and  
Manager Open Space of 19 March 2026 and attachments.

Delegation: Council

**REPORT TITLE: OPEN SPACE STRATEGY****REPORT PROVIDED BY:** Open Space Planner  
Director Infrastructure and Assets  
Manager Open Space**1. Report Summary and Key Issue**

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to present the findings of the recent community engagement on the draft City of Hobart Open Space Strategy and present the City of Hobart Open Space Strategy 2026-36 for endorsement to commence implementation.
- 1.2. The community engagement period was from 8 October to 12 November 2025.
- 1.3. 1544 Your Say emails were opened with 663 visits to the Your Say webpage, 202 visits (users clicked on at least one interactive tool).
- 1.4. There were 6,300 social media impressions.
- 1.5. Engagement activities included online and in-person surveys, pop-ups, stakeholder meetings and written submissions.
- 1.6. We received 63 survey responses, had 30 participants in two targeted workshops, 14 responses to the interactive map, we engaged with many people at two pop up sessions and received four written submissions.
- 1.7. A combination of the survey feedback, quick poll and written submissions indicated strong overall support for the draft Open Space Strategy (draft strategy).
- 1.8. In response to feedback, we made some minor changes to the draft strategy to improve readability, revised the wording of a few actions, and added two new actions. More detail is provided in sub section 3.10 of this report.
- 1.9. The City of Hobart Open Space Strategy 2026-36 is attached as Attachment A.
- 1.10. The development of the City of Hobart Open Space Strategy 2026-36 (Strategy) for Hobart aligns with several of the outcomes and strategies in the City of Hobart Capital City Strategic Plan 2023.
- 1.11. The Strategy will guide the provision and management of existing open spaces and the delivery of new and improved open spaces to meet the needs of Hobart's residents and visitors, now and into the future.

- 1.12. The Strategy focuses on parks and bushland and the infrastructure within these areas of open space.
- 1.13. The Strategic Vision of the Strategy is 'Our open spaces are balanced for people and nature, they enhance the health and wellbeing of current and future communities and help mitigate the effects of climate change'.
- 1.14. The Strategy includes five principles and supporting goals, and a proposed hierarchy for Hobart's parks and large areas of bushland.
- 1.15. The implementation plan for the Strategy includes 46 actions (up from 44 in the draft strategy) that will help to deliver the goals. These actions will be subject to periodic review to ensure that they reflect the priorities at time of review.

## **2. Recommendation**

### ***That:***

- 1. The Council note the findings of the recent community engagement on the draft City of Hobart Open Space Strategy, as listed in Attachment B and Attachment C to this report.***
- 2. The Council endorse the City of Hobart Open Space Strategy 2026-36 for implementation, as outlined in Attachment A to this report.***

### 3. Discussion and Background

- 3.1. The development of an open space strategy for Hobart is an outcome of the *City of Hobart Capital City Strategic Plan 2023*, which reflects the community's values and aspirations in the document *Hobart: A Community Vision for Our Island Capital*.
- 3.2. Open spaces are vital for a thriving and connected community, as they encourage people to be outside in nature, exercise, and enjoy recreation, all of which improve health and wellbeing.
- 3.3. Hobart's open spaces are places where people, of all ages and abilities, from different cultures and backgrounds, can get together for shared activities, celebrations, and play.
- 3.4. In 2024, we undertook the first round of community consultation, we asked the community what they love about Hobart's open spaces. We asked why they visit them, what is important in them and what they want to see more of in our open spaces.
- 3.5. We received over 300 responses to the survey and nearly 1500 visits to our project page. We were informed by what people value in our parks and bushland areas, and what they want to see more of in these open spaces in the future.
- 3.6. We used the feedback from the open space survey to inform the draft strategy.
- 3.7. In September 2025, we received Council endorsement to commence community engagement on the draft strategy.
- 3.8. The Community Engagement Summary Report - Draft Open Space Strategy is attached as Attachment B.
  - 3.8.1. The engagement period ran from 8 October 2025 to 12 November 2025.
  - 3.8.2. 1544 Your Say emails were opened and there were 6300 social media impressions.
  - 3.8.3. The webpage received 663 views, and 202 visits (users clicked on at least one interactive tool).
  - 3.8.4. We received 63 survey responses, had 30 participants in two targeted workshops, received 14 responses to the interactive map, engaged with many people at two pop up sessions, and received four written submissions.
  - 3.8.5. The two pop up consultations sessions were held, at Mathers House and Long Beach.

- 3.8.6. Two workshops were held, with the Council of Hobart Community Associations and the Migrant Resource Centre Women's Group.
- 3.8.7. A combination of the survey feedback, quick poll and submissions indicates strong overall support for the Strategy.
- 3.9. A Palawa consultant was hired separately to conduct engagement with Tasmanian Aboriginal people and present an engagement report. This report is attached as Attachment C.
- 3.9.1. The consultant held 22 individual interviews with Aboriginal community members.
- 3.9.2. All members of the Aboriginal community who contributed to the consultation provided positive feedback on the draft strategy.
- 3.9.3. Three recommendations were provided:
- Recommendation: Hobart City Council to consider a greater use of 'Palawa Kani' (the revived Tasmanian Aboriginal language), particularly for naming or re-naming nature reserves and gathering spaces. These names should be considered in consultation with the Aboriginal community.
  - Hobart City Council to establish a methodology for working "in partnership" with the Aboriginal community for achieving the objectives outlined in the Open Space Strategy.
  - Develop a space that allows for Aboriginal economic and cultural advancement for Aboriginal businesses, provide space for the promotion of Aboriginal businesses and where cultural programs could operate including pop-up stations for promotion of Aboriginal cultural events, issues and services.
- 3.10. In response to consultation, we have made the following changes to the Strategy.

Section	Page	Justification for Change	Draft Open Space Strategy wording	Open Space Strategy wording
All	All	Minor changes to improve readability of the document.	N/A	N/A
Signature Action	65	To aid understanding of the scope of the garden and that it is for people of all ages and abilities.	Develop a dementia friendly garden in one of our parks.	Develop a dementia friendly sensory garden in one of our parks.

Section	Page	Justification for Change	Draft Open Space Strategy wording	Open Space Strategy wording
Goal 3.1	68	As per recommendations from consultation with the Tasmanian Aboriginal community.	Appreciation and understanding of this Tasmanian Aboriginal history and cultural connection and relationship to Country is an important part of the story of our open spaces to be acknowledged through interpretation and events.	Appreciation and understanding of this Tasmanian Aboriginal history and cultural connection and relationship to Country is an important part of the story of our open spaces to be acknowledged through nomenclature, interpretation and events. This includes supporting the provision of gathering spaces for Palawa.
Action - 1.2.1	78	Revised Action: Add intent to the action and reference that we will include accessible equipment suitable for people with disability.	When installing new outdoor gyms incorporate exercise equipment suitable for older people.	Undertake a review of outdoor gyms to determine if new gyms are needed and where they should be located. When renewing existing equipment or installing new gyms, include equipment suitable for older people and people with disability.
Action - 1.2.2	78	Revised Action: To aid understanding of the scope of the garden and that it is for people of all ages and abilities.	Develop a dementia friendly garden in one of our parks.	Develop a dementia friendly sensory garden in one of our parks.

Section	Page	Justification for Change	Draft Open Space Strategy wording	Open Space Strategy wording
Action - 2.1.1	79	Revised Action: Provide intent /specific project to add clarity to this action.	Explore ways to increase community connections to Hobart's nature and biodiversity.	Explore new ways to increase community connections to Hobart's nature and biodiversity through initiatives such as community engagement activities, workshops, small events, and interpretive materials.
Action - 2.2.1	79	Revised Action: For clarity and in response to feedback	Develop a Greening Infrastructure Asset Management Plan (including trees) that will capture and record information of the vegetation in our parks and reserves.	Develop a Greening Infrastructure Asset Management Plan that accounts for climate change.
Action - 3.1.2	80	Revised Action: As per recommendations from consultation with the Tasmanian Aboriginal community.	Increase the presence of Tasmanian Aboriginal words/languages in track and path signage in parks & bushland reserves to ensure that signage recognises Aboriginal connection to country.	Increase the presence of Palawa kani (Tasmanian Aboriginal) words/languages in signage used in open spaces to ensure that signage recognises Aboriginal connection to country.
Action - 3.1.3	80	As per recommendations from consultation with the Tasmanian Aboriginal community.	New Action	Work with the Aboriginal community to progress an Aboriginal Cultural Centre.
Action - 5.2.4	83	In response to community feedback and to clarify long term intent.	New Action	Construct a public toilet facility in Knocklofty Reserve Car Park.

3.11. The Strategy includes Principles, Goals, and Actions which will require implementation to achieve the vision. The five principles and the goals are summarised below:

- 3.11.1. Accessible and Inclusive: Increasing the amount of accessible and inclusive open spaces for people of all abilities, ages and cultures to use them for recreation and leisure.

Goal 1.1 Open spaces that can be accessed and enjoyed by everyone in the community.

Goal 1.2 Welcoming for people of all ages.

Goal 1.3 Safe Places.

- 3.11.2. Nature Positive: Hobart is uniquely entwined with its natural environment. Our natural surroundings define the character and identity of our city.

Goal 2.1 Nature is secure and flourishing.

Goal 2.2 Resilient open spaces mitigate climate change impacts.

Goal 2.3 Nature threads through our city.

- 3.11.3. Cultural: Our open spaces are welcoming locations for ideas to generate, somewhere to celebrate and places to experience art and performance.

Goal 3.1 People can engage with Tasmanian Aboriginal culture in open spaces.

Goal 3.2 Contemporary cultural heritage.

Goal 3.3 A place for gatherings and social events.

- 3.11.4. Health and Wellbeing: Open space provides significant mental and physical health benefits by providing a place to exercise, a space for contemplation and relaxation in natural surrounds, and opportunities for community interaction

Goal 4.1 Our open spaces benefit human health.

Goal 4.2 Spaces for connection and contemplation.

Goal 4.3 Facilitating active travel.

- 3.11.5. Quality and Quantity: The continued provision of open space of sufficient quantity and quality to meet the needs of residents and visitors.

Goal 5.1 Meet the needs of residents and visitors now and into the future.

Goal 5.2 Our open spaces are carefully planned.

Goal 5.3 New and upgraded open spaces utilise sustainable design principles.

- 3.12. Also included in the Strategy is the proposed hierarchy for Hobart's open space.
- 3.13. The hierarchy recognises that parks and major bushland areas within the City's network of open spaces operate at different levels and generally service different-sized catchments but also that Hobart is an established city with a huge range of existing open spaces.
- 3.14. The hierarchy details the different levels of open space, a theoretical description of the open spaces at that level of the hierarchy and a desired proximity standard for the type of open space. For example, a desired proximity standard is that a local park is provided within 400m of most dwellings.
- 3.15. The position of the park or major bushland area within the hierarchy of the open space will influence the amenities on offer and the anticipated amount of resources needed for that open space. This information is detailed in Appendix 2 of the Strategy, in the Open Space Provision Standards.
- 3.16. In the section, Parks near people - filling in the gaps, we include analysis of the current gaps in the network of parks. We include an action, in the implementation plan, that we undertake further, more detailed, analysis on the likely future demand for open space including identifying and prioritising existing gaps in the network.
- 3.17. The Strategy is supported by the implementation plan which details the actions we propose to undertake to achieve the principles and goals of the Strategy.
- 3.18. These actions exclude the business-as-usual work undertaken to manage and maintain Hobart's open space.
- 3.19. Proposed actions under the principle Accessible and Inclusive include:
  - 3.19.1. Developing a program of work to improve the accessibility of our open spaces.
  - 3.19.2. A Playground Action Plan.
  - 3.19.3. Assessment of facilities and equipment for older children and teenagers – such as skate parks, basketball half courts and pump tracks.
  - 3.19.4. Improving lighting in open space active travel corridors.
- 3.20. Proposed actions under the principle Nature Positive include:

- 3.20.1. Creating a biodiversity-centred 'welcome information pack' for new residents in key, high value conservation areas.
- 3.20.2. Planning for a flagship urban ecological restoration project.
- 3.20.3. Plant species lists and guidelines for climate appropriate plantings on private and City of Hobart land.
- 3.21. Proposed actions under the principle Cultural include:
  - 3.21.1. Establishing a partnership with Pakana Rangers to support shared learning and participation in on-ground land management activities across Hobart's natural areas.
  - 3.21.2. Reviewing the use of the Cenotaph and Regatta grounds to determine the suitability of use for parking and events.
  - 3.21.3. Investigate the use of the former Beaumaris Zoo site as a permanent event space.
- 3.22. Proposed actions under the principle Health and Wellbeing include:
  - 3.22.1. The establishment of a Parkcare program that allows members of the community to become part of a group that helps maintain a park in their area.
  - 3.22.2. Developing a recreational track and trail action plan to improve Hobarts recreational track and trail network (to include links between open spaces such as parks and bushland).
  - 3.22.3. Installing a 'Happy to Chat' bench to help encourage community interaction.
- 3.23. Proposed actions under the principle Quality and Quantity include:
  - 3.23.1. Planning for how we can provide future open space to ensure everyone has access to open space in accordance with the desired proximity standards in the hierarchy.
  - 3.23.2. Investigating options for the provision of new open space in the Central Hobart Plan and North Hobart Neighbourhood Plan areas.
  - 3.23.3. Developing a plan that identifies visitor facility needs across our five major bushland parks/reserves.

#### **4. Legal, Risk and Legislative Considerations**

- 4.1. It is not anticipated that there are any specific legal, risk and legislative issues that apply to the proposed endorsement of the Strategy.

## 5. Strategic Planning and Policy Considerations

5.1. The development of an open space strategy for Hobart is an outcome of the *City of Hobart Capital City Strategic Plan 2023*, which reflects the community's values and aspirations in the document *Hobart: A Community Vision for Our Island Capital*.

5.2. The Strategy aligns with many of the strategic outcomes in the Capital City Strategic Plan 2023 with those of particular relevance including:

5.2.1. Sense of Place

*Outcome: 1.1 Hobart keeps a strong sense of place and identity, even as the city changes.*

*Outcome: 1.2 Hobart's cityscape reflects the heritage, culture and natural environment that make it special.*

5.2.2. Community Inclusion, Participation and Belonging

*Outcome: 2.1 Hobart is a place that recognises and celebrates Tasmanian Aboriginal people, history and culture, working together towards shared goals.*

*Outcome: 2.3 Hobart communities are active, have good health and wellbeing and are engaged in lifelong learning.*

*Outcome 2.4 Hobart communities are safe and resilient, ensuring people can support one another and flourish in times of hardship.*

5.2.3. 6.2.3. Movement and Connectivity

*Outcome 5.2 Hobart has effective and environmentally sustainable transport systems.*

5.2.4. Natural Environment

*Outcome 6.1 The natural environment is part of the city and biodiversity is conserved, secure and flourishing.*

*Outcome 6.2 Education, participation, leadership and partnerships all contribute to Hobart's strong environmental performance and healthy ecosystems.*

*Outcome 6.4 Hobart is a leader on climate change moving toward a zero emissions and climate-resilient city.*

*Outcome 6.5 Hobart's bushland, parks and reserves are places for sport, recreation and play.*

5.3. The Strategy is consistent with several planning and land use documents produced for Tasmania that guide land use and resources.

- 5.4. These documents include various mechanisms to manage growth and change that seek to create healthy communities with adequate access to public open space for sport and recreation and deliver environmental sustainability in Tasmania. Of note are the draft *Southern Tasmania Regional Land Use Strategy, the Tasmanian Open Space Policy and Planning Framework, the 30-Year Greater Hobart Plan.*

## 6. Financial Viability

- 6.1. Financial Considerations:

	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
<b>Revenue</b>				
Existing Revenue				
Additional Revenue				
<b>Total Revenue</b>				
<b>Expenditure</b>				
Operating				
Capital		74	74	152
<b>Total Expenditure</b>				
<b>Net Cost</b>				
<b>FTE Impact</b>				
	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29
Change in FTE				

- 6.1.1. The majority of the actions in the Strategy will be delivered internally by the Open Space Group. Some project/program funding is required.

- 6.1.2. Based on the actions in the Strategy, the estimated funding required over the 10-year life of the Strategy is \$1.6m.

- 6.1.3. The actions in the Strategy are proposed to be delivered in the short term, medium term, long term, or ongoing across the life of the Strategy and any additional funding will be considered as part of the annual budget process.

- 6.2. City Economy Strategy:

- 6.2.1. This proposal aligns to the following strategic priorities listed in the City of Hobart City Economy Strategy 2023 – 2028:

*1.8 Advocate for additional infrastructure that supports our precinct plans and promotes increased public transport use and micro-mobility.*

*3.4 Advocate for infrastructure which is strategically important to the city and the region including cultural, transport and community infrastructure.*

*4.1 Partner with the Hobart community to become one of the nation's greenest cities, including initiatives to contribute towards our goal of achieving 40% tree canopy cover across the city by 2046.*

*4.2 Partner with State and Federal Government to explore the future potential of Hobart's natural environment, including Kunanyi/Mt Wellington access and dispersal and leveraging our natural surroundings for iconic events and experiences.*

6.3. Economic Impact:

6.3.1. Hobart's open spaces attract tourists and visitors whose spending provides economic benefit to local businesses who employ local people creating a local multiplier effect.

6.3.2. Our urban parks are frequently used for open air events such as markets and festivals. The hiring out of these parks for cultural events such as Dark Mofo, Taste, and Street Eats@Franko, brings substantial numbers of visitors into the city, enhances the recreation and visitor experience, as well as providing a source of income to business and the City of Hobart.

6.3.3. Our bushland areas and tracks host a variety of recreation events for locals and visitors including Kunanyi Mountain Run, Point to Pinnacle and Tas Gravity Enduro. These events attract visitors from interstate and overseas, bringing money into Hobart's economy.

6.4. Consultants

6.4.1. The Strategy has been developed and designed by City of Hobart officers.

6.4.2. Consultation with Tasmanian Aboriginal people was undertaken by a consultant to ensure feedback could be provided in a culturally appropriate environment.

**7. Climate and Sustainability Considerations**

7.1. The City of Hobart has committed to lead on climate change by working with community to move toward a zero emissions and climate-resilient future.

7.2. Hobart's open spaces have a key role to play in delivering priorities and actions in the 2040 Climate Ready Hobart Strategy. In particular; Priority 5 'A green city where nature and people thrive'.

- 7.3. Climate change, climate resilience, and sustainability are key themes within the Strategy and in the current work of the City's Open Space Group.
- 7.4. The Strategy includes goals to create resilient open spaces and mitigate climate change impacts, facilitate active travel, and utilise sustainable design principles.
- 7.5. Many of the actions in the Strategy have been developed with sustainability and future proofing as a core consideration.

## **8. Community and Business Engagement and Collaboration**

- 8.1. The first round of community engagement was undertaken in March 2024.
- 8.2. The second round of community engagement was undertaken from 8 October 2025 to 12 November 2025.
  - 8.2.1. 1544 Your Say emails were opened with 663 visits to the Your Say webpage, 202 visits (users clicked on at least one interactive tool).
  - 8.2.2. There were 6,300 social media impressions.
  - 8.2.3. Engagement activities included online and in-person surveys, pop-ups, stakeholder meetings and written submissions.
  - 8.2.4. We received 63 survey responses, had 30 participants in two targeted workshops, got 14 responses/submissions to the interactive map, we engaged with many people at two pop up sessions and received four written submissions.
  - 8.2.5. The two pop up consultations sessions were held at Mathers House and Long Beach.
  - 8.2.6. The two workshops were with the Council of Hobart Community Associations and the Migrant Resource Centre Women's Group.
  - 8.2.7. We received written submissions from Streets People Love Hobart, South Hobart Community Association, Mount Stuart Residents Inc. and New Town Community Association (this was received outside the consultation period but was considered).
  - 8.2.8. A combination of the survey feedback, quick poll, and written submissions indicates strong overall support for the Strategy.
  - 8.2.9. The Community Engagement Summary Report - Draft Open Space Strategy is attached as Attachment B.

8.3. A Palawa consultant was hired separately to conduct engagement with Tasmanian Aboriginal people during the community engagement period and present an engagement report. This report is attached as Attachment C and is summarised below.

8.3.1. The consultant held 22 individual interviews with Aboriginal community members.

8.3.2. All members of the Aboriginal community who contributed to the consultation provided positive feedback on the draft strategy.

8.3.3. Three recommendations were provided and these recommendations are detailed below:

- *Recommendation: Hobart City Council to consider a greater use of “Palawa Kani” (the revived Tasmanian Aboriginal language), particularly for naming or re-naming nature reserves and gathering spaces. These names should be considered in consultation with the Aboriginal community.*
- *Hobart City Council to establish a methodology for working “in partnership” with the Aboriginal community for achieving the objectives outlined in the Open Space Strategy.*
- *Develop a space that allows for Aboriginal economic and cultural advancement for Aboriginal businesses, provide space for the promotion of Aboriginal businesses and where cultural programs could operate including pop-up stations for promotion of Aboriginal cultural events, issues and services.*

8.3.4. In response to feedback received during the second round of community engagement, we made some minor changes to the Strategy to improve readability, revised the wording of a few actions, and added two new actions. More detail is provided in sub section 3.10 of this report.

## **9. Innovation and Continuous Improvement**

9.1. As noted above, the Strategy will be delivered through a comprehensive implementation plan.

9.2. The majority of actions will be delivered by Open Space Group officers. Some actions will be delivered in partnership with other organisations and the community.

9.3. Some actions require funding and the required funding is noted in this report.

- 9.4. We will undertake periodic reviews of the implementation plan to ensure that what we are doing aligns with current priorities which, may change during the lifetime of the Strategy.
- 9.5. We will undertake a comprehensive review of the Strategy after 5 years.

*As signatory to this report, I certify that, pursuant to Section 55(1) of the Local Government Act 1993, I hold no interest, as referred to in Section 49 of the Local Government Act 1993, in matters contained in this report.*



Brian Pearson  
**OPEN SPACE PLANNER**






David Reeve  
**DIRECTOR INFRASTRUCTURE AND  
ASSETS**



Sean Black  
**MANAGER OPEN SPACE**

Date: 19 March 2026  
File Reference: F26/3926; 16/119

- Attachment A: Open Space Strategy 2026-36 (Supporting information) 
- Attachment B: Community Engagement Summary Report - Draft Open Space Strategy (Supporting information) 
- Attachment C: Tasmanian Aboriginal Community Consultation Report (Supporting information) 

**12. Creative City Strategy**  
**File Ref: F26/17009; 16/119**

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Report of the Manager Creative City and the Director Community and Economic Development of 25 March 2026 and attachments.

Delegation: Council

**REPORT TITLE: CREATIVE CITY STRATEGY**

**REPORT PROVIDED BY:** Manager Creative City  
Director Community and Economic Development

**1. Report Summary and Key Issue**

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to present the Creative City Strategy (the Strategy, refer Attachment A) to the Council for adoption.
- 1.2. The Strategy is a key initiative within the City of Hobart's Annual Plan and has been developed by the Creative City Group, comprising Arts and Culture, Events and Activation, and City Venues.
- 1.3. The Strategy is structured around four Council roles - Champion, Custodian, Curator and Catalyst takes a place-led, people-centred approach to make creativity visible in everyday city life.
- 1.4. The development of the Strategy was informed by sector-wide engagement, stakeholder consultation, and public feedback collected across multiple phases between July 2025 and March 2026.
- 1.5. It gives objectives and strategies for the City and defers detailed actions to annual plans so programs can adapt and be measured year to year.
- 1.6. The Strategy provides a contemporary framework to guide cultural investment, precinct activation and creative sector development over the next decade.
- 1.7. If adopted, actions, baseline indicators and a monitoring schedule will be finalised and reported annually through the City's Annual Report.

**2. Recommendation**

***That:***

- 1. The Council adopt the 'Draft - City of Hobart Creative City Strategy' as marked as Attachment A to this report.***
- 2. The Council rescinds the 'City of Hobart Creative Hobart: A Strategic Framework', as marked as Attachment B to this report.***
- 3. The Council authorises the Chief Executive Officer to make any minor amendments necessary to finalise the 'Draft - City of Hobart Creative City Strategy' and arrange for it to be made available from the City's website.***

### **3. Discussion and Background**

- 3.1. On 9 November 2020, Council endorsed a review of City event grant programs to create a fairer, more strategic and streamlined framework.
- 3.2. Stage One commenced in September 2022 with consultants Inkhorn Projects engaged to undertake research and support a Creative City discussion paper.
- 3.3. On 17 July 2023, Council received the research report “Towards a Creative City” and endorsed a full review of grants, partnerships, sponsorships and in-kind arrangements. KPMG was appointed to conduct the funding review.
- 3.4. On 14 October 2024, Council considered the Funding Program Review and endorsed development of a Creative City Strategy.
- 3.5. The Creative City Portfolio Committee’s workplan, endorsed on 25 September 2023, identified development of a Creative City Strategy as a key initiative. The Committee subsequently hosted a workshop in October 2023 with sector and community representatives to inform early consultation.
- 3.6. Following a tender in March 2025, Inkhorn Projects was appointed to prepare the Strategy. Development occurred in four phases between May 2025 and March 2026: research; initial analysis and testing; consultation; and ideation, drafting, testing and finalisation.
- 3.7. Engagement included workshops, forums and two Your Say surveys (7 Oct - 21 Nov 2025; 19 Feb - 8 Mar 2026).
- 3.8. Key Elements of the Strategy
  - 3.8.1. Vision: A City that leads with creative thinking, champions courageous decisions, and connects people through shared stories and expressive public life.
  - 3.8.2. Roles: Champion (visibility, communications, advocacy); Custodian (care for assets and workforce); Curator (coherent, place-based programming); Catalyst (experimentation, access to space, streamlined processes including live music).

### **4. Legal, Risk and Legislative Considerations**

- 4.1. Officers from the City’s Legal and Corporate Governance, Creative City, and Rates, Procurement and Risk Groups were consulted during the preparation of this Strategy.

**5. Strategic Planning and Policy Considerations**

- 5.1. The Strategy aligns with the Central Hobart Plan (precincts, public realm activation, cultural infrastructure and reverse-amenity protections), Country, Culture, People 2025–28 (Aboriginal leadership and cultural safety), the Capital City Strategic Plan 2023 and the City Economy Strategy 2023–2028.
- 5.2. It is the intention that the Creative Hobart: A Strategic Framework (Attachment B) will be rescinded with the development of the Creative City Strategy.

**6. Financial Viability**

- 6.1. Delivery costs are contained within the existing Creative City Group operational budget (Inkhorn Projects \$33,911 excl. GST), with staged payments across 2024-25 (\$8,477.75) and 2025-26 (\$25,433.25).
- 6.2. The forward estimates show \$25,433 operating expenditure in 2025-26, with no FTE impact across the period. No additional funding is sought, and delivery beyond 2025-26 will be managed within existing operational budgets.

	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
<b>Revenue</b>				
Existing Revenue				
Additional Revenue				
<b>Total Revenue</b>				
<b>Expenditure</b>				
Operating	\$25.5			
Capital				
<b>Total Expenditure</b>				
<b>Net Cost</b>	<b>\$25.5</b>			

**FTE Impact**

	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29
Change in FTE	0			

6.3. City Economy Strategy:

- 6.3.1. This proposal aligns to the following strategic priorities listed in the City of Hobart City Economy Strategy 2023-2028:

Strategic Priority 1. Plan for our collective social, economic and environmental prosperity

1.2 - Expansion of the night-time economy

1.4 - High-impact night-time activity as an economic catalyst

1.5 - Inclusive programs improving wellbeing and public amenity; small tactical interventions

Strategic Priority 3 – Position Hobart as an enviable place to visit, live and do business

3.5 - Programs fostering night-time economy, cultural and creative activity

3.8 - Cross-sector collaboration, incubation and testing

Strategic Priority 4 – Promote and leverage Hobart's uniqueness and celebrate the Hobart Difference

4.7 - Promoting artisan producers, businesses and events

4.2 – Leveraging environment and iconic experiences

### **Economic Contribution of the Cultural Sector**

6.4. Using national satellite account data, cultural and creative industries are estimated to contribute \$1.0-\$1.3b annually to Tasmania (FY2020-21 to FY2023-24), with Greater Hobart accounting for over 55–60% of state cultural activity.

6.5. This aligns with the Draft Strategy's cumulative estimate of over \$4.4b over four years and clarifies methodology (employment-share allocation; ABS/BCARR cultural satellite accounts).

### **Consultants**

6.6. An RFQ was issued via Tenderlink on 26 March 2025. A supplier panel review confirmed approval to tender outside panel arrangements for this specialist work. Three (3) submissions were received. The evaluation committee unanimously appointed Inkhorn Projects as the successful supplier.

## **7. Climate and Sustainability Considerations**

7.1. The Strategy supports improved waste management and sustainability measures for City-delivered arts and cultural activities, aligning with the Waste Management Strategy 2015-30 and Single-use Plastic By Law 2020.

## **8. Community and Business Engagement and Collaboration**

8.1. A multi-modal engagement program (July–December 2025) including internal/external workshops, public forums, sector round tables and pop ups reached 125 internal and 260 external participants (approx. 385 total, excl. surveys), alongside two Your Say surveys.

### **Survey Analysis (Your Say)**

- 8.2. Survey 1 (7 Oct-21 Nov 2025): 219 responses; five consistent principles (visibility in everyday life; Council as enabler; broad participation; public space activation; diverse and emerging voices).
- 8.3. Survey 2 (19 Feb-8 Mar 2026): 18 responses; positive resonance with imagination framing, place-nature connection and co-programming; requests for stronger vision measurability, funding clarity, alignment with institutions and simpler processes; live-music ecosystem concerns and traffic impacts noted.
- 8.4. Summary of what we heard
  - 8.4.1. A connected, welcoming creative life with clearer communication and easier participation.
  - 8.4.2. Tasmanian Aboriginal leadership, visibility and cultural safety.
  - 8.4.3. Place, seasons and environment as identity (river, mountain, weather, darkness).
  - 8.4.4. Accessible, flexible spaces across neighbourhoods; family friendly and youth led (including rooftops, laneways, hubs, precincts, and under-utilised buildings).
  - 8.4.5. Play, experimentation and small activations woven into daily life (small activations, pop-ups, and events).
  - 8.4.6. Support for youth and emerging creatives (pathways, mentorship, practice spaces).
  - 8.4.7. Simpler Council processes and better cross-team coordination.
  - 8.4.8. Trust and clarity in programs, partnerships and decision-making.
- 8.5. Targeted issues raised included live-music ecosystem concerns, with support for low-risk performance permits, reverse-amenity/noise settings that protect venues, and small-scale showcases in under-used spaces enabled through streamlined processes.

### **9. Innovation and Continuous Improvement**

- 9.1. The Strategy strengthens integration of cultural activity with broader City strategies and supports precinct-based activation and place-led approaches.
- 9.2. It highlights the role of the cultural and creative sector in driving innovation, with a focus on sustainable regional employment.

- 9.3. These principles establish a structured continuous-improvement framework across all creative activity and embed creativity across the organisation, rather than within a single program area.

*As signatory to this report, I certify that, pursuant to Section 55(1) of the Local Government Act 1993, I hold no interest, as referred to in Section 49 of the Local Government Act 1993, in matters contained in this report.*





Justyne Wilson  
**MANAGER CREATIVE CITY**



Ben Artup  
**DIRECTOR COMMUNITY AND  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Date: 25 March 2026  
File Reference: F26/17009; 16/119

Attachment A: Draft Creative Strategy (Supporting information)   
Attachment B: Rescinded - City of Hobart Creative Hobart: A Strategic Framework (Supporting information) 

**13. Proposed Safe City Liaison Program**  
**File Ref: F26/9940; 16/119**

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Report of the Project Manager Safe City, Manager Economic Development and Director Community and Economic Development of 19 March 2026.

Delegation: Council

**REPORT TITLE: PROPOSED SAFE CITY LIAISON PROGRAM****REPORT PROVIDED BY:** Project Manager Safe City  
Manager Economic Development  
Director Community and Economic Development**1. Report Summary and Key Issue**

- 1.1. This report details the proposed establishment of the Safe City Liaison Program (the Program), a dedicated, Council-led community safety and engagement initiative designed to enhance safety, visibility and community connection across Hobart's public spaces, with a primary focus on the CBD.
- 1.2. The Program will utilise three (3) identified existing, vacant roles, reshaping their functions to support a coordinated and proactive response to community safety issues, business concerns, and emerging social challenges in the city.
- 1.3. The proposed model draws on best practice from other Australian cities where local governments have implemented community-facing safety and engagement roles as a complement to traditional policing and security arrangements.
- 1.4. These models have demonstrated value in improving perceptions of safety, supporting early intervention, strengthening local partnerships and providing public reassurance through a consistent, visible and approachable presence.
- 1.5. By adopting a similar approach, the Program is anticipated to enhance community engagement capability, improve support pathways for vulnerable individuals and increase responsiveness to low-level safety and amenity concerns.
- 1.6. This proposal is strongly aligned with the City of Hobart's strategic commitments, including the Capital City Strategic Plan 2023 objectives relating to wellbeing, public safety and resilience, and supporting local businesses and economic activity.
  - 1.6.1. This proposal also directly responds to the Hobart Community Vision aspiration for a city that feels "friendly and safe" for all.
- 1.7. Importantly, the Program is anticipated to address consistent feedback from key stakeholders such as Tasmania Police, the Safer Hobart Alliance, local businesses and community service providers, who have identified the need for a more visible, proactive and coordinated Council-led presence across public spaces to complement existing CCTV capability, contracted security services and policing operations.

- 1.8. The Program is proposed as a three-year trial, with success to be measured against clearly defined and independently measurable outcomes, including improvements in perceptions of safety, business confidence and the management of low-level anti-social behaviour within the CBD.
- 1.9. Annual progress reports to the Council are planned, together with a comprehensive evaluation that will be undertaken at the conclusion of the trial period to assess effectiveness, value and future direction, including consideration of potential service evolution, coordination with partner agencies and operating hours, informed by evidence gathered throughout the three-year trial.

## 2. Recommendation

***That:***

1. ***The Council endorse the establishment of the Safe City Liaison Program as a three-year trial.***
2. ***The Council receive annual progress reports and an evaluation report outlining the Safe City Liaison Program's performance against the agreed Key Performance Indicators.***

### 3. Discussion and Background

- 3.1. Councils are responsible for the health, safety and welfare of their communities, representing community interests and ensuring peace, order and good governance, as set out in section 20 of the *Local Government Act 1993*.
  - 3.1.1. Modern expectations of local government have evolved significantly, with communities increasingly looking to councils to play a more visible and proactive role in public safety, amenity and wellbeing within public spaces.
- 3.2. Hobart continues to experience persistent issues including anti-social behaviour, youth-related incidents, public intoxication, rough sleeping-related vulnerability, property damage and safety concerns raised by retailers.
  - 3.2.1. These issues directly influence perceptions of safety, levels of business confidence and community wellbeing. Community expectations have grown as Tasmania Police shift toward targeted, intelligence-led policing, leaving identifiable gaps in day-to-day public presence.
- 3.3. Feedback from business groups, the City of Hobart's Safer Hobart Alliance, community service providers and Tasmania Police consistently identifies the need for a visible, approachable and proactive Council presence to support early engagement, de-escalation and localised problem-solving.
- 3.4. An Internal Audit report on Community Safety prepared by WLF Accounting and Advisory in November 2022 identified several key gaps in the City's current approach, including limited outcomes-focused partnerships, challenges in accessing and utilising CCTV data, the absence of a proactive community safety workforce and the need for clearer collaboration frameworks with Tasmania Police.
  - 3.4.1. These findings support the establishment of a dedicated, Council-led safety and engagement function to address identified gaps and strengthen coordinated responses.
- 3.5. The City has made significant investment in community safety infrastructure and initiatives, including an extensive CCTV network, contracted security patrols, late-night precinct initiatives, community education and ongoing stakeholder engagement.
  - 3.5.1. While these initiatives provide important value, they do not deliver continuous, relationship-based engagement or early intervention capability to address underlying issues or support vulnerable community members.
  - 3.5.2. As a result, contracted security services are often ad-hoc in nature and unable to support longer-term localised solutions.

They also do not fulfil Council's broader aspirations for community wellbeing, business support or integrated safety outcomes.

- 3.6. Although the City has invested heavily in modern CCTV infrastructure, the system's effectiveness is inherently limited by its reactive nature. CCTV can identify incidents but cannot intervene, reassure, educate or connect individuals to support services.
  - 3.6.1. Responses arising from CCTV monitoring typically require escalation to Tasmania Police and are subject to competing operational priorities.
  - 3.6.2. This reinforces the need for an internal City of Hobart team capable of responding to low-level issues, gathering localised insights and supporting coordinated intervention and referral.
  - 3.6.3. It is also noted that the City of Hobart maintains a strong partnership with Tasmania Police, including direct access to CCTV systems underpinned by a Memorandum of Understanding, which enhances law enforcement capability but still requires a complementary on-ground Council presence.
- 3.7. Discussions with Tasmania Police have confirmed that Police staffing levels and patrol capacity are determined through Government allocation and cannot be expanded through fee-for-service arrangements.
  - 3.7.1. While Tasmania Police provide regular patrols within the CBD as part of their core operational duties, these patrols cannot be redirected or supplemented through Council funding.
  - 3.7.2. Accordingly, engaging Tasmania Police to deliver services in place of the Safe City Program is not feasible and would not deliver the engagement-based, preventative functions sought by the community.
- 3.8. The proposed program addresses this gap by delivering proactive, relationship-based engagement that complements policing and enforcement functions.

### **Current Resourcing**

- 3.9. The Council's existing annual security expenditure of approximately \$750,000 encompasses essential operational requirements including building security, lock-up duties, parking revenue collection and precinct-specific safety patrols.
  - 3.9.1. These contracts are required to maintain compliance, asset protection and operational continuity across multiple Council services.

- 3.10. A review of security contracts is underway to ensure value for money and alignment with Council priorities; however, significant savings are unlikely and would not generate capacity for community-focused engagement roles. These services are important and should not be re-purposed.
- 3.11. Parking officers, while present in the CBD, operate within strict compliance routes and are not resourced or trained to engage in community safety functions. Their duties are time-critical and focused on regulatory enforcement, not public safety engagement. It would be unreasonable to expect parking officers to absorb the specialised functions of the proposed program.

### **Proposed Resourcing – Establishment of the Safe City Liaison Program**

- 3.12. Comparable Australian local government models demonstrate how relationship-based Council presence can positively influence community safety outcomes without duplicating policing functions.
- 3.13. The proposed Safe City Liaison Program will utilise three (3) existing roles, reshaping their functions to closely align with the City of Perth's established safe city model, where rangers operate as a visible, proactive and non-policing presence within public spaces as part of an integrated community safety system.
  - 3.13.1. In Perth, rangers function alongside CCTV, cleaning services and police partnerships, with a strong focus on early intervention, education, relationship-based engagement and coordinated response.
  - 3.13.2. This model recognises that many community safety and amenity issues occur below the threshold of criminal enforcement but have a significant influence on perceptions of safety, public confidence and business activity if not addressed early.
- 3.14. A formal review undertaken by the City of Perth identified clear benefits relevant to Hobart's context, including the adaptability of rangers to respond to diverse community safety demands, effective coordination with police and human service agencies, and the development of trusted relationships within the community.
  - 3.14.1. The review highlighted that a consistent, relationship-based presence supports prevention, de-escalation and education, improving safety outcomes without increasing reliance on enforcement or policing resources.
  - 3.14.2. These findings support consideration of a similar Council-led, engagement-focused model for Hobart that complements existing policing, CCTV and contracted security arrangements.

- 3.15. The City of Melbourne's community safety officer model was also considered; however, it reflects a more enforcement-adjacent operating approach, with officers authorised to issue directions, infringements and intervene in higher-risk on-street situations.
  - 3.15.1. While appropriate for Melbourne's scale and operating context, this model presents a materially higher staff safety and governance risk and places greater emphasis on compliance activity.
  - 3.15.2. The City of Melbourne's model does not align as closely with Hobart's intended focus on relationship-based engagement, early intervention and low-level issue management, and therefore has not been pursued.
  - 3.15.3. Additionally, at this stage, the City of Melbourne has not published evidence of its program's sustained, measurable impacts on broader community safety outcomes.
- 3.16. The City of Hobart can strengthen its leadership in this area by adopting a more relationship-driven, community-focused model of safety engagement that complements, rather than duplicates, policing and enforcement activity.
- 3.17. Three existing Council positions have been identified for reallocation to establish the Safe City Liaison Program on a cost-neutral basis while maintaining essential service obligations.
  - 3.17.1. These officers will operate as a unified Safe City Liaison Team, reporting to the Project Manager Safe City, ensuring coordinated deployment, supervision and accountability.
- 3.18. The team will focus on customer service, business and community safety engagement, providing a consistent and visible Council presence within the Hobart CBD.
- 3.19. Initial deployment will focus on the Hobart CBD, with any future expansion subject to evidence, evaluation and demonstrated need.
- 3.20. Primary responsibilities will include business engagement, education-based by-law compliance support, referral of vulnerable individuals, collection of localised safety data and coordination with Tasmania Police and community partners.
- 3.21. The team will assume responsibility for proactive monitoring and management of CCTV insights, strengthening Council's capability to identify patterns, respond early and coordinate services.
- 3.22. Comprehensive training will be provided to ensure staff are skilled in de-escalation, trauma-informed practice, community engagement, legislative & by-law awareness and safe operating procedures.

- 3.23. The three (3) Safe City Liaison Officers will engage regularly with counterparts at other councils, including those referenced above, to share learnings, exchange information and continuously identify opportunities to strengthen the program.

### **Program Approach and Objectives**

- 3.24. The program aims to improve both perceptions and experiences of safety in Hobart's public spaces by providing a consistent, proactive, people-focused presence.
- 3.25. Officers will operate under an Educate–Engage–Refer model, prioritising personal safety and non-confrontational engagement. This approach aligns with Council values and supports safe interactions with vulnerable or at-risk individuals.
- 3.26. Officers will support local by-law compliance through education and evidence-gathering, enhancing internal collaboration with investigative compliance teams.
- 3.27. Officers will act as the primary Council resource for Smoke-free Hobart education and compliance, supported by appropriate training and authorisation.
- 3.28. Engagement with vulnerable individuals will focus on connection to appropriate support services, reducing escalation pathways and improving outcomes.
- 3.29. Visible safety concerns such as homelessness, youth-related incidents, public drinking, graffiti and property damage significantly influence community perceptions.
- 3.30. Proactive patrolling will enable early engagement to disrupt escalating behaviours, reduce harm and improve overall community wellbeing.
- 3.31. Officers will maintain strong awareness of the services and referral pathways available across the homelessness, youth, mental health, alcohol & drug and community support sectors.
- 3.31.1. They will be equipped with the skills and information to proactively connect people with these services, making real-time referrals wherever possible. This increases the likelihood of early support, reduces escalation and enhances coordination with partner agencies.
- 3.32. Community interactions will be accurately documented to support evidence-based service delivery, strategic planning and advocacy to state and federal agencies about unmet demand and systemic needs.
- 3.33. A core objective of the program is to support and reassure local businesses while contributing to broader improvements in community wellbeing.

- 3.33.1. At present, the Council has limited scheduled direct engagement with CBD businesses, it is primarily facilitated around specific projects.
  - 3.33.2. This creates gaps in communication around emerging safety concerns, business confidence and the day-to-day experience of workers and customers in the city centre.
  - 3.33.3. The program will establish a reliable, proactive link between Council and the business community.
  - 3.33.4. Regular engagement will allow businesses to raise concerns, share observations and receive timely support from Council staff.
  - 3.33.5. This increased visibility also strengthens trust and partnership with retailers, hospitality venues, service providers and commercial operators.
- 3.34. During routine patrols, officers will also support the monitoring of business-related compliance areas such as outdoor dining layouts, footpath signage and roadside vending. Their role is educative and supportive, helping businesses navigate requirements and identify minor issues before they escalate.
  - 3.35. At this stage, officers will not be expected to enforce compliance, however engagements would be recorded to support or provide additional evidence for City of Hobart Compliance Officers and the City Inspector if required.
  - 3.36. Given the broad scope of the program, the roles and responsibilities of the Safe City Liaison Team will be clearly communicated to the public.
    - 3.36.1. Consistent messaging and community awareness materials will ensure residents, businesses and visitors understand the purpose of the service, how it operates and how to engage with it effectively.

### **Roles and Responsibilities Breakdown**

- 3.37. The Safe City Liaison Team is intended to operate initially on a Monday to Friday, business-hours model, with a primary focus on the Hobart CBD to support businesses, workers and daytime community activity.
- 3.38. In practice, a typical day may involve the following:
  - Undertaking patrol routes, informed by known community safety “hot spots” and locations where people report feeling least safe.
  - Proactively engaging with business owners and staff to provide reassurance, support and a visible Council presence, while acting as a consistent point of contact for safety-related concerns.

- Gathering real-time information on emerging community safety issues, local needs and environmental or amenity concerns identified during patrols.
- Respectfully engaging with community members who may appear vulnerable or at risk, using soft-skills-based, trauma-informed approaches to understand individual circumstances.
- Identifying additional support needs through engagement and facilitating referrals to external service providers in Hobart using established referral pathways.
- Undertaking Smoke-free Hobart education and engagement, providing information to community members and businesses, and monitoring compliance.
- Supporting business by-law compliance through education and engagement, with a focus on early guidance and relationship building.
- Through regular patrols, identifying individuals remaining in CBD areas for extended periods and initiating appropriate engagement where this aligns with community perceptions of safety and does not elevate risk.
- Making referrals in the field where appropriate and escalating matters to Tasmania Police in accordance with established protocols when required.
- Ensuring all engagements, referrals, observations and incidents are accurately recorded, with follow-up actions completed in a timely and accountable manner in line with reporting requirements.

3.39. Different agencies and levels of government deliver different functions and services relating to the Safer Hobart purpose. The table below provides a breakdown of the proposed responsibilities under the program.

<b>Emergencies 000</b>	<b>Tasmania Police 131444</b>	<b>Safe City Liaison Program</b>
Fire	Anti-social behaviour	Abandoned vehicles reporting
Life or property is threatened	Assault	Animal control reporting
Serious accident or crime	Burglary / vehicle break-in	Begging reporting/referrals
Serious or life-threatening injuries	Criminal damage	Busking reporting/education
	Drug use / drug paraphernalia	Footpath obstructions reporting/education
	Found property / suspicious items	Littering reporting
	Indecent / obscene behaviour	Permit checks reporting
	Stealing / shoplifting (including attempts)	Smoking in Smoke Free areas enforcement/ education
	Consuming alcohol in the street/park	Street trading reporting/education

	Suspicious behaviour	Unauthorised signage in public reporting/education
	Threats	Referral activity: - Rough sleeping - Youth welfare
	Traffic incidents	Business and community engagement in CBD
	Trespassing	De-escalation of anti-social behaviour reporting
	Weapon possession	Compliance related engagement/education
	Welfare concerns	

#### 4. Legal, Risk and Legislative Considerations

##### Risks

- 4.1. Establishing the Safe City Liaison Program directly supports the Council's obligation under section 20 of the *Local Government Act 1993* provide for the health, safety and welfare of their communities, by strengthening the City's capacity to positively influence safety, amenity and wellbeing within public spaces.
- 4.2. The WLF Community Safety Audit confirmed a significant gap in the City's capability to deliver active, on-ground community safety functions, demonstrating the need for a formalised, trained and well-supported internal team. The Audit identified key opportunities to strengthen Council's approach to community safety, including the need for more active, on-ground engagement and improved coordination across partnerships and data sources.
  - 4.2.1. The Program will directly address these recommendations ensuring Council's investments in safety infrastructure and partnerships are more effective to achieve meaningful outcomes.
- 4.3. No existing Council role currently provides ongoing, proactive engagement with community members, vulnerable individuals and businesses in public spaces, for the purpose proposed for this program.
- 4.4. The introduction of dedicated staff represents an essential investment in Council's ability to meet its responsibilities.

##### Officer Safety

- 4.5. The nature of the role will require interactions with vulnerable individuals and situations that may present varying levels of risk.

- 4.6. A strong emphasis will be placed on staff safety through comprehensive training in situational awareness, de-escalation, trauma-informed practice and safe working protocols including dynamic risk assessment and withdrawal decision-making in public environments.
- 4.7. Clear operational guidelines, real-time supervision and established escalation pathways to Tasmania Police will ensure that officer safety remains paramount.
- 4.8. Body-worn video will support accountability, evidence gathering and incident management.

### **Community Perception**

- 4.9. Public expectations around community safety responses can be divided. Some stakeholders expect assertive enforcement, while others are concerned about over-policing or the criminalisation of vulnerability.
- 4.10. Transparent communication about the Programs purpose, centred on an Educate–Engage–Refer model, will help manage community expectations and reinforce that this is a supportive, non-confrontational service.
- 4.11. Clear uniform branding and consistent messaging will assist in building trust and understanding.

### **Legislative Compliance**

- 4.12. Officers will be required to meet legislative obligations under the *Local Government Act 1993*, relevant by-laws, public health legislation and privacy requirements.
- 4.13. As authorised officers for specific compliance functions (e.g., Smoke-free Hobart), officers will receive targeted training to ensure safe, consistent and lawful decision-making.
- 4.14. Additional obligations relating to CCTV monitoring and privacy management will be addressed through structured training, procedural oversight and adherence to Council's privacy governance framework.

### **Risk Mitigation**

- 4.15. Comprehensive training
  - 4.15.1. All officers will undergo comprehensive induction and ongoing professional development, provided by internal subject matter experts and external service providers, as required. This will include de-escalation and conflict management training (non-physical), dynamic risk assessment and withdrawal decision-making, Safe City Hub operational procedures, mental health first aid (recognition and referral), trauma-informed practice, cultural safety, legislative awareness for authorised

officer functions, safe engagement with intoxicated individuals, and appropriate use of body-worn video.

4.15.2. The Educate–Engage–Refer model clearly outlines the boundaries of the role and ensures staff do not engage in enforcement activities beyond their remit.

4.16. Risk assessments and inter-agency coordination

4.16.1. Continuous risk assessments will guide roster planning, shift deployment and engagement activities.

4.16.2. Regular briefings and information sharing with Tasmania Police and relevant community services will ensure situational awareness and support early, coordinated interventions.

4.16.3. Clear operational protocols including criteria for escalation and withdrawal will guide and protect staff in higher-risk situations.

4.17. Privacy / authorised officer compliance

4.17.1. Given the officers involvement in CCTV monitoring and data handling, staff will receive specific training in privacy obligations, authorised officer responsibilities, data security and ethical use of information.

4.17.2. This includes compliance with the *Personal Information Protection Act 2004* and internal policies. Strong governance controls will ensure appropriate use, retention and disclosure of information.

4.17.3. Further risk mitigation measures include:

- Ongoing supervision and peer support
- Body-worn video with strict privacy safeguards
- Formalised reporting and documentation standards
- Participation in cross-agency meetings to support aligned responses
- Regular reviews of operational policy, procedures and safety practices

4.17.4. These measures collectively ensure that the Safe City Liaison Program is compliant, safe, well-governed and support a modern, community-focused approach to public safety.

## 5. Strategic Planning and Policy Considerations

5.1. This initiative has strong strategic alignment with Hobart: A community Vision for our island capital in particular:

- 1.3.6 *People want to spend time in our city because it is comfortable, safe and wonderful. Our visitors feel a sense of friendliness and magic that they miss when they leave.*
  - 2.6.3 *We are a safe city, where everyone feels safe and is safe, including in public spaces. We look after each other.*
  - 3.4 *Our city feels friendly and safe - but we know not everyone experiences our city this way, and we could do better.*
  - 4.5.6 *We listen to the needs of our business communities.*
  - 5.6.3 *We develop appropriate long-term and sustainable solutions by investing in skills, systems and processes in conjunction with the community and a variety of partners.*
- 5.2. It also strongly aligns with the Capital City Strategic Plan 2023:
- 2.2.4 *Build and leverage our evidence base, experience and community knowledge to understand those who are most disadvantaged, excluded and vulnerable and develop appropriate initiatives.*
  - 2.4.1 *Protect and improve public and environmental health, wellbeing and safety.*
  - 2.4.2 *Ensure that Hobart is a safe and liveable city by enhancing community wellbeing and public safety and security.*
  - 4.2.2 *Actively support and engage with local businesses, business groups and networks, industry associations, key institutions and other stakeholders in the Hobart economy.*
  - 7.1.6 *Support members of the community who are experiencing homelessness.*
  - 7.3.3 *Ensure City-owned assets and public spaces are accessible, of high quality and provide a high level of amenity to meet community and visitor requirements.*
  - 7.3.5 *Measure, manage and support the effective use of city facilities, infrastructure and public spaces.*
- 5.3. This proposal is also strongly aligned with the *City Economy Strategy 2023-2028* and the *City for All: Community Inclusion and Equity Framework*.
- 5.4. There is a specific action in the Council-endorsed *City for All Action Plan 2026-29* in the Community Safety and Crime Prevention priority area to:

*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.*

## 6. Financial Viability

### 6.1. Financial Considerations:

	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
<b>Revenue</b>				
Existing Revenue				
Additional Revenue				
<b>Total Revenue</b>				
<b>Expenditure</b>				
Operating	0	300.2	300.2	300.2
Capital				
<b>Total Expenditure</b>				
<b>Net Cost</b>	0	300.2	300.2	300.2

6.2. The figures outlined in the table above reflect the labour and associated costs to Council, excluding any provisions of the current Enterprise Agreement.

6.2.1. These figures reflect the cost of the three (3), repurposed existing roles and are not new budget requests / costs.

6.2.2. No new funding will be required for this program at this point, and any new funds will be subject to Council decisions.

### FTE Impact

	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29
Change in FTE	0	0	0	0

*Detail the change in the level of full-time equivalents within the group should the requested level of additional funding be required.*

6.3. This initiative will utilise current identified vacant positions, ensuring that staffing requirements are met without the need for additional FTE funding.

6.4. Operational costs will be absorbed within existing allocations, with minimal new expenditure anticipated beyond uniforms, training and operational equipment.

6.5. City Economy Strategy:

6.5.1. This proposal aligns to the following strategic priorities listed in the City of Hobart City Economy Strategy 2023 – 2028:

1. *Plan for our collective social, economic and environmental prosperity - Partner with key stakeholders to deliver initiatives that support the needs of our wider community and strengthen our local economy as a small island state capital city.*

1.5 *Partner and deliver programs that are inclusive, foster well-being and enhance quality aspects of city life, including short-term tactical interventions to improve public amenity*

3. *Position Hobart as an enviable place to visit, live and do business – Hobart is viewed as a desirable commercial, cultural, residential and visitor destination.*

3.6 *Partner with State Government and business to develop initiatives to improve safety and security.*

6.6. Economic Impact:

6.6.1. Improving perceptions of safety in the CBD delivers direct economic benefits by creating an environment in which people feel confident to visit, spend time and participate in city life, supporting business activity and overall economic vitality.

6.6.2. A proactive, visible and approachable Council presence strengthens business confidence, encourages foot traffic, reduces disruptions associated with antisocial behaviour, and enhances Hobart's attractiveness as a place to visit, invest in and live.

6.7. Consultants

6.7.1. No consultants have been used in the preparation of this report, or will be required in delivering the recommendations of this report.

**7. Community and Business Engagement and Collaboration**

7.1. The proposed Program has been developed through extensive consultation with key stakeholders, including the Safer Hobart Alliance, Tasmania Police, local businesses, community service providers and internal Council teams.

7.1.1. These discussions have informed the design of the program, ensuring it reflects local needs, complements existing services and supports a coordinated, city-wide approach to community safety.

7.2. Tasmania Police have expressed strong support for the initiative, recognising the value of a trained, on-ground Council presence that can identify emerging issues early, provide timely situational information and

address non-policing matters that would otherwise place additional demand on Police resources.

- 7.3. The Safe City Liaison Team initiative has been designed to operate alongside, not in place of, Tasmania Police.
  - 7.3.1. Council staff will engage early with low-level safety and amenity issues and escalate matters to Police in accordance with established protocols where criminal, high-risk or urgent situations arise.
  - 7.3.2. The City of Hobart already maintains strong operational relationships with Tasmania Police through regular joint forums, workshops and CCTV coordination, supported by formal information-sharing arrangements.
  - 7.3.3. This ensures Police are familiar with the role, have clear lines of communication, and can respond through existing priority-based frameworks, while Council staff prioritise their own safety and withdraw where critical Police attendance is required.
- 7.4. Council officers will escalate matters through the same priority-based Police response framework that applies to any public safety report. The difference is that Council officers will provide earlier visibility, informed and relevant information, and safer escalation, but still noting that they do not have control over Police response.
- 7.5. The Safer Hobart Alliance has unanimously endorsed the program, identifying improved community engagement, early intervention capability and a more visible Council presence in public places as priority needs. The Program has been designed to directly respond to these priorities

## **8. Innovation and Continuous Improvement**

- 8.1. The Safe City Liaison Program builds on recommendations outlined in the WLF Community Safety Audit (2022), which identified opportunities for the City to strengthen community safety outcomes through more proactive, on-ground engagement and improved coordination with stakeholders.
- 8.2. The proposed establishment of three (3) dedicated Safe City Liaison Officers positions represents an initial investment phase designed to establish baseline understanding of community needs, service demand and operational requirements within the Hobart CBD.
- 8.3. The Program is proposed as a three-year trial, enabling Council to evaluate effectiveness, value and future direction based on measurable outcomes rather than activity alone.

**8.4. Year 1 – Establishment and Baseline**

- 8.4.1. Year 1 will focus on program establishment, workforce capability and the development of robust baseline measures.
- 8.4.2. This will include induction and training, consideration of extended probation arrangements (up to six (6) months), and confirmation that staff are suitably equipped for the role.
- 8.4.3. Baseline data will be established for community and business perceptions of safety, initial engagement patterns and referral pathways, supported by consistent reporting and data-collection frameworks.

**8.5. Year 2 – Review and Refinement**

- 8.5.1. Year 2 will focus on reviewing Year 1 outcomes and measuring change against established baselines.
- 8.5.2. This will include analysis of shifts in perceptions of safety, business confidence, quality of engagement and effectiveness of referral pathways.
- 8.5.3. Evidence gathered will be used to identify emerging issues, service gaps and opportunities to refine deployment models, training focus and operational priorities, ensuring the program remains responsive to community and business needs.

**8.6. Year 3 – Evaluation and Future Direction**

- 8.6.1. In Year 3, the program will undergo a comprehensive evaluation to assess effectiveness, value and long-term sustainability.
- 8.6.2. This evaluation will inform decisions regarding ongoing commitment, potential program adjustments and whether staffing levels, service scope or delivery models should be continued, modified or discontinued.
- 8.6.3. As part of this evaluation, Council may consider opportunities to evolve the program, including more coordinated or co-response approaches with partner agencies and assessment of alternative operating hours, subject to evidence of need and demonstrated capability.

8.7. Findings from the trial will support informed decision-making, with emphasis on continuous improvement, evidence-led service design and alignment with Council's strategic objectives.

8.8. Ongoing reporting by officers will be critical to measuring outcomes, demonstrating value and identifying emerging community needs through evidence rather than volume of activity.

- 8.9. Reporting will also support transparency and public confidence in Council's investment in community safety and its ongoing commitment to a safe, inclusive and well-managed city.
- 8.10. It is acknowledged that a coordinated, multi-agency response is the ideal approach to implementing this type of program, and as part of an ongoing commitment to innovation and continuous improvement this model will be explored as the program matures and evolves. As this is a new program, it is not practical to suggest other agencies commit to a multi-agency approach from the outset. However, this is a goal, and the pursuit of this approach will occur as the program becomes established, and as part of reporting back to Council on the program, progress on this will be communicated.

### **Measurables and Reporting – Key Performance Indicators**

- 8.11. **Perceptions of Safety**  
Changes in community and business perceptions of safety within the Hobart CBD, measured through existing and targeted survey mechanisms, with baseline data established prior to or during early program deployment.  
Program success will be determined by increased confidence of safety.
- 8.12. **Effectiveness of Referral Pathways**  
Quality and outcomes of referrals made to support services (e.g. rough sleeping, youth welfare, health and social support), including evidence of early intervention and reduced escalation, rather than raw referral counts.
- 8.13. **Service Demand and Issue Trends**  
Analysis of recurring safety and amenity issues, hotspot patterns and demand trends observed through engagement and patrol activity, supporting proactive and targeted responses.
- 8.14. **Stakeholder Confidence and Feedback**  
Qualitative feedback from Tasmania Police, businesses, service providers and community stakeholders regarding coordination, responsiveness and perceived impact.
- 8.15. **Business Engagement Outcomes**  
Improvements in business confidence, quality of engagement and responsiveness to concerns, rather than number of contacts alone.
- 8.16. **Compliance-Related Engagement (Education-Based)**  
Observations and education-based engagement relating to outdoor dining, footpath trading, Smoke-Free Areas, dogs, mobile vendors and other by-law topics, used to inform compliance teams and identify systemic issues.

8.17. **Smoke-Free Area Education**

Trends in education-based interactions and referrals to regulatory teams, supporting improved compliance through awareness rather than enforcement metrics.

*As signatory to this report, I certify that, pursuant to Section 55(1) of the Local Government Act 1993, I hold no interest, as referred to in Section 49 of the Local Government Act 1993, in matters contained in this report.*



Tai Gavin  
**PROJECT MANAGER SAFE CITY**



Nick McGuire  
**MANAGER ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**



Ben Artup  
**DIRECTOR COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Date: 19 March 2026  
File Reference: F26/9940; 16/119

**14. Hobart Inner City Housing Supply Incentive**  
**File Ref: F26/17085**

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Report of the Chief Executive Officer of 25 March 2026 and attachment.

Delegation: Council

**REPORT TITLE: HOBART INNER CITY HOUSING SUPPLY INCENTIVE**

**REPORT PROVIDED BY:** Chief Executive Officer

**1. Report Summary and Key Issue**

- 1.1. Hobart needs more homes close to jobs, services and public transport, but many approved housing projects are not progressing to construction.
- 1.2. This report proposes a Hobart Inner City Housing Supply Incentive Policy to help turn approved developments into homes by reducing some of the costs that arise when building starts.
- 1.3. The incentive would be focused on multi-dwelling residential projects (generally five or more homes) and on converting upper floors of existing buildings to residential use.
- 1.4. It is intended to apply in central Hobart, North Hobart and the Hobart waterfront.
- 1.5. The main proposed incentive is a five-year 100% rates remission (a rates holiday) for eligible projects, paid back from the financial year construction commences, with possible refunds of certain development application fees.
- 1.6. The report notes that Council's contribution alone will not be enough to shift decisions on larger projects, so Council is also working with TasWater and the Tasmanian Government to strengthen the overall package.
- 1.7. The report also recommends that the Council re-examine the potential for inclusionary zoning and density bonuses, assessing how they might operate within the current framework to better support affordable housing objectives.
- 1.8. If adopted, the policy would be implemented through a clear set of eligibility criteria and approvals, with the aim of increasing housing supply in Hobart's inner city.

**2. Recommendation*****That Council:***

- 1. Resolve to endorse the Hobart Inner City Housing Supply Incentive Policy (Attachment A).***
- 2. Approve, subject to the eligibility criteria in the Policy, a five (5) year 100% remission of the General Rate and Stormwater Removal Service Rate (rates holiday) for eligible developments, with reimbursement to apply from the financial year in which construction commences (and for the following four financial years).***
- 3. Approve, subject to the eligibility criteria in the Policy, the repayment of development application fees paid in respect of an eligible development, to be administered in accordance with the Policy and any associated delegations.***
- 4. Request the Chief Executive Officer establish the administrative and governance arrangements required to implement the Policy, including (as applicable): confirming required approvals are in place; confirming Urban Design Advisory Panel (UDAP) review; defining evidence requirements for construction commencement; and reporting to Council on uptake and outcomes.***
- 5. Request the Chief Executive Officer continue liaison with TasWater and the Tasmanian Government to strengthen the overall incentive package and progress the proposed legal instrument to enable partner participation in implementation.***
- 6. Request the Chief Executive Officer to provide a report to Council re-examining the potential for inclusionary zoning and density bonuses, assessing how they might operate within the current framework to better support affordable housing objectives.***
- 7. Note that, if the Policy is adopted, clear public information will be provided on eligibility and application steps, and the Policy's effectiveness will be reviewed after an initial implementation period to assess housing delivery outcomes.***

### 3. Discussion and Background

- 3.1. At its meeting on Monday 25 August 2025, the Council made the following decision:
  - 3.1.1. *That Council requests an urgent report from the CEO for it to consider:*
    - 3.1.1.1. *An incentives package that encourages residential building in Central Hobart, with a particular focus on the Innovation Precinct features in Council's Central Hobart Plan.*
    - 3.1.1.2. *The package may include rates and fees incentives together with any other incentives that may be identified to support development of housing.*
    - 3.1.1.3. *The report should include liaison with other agencies such TasWater, TasNetworks , Department of State Growth's Housing Density Incentive Grant and the Federal Government's Housing Future Fund and Build to Rent incentives and outline possible additional incentives that could be offered as well as the steps that the Council can take to get develop a comprehensive Central Hobart residential development incentive package to promote and facilitate increased delivery of residential development.*
    - 3.1.1.4. *The report should also outline the steps Council are proposing to take to bring forward a planning scheme amendment to enact the Central Hobart Plan, which expands the potential development of sites such as the K&D site and others.*
- 3.2. The Southern Tasmania Regional Land Use Strategy (STRLUS) has identified that the Hobart CBD & immediate surrounds (including waterfront) should be complimented by infill and consolidation of surrounding residential areas at higher net densities of 25+ dwellings per hectare. The draft STRLUS is currently proposing that a more ambitious target of 50+ dwelling per hectare be adopted for the Hobart CBD.
- 3.3. Based on the most recent census data (2021) the Hobart central area had 1,756 dwellings within its area of 225 hectares, which amounts to a net density of approximately 7.8 dwellings per hectare.
- 3.4. Clearly the City is a long way short of the STRLUS density target and in particular the proposed target.

- 3.5. Existing supply and construction trends have been analysed and continuing the current rate of urban expansion is not sustainable, particularly against the capacity of existing residential areas to accommodate additional dwellings. At present approximately 85% of new dwellings in Tasmania are single, detached and located in greenfield subdivisions and at relatively low densities of between 7 to 10 dwelling per hectare (net density). This proportion is higher than any other Australian state or Territory.
- 3.6. One of the major reasons for this is the cost of residential development.
- 3.7. The financial impact associated with recovering upfront construction costs when developing new residential housing in central Hobart can be significant and act as a deterrent in delivering new housing to the market. This policy outlines Council's approach to reduce these financial deterrents to facilitate more residential development within central Hobart.
- 3.8. This was reinforced in December 2024, when the City of Hobart hosted the Hobart Housing Forum, which identified that the cost of development was identified as a significant barrier to development in Hobart. This included the cost and supply of appropriate sites for development, the cost of upgrading infrastructure, construction costs including materials and labour costs resulting from insufficient access to qualified builders and tradespeople, which is predicted to worsen in the future.
- 3.9. The problem is not in the approval of the residential developments; it's in the delivery. For instance, over the past five (5) years, the Council has issued 2,099 planning permits for single residential dwellings, plus 483 Planning Permits for multiple residential developments (refer table 1):

	Single Resid.	Multiple Resid	Sub - division	Com	Tourism	Industrial & utilities	Other	Total
20/21	537	75	15	193	59	5	11	895
21/22	461	65	5	169	126	9	7	842
22/23	417	48	4	164	174	12	5	824
23/24	361	50	11	159	110	1	1	693
24/25	323	45	12	116	74	10	3	583
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,099</b>	<b>483</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>801</b>	<b>543</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>3,837</b>

**Table 1: Planning Permits Issued 2020/21 – 2024/25**

- 3.10. However, the level of building that is occurring belies the number of planning permits that are being approved.
- 3.11. For instance, Council officers have recently completed an exercise of comparing the planning permits that have been approved for new dwellings in central Hobart over the last 10 years against the building permits for new dwellings approved for that same period. This has identified that there is the order of 907 approved but undeveloped dwellings in Hobart, which is illustrated in Table 2.

- 3.12. This figure is a clear demonstration that there are problems in the current development system and economy which is preventing new residence being constructed within the City.

<b>Dwelling Count</b>	<b>Total Number</b>	<b>Median Value</b>
Between 1 and 5	865	\$400,000
Between 6 and 10	16	\$2,400,000
Between 11 and 20	8	\$4,999,500
Between 21 and 30	11	\$6,850,000
Between 31 and 40	2	\$10,000,000
Between 41 and 50	2	\$15,000,000
Between 51 and 60	2	\$29,000,000
Between 60 and 70	1	\$20,000,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>907</b>	<b>-</b>

**Table 2: Approved by Undeveloped Dwellings**

- 3.13. In order to effectively intervene in this cycle, a housing supply incentive scheme needs to focus on facilitating building projects, as opposed to facilitating development applications. No additional financial assistance is required in the development application stage of the process and therefore, this report is recommending that the Council consider a Housing Supply Incentive Policy that is purely focused on the commencement and completion of residential building projects.
- 3.14. It is recommended that the applicable area for the incentive package include the central Hobart, North Hobart and the Hobart waterfront areas to provide the best opportunity for facilitating higher density developments.
- 3.15. The Policy needs to focus on the promotion of residential development for multiple dwellings which include a minimum of five (5) dwellings or more within a development that is wholly residential or has a mixed use component, or the conversion of Upper Levels of existing building stock into residential development in which case there would be no minimum dwelling requirement.
- 3.16. To be eligible a proposal would need to have required Planning Permits and associated approvals in place and have been through the Council's Urban Design Advisory Panel (UDAP) review process, except in cases where the development only includes a change of use for an existing building.
- 3.17. In terms of provision of an incentive scheme for residential development, the Council has the following levers at its disposal:
- 3.17.1. General Rate and Stormwater Removal Service Rate;
  - 3.17.2. Planning Application fee;
  - 3.17.3. Building Application fee;

- 3.17.4. Plumbing Application fee; and
- 3.17.5. Strata Title fee.
- 3.17.6. Additionally, the Council can waive fees associated with the disposal of waste at the McRobies Gully Waste Management site (where appropriate).
- 3.18. For a suitable incentive in terms of a remission of the General Rate and Stormwater Removal Service Rate (or rates holiday), it is recommended that the Council provide a 100% remission for eligible developments with a term of five (5) years. This would involve the reimbursement of any rates paid for the financial year that the construction is commenced and a further four (4) financial years for the property/properties subject to development.
- 3.19. The rates holiday would apply to the property/properties subject to the development, not the owner of the property/properties.
- 3.20. A draft policy (attachment A) has been developed in accordance with the above-mentioned criteria, which was workshopped with the Elected Members on 17 November 2025. There have been a few recommended changes to the draft Policy since the workshop which have been driven by the engagement process. These changes are marked in red.
- 3.21. In order to assess the quantum of the proposed rates remission, an analysis has been undertaken to assess four financial scenarios against recent multi-density developments that have occurred within central Hobart (refer Tables in section 3.21.4).
  - 3.21.1. The scenarios are based on 3.5% rate increases per annum, together with a number of potential outcomes relating to the property re-valuation process.
  - 3.21.2. The years highlighted (yellow) depict the estimated actual loss of rates revenue.
  - 3.21.3. It is only the year highlighted where Council would experience an actual rates revenue loss (from lost supplementary rates revenue). In all other years, as long as Council is aware the remission will apply before settling its rates for the year, there would be no actual rates revenue loss. The Council will raise the amounts of rates it requires in its budget factoring in any remissions that apply.
  - 3.21.4. These are estimates only and based on specific scenarios.

<b>Scenario 1</b>	<b>Assume 3.5% p.a. rates revenue increase, no valuation increases and revaluation in Year 2</b>			
	<b>Building A</b> (51 multiple storey units and a	<b>Building B</b> (80 separately titled multiple storey units)	<b>Building C</b> (26 separately titled conjoined	<b>Building D</b> (40 separately titled units)

	carpark) Units are \$520K	Units range from \$310K to \$990K	units) Units range from \$610K to \$1.4M	Units range from \$520K to \$850K
Year 1	\$5,658	\$30,553	\$17,232	\$19,544
<b>Year 2</b>	<b>\$84,275</b>	<b>\$104,110</b>	<b>\$52,118</b>	<b>\$68,108</b>
Year 3	\$87,225	\$107,753	\$53,942	\$70,491
Year 4	\$90,278	\$111,525	\$55,830	\$72,959
Year 5	\$93,438	\$115,428	\$57,784	\$75,512
Total Rates Remission	\$360,876	469,371	\$236,909	\$306,616
Develop fees	\$71,371	\$79,371	\$71,371	\$70,000 (Approx)
Total Remission	\$432,247	\$548,742	\$311,280	\$376,616
Remission per unit	\$8,475	\$6,859	\$11,972	\$9,415

<b>Scenario 2</b>	<b>Assume 3.5% p.a. rates revenue increase, a 10% valuation increase in Year 3 and revaluation in Year 2</b>			
	<b>Building A</b> (51 multiple storey units and a carpark) Units are \$520K	<b>Building B</b> (80 separately titled multiple storey units) Units range from \$310K to \$990K	<b>Building C</b> (26 separately titled conjoined units) Units range from \$610K to \$1.4M	<b>Building D</b> (40 separately titled units) Units range from \$520K to \$850K
Year 1	\$5,658	\$30,553	\$17,232	\$19,544
<b>Year 2</b>	<b>\$84,275</b>	<b>\$104,110</b>	<b>\$52,118</b>	<b>\$68,108</b>
Year 3	\$95,838	\$118,393	\$61,614	\$77,452
Year 4	\$99,192	\$122,537	\$63,771	\$80,163
Year 5	\$102,664	\$126,826	\$66,003	\$82,969
Total Rates Remission	\$387,629	\$502,420	\$260,739	\$328,237
Develop fees	\$71,371	\$79,371	\$71,371	\$70,000 (Approx)
Total Remission	<b>\$459,000</b>	<b>\$581,791</b>	<b>\$332,110</b>	<b>\$398,237</b>
Remission per Unit	\$9,000	\$7,272	\$12,773	\$9,955

<b>Scenario 3</b>	<b>Assume 3.5% p.a. rates revenue increase, no valuation increases and revaluation in Year 1</b>			
	<b>Building A</b> (51 multiple storey units and a carpark) Units are \$520K	<b>Building B</b> (80 separately titled multiple storey units) Units range from \$310K to \$990K	<b>Building C</b> (26 separately titled conjoined units) Units range from \$610K to \$1.4M	<b>Building D</b> (40 separately titled units) Units range from \$520K to \$850K
<b>Year 1</b>	<b>\$81,426</b>	<b>\$100,589</b>	<b>\$50,356</b>	<b>\$65,805</b>
Year 2	\$84,275	\$104,110	\$52,118	\$68,108
Year 3	\$87,225	\$107,753	\$53,942	\$70,491
Year 4	\$90,278	\$111,525	\$55,830	\$72,959
Year 5	\$93,438	\$115,428	\$57,784	\$75,512
Total Rates Remission	\$436,644	\$539,407	\$270,033	\$352,877
Develop fees	\$71,371	\$79,371	\$71,371	\$70,000 (Approx)
<b>Total Remission</b>	<b>\$508,015</b>	<b>\$618,788</b>	<b>\$341,404</b>	<b>\$422,877</b>
Remission per Unit	\$9,961	\$7,734	\$13,130	\$10,571

<b>Scenario 4</b>	<b>Assume 3.5% p.a. rates revenue increase, a 10% valuation increase in Year 3 and revaluation in Year 1</b>			
	<b>Building A</b> (51 multiple storey units and a carpark) Units are \$520K	<b>Building B</b> (80 separately titled multiple storey units) Units range from \$310K to \$990K	<b>Building C</b> (26 separately titled conjoined units) Units range from \$610K to \$1.4M	<b>Building D</b> (40 separately titled units) Units range from \$520K to \$850K
<b>Year 1</b>	<b>\$81,426</b>	<b>\$100,589</b>	<b>\$50,356</b>	<b>\$65,805</b>
Year 2	\$84,275	\$104,110	\$52,118	\$68,108
Year 3	\$95,838	\$118,393	\$61,614	\$77,452
Year 4	\$99,192	\$122,537	\$63,771	\$80,163
Year 5	\$102,664	\$126,826	\$66,003	\$82,969
Total Rates Remission	\$463,397	\$572,456	\$293,863	\$374,498
Develop fees	\$71,371	\$79,371	\$71,371	\$70,000 (Approx)
<b>Total Remission</b>	<b>\$534,768</b>	<b>\$651,827</b>	<b>\$365,234</b>	<b>\$444,498</b>
Remission per Unit	\$10,485	\$8,147	\$14,047	\$11,112

3.22. In addition to the rate remission, it is recommended that development application fees paid in respect to an eligible development be re-paid to the property owner. The Council's development fees for the 2024/25 financial year are illustrated in the table below:

24/25 fees	Planning	Building (permits)	Plumbing (permits)	Total
\$1M to \$2M	\$10,029	\$1,637	\$6,155	<b>\$17,821</b>
\$2M to \$5M	\$10,029	\$1,637	\$9,290	<b>\$20,956</b>
\$5M to \$7.5M	\$30,351	\$1,637	\$13,742	<b>\$45,730</b>
\$7.5M to \$10M	\$30,351	\$1,859	\$13,742	<b>\$45,952</b>
\$10M to \$20M	\$47,770	\$1,859	\$21,742	<b>\$71,371</b>
\$20M to \$25M	\$47,770 <sup>2</sup>	\$1,859	\$29,742 <sup>5</sup>	<b>\$79,371</b>

- 3.23. Utilising the four subject properties as examples, the minimum subsidy under these scenarios would be \$6,859 per dwelling unit, the maximum subsidy would be \$14,047 per dwelling unit, while the average subsidy would be \$10,057 per dwelling unit. This is illustrated in the following table:

	<b>Building A</b> (51 multiple storey units and a carpark) Units are \$520K	<b>Building B</b> (80 separately titled multiple storey units) Units range from \$310K to \$990K	<b>Building C</b> (26 separately titled conjoined units) Units range from \$610K to \$1.4M	<b>Building D</b> (40 separately titled conjoined units) Units range from \$520K to \$850K
<b>Remission per unit</b>	\$8,475	\$6,859	\$11,972	\$9,415
<b>Remission per Unit</b>	\$9,000	\$7,272	\$12,773	\$9,955
<b>Remission per Unit</b>	\$9,961	\$7,734	\$13,130	\$10,571
<b>Remission per Unit</b>	\$10,485	\$8,147	\$14,047	\$11,112

- 3.24. This modelling exercise demonstrates that the Council, acting reasonably, can only really provide an incentive of up to \$14,047 per dwelling unit, which is not quantum enough to make a significant difference in a developer's decision to proceed with a multi-dwelling development in central Hobart. Accordingly, it is necessary for the Council to work with the Tasmanian Government and TasWater to create a viable housing supply incentive scheme.
- 3.25. TasWater has expressed a strong interest in encouraging infill development in areas such as central Hobart, where there is unused capacity within its existing sewerage and water infrastructure. They have committed to collaborating with the Council on this incentive package. However, it is appropriate for TasWater to announce the specific incentives they plan to offer as part of the draft Policy.
- 3.26. Similarly, Council officers have engaged with the State Government who are still considering their involvement in the proposed Hobart Inner City Housing Supply Initiative. It is understood that the Government will make a decision on their involvement in the near future.
- 3.27. It is intended to create a legal instrument to implement this policy which will enable both the State Government and TasWater to be partners in the implementation of the Policy within central Hobart.

### Inclusionary Zoning / Density Bonuses

- 3.28. The concept of inclusionary zoning and density bonuses has garnered interest among Elected Members, who are keen to investigate how these tools might complement a housing supply incentive program.
- 3.29. Inclusionary zoning has been implemented in varying capacities in Australia, in particular in South Australia and New South Wales.
- 3.30. This approach involves government intervention in land use planning, either by mandating or incentivising the inclusion of affordable housing units within new residential developments. As one of several mechanisms to boost affordable housing, inclusionary zoning stands alongside strategies like planning concessions, where rules are relaxed to facilitate affordable or low-cost housing and negotiated agreements, known in Australia as Voluntary Planning Agreements (VPAs), which secure affordable housing contributions through case-by-case negotiation.
- 3.31. Density bonuses offer developers the opportunity to build at higher densities if they provide amenities or affordable housing as part of their projects. For instance, a developer might be permitted to construct additional units beyond typical zoning limits in exchange for ensuring a portion of those units are affordable (refer figure below).

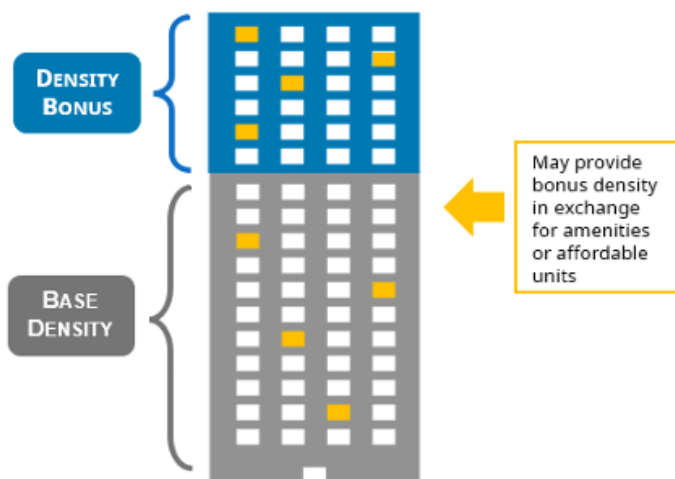
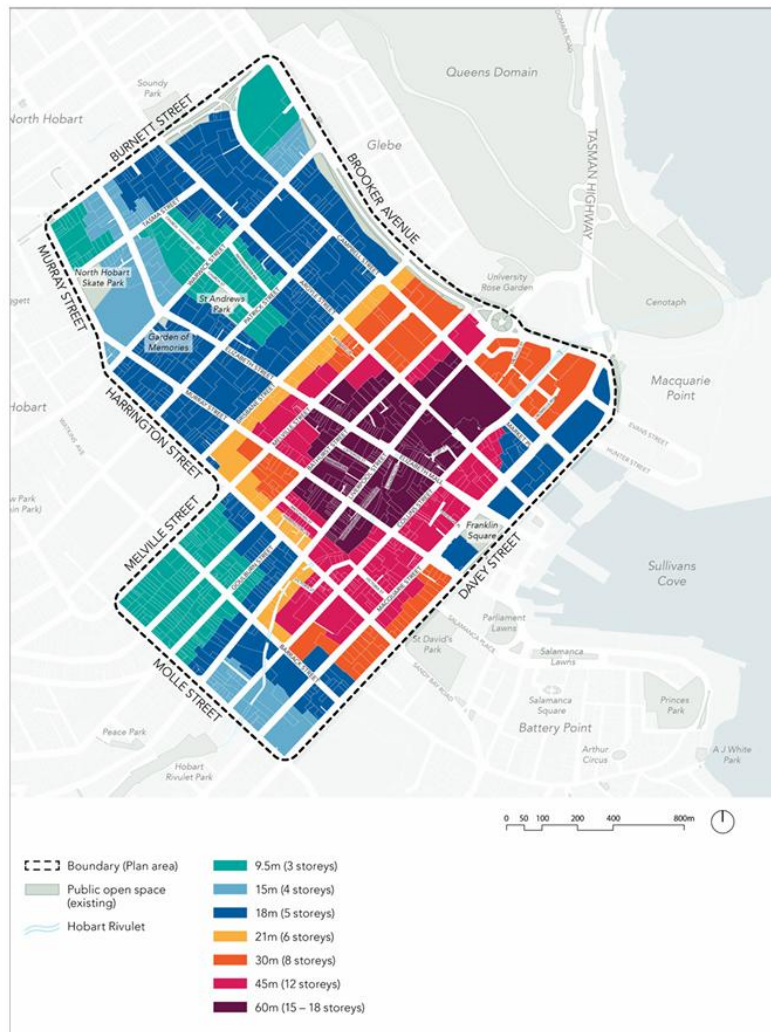


Figure 2: Example of density bonus in a development

- 3.32. In 2019, the Council considered the inclusionary zoning concept after a December 2018 resolution called for an investigation into legislative changes requiring affordable or long-term rental housing in certain developments. Legal advice at the time highlighted a significant challenge in that the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993* (LUPAA) does not regulate based on the identity, character, or socio-economic status of land users. Consequently, provisions targeting specific economic groups are not enforceable under LUPAA.

- 3.33. On 13 May 2019, the City Planning Committee opted to defer further action until Council could meet with the then Minister for Housing, Roger Jaensch MP. Following that meeting, the initiative was redirected toward developing the Hobart Precinct Plan for Central Hobart and the Local Provisions Schedule, both of which are now in effect.
- 3.34. Since then, the Tasmanian Planning Scheme has been implemented, removing dwelling density ratios from Commercial, Business, and Urban Mixed Use Zones. In residential zones, the State Planning Office is considering the complete removal of dwelling density controls, particularly in the Inner areas. Furthermore, the Council has advanced the Central Hobart Plan (Structure Plan), which was endorsed in 2023. This plan features an Urban Design Framework that establishes clear maximum building heights, respects view corridors and heritage considerations, and supports Hobart's growth needs.
- 3.35. Currently, Central Hobart's planning scheme does not specify a maximum height limit for developments. However, the Central Hobart Plan outlines allowable maximum heights, with individual lot constraints shaping appropriate height levels (Refer figure below). Any proposal that seeks to exceed these heights must demonstrate exceptional design quality and provide significant public benefits. These height guidelines are expected to be incorporated into the Local Provisions Schedule through an upcoming planning scheme amendment.



3.36. Given these changes in the regulatory environment, it is timely for Council to re-examine the potential for inclusionary zoning and density bonuses, assessing how they might operate within the current framework to better support affordable housing objectives. Accordingly, a recommendation has been included to progress this work.

#### 4. Legal, Risk and Legislative Considerations

4.1. The key risks associated with the proposed Hobart Inner City Housing Supply Incentive Policy include:

- 4.1.1. Budget / revenue risk: A 5-year 100% rates remission creates a foregone-revenue impact (and administrative complexity in budgeting for remissions, especially around the “construction commences” trigger).
- 4.1.2. Partner dependency risk: The report indicates a “viable” package likely requires TasWater and Tasmanian Government involvement; if those partners don’t proceed (or delay), the overall scheme impact may be limited.

- 4.1.3. Implementation / integrity risk: Eligibility assessment, verifying construction commencement, and administering reimbursements/refunds creates risks of inconsistency, error, or perceived unfairness if rules and evidence requirements aren't tight.
- 4.1.4. Equity / perception risk: Incentives focused on multi-dwelling developments (5+ dwellings) and specific areas may be viewed as favouring certain developers/locations, creating reputational and community acceptance risks.
- 4.2. The risks are proposed to be mitigated by the following strategies:
  - 4.2.1. Target the real bottleneck (delivery, not approvals): The policy is designed to shift incentives to the *construction stage* (commencement/completion) rather than the development application stage, to reduce the risk of subsidising activity that doesn't produce dwellings.
  - 4.2.2. Clear eligibility and controls: Mitigation relies on defined eligibility criteria, requiring necessary approvals to be in place and (where applicable) UDAP review, to manage quality and governance risk.
  - 4.2.3. Objective trigger and verification: The main incentive is structured to be reimbursed from the financial year construction commences, which helps reduce "pay-for-nothing" risk (but depends on strong evidence requirements).
  - 4.2.4. Budget management approach: The report indicates Council can factor remissions into annual budgeting in advance, and that "actual" revenue loss is largely limited to specific scenarios/years—mitigating fiscal shock risk.
  - 4.2.5. Partnership approach to increase effectiveness: Because Council's incentive alone may be insufficient, the report mitigates the effectiveness risk by pursuing TasWater and Tasmanian Government participation (and foreshadows a legal instrument to support joint implementation).
  - 4.2.6. Monitoring and review: The approach includes reporting on uptake/outcomes and a commitment to review effectiveness after an initial implementation period.

## 5. Strategic Planning and Policy Considerations

- 5.1. Outcomes 5.1 and 5.2 of the *Capital City Strategic Plan 2023* is applicable in this instance:

*An accessible and connected city environment helps maintain Hobart's pace of life.*

*Hobart has effective and environmentally sustainable transport systems.*

## **6. Financial Viability**

### 6.1. Financial Considerations:

- 6.1.1. Implementation of the proposed Hobart Inner City Housing Supply Incentive Policy would have financial implications for Council primarily through a five (5) year 100% remission of the General Rate and Stormwater Removal Service Rate (rates holiday) for eligible developments, and the repayment of eligible development application fees.
- 6.1.2. The remission is proposed to be reimbursed from the financial year in which construction commences (and for the following four financial years), creating timing and administrative considerations for annual budget setting.
- 6.1.3. Modelling provided in this report (based on recent multi-dwelling examples and a range of valuation scenarios) indicates an indicative Council contribution of up to \$14,047 per dwelling.
- 6.1.4. As noted in the report, Council can manage the revenue impact by factoring expected remissions into annual budget deliberations; however, in some scenarios Council may experience an actual loss of supplementary rates revenue.
- 6.1.5. Once developments receive the incentive and construction is completed, their property values will rise. This increase will result in greater rate revenue for the City from the affected properties. In turn, the Council's contribution will be gradually reimbursed through the collection of these higher rates over time.

### 6.2. Consultants

- 6.2.1. Not Applicable.

## **7. Community and Business Engagement and Collaboration**

- 7.1. The drafting of the policy has actively included contributions from Elected Members, the Council's City Economy Committee, Planning officers, local developers, real estate professionals, TasWater, and representatives from the State Government. This collaborative approach has ensured a broad range of expertise and perspectives are reflected in the policy's development.

*As signatory to this report, I certify that, pursuant to Section 55(1) of the Local Government Act 1993, I hold no interest, as referred to in Section 49 of the Local Government Act 1993, in matters contained in this report.*



Michael Stretton  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

Date: 25 March 2026  
File Reference: F26/17085

Attachment A: Draft Policy 

**15. City Hall Activation**  
**File Ref: F26/17135**

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Report of the Chief Executive Officer of 25 March 2026 and attachment.

Delegation: Council

**REPORT TITLE: CITY HALL ACTIVATION**

**REPORT PROVIDED BY:** Chief Executive Officer

## **1. Report Summary and Key Issue**

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the current condition and performance of City Hall and, informed by recent strategic work, to recommend actions that will enable the Hall to become a more active, sustainable and vibrant civic and cultural asset.
- 1.2. City Hall is a highly valued heritage building with significant unrealised potential.
- 1.3. Despite its location within Hobart's civic and cultural heart, the Hall is currently underutilised, financially unsustainable, and constrained by ageing infrastructure, poor functionality and flood risk. Multiple strategic studies over the past five years have consistently identified the opportunity to reposition City Hall as a key element of a broader Civic and Cultural Precinct.
- 1.4. This report recommends that Council adopt a clear vision for City Hall, progress the identification of an anchor tenant or tenants through an Expressions of Interest process, and work collaboratively with key cultural institutions and other levels of government to unlock the Hall's long-term potential.

## **2. Recommendation**

***That:***

- 1. The Council identify the region centred around City Hall, Theatre Royal/Hedberg, Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery (TMAG), Federation Concert Hall, and potentially, Council Centre, Town Hall, Civic Square/Mawsons Place as a future cultural precinct.***
- 2. The Council agree to work with the State Government as well as the Directors and Board of the Theatre Royal, The University of Tasmania, Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery (TMAG), Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra (and Hotel Grand Chancellor) to develop a cultural precinct proposal and business case, (potentially) including Council Centre, Town Hall, Civic Square/Mawson's Place's role within the precinct, and which would identify and prioritise future initiatives and projects to deliver maximum benefits to the community.***

3. ***The Council develop and undertake an Expressions of Interest process to identify an anchor tenant or tenants to assume the role of custodian, facilitator and manager of City Hall (excludes tenancy of YouthARC) with a broad aim of achieving increased use and activation of City Hall together with reduced financial reliance on the Council for the operation of the Hall.***
4. ***The Council work with the anchor tenant/s to identify and implement short, medium and long-term upgrades to City Hall to enable it to meet operational and user needs.***
5. ***The Council develop a concept plan for the redevelopment of Market Place as a civic square for City Hall, which would also cater for adjoining businesses and be designed to mitigate the impact of future flood events. This plan would also need to incorporate Dunn Place to enable the channelling of flood water directly out to the Cove.***

### 3. Discussion and Background

#### Introduction

- 3.1. City Hall ('the Hall') is a much-loved city asset mostly due to its memories and potential.
- 3.2. It is historically significant and is included on both State and City Heritage Listings and is subject to its own Conservation Plan adopted by the Council in March 2002.
- 3.3. As illustrated in Figure 1, the Hall is set over (2) levels with the ground floor providing the stage and hall with a floor area of 1,180m<sup>2</sup>, lobby, amenities, storage, several tenancy spaces as well as a large area used for YouthARC. The second level includes an office tenancy, a dance studio tenancy, as well as disused office space and amenities.
- 3.4. The Hall has a total occupancy limit of 1,800 people. There is also a vacant caretaker flat on this level that runs along the Macquarie Street side of the building. Historically this was leased out as a residential premises until around 2016 when fire separation issues were identified which meant it could no longer be used as a residence. The premises is currently not habitable.

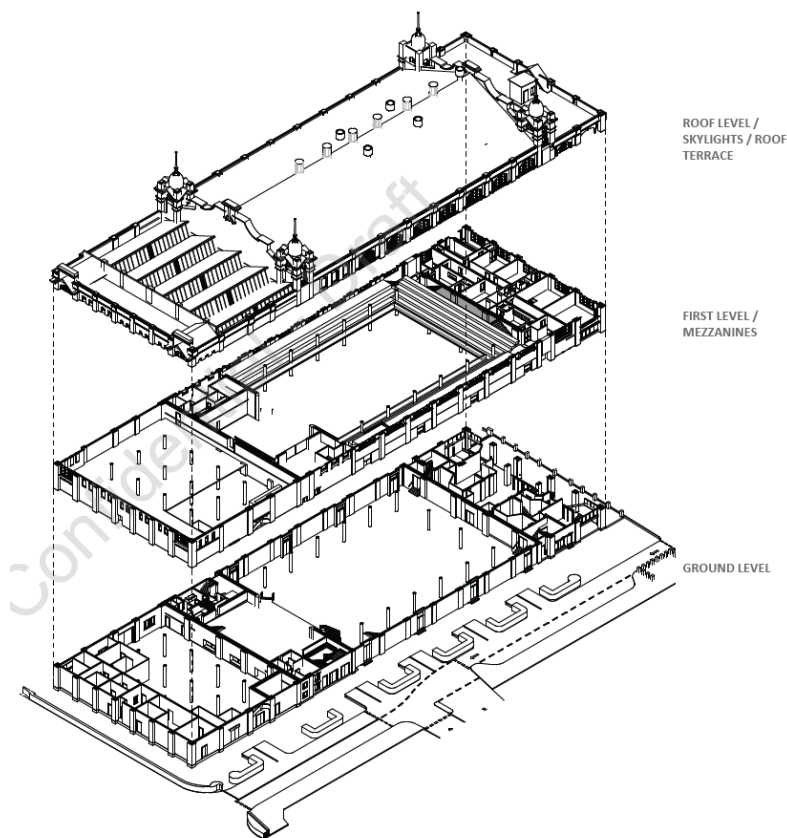


Figure 1: City Hall




- 3.5. Despite its proposed civic intention, the Hall suffers from an under-supply of toilets, poor quality back of house facilities (including lack of storage, wings and fly-tower), unsatisfactory sight lines, lack of an adequate heating system as well as poor acoustics and sound proofing.
- 3.6. Major repairs are required to the Hall along with significant upgrades and interventions in order to bring it up to standard. For instance, the building requires a loading area due to very limited storage capacity despite its vast size. This lack of storage means that the building does not provide for the necessary needs of a modern events venue as many user groups require furniture, stages, rostra, amplification equipment, projection screens, bar areas, toilets and the like.
- 3.7. All user groups generally agree that irrespective of its character or development issues, the Hall's space requires real sight lines, comfortable seating, warmth and insulation from noise.
- 3.8. The Hall stands on the original course and river mouth of the Hobart Rivulet which was directed away from the site in 1825 via the 'New Cut'. The site is low lying and is therefore prone to flooding, with flood events occurring in both the 1960's and 2018 when water up to a metre in depth surrounded the building. Current flood modelling indicates that in any one year, the site may be impacted by flood waters with a 2% chance that flooding may reach a depth of up to 1.7m. Such incidents cause not only physical damage, but also potentially restrict interest by longer term occupiers.
- 3.9. The Hall's site curtilage is also challenged by heavy traffic volumes, narrow footpaths and entries to the site having no thresholds or vestibule spaces from its busy surroundings.
- 3.10. Within this context, in recent years the Council has engaged in a number of studies and master planning processes aimed at identifying a future direction for the Hall which would increase the frequency and diversity of hall hire and maximising the community benefit that it is providing. However, there has been limited progress in achieving meaningful change in the operation of the Hall and the purpose of this report is to consider this strategic work and identify short, medium and long term actions to both reinvigorate and activate it as a valuable City asset.




#### Current State




- 3.11. The western portion of the Hall provides a home for the City's Youth Arts and Recreation Centre (YouthARC) which delivers youth programs. The YouthARC venue contains a range of facilities including an art studio, music studio, kitchen, versatile recreation space and a performance stage with a PA system. Some of the key features and considerations for the YouthARC space are as follows:

- 3.11.1. The space is used for cultural projects, fundraising, art, dance and music events as well as a place to celebrate birthdays (for 10 to 15 year olds only).
- 3.11.2. YouthARC is one of the only places in Hobart young people can access who don't necessarily have issues or complex behaviours they are looking to address. They come because this is a welcoming, inclusive space where they can relax and connect, outside of issues they may face.
- 3.11.3. Attendees can also discover arts and recreational activities designed to empower and offer opportunities for growth and discovery. YouthARC is focussed on civic and social participation, creativity, expression and identity formation. It offers a space for those not at the pointy end of socially aberrant behaviour and provides opportunities to ensure that young people at risk of disengagement and disenfranchisement are redirected through strength-based interventions.
- 3.11.4. YouthARC provides a vital space particularly during open access, catering for that period between finishing school and getting transport home across Greater Hobart and beyond.
- 3.11.5. Open Access was attended by young people from across Southern Tasmania over 4,000 times in 2025. Positive health and wellbeing outcomes are key deliverables for YouthARC.
- 3.11.6. Staff run outreach sessions in targeted schools to promote YouthARC as well as taster sessions during week days which target schools with students who may experience barriers to participation e.g young adult migrant English program and students with disabilities.
- 3.11.7. YouthARC also deliver school holiday programs in each holiday period and deliver a broad range of workshops and events. It is noted that in 2025 the team had delivered over 75 workshops and run over 23 events.
- 3.12. In addition to YouthARC, there are four (4) tenancies within the Hall including, Beaker Street, Phoenix Danze Hobart & Paul Johnston Architects on the upper level; as well as Nena Bookstore on the ground level fronting Macquarie Street.
- 3.13. The Hall area itself is managed by the City's Creative City Group, and, with a floor area of 1,180 m<sup>2</sup>, it is marketed as a venue for exhibitions, balls, concerts, large meetings and cocktail functions.
- 3.14. However, the Hall currently receives a low level of use with between 20-25 events being held each year over the past five (5) years. Its highest level of use has been for:

- Concerts (between 3-9 events per year)
  - Cultural events/festivals (between 3-6 events per year)
  - Exhibitions (between 2-5 events per year)
  - Dance Events (between 0-3 events per year)
  - Boxing (between 1-2 events per year)
  - Civic events (0-4 events per year)
- 3.15. The highest earning bookings are concerts, however, the promoters of concerts advise that there is a need for these events to spill into Market Place in order to provide the necessary toilets and bar facilities, which adds to the cost of concert events and presents weather risks to the promoters. Therefore, the venue is not currently capable of hosting all concert events within its confines.
- 3.16. Financially, in 2024/25 the expenses for the Hall (excluding YouthARC) were approximately \$273,038 (including depreciation) while the revenue received was \$112,312. This demonstrates an operating loss of \$160,736 for the financial year. The Hall has posted operating losses for each of the last five (5) years, which is illustrated in the 'Financial and Economic Considerations' section of this report.
- 3.17. Over the last five years, the Council has committed little by way of capital expenditure on the Hall. In 2019/20 the *City Hall Renewal: Major Refurbishment project* was completed at a cost of \$1.2M, which involved upgrades to the floor in the Hall, the public toilets, re-painting and the installation of fall protection infrastructure on the ceiling.
- 3.18. Despite the investment in 2019/20, there is a backlog of upgrade and renewal works that are currently required to support the Hall's functionality, safety, and heritage value. These works represent essential renewals which are important to ensure the Hall can continue to operate as a viable venue but also as one of the City's major Emergency Evacuation Centres. The key works are summarised in the following table:

<b>Current Required Renewal Works</b>	
<p><b>Gutter and Downpipe Renewal</b></p> <p>This work involves replacing the ageing and damaged gutter and downpipe system. These components have deteriorated, leading to water leaks within the building and potential structural damage. The renewal will ensure effective water drainage, protect the building from weather-related damage, and maintain the facility's integrity for long-term use.</p> <p><b>High-Level Budget Estimate: \$100,000</b></p>	
<p><b>Kitchen Renewal</b></p> <p>This work involves renewal of the outdated kitchen facilities by improving joinery, fixtures, and fittings. The renovation will enhance functionality, replace old appliances, and ensure compliance with safety standards. It will also improve the overall user experience for staff and visitors and support the hosting of community events. The Council needs to ensure that the Hall remains a welcoming and efficient space that serves the community's needs effectively. An operating kitchen would also be essential when the Hall is used as an evacuation centre.</p> <p><b>High-Level Budget Estimate: \$80,000</b></p>	
<p><b>Audio and Lighting Upgrade</b> (Proposed for 25/26 FY budget bids)</p> <p>Upgrade of current audio and lighting in the Hall to provide an improved level of service and experience. The current audio sound system and lighting does not meet the needs of the clients that hire the venue. The systems are outdated and past their lifespan. Replacement parts can no longer be sourced upon break down. Room acoustics are very poor, which make artists feel like their instruments/voice is not projected strong enough or</p>	

<p>unbalanced sound for themselves and the audience. This in turn creates an unbalanced sound across the venue.</p> <p><b>High-Level Budget Estimate: \$250,000</b></p>	
<p><b>Stage Curtains and Rigging System</b></p> <p>The current stage curtains and rigging system do not meet the needs of the clients that hire the venue. The curtains and rigging system are past their life span and the curtains are no longer flame retardant due to age. Stage curtains and a rigging system are a dynamic and critical aspect of a venue being hired for live performances. The rigging system is used to secure lighting, curtains, audio equipment and/or other technical needs above the ground for live performances and events.</p> <p><b>High-Level Budget Estimate: \$80,000</b></p>	
<p><b>Tiered Seating upgrade</b></p> <p>Upgrade of the current tiered seating to provide an improved level of service and experience for the audience. The current seating is past the end of its lifecycle and is in poor condition. Many of the seats are worn, ripped, and separated from their safety frames. The frames of the seating have deteriorated and are no longer safe to hold larger crowds.</p> <p><b>High-Level Budget Estimate: \$165,000</b></p>	
<p><b>Upper-level timber floor renewal</b></p> <p>The upper-level timber flooring has aged, showing signs of wear, damage, and fading, which impacts both the aesthetic appeal and functionality of the space. Instead of a full replacement, the renewal will involve sanding and refinishing the existing floor to restore its appearance and longevity while preserving its original character.</p> <p><b>High-Level Budget Estimate: \$30,000</b></p>	

<p><b>Reception counter renewal</b></p> <p>The work will involve redesigning and installing a modern, user-friendly reception counter that enhances the visitor experience while maintaining the building's heritage character. The upgrade will provide a more welcoming and professional environment for visitors and staff, ensuring the space remains functional and aligned with modern standards. It was the only thing mentioned in the Asset Management Plan regarding the Hall.</p> <p><b>High-Level Budget Estimate: \$25,000</b></p>	
<p><b>Change rooms and toilets fit-out refurbishment</b></p> <p>The current facilities are outdated and in need of modernisation to meet the needs of employees and visitors. The refurbishment will focus on updating the layout, enhancing privacy, upgrading fixtures, and ensuring compliance with current accessibility standards. The project will create a more efficient and comfortable environment, fostering inclusivity and supporting the diverse needs of those using the facilities.</p> <p><b>High-Level Budget Estimate: \$400,000</b></p>	
<p><b>Staircase renewal</b></p> <p>Renewing the Hall's staircases by installing new carpet tiles and modern stair nosing to improve both the aesthetics and functionality of the space. The existing staircase, which experiences high foot traffic, will benefit from the enhanced durability and appearance that carpet tiles provide, while the stair nosing will increase safety by offering a clearer, more durable edge on each step.</p> <p><b>High-Level Budget Estimate: \$20,000</b></p>	

Strategic Planning

3.19. As previously mentioned, the Council has been investigating potential future directions for the Hall for some time and has participated in three key pieces of strategic work:

- 2020 City Hall Masterplan by Partners Hill and Lovell Chan;
- 2020 Greater Hobart Cultural Venues Study by Inkhorn Projects;  
and
- 2022 Civic and Cultural Precinct by GHDWoodhead.

3.20. These strategic documents are summarised below:

***City Hall Masterplan***

3.21. In 2020, the Council engaged Partners Hill and Lovell Chen (PHLC) to develop a City Hall Masterplan, which is included as attachment A. PHLC completed a great deal of work in investigating a range of options for the future development and use of the Hall. However, in doing this PHLC identified that any consideration of the Hall's future needs to take account of the following:

- YouthARCs need of a home, either at the site or in conjunction with an alternative centre dedicated to the welfare of the age group.
- The need for a reliable annual budget for maintenance and prevention of building fabric decay, meeting compliance needs, gradual improvement in acoustics and amenities.
- A management structure that treats the site as a whole, helps make hiring conducive and adapts a custodial position regarding the future.
- The need to provide some small improvements that would make differences including on-site furniture, AV equipment, meal management, heating, and
- Effort in raising the profile of the facility to increase its usage and actual cultural value.

3.22. PHLC proposed five (5) different options for the future of the Hall which are summarised in the following table, together with the assessment that was made by PHLC:

Option	Partners Hill and Lovell Chan Assessment
<b>Option 1- Improved Business as Usual</b>  A preparation phase for	The major issue of Option 1 is that although it does rate well on some criteria, many of the rating criteria cannot currently be met because of a lack of a commitment from Council for the

<p>future work, that lifts the profile of the facility in readiness. Uses and tenancies (including Youth ARC) remain. Some simple adjustments are made to assist functionality.</p>	<p>capital works that are required to bring the building back to a certain standard.</p> <p>If a Venue Manager was appointed, they could work towards achieving several of the rating criteria, but again this would require a commitment from Council for an annual operational budget to support both management and operations.</p> <p>Note: Many of the assumptions in this Option rely on there being a proper and comprehensive management and operational model in place and that there is a concerted effort to promote the Hall as a venue for hire. Some of the assumptions also rely on the development of some self-presented programs that will support achieving many of the criteria set down in each pillar; e.g. contributes to programs / services / activities for different community segments.</p> <p><b>Preliminary 10 Year Capital investment estimate of \$2.11M</b></p> <p>This option was scored <b>98</b> out of a possible total of 160.</p>
<p><b>Option 2 - Rich Venue</b></p> <p>Major renovations and additions yield a fully functioning multi-purpose hall, tenancies and market/events building on the site. A 1,000 seat auditorium has 700 seat concert configuration, supported by a new service core. YouthARC occupies the Macquarie Rooms and Roof Terrace. Retail on Collins Street and Macquarie Street with restored facades.</p>	<p>Option 2 is very much an advance on option 1.</p> <p>By reconfiguring the rear of the building and reinstating the front of the building to its original design it will support the preservation of major heritage values of the building. By moving YouthARC to the front of the building, this option provides space at the rear of the building for storage and offices; currently the Hall has no storage facilities. This option rates well on many criteria, particularly the economic impact, however, because of a lack of a commitment from Council for the capital works that are required to bring the building back to a certain standard it remains problematic. At least with a CEO and Board, there would be a strong incentive to raise funds for the refurbishment and ongoing maintenance of the building.</p> <p><b>Preliminary 10 Year Capital investment estimate of \$13.3M</b></p>

	This option was scored <b>111</b> out of a possible total of 160.
<p><b>Option 3 - Anchor Tenant - such as a musical headquarters</b></p> <p>An independently funded 'Anchor Tenant', such as an orchestra, is 'resident' at the site and becomes its custodian, facilitator and manager. While the orchestra often utilises the auditorium in a 'concert mode,' it remains available for public use in accord with its current function, but with improved amenity. The orchestra, its administration and its key rehearsal space are housed in new building works within the Old Market shell. Macquarie Rooms and Terrace are available for YouthARC.</p>	<p>From a business perspective, this option presents an exciting opportunity that would see the Hall become a permanent home for an 'Anchor Tenant.'</p> <p>In this option, an anchor tenant needs to be identified and then the Hall's refurbishment would in part be driven by its day-to-day working requirements.</p> <p>In the best of all possible worlds, Option 5 would be incorporated with this option, with the anchor tenant providing the funding for the building and Council providing the funding for the Civic Upgrade.</p> <p><b>Preliminary 10 Year Capital investment estimate of \$18.4M</b></p> <p>This option was scored <b>125</b> out of a possible total of 160.</p>
<p><b>OPTION 4 – Youth Hub and Hall</b></p> <p>A 'Youth Hub' would consolidate many services already provided in disparate locations; Colony 47, Link Youth Health Services and YouthARC.</p> <p>Making an aggregate offer to youth at a single site has both common sense and well evidenced advantages.</p> <p>Since the Hall itself needs to remain publicly accessible, the bulk of accommodation would be provided in the Old Market;</p>	<p>This option gives a major part of the Hall over to the Youth Hub concept. While this is laudable, it needs to be considered in relation to both the financial considerations of the refurbishment of the building to meet the needs of the Hub, it also needs to consider the numbers of youth who will potentially utilise the Hub. Currently, YouthARC only occupies a small part of the building, and their program is not a full-time program.</p> <p>Developing the Hall as a Youth Hub, apart from the physical requirements, would require a business plan to determine what the Hub would do and what its funding requirements would be.</p> <p><b>Preliminary 10 Year Capital investment estimate of \$7.9M</b></p> <p>This option was scored <b>107</b> out of a possible</p>

<p>a less than ideal fit.</p>	<p>total of 160.</p>
<p><b>OPTION 5 – Civic Upgrade</b> Large venues typically need large spaces set in conjunction to marshal visitors and encourage secondary crowds.</p> <p>Market Place can be adapted for this purpose; it becomes the Public Hall’s Public Square. Limited vehicle traffic is enabled; a scenario that has been tested previously.</p> <p>The Hall needs more profile, more significance and more amenity; giving it an ‘urban skirt’ helps.</p>	<p>This option presents an opportunity to improve the public amenity around the Hall and fulfils many of the requirements of the four pillars of sustainability.</p> <p>While this option does not focus on the building itself, it provides enhanced open space for both the general public, the YouthARC participants and visitors and audiences to the venue.</p> <p>In an ideal situation, this option would be implemented in conjunction with the one of the other options that support the refurbishment of the Hall.</p> <p>This option was scored <b>113</b> out of a possible total of 160.</p>

- 3.23. Option 3 was the highest scoring option, which involved securing an anchor tenant such as a musical headquarters. This option also included civic upgrades around the Hall to improve public amenity based on the needs of the tenant.
- 3.24. However, despite it being the lowest scoring of the options, PHLC recommended the progression of option 1, which involved improved Business as Usual (BAU) with a focus on increasing activation and a curatorial model and YouthARC remaining.
- 3.25. The basis for this recommendation was that it is unlikely that a viable anchor tenant will have the capacity to be able to commit to such an investment within a period of 10 years and that the ‘Youth Hub’ model still may require a significant capital investment to achieve its preferred accommodation outcomes. PHLC also identified that the Council has no significant funds to invest itself into the Hall in the short to medium term.
- 3.26. The PHLC also recommended that an advisory committee or similar should be established to undertake the management of the venue which should be supported by the engagement of a Venue Manager/Creative Curator. It further recommended to facilitate cohabitation in the YouthARC end of the venue with a dance company to take on the residency of the dance studio. Finally, they recommended that capital improvements need to be progressed including flood protection, light wells and acoustic insulation in the main Hall.

- 3.27. Option 1, as illustrated in Figure 2 would involve minimal but meaningful soundproofing between Market Place and the Hall, installation of electric infrared heating, repairs of asset damaging items and installation of a temporary 'Help Box' for storage, bar/kitchen, equipment and trial of spatial arrangement.

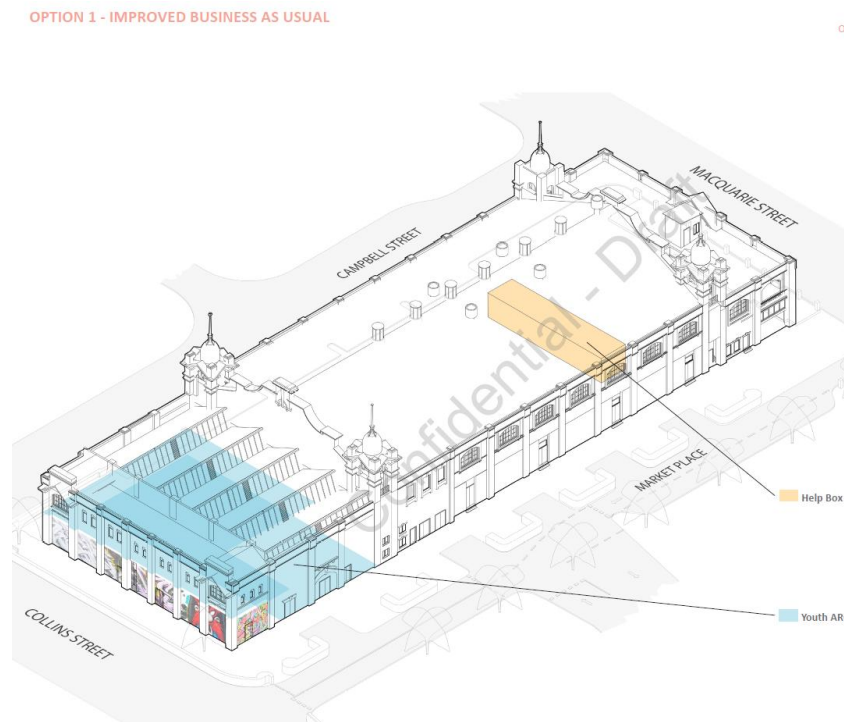


Figure 2: City Hall Masterplan Option 1

- 3.28. The Masterplan included an option (option 5), which proposed alterations to the urban environment around the Hall. This option could be implemented in conjunction with one of the other options that supports the refurbishment of the Hall. It was identified that large venues typically need large spaces set in conjunction to marshal visitors and encourage secondary crowds. It proposed that Market Place be adapted for this purpose by becoming the Hall's Public Square. It was identified that the Hall needs more profile, more significance and more amenity and that giving it an 'urban skirt' would help.
- 3.29. As an urban space, rather than a converted street / footpath, civil works need to include accessibility adjustments to the entire Hall perimeter, as well as Market Place itself.
- 3.30. While Option 5 does not focus on the building itself, it provides enhanced open space for both the public, the YouthARC participants and visitors and audiences to the venue.

### ***Civic and Cultural Precinct – GHDWoodhead***

- 3.31. In 2022, the Council worked with the State Government to develop a Civic and Cultural Precinct proposal which would extend along Macquarie Ridge out to the Cove, with renowned cultural and arts

venues, iconic civic landmarks, and a diverse range of activities and experiences (Refer Figure 3).

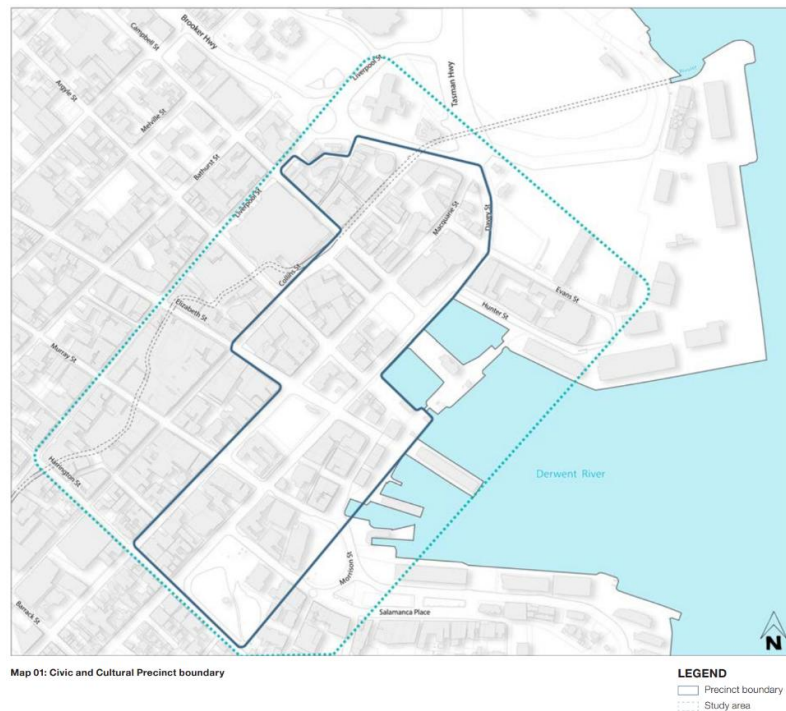


Figure 3 – Civic and Cultural Precinct

- 3.32. At the heart of the precinct, with increased permeability to its Macquarie Street frontage, it was proposed that *'City Hall could become a connected, vibrant community and cultural hub, which would be activated day and night, with a diversity of experiences that honour City Hall's 100 year living legacy in the memories and lives of the people of Hobart.'*
- 3.33. Consultants GHDWoodhead completed the work on the precinct and in doing so explored the following:
- The use of the Hall, and key road and rivulet assets in the development of a new bus transit centre, and other significant projects;
  - Strategic cultural opportunities within the Civic and Cultural Precinct; and
  - Connectivity propositions (City to Cove and City to Macquarie Point), plus the treatment of lower Elizabeth Street, and its connection to Sullivans Cove.
- 3.34. Both the State Government and the City of Hobart have since ruled out the Hall becoming a bus transit centre, so this element of the plan will not progress.

3.35. However, while the precinct plan is based around the State Government transport hub model, it also articulates the importance and the opportunity to link a number of key strategic City owned sites, including: Franklin Square, Civic Square/Mawson Place, Town Hall (and the Terroir proposal), Council Centre, Dunn Street and the City Hall – and the opportunity presented by the Elizabeth Street Vision Plan. The key site and opportunities are outlined below (and in Figure 4):

- Transform City Hall as a cultural hub and public transport centre;
- Consolidate the Tasmanian Museum & Arts Gallery (TMAG) on Dunn Place as a significant transformational project;
- Reimagine Civic Square as a public wintergarden, “tasting and sampling venue” and information hub for both tourists and locals;
- Pedestrianise the Treasury forecourt as a civic space with a multilayered landscape overlay that honours and/or differentiates both Palawa and non-indigenous cultural settings;
- Connect Brooke Street to the Treasury forecourt under Davey Street;
- Consider the reimagination and enhancement of the Town Hall Annexe and its potential to become a key space, connecting from Franklin Square to Civic Square or to TMAG; and
- Increase pedestrian amenity along Elizabeth Street (city to cove) and lower Collins Street (connecting to Macquarie Point).

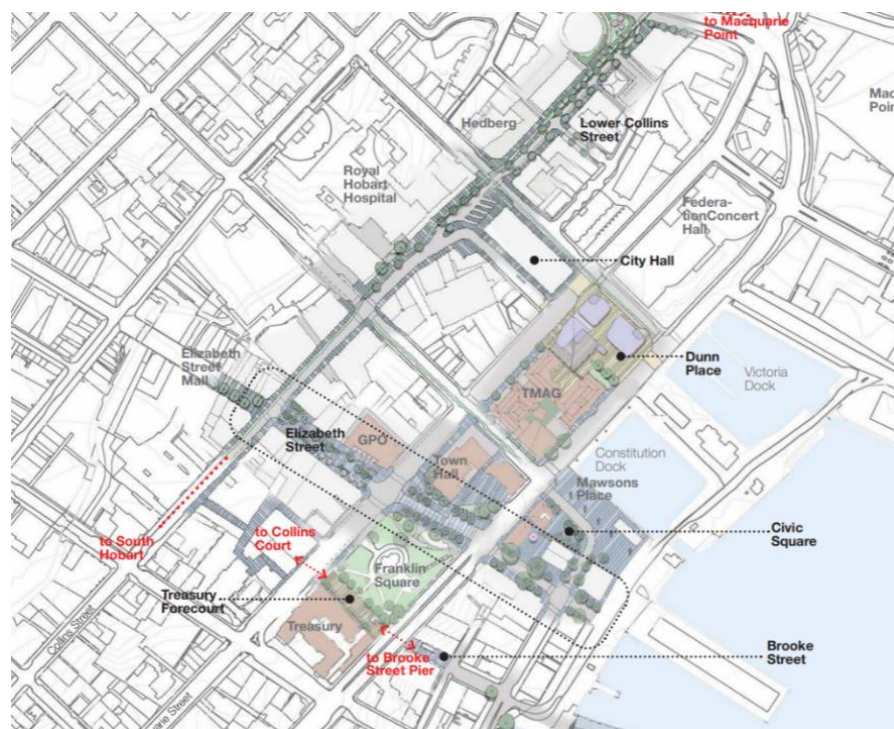


Figure 4 – Civic and Cultural Precinct: Key Sites and Opportunities

- 3.36. It's important to note that the precinct plan proposed that the Tasmanian Museum & Art Gallery (TMAG) be redeveloped to occupy and "reimagine" the Dunn Place Carpark, which is adjacent to the Hall.
- 3.37. It is proposed that by expanding TMAG's offering to the Dunn Place site, it would ensure long-term sustainability of the state's most significant public cultural organisation and meet the local, national and global interest in Tasmania's unique and diverse cultural experience.
- 3.38. The precinct plan identified that TMAG's future expression on the Dunn Place site may ultimately accommodate or support a range of possibilities from a dedicated, Tasmanian Aboriginal owned and managed cultural and community facility to a federally funded Holocaust Education Centre.
- 3.39. Consolidation of TMAG on Dunn Place presents the unique potential to generate conditions that provide an exceptional cultural visitor experience that tells the stories of Tasmania.
- 3.40. With careful consideration and integration, the Dunn Place site would blend the necessary TMAG back-of-house requirements, with engaging landscapes and public interfaces, offering exemplary and commercially viable opportunities and forge TMAG's reputation as a museum and art gallery of international significance within the city's Civic and Cultural Precinct.
- 3.41. Given its proximity to the Hall, the redevelopment of TMAG offers the potential for the Hall to form part of a vibrant cultural experience which activates the precinct day and night.
- 3.42. Subsequent to the Civic and Cultural Precinct work by GHDWoodhead, the precinct was formally recognised in the Central Hobart Plan in 2023 as follows: "...the Civic and Cultural precinct Hobart's key civic buildings, such as the City Hall, Town Hall, Franklin Square and the Treasury building. Other notable buildings are cultural institutions, which include the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, the Theatre Royal and the Maritime Museum of Tasmania..."
- 3.43. The Precinct Objectives are:
  - Strengthen the identity of the area by reinforcing its role as the civic and cultural heart of the city.
  - Transform pedestrian access from the waterfront area into Central Hobart, and encourage greater pedestrian movement into other neighbouring city precincts.
  - Look to the future through the adaptive re-use of heritage buildings and key sites, and the creation of additional cultural and art venues.

- Talk to and be inspired by Tasmanian Aboriginal and other historical events through art, conservation, interpretation and other means.

### ***Greater Hobart Cultural Venues Study by Inkhorn Projects***

- 3.44. In 2020, Inkhorn Projects were engaged to complete a study of the cultural venues that exist in Greater Hobart.
- 3.45. One of the key threads in this study is the need to better facilitate existing resources, organisations and facilities to be “fit for purpose.” The study identified that in more recent times there has been a festivalisation of Hobart’s cultural life which has increasingly used the whole city as a stage which has created a highly decentralised model that has reduced the essential critical mass of the cultural sector. So, whereas once Salamanca and the waterfront may have been the cultural heart of the region, the last few years of arts happening everywhere has also fundamentally changed the way that arts and culture is visible as a part of everyday life.
- 3.46. The consultants felt that this shift has given rise to not only the potential to review the role and operation of the Salamanca waterfront, but provides the City the opportunity to consider the development of a new cultural hub in what is known as the Hobart Delta, focused around the Hall and harnessing and activating the potential of TMAG, Theatre Royal and The Hedberg as well as Federation Concert Hall. This supports the GHD Woodhouse Civic & Cultural Precinct proposal.
- 3.47. The study recommended that *“the City of Hobart considers formally identifying the region centred around the City Hall (with reference to the Theatre Royal/Hedberg, TMAG and TSO/Federation Concert Hall) as a cultural precinct if this can be proved to have the potential to deliver benefits to the community and sector.”*
- 3.48. This study noted:
- That almost all venues currently operating in the central region of Hobart need upgrading or support for general maintenance (over and above current operational funding) to make them more viable and usable. This is most acutely felt in the areas of patron and technical access, back of house functionality and general presentation.
  - The sites championed have limitations due to their condition and significant backlog of maintenance requirements and are in the most need of redevelopment or reimagination.
  - There is a demonstrable need for a flexible “contemporary” space to complement The Hedberg, providing performance and rehearsal spaces as well as a smaller “low risk” space for new works, dance, cabaret and live or hybrid arts practice.

- Ideally this facility would be located within the central city on a single site and complement existing facilities and activities, either through developing an existing site / sites or the conversion of an existing site. The intention would be to add to the overall capacity of the city's cultural ecology rather than shift or combine existing resources.
- 3.49. The study indicated that for this precinct to work, the effective "activation" of the Hall is necessary, providing a visual and programmatic connection between the Town Hall / Mercury Building / TMAG and Theatre Royal / Federation Concert Hall.
- 3.50. Outwardly, Hobart is equipped with a range of venues and sites that can support a wide array of performances and public activities. However, issues of appropriate and affordable venues for working, rehearsal and presentation dominate the needs of local producers and currently present the biggest gap in the venue ecology.
- 3.51. This, and the lack of any resident company in these venues, has also led to the overarching "venue for hire" approach for venue management in this region, with no local theatre maker or provider having an ongoing relationship with any one space. While this has allowed companies to utilise venues that are suitable (or affordable) for different works, it breaks significant connections between venues, audiences, companies, and content.
- 3.52. Greater Hobart is notable for the lack of an "artshouse" facility, one that acts as a home to the ambition and industry of the performing arts community that are without their own venue. These are facilities, like LaMama in Melbourne, Griffin Theatre in Sydney, The Blue Room or King Street Arts Centre in Perth, LaBoite in Brisbane and various musician clubs around the country, that help mitigate or support.
- 3.53. The study supported the creation of an "artshouse" facility in the City that could actively support the rehearsal and limited presentation needs for the cultural and creative community of the South. The "artshouse" concept borrows heavily from the European performing arts tradition and seeks to bring multi-discipline activities together under one roof and support the making and presentation of works.
- 3.54. The study identified that outside of issues of access, the Hall would be an immediate opportunity for the creation of an "artshouse" facility, especially given its location in context with TMAG, the Hedberg, Theatre Royal and Federation Concert Hall, and the opportunity to develop a greater sense of a "cultural precinct within the city which recognises that this facility is currently underutilised and requires "activation".

Discussion

- 3.55. It needs to be acknowledged that the Hall is currently underperforming in terms of both its level of use and financial results. This is not to say that the current tenants (and YouthARC) are not delivering value to the community, however, the Hall itself is underutilised and is failing to provide the level of activation and use that befits a building of such status and potential.
- 3.56. The City Hall Masterplan identified that the highest and best use for the Hall would be to secure an anchor tenant such as a musical headquarters. Under this option the tenant would become the Halls' custodian, facilitator and manager. It was further recommended that the Council commit to upgrading Market Place to create a Public Square to create a large event space to marshal visitors and encourage secondary crowds.
- 3.57. This direction from the Masterplan aligns strongly with the Greater Hobart Cultural Venues Study, which found that the Hall would be an immediate opportunity for the creation of an "artshouse" facility, especially given its location in context to TMAG, the Hedberg and Theatre Royal. It also accords with the Civic and Cultural precinct proposal that was recommended by GHDWoodhead in 2022. Further, the Venues Study recommended that the City of Hobart considers formally identifying the region centred around the Hall (with reference to the Theatre Royal/Hedberg, TMAG and Federation Concert Hall) as a cultural precinct, which is an idea of considerable merit.
- 3.58. Despite the strong confluence of themes and opportunities that were identified in this strategic work, the City Hall Masterplan opted to recommend the maintenance of the status quo, albeit with some identified service improvements. The basis for this recommendation was that the Council had no significant funds to invest in the Hall in the short to medium term and that an anchor tenant is unlikely to be identified with the capacity to make the financial investment envisaged in the Masterplan.
- 3.59. Since the development of the Masterplan, the Hall has continued to underperform over the last five years, receiving very low levels of use and deliver increasing financial losses to the Council.
- 3.60. Whilst it may be understandable that the Masterplan formed a conservative view in 2020, it is considered that the recommendations were based too heavily on pragmatism and untested opinions, which may or may not be accurate.
- 3.61. For instance, there have been several approaches to the Council over the past 18 months to manage the Hall. The Council has been approached by an independent events company to provide them with a lease of the Hall. The company indicated that it was prepared to invest in the Hall to address many of its current shortcomings for events, such

as the provision of appropriate toilet facilities and bar facilities within the venue.

- 3.62. As has been previously discussed, in order for larger concerts to be held in the Hall, additional toilet and bar facilities need to be provided outside in Market Place. It is considered likely that an independent events company would market the venue more actively and effectively than the Council can, because it would be a core activity for the company, while it is not a core service for the Council.
- 3.63. There has also been interest from cultural institutions which accord with the “artshouse” proposal identified by the Masterplan.
- 3.64. In addition to the interest in managing the Hall, it needs to be clear that the Council has the financial means to invest in the renewal of the Hall as a vitally important asset. Further, the Council is more than prepared to work with the State and Federal Governments to fund future upgrades to the Hall and surrounds.
- 3.65. Accordingly, it is recommended that the Council seek to progress option 5 that was identified in the Masterplan and undertake an Expressions of Interest (EoI) process to identify a principal tenant or tenants for the Hall. However, it is recommended that YouthARC be retained as a standalone use within the Hall.
- 3.66. It is recommended that the EoI process be broad in nature in order to attract as wide a range of interested parties/proposals as is possible. The Council would have two key goals in the EoI process which would be to increase the use/activation of the Hall and to reduce the financial reliance on the Council for the operation of the Hall.
- 3.67. It is also recommended that following the EoI process the Council work with the anchor tenant/s to identify and implement short, medium and long-term upgrades to the Hall to enable it to meet operational and user needs.
- 3.68. Should it make a significant difference in being able to realise the potential of the Hall with a principal tenant or tenants, the Council could explore the possibility of relocating YouthARC to a purpose-built facility on the Mathers /Criterion House site in Bathurst Street in the medium to long term. There is a genuine opportunity to further develop this site, particularly the air rights, and there could be a “win:win” scenario whereby YouthARC is able to operate and provide services to the City from a central site within the CBD, while the Hall may be able to be operated more in accordance with its true potential by freeing up the space currently occupied by YouthARC.



Mathers/Criterion House in Bathurst Street, Hobart

- 3.69. There is little doubt that for the Hall to have a vibrant and active future, the Council must adopt a vision and ambition for the Hall and/or be committed to investing sufficiently in and around the Hall to realise this vision.
- 3.70. The vision for the Hall to become an important part of a vibrant Civic and Cultural Precinct would provide a 'North Star' which would focus efforts to activate this important city asset.
- 3.71. Indeed, the creation of a Civic and Cultural Precinct would present the opportunity for the Council to partner with a potential anchor tenant and the State Government to seek funding as part of the Federal Government's Urban Precinct and Partnerships Program (uPPP) or similar funding program. This could involve redevelopment of any combination of the buildings including the Hall, TMAG and potentially the Council Centre or the Civic Square/Mawsons Place. Accordingly, this is a recommendation of this report.
- 3.72. The redevelopment option for the Hall that was developed by the Masterplan estimated a cost of \$18.4M in 2020, so the cost is likely to be higher given the inflationary impacts on building costs in recent years. Equally however, a part of this uPPP application, it would also need to include the redevelopment of Market Place, including addressing the flooding risk that exist in this area of the city. It has been previously established that a flooding solution will need to utilise Market Place and Dunn Place to provide the necessary flow paths. Accordingly, the redevelopment of TMAG and the Hall ideally should be considered together.
- 3.73. Whilst the Hall is not suitable as an evacuation centre for flood-related emergencies, it will continue to serve as a centre to provide shelter during other emergencies such as bushfire, structural fires, pandemics and mass casualty incidents etc.

- 3.74. Therefore, the above redevelopment would need to include and benefit the ongoing use of the Hall as an Emergency Evacuation Centre, which is an important role that the Hall plays for the City which will need to be continued amid any refurbishment plans and/or tenancy agreements.
- 3.75. It has already been established that the Hall is located in an area which is subject to flooding and that flooding around the whole building reaches between 1m deep and 1.7m deep in a 1% (100 year ARI) event and nearly as deep in a 2% (50year ARI) event (Figure 5).

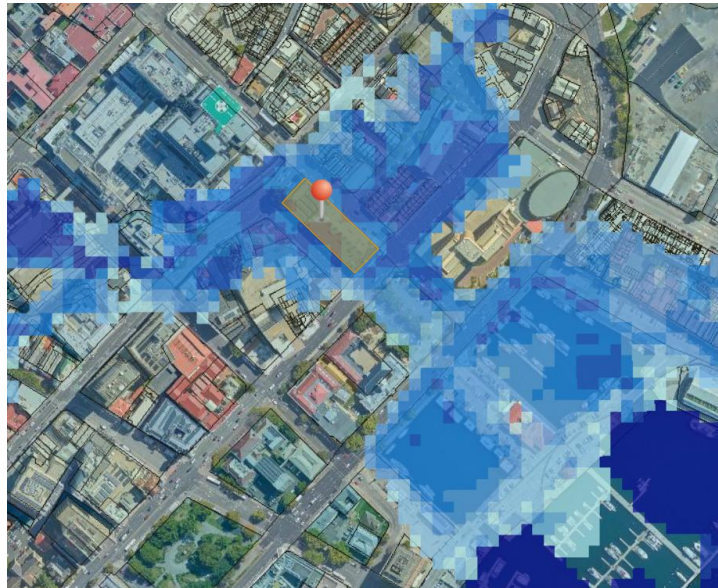


Figure 5 – City Hall Flood Map

- 3.76. It is noted that in the 2018 Southern Tasmania Extreme Weather Event (STEWE), the Hall and surrounding areas were significantly impacted by flooding. The ground level of the YouthARC facility was most seriously impacted with the entire internal facility having to be rebuilt. Most of this expenditure was subsequently recovered from the Federal Government using Disaster Recovery Funding.
- 3.77. The Council's Stormwater and Waterways Team have examined the Masterplan's flood mitigation proposal and believe that as the Hall is in the low point on the land, flood water cannot be effectively pushed from one side to another as proposed by flood barriers and gates.
- 3.78. The Team has identified that there are two (2) possible alternative options to manage flooding in this locality:
- 3.78.1. Provide flood protections into the building design itself, (i.e. flood doors and seal up vents), and/or
  - 3.78.2. Manage the flooding in the whole area. This would be a much larger project and involve significant cost and design, however, it has the distinct advantage of also benefitting a large number of surrounding buildings.

- 3.79. Accordingly, it is recommended that the Council pursue the second option to explore whether the flooding in this locality can be managed through a redevelopment of Market Place and Dunn Place to enable the channelling of floodwater directly out to the Cove.

#### **4. Legal, Risk and Legislative Considerations**

- 4.1. In terms of the legal, risk and legislative considerations it will be important to ensure that the Expressions of Interest process is carried out in a legally compliant manner and to ensure this the Council's Legal and Governance Team will be included in the cross-organisational team to deliver that process.
- 4.2. The Hall itself is subject to several statutory requirements in terms of its use, in particular the *Building Act 2016* as it relates to the occupancy permit for the use of the venue. Any plans to redevelop and/or upgrade the Hall will need to ensure compliance with this legislation.
- 4.3. There is a known flood risk for the Hall and progression of the report's recommendations will commence a process to mitigate this risk over time.

#### **5. Strategic Planning and Policy Considerations**

- 5.1. The following sections of the *Capital City Strategic Plan 2025* are relevant to the proposal contained within this report:
- Hobart's cityscape reflects the heritage, culture and natural environment that make it special. (Outcome 1.2)
  - Hobart is a creative and cultural capital where creativity is a way of life. (Outcome 3.1)
  - Civic and heritage spaces support creativity, resulting in a vibrant public realm. (Outcome 3.4)
  - Hobart's economy reflects its unique environment, culture and identity. (Outcome 4.1)
  - Hobart's economy is strong, diverse and resilient. (Outcome 4.4)
  - Infrastructure and services are planned, managed and maintained to provide for community wellbeing. (Outcome 7.3)

#### **6. Financial Viability**

Financial Considerations:

- 6.1. If the Council were to agree with the recommendations, there would need to be financial resources provided to deliver the recommendations. These would include:

- 6.1.1. The development of a Cultural Precinct proposal and business case, together with the development of a concept plan for the development of Market Place would require a Council commitment in the order of \$150-\$200K, which would need to be supported by contributions from the State Government entities within the precinct. There is significant flooding, traffic and operational needs to be considered as part of a proposal, which may be able to be partially funded through external grants.
- 6.1.2. An Expressions of Interest (EoI) process to identify an anchor tenant would be largely able to be completed within existing resources, however, some specialist support may be required. Accordingly, an amount of approximately \$30,000 should be allocated.
- 6.1.3. Following the EoI process there would be a need for the Council to commit capital funding to the Hall, the quantum of which would need to be determined with the anchor tenant/s. As a guide, the key works that have currently been identified in this report total \$1,162,000. However, the Masterplan identified some larger cost works that would need to be worked through with the proposed anchor tenant or tenants. Some of the larger works include:

<b>Description</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Acoustic and mechanical treatment throughout	\$2,200,000
New back of stage areas including loading dock, goods lift, storage	\$2,480,000
Install a permanent "Help Box" has retractable seating, wet bars, kitchen facilities	\$1,110,000
Ground Floor - Old Market is restored for Booking Office, Foyer, Amenities, Rehearsal Space	\$2,355,000
Fully restored fire escapes and toilets	\$985,000

Financial and Operational Performance

- 6.2. The financial performance of the Hall between 2020/21 and 2024/25 is provided in the following table.

City Hall 2020/21 to 2024/25 (excluding Youth Arc Operations)

	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25
<b>Expenses</b>					
Labour Charges	\$829	\$860	\$1,329	\$0	\$954
Water and sewerage charges	\$27,496	\$20,977	\$19,213	\$27,664	\$28,595
Materials	\$834	\$0	\$40	\$180	\$0
Stock Purchases	\$115	\$92	\$0	\$0	\$0
Security - Council Buildings	\$3,349	\$340	\$0	\$0	\$0
Energy Costs – Light, Power, Heat	\$0	\$130	\$274	\$0	\$102
Energy Costs - Contestable Sites	\$20,527	\$20,817	\$14,666	\$11,191	\$25,209
Maintenance Heating Ventilation & Air Conditioner	\$1,407	\$7,113	\$5,880	\$2,320	\$1,614
Land Tax (City Hall excl Youth Arc)	\$20,740	\$20,728	\$36,466	\$36,468	\$36,466
Contractors - Works	\$17,801	\$48,353	\$24,322	\$33,078	\$29,058
Contractors - Electrical	\$17,280	\$12,429	\$10,801	\$14,239	\$39,351
Contractors - Plumbing & Minor Works	\$1,675	\$11,422	\$11,648	\$2,399	\$12,629
Contractors - Asbestos Removal	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$165	\$0
Contractors - Hygienic Services	\$0	\$110	\$0	\$0	\$0
Internal Charges	\$0	\$99	\$0	\$0	\$0
Devine Management (4.5% of Rent Collected) Nene Bookstore /Paul Johnstone	\$258	\$258	\$270	\$297	\$898
Provision for Lease Management					
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$112,311</b>	<b>\$143,730</b>	<b>\$124,910</b>	<b>\$128,001</b>	<b>\$174,876</b>
<b>Revenue</b>					
Fees and Charges - Hall hire (External)	\$31,944	\$92,097	\$84,121	\$73,839	\$64,643
Fees and Charges - Hall hire (Internal) Waived Fees/In-Kind/Grants	\$3,558	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$4,963	\$1,000
Reimbursement / Refund	\$0	\$0	\$25	\$0	\$0
Rental	\$23,543	\$24,167	\$23,944	\$31,137	\$46,669
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$59,044</b>	<b>\$117,264</b>	<b>\$109,090</b>	<b>\$109,939</b>	<b>\$112,312</b>
<b>RESULT (excl. Depreciation)</b>	<b>-\$53,267</b>	<b>-\$26,467</b>	<b>-\$15,821</b>	<b>-\$18,062</b>	<b>-\$62,564</b>
Depn - Buildings (City Hall excl Youth Arc)	\$44,537	\$46,844	\$58,076	\$94,229	\$98,172
<b>RESULT (incl. Depreciation)</b>	<b>-\$97,804</b>	<b>-\$73,311</b>	<b>-\$73,897</b>	<b>-\$112,291</b>	<b>-\$160,736</b>
<b>Number of Events</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Nature of Events</b>	Concert (3) Boxing (1) Cultural Fest (8) Exhibit (5) Rally (1) Dance event (3)	Concert (9) Public Meet (2) Cultural Event (1) Polling Cent (1) Boxing (2) Exhibition (2) Christmas Pageant O.flow (1)	Concert (7) Exhibition/Art Instillation (6) Dance event (3) Cultural Event (5) Wedding Rec (1) Boxing (1) Conference (1) Q & A Event (1)	Concert (6) Boxing (2) Cultural Event (7) Polling day (2) Exhibition (1) Dance event (3) Book Launch (1) Beaker St Fest (1) Cat Show (1)	Concert (6) Boxing (2) Cultural Event (7) Polling day (2) Exhibition (1) Dance event (3) Book Launch (1) Beaker St Fest (1) Cat Show (1)

City Economy Strategy:

6.3. This proposal aligns to the following strategic priorities listed in the City of Hobart City Economy Strategy 2023 – 2028:

- Plan for our collective social, economic and environmental prosperity, by:
  - Delivering initiatives that expand or enhance our night-time economy programs in the City; and

- Partnering with government and business to develop programs that support local inventiveness and innovation.
- Position Hobart as an enviable place to visit, live and do business, by:
  - Partnering with Government stakeholders to grow the recognition of our competitive advantages.
  - Advocating for infrastructure which is strategically important to the city and the region including cultural, transport and community infrastructure, and
  - Delivering programs to foster night-time economy, cultural and creative activity that enhances the visitor experience and supports business in the city.

## **7. Climate and Sustainability Considerations**

- 7.1. A major focus of the work proposed by this report will be the management flood water for the City. The Council's *2040 Climate Ready Hobart Strategy* indicates that climate change will lead to more frequent and intense rainfall events, increasing flood risks.
- 7.2. This report is consistent with the Strategy's priority to 'Improve planning of climate and disaster risk across Hobart's built environment, both municipal and private sectors.

## **8. Community and Business Engagement and Collaboration**


- 8.1. There will be a need for a broader public engagement process which will need to be determined.
- 8.2. If the recommendations are supported by the Council, it is intended that the implementation would include:
- 8.2.1. Forming a cross-organisational team to develop and run an Expressions of Interest process to identify an anchor tenant for the Hall and to develop a plan for short, medium and long term upgrades to the Hall.
- 8.2.2. The CEO would form a working group of representatives from the State Government, Theatre Royal, UTAS, TMAG, Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra and Hotel Grand Chancellor to progress the development and project and funding of a cultural precinct proposal.

*As signatory to this report, I certify that, pursuant to Section 55(1) of the Local Government Act 1993, I hold no interest, as referred to in Section 49 of the Local Government Act 1993, in matters contained in this report.*



Michael Stretton  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

Date: 25 March 2026  
File Reference: F26/17135

Attachment A: City Hall Masterplan - Partners Hill and Lovell Chen (Supporting information) 

**16. Proposed Relocation of the Farm Gate Market**  
**File Ref: F26/15765**

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Report of the Manager Community Programs and the Director Community and Economic Development of 25 March 2026 and attachment.

Delegation: Council

**REPORT TITLE:                    PROPOSED RELOCATION OF THE FARM GATE  
MARKET****REPORT PROVIDED BY:** Manager Community Programs  
Director Community and Economic Development**1.     Report Summary and Key Issue**

- 1.1.    Elected Members have been briefed on the opportunities to relocate the Sunday farmers' market, Farm Gate Market (the Market), at two Hobart Workshop Committee meetings held on 1 December 2025 and 2 March 2026.
- 1.2.    At the meeting of 1 December 2025, Madi Peattie of Peattie Events, the owner/operator of the Market, presented to Elected Members on the rationale for why Peattie Events was seeking to relocate from the current Market site at Bathurst Street. Ms Peattie cited that the primary reason for relocation was increased wind conditions, which are causing operational and safety concerns.
  - 1.2.1.   Ms Peattie's concerns were correlated with information received from an independent wind analysis provided by Windtech Consultants and weather/wind data provided by the Bureau of Meteorology. Ms Peattie also provided testimonials from several stallholders.
- 1.3.    In response to Elected Member feedback, investigations were conducted into alternative Market site locations, leading to a proposal being presented for Elected Member consideration at Hobart Workshop Committee meeting of 2 March 2026.
- 1.4.    The details of the investigations undertaken were presented at the workshop and included qualified wind data and a multi-criteria analysis of five (5) potential sites including:
  - Market Place
  - Liverpool Street
  - Collins Street
  - Elizabeth Mall
  - Bathurst Street (current site)
- 1.5.    The multi-criteria analysis was based on the following criteria:
  - Would the Market fit in this location
  - Is it a practical location
  - Wind risk impacts
  - Potential new economic benefits
  - Likely costs to Council

- Likely (and revealed) support by local business
- Opportunity to enhance local amenity and activation
- Operator support

1.6. The detailed multi-criteria analysis results are shown at **Attachment A**.

1.6.1. The overall conclusion of the multi-criteria analysis is that, should Council decide to support the relocation of the Farm Gate Market away from Bathurst Street, the preferred new location would be Liverpool Street, between Murray and Harrington Streets.

1.6.2. The results include the detailed independent wind analysis provided by Windtech Consultants and weather/wind data provided by the Bureau of Meteorology.

1.7. The approximate costs associated with hosting a market at Liverpool Street between Murray and Harrington Streets (Liverpool Street event site) include:

1.7.1. \$25,000 for necessary underground (electrical and hydraulic) investigations; and

1.7.2. an estimate of \$231,000 for the purchase and installation of power and water pedestals that would provide infrastructure that could be utilised for a range of other all year-round events and activities.

1.8. At the Hobart Workshop Committee's meeting of 2 March 2026, feedback received by Elected Members indicated that, should Council support Liverpool Street as an event site, the appointment of an operator for a Sunday farmers' market should be undertaken through a public and competitive process.

1.8.1. The Farm Gate Market is an established and successful market, delivering significant economic, social and cultural benefits for the city, and providing an important platform for regional growers and producers to connect directly with the Hobart community.

1.8.2. The preparation of this report, and the work undertaken to identify Liverpool Street as a potential event site, has been informed by the proposal to relocate the Farm Gate Market and to support its continued operation within the city.

1.8.3. Notwithstanding this, the establishment of Liverpool Street as a location for ongoing or regular events will require a substantial investment in infrastructure by the City to ensure the site is safe, functional and fit for purpose.

- 1.8.4. In this context, it is appropriate that Council undertake a public and competitive process to appoint an operator for a Sunday farmers' market, which will provide confidence that the selected operator represents the best overall outcome for the city, the community, and the broader market sector.

## **2. Recommendation**

### ***That:***

- 1. *The Council endorses Liverpool Street (between Murray and Harrington Streets) as its preferred alternate event site and seek to support its delivery in the 2026-27 financial year.***
- 2. *The Council notes that a Communications Strategy will be developed for the Liverpool Street event site, that will include a business engagement process with adjacent businesses and building owners.***
- 3. *The Council approves a public and competitive process to appoint an operator for a Sunday farmers' market at the Liverpool Street event site and that the outcomes of this process be reported back to Council for decision.***
- 4. *The Council notes a process will be developed by Council officers to guide the delivery of regular events at the Liverpool Street event site.***

### 3. Discussion and Background

#### Historical Information

- 3.1. The Farm Gate Market originally operated from the City's Melville Street Carpark for five (5) years from 25 October 2009.
  - 3.1.1. The site was subsequently sold to UTAS for development into student accommodation.
  - 3.1.2. As part of these arrangements, the City supported the Farm Gate Market operator to identify a suitable alternative site, in acknowledgement of the importance of the Market to activate an area of the City that was otherwise very quiet on Sundays, and to encourage other businesses in the area to open up at that time.
- 3.2. At its meeting on 11 June 2013, Council granted in-principle support for the proposed relocation of the Market to the roadway of Bathurst Street between Murray and Elizabeth Streets, once the Melville Street Carpark site became unavailable.
- 3.3. At its meeting on 23 September 2013, pursuant to Part 2 of the City of Hobart Planning Scheme 1982, Council approved the application for a partial change of use to unlisted use (market) at the Bathurst Street road reservation (between Murray Street and Elizabeth Street).
- 3.4. At its meeting of 30 April 2014 the Council approved the preparation of a licence agreement for the Bathurst Street site.
- 3.5. To facilitate the establishment of the Farm Gate Market in Bathurst Street, Peattie Enterprises were responsible for developing and implementing a traffic management plan, installing bollards at the corner of Bathurst and Murray Street and changing all parking signage along the street.
- 3.6. During the relocation process an extensive community engagement process was undertaken by the City and the operator with impacted businesses, noting there were businesses opposed to the road being closed each Sunday.
- 3.7. The Market has continued to operate from Bathurst Street since 28 September 2014.
  - 3.7.1. The Market's current licence agreement will expire on 26 October 2027.
- 3.8. Key visitation and economic impact details for the Market were provided by Peattie Events and are shown in the table below:

**Environmental Achievements**

1. The Market banned the use of plastic bags in June 2010
2. The Market banned single use plastic packaging and utensils for street food vendors in December 2010
3. 100% compostable packaging introduced for fresh produce
4. 2025 - 75% of the packaging at the Market is 100% compostable
5. Farm Gate Market aims to be the first plastic free farmers' market in Australia

**National and Global Rankings**

1. Lonely Planet's Best in Travel 2025 - one of the top ten Farmers' Markets in the world (Farm Gate Market # 8)
2. Australian Tourism Awards: Silver Award Winner - *Excellence in Food Tourism*
3. Time Out Magazine Australia - *Best 21 markets in Australia*: Number 1. Farm Gate Market
4. Qantas Travel Insider - *Where Australia's Beating Heart Resides*: Tasmania: Farm Gate Market
5. Trip Advisor - ranked #12 of *Things to do in Hobart* (2016: #32)
6. Trip Advisor - ranked #2 *Shopping in Hobart* (2016: #4)

**Review Status**

Google Reviews : 4.6  
Facebook Reviews: 4.5  
Trip Advisor Reviews: 4.5

**Visitation and Economic Impact**

Each Sunday the Markets host between 5,500 – 6,500 local, interstate and overseas customers with the breakdown of visitation 75% local / 25% interstate and overseas.

Estimated annual economic impact:

Global studies in relation to the Multiplier Effect of farmers' markets indicate that for every dollar spent at a local farmers' market, another dollar is spent in the local economy.

2016 - \$13 million  
2025 - \$31.2 million

**Relocation Background**

- 3.9. A discussion paper was presented to Elected Members at the Hobart Workshop Committee meeting of 1 December 2025, where Madi Peattie of Peattie Events, the owner/operator of the Farm Gate Market detailed the rationale for why Peattie Events was seeking to relocate from the Market's current site at Bathurst Street.

- 3.10. Elected Members provided a range of feedback and requested that further investigations be undertaken in consideration of the Farm Gate Market to alternative sites.
- 3.11. In response to Elected Member feedback, additional investigations were conducted, leading to a revised proposal being presented for Elected Member consideration at the Hobart Workshop Committee meeting of 2 March 2026.
- 3.12. The details of the investigations undertaken were presented at the workshop and included qualified wind data and a multi-criteria analysis of five potential sites including:
- Market Place
  - Liverpool Street
  - Collins Street
  - Elizabeth Mall
  - Bathurst Street (current site)
- 3.13. The overall conclusion of the multi-criteria analysis is that, should Council decide to support the relocation of the Farm Gate Market away from Bathurst Street, the preferred new location would be Liverpool Street, between Murray and Harrington Streets.
- 3.14. The multi-criteria analysis was based on the following criteria:
- Would the Market fit in this location
  - Is it a practical location
  - Wind risk impacts
  - Potential new economic benefits
  - Likely costs to Council
  - Likely (and revealed) support by local business
  - Opportunity to enhance local amenity and activation
  - Operator support
- 3.15. The detailed multi-criteria analysis results are shown at **Attachment A**.
- 3.15.1. The results include the detailed independent wind analysis provided by Windtech Consultants and weather/wind data provided by the Bureau of Meteorology.

### **Public and Competitive Process**

- 3.16. At the Hobart Workshop Committee's meeting of 2 March 2026, feedback received by Elected Members indicated that, should Council support Liverpool Street as an event site, the appointment of an operator for a Sunday farmers' market should be undertaken through a public and competitive process.

- 3.16.1. The Farm Gate Market is an established and successful business, delivering significant economic, social and cultural benefits for the city, and providing an important platform for regional growers and producers to connect directly with the Hobart community.
- 3.16.2. The preparation of this report, and the work undertaken to identify Liverpool Street as a potential event site, has been informed by the proposal to relocate the Farm Gate Market and to support its continued operation within the city.
- 3.16.3. Notwithstanding this, the establishment of Liverpool Street as a location for ongoing or regular events will require a substantial investment in infrastructure by the City to ensure the site is safe, functional and fit for purpose.
- 3.16.4. In this context, it is appropriate that Council undertake a public and competitive process to appoint an operator for a Sunday farmers' market, which will provide confidence that the selected operator represents the best overall outcome for the city, the community, and the broader market sector.

#### **4. Legal, Risk and Legislative Considerations**

- 4.1. If Council endorses the establishment of the Liverpool Street event site, officers will undertake a comprehensive process that would include consideration of planning, legal and operational requirements.
- 4.2. Similarly, if the Council endorses a public and competitive process to establish a Sunday farmers' market at the site, officers would undertake a comprehensive process before undertaking any public process, including a comprehensive risk assessment of the site.

#### **5. Strategic Planning and Policy Considerations**

- 5.1. The delivery of the Farm Gate Market and further activation of Liverpool Street is very strongly aligned with several pillars in the Capital City Strategic Plan 2023, in particular:

Pillar 2 – Community inclusion, participation and belonging.

*2.3.5 Ensure neighbourhoods, streets and public spaces help all people to be healthy and physically active.*

*2.3.8 Encourage and support community initiated social food initiatives that contribute to sustainable and resilient food systems, such as community gardens, food banks and other community enterprises.*

Pillar 3 – Creativity and culture.

3.4.1 *Support the activation of City-owned spaces for creative, cultural, community and commercial initiatives.*

3.4.2 *Activate public spaces and venues, to benefit the community and business sector through changes to infrastructure, public art, performances, events, festivals and markets.*

Pillar 4 – City economies.

4.1.4 *Support the local community and businesses to foster the vibrancy of local areas to contribute to attractive and unique destinations.*

4.1.5 *Continue to incorporate sustainable economic thinking into the City’s operations and decision-making.*

**6. Financial Viability**

6.1. Financial Considerations:

	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
<b>Revenue</b>				
Existing Revenue	\$24			
Additional Revenue				
<b>Total Revenue</b>				
<b>Expenditure</b>				
Operating	\$25			
Capital		\$231		
<b>Total Expenditure</b>				
<b>Net Cost</b>	<b>\$26</b>	<b>\$231</b>		

**FTE Impact**

	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29
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Change in FTE

*Detail the change in the level of full-time equivalents within the group should the requested level of additional funding be required.*

6.2. The approximate costs associated with the development of the Liverpool Street event site proposal include:

6.2.1. \$25,000 for necessary underground (electrical and hydraulic) investigations; and

- 6.2.2. an estimate of \$231,000 for the purchase and installation of power and water pedestals that would provide infrastructure that could be utilised for a range of other all year-round events and activities.
- 6.3. The revenue associated with a Sunday farmers' market has not been calculated. This revenue will be subject to a commercial valuation, which has been estimated at a cost of \$1,000 to the Council. This will be absorbed by the Council's approved 2025-26 operational budget.
- 6.4. City Economy Strategy:
  - 6.4.1. This proposal aligns to the following strategic priorities listed in the City of Hobart City Economy Strategy 2023 – 2028:
    - 1.2 Deliver initiatives that expand or enhance our night-time economy programs in the City.
    - 1.5 Partner and deliver programs that are inclusive, foster well-being and enhance quality aspects of city life, including short-term tactical interventions to improve public amenity.
    - 1.7 Partner on projects that support local businesses to transform to a zero emissions economy and to implement locally relevant UN 2030 sustainability goals.
    - 2.7 Advocate for the development of strategically important sites.
    - 3.4 Advocate for infrastructure which is strategically important to the city and the region including cultural, transport and community infrastructure.
    - 4.7 Advocate for, support and promote our artisan producers, business and events.
- 6.5. Economic Impact:
  - 6.5.1. Global studies in relation to the Multiplier Effect of farmers' markets indicate that for every dollar spent at a local farmers' market, another dollar is spent in the local economy.
  - 6.5.2. In relation to Farm Gate Market, this equates to an increase from \$13 million in 2016 to \$31.2 million in 2025.
- 6.6. Consultants
  - 6.6.1. Windtech Consultants was engaged to provide the City with independent wind advice in relation to three (3) potential market sites.

- 6.6.2. With respect to the establishment of the Liverpool Street event site, specialist consultants would be required to undertake the necessary underground (electrical and hydraulic) investigations.
- 6.6.3. With respect to a Sunday farmers' market being established at the Liverpool Street event site, a specialist consultant would be engaged to provide a market valuation.

## **7. Climate and Sustainability Considerations**

- 7.1. In general farmers' markets create measurable sustainability and climate benefits because they reshape how food is produced, transported, and consumed. The biggest gains come from shorter supply chains, diversified farming practices, and stronger local economies that support low-impact agriculture.
- 7.2. Environmental benefits include: lower transport emissions; reduced packaging waste; seasonal eating; and support for regenerative practices.
- 7.3. Climate resilience impacts and community benefits impacts include: diversified crops; stronger local food systems; fairer income for small producers; local economic circulation; food education; and food waste reduction.
- 7.4. In relation to specific environmental outcomes for Farm Gate Market the following impacts are noted:
  - 7.4.1. The Market banned the use of plastic bags in June 2010
  - 7.4.2. The Market banned single use plastic packaging and utensils for street food vendors in December 2010
  - 7.4.3. 100% compostable packaging introduced for fresh produce
  - 7.4.4. 2025 - 75% of the packaging at the market is 100% compostable
  - 7.4.5. Farm Gate Market aims to be the first plastic free farmers' market in Australia.
- 7.5. Should Council endorse a public and competitive process, it will require the successful operator to comply with the City's endorsed Waste Reduction Statement of Commitment and support the relevant objectives of the City of Hobart Waste Management Strategy 2015-30.

## **8. Community and Business Engagement and Collaboration**

- 8.1. As requested by Elected Members in December 2025, businesses on Collins Street were visited to gauge high level interest and concerns about a potential relocation of the Farm Gate Market to Collins Street between Harrington and Murray Streets.

- 8.2. In January 2026 a Council officer along with Ms Peattie visited selected businesses along Collins Street. This was completed by way walking the street and dropping in on street frontage business operators that currently open on a Sunday, or that may open if the Market was operating at that site.
- 8.3. These conversations were informal and were held with the intent of getting a sense check of whether existing businesses were generally supportive of the concept of the Farm Gate Market potentially moving to this area of Collins Street.
- 8.4. Through these conversations, it was clear that there are still concerns from some businesses following the recent bicycle lane and infrastructure changes, and that any further impacts on businesses (particularly parking) would be of a concern.
- 8.5. It was noted that there were differing responses between retail businesses and hospitality businesses. In general, hospitality businesses were very supportive and could see the benefits of having the Farm Gate Market operating on a Sunday, whereas some retail businesses were concerned about loss of parking outside the businesses and reduction in access. It is noted that not all businesses were engaged with as part of this process.
- 8.6. There have been no discussions by Council with any businesses located at any of the other potential sites, however it is noted that Peattie Events have met with DarkLab and several hospitality businesses on Liverpool Street.
  - 8.6.1. Ms Peattie advised that she met with DarkLab who own a large property portfolio along the Liverpool Street and that they were very supportive of the concept of Farm Gate Market relocating to this site and felt that it would complement their offerings and events, including Dark Mofo. They indicated they see strong opportunity to integrate any new Council event infrastructure into the delivery of greater activation of the precinct.
- 1.1. Should Council endorse a public and competitive process for the establishment of a Sunday farmers' market at the Liverpool Street event site, a Communications Strategy will be prepared with the Strategic Communications, Engagement and Marketing Group with promotion of the EOI proposed via print and online media, and within the City's extensive community and business networks.

## **9. Innovation and Continuous Improvement**

- 9.1. If the Council endorses the recommendations made in this report, officers would commence undertaking the site investigations and consultation with impacted businesses.

- 9.2. Subject to the investigation works demonstrating feasibility for the installation of appropriate infrastructure, a procurement process would be undertaken for purchase and installation.
- 9.3. Once the infrastructure works are determined, a market valuation would be undertaken to determine the potential licence revenue for the site, which would then enable a public and competitive process for the establishment of a Sunday farmers' market at the Liverpool Street event site.
- 9.4. Other opportunities for the activation of the Liverpool Street site as an event space will also be explored, with any regular or ongoing events subject to a public process.

*As signatory to this report, I certify that, pursuant to Section 55(1) of the Local Government Act 1993, I hold no interest, as referred to in Section 49 of the Local Government Act 1993, in matters contained in this report.*



Kimbra Parker  
**MANAGER COMMUNITY PROGRAMS**



Ben Artup  
**DIRECTOR COMMUNITY AND  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Date: 25 March 2026  
File Reference: F26/15765

Attachment A: Multi-Criteria Analysis Results (Supporting information) 

**17. Proposed Motions - Local Government Association of Tasmania General Meeting**  
**File Ref: F26/17179**

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Report of the Manager Environmental Health, Director Community and Economic Development and Acting Director Corporate Services of 19 March 2026 and attachment.

Delegation: Council



City of **HOBART**

## MEMORANDUM: COUNCIL

### Proposed Motions - Local Government Association of Tasmania General Meeting

The Local Government Association of Tasmania's ("LGAT") General Meeting, to be held on 10 April 2026, is set to consider one motion which has been raised by the West Tamar Council for consideration. The Council will need to resolve its position in respect of their motion to allow delegates to vote accordingly.

Background information and full detail of the West Tamar motion can be found at **Attachment A**.

#### 1. Changing Local Government's role in delivering immunisation programs

The West Tamar Council has submitted a motion seeking:

*That LGAT advocates for the following:*

1. *That the Tasmanian Government remove or modify section 57 of the Public Health Act 1997 which requires Councils to develop and implement an approved program for immunisation in its municipal area.*
2. *That the Tasmanian Department of Health take primary responsibility for delivery of school-based immunisation programs in Tasmania.*
3. *That Section 57 (1) if not removed be replaced with:*

*"A Council may develop and implement an approved program for immunisation in its municipal area by liaising with the Tasmanian Health Service who is required to carry out school-based immunisation programs statewide."*

#### 2. Discussion and Background

- 2.1. Prior to every LGAT General Meeting, councils are invited to submit motions on matters connected with the objectives of the Association or of common concern to members for inclusion on the agenda of its meetings.

- 2.2. Under Section 57 of the *Public Health Act 1997* the Council **must** develop and implement an approved program for immunisation in its municipal area.
- 2.3. In accordance with this requirement the Hobart City Council delivers an approved immunisation service as part of the overall delivery of the National Immunisation Program (NIP). This program includes childhood clinics, school-based immunisation programs and staff vaccination. The service includes all high schools including public, private, and catholic schools.
- 2.4. The Council's Health Promotion Coordinator runs the programs out of the Environmental Health Group. Authorised Nurse Immunisers (ANIs) are engaged on contracts by the Council. The ANIs work as a team sharing the clinic and school shifts as coordinated by Council's coordinator.
- 2.5. The Department of Health Communicable Diseases Prevention Unit Immunisation team provide necessary support to the program including provision of vaccines, facilitation of the consent and data collection software platform Vitavo, and Council receives a funding amount per vaccination of \$10.50.
- 2.6. The following table is an extract of the annual report 2024-25.

<b>Approved Immunisation Program 2024 - 25</b>			
<b>Program type</b>	<b>Number of vaccinations</b>	<b>Number of people</b>	<b>Number of clinics</b>
Public clinics	879	461	23
School-based program	2503	1303	16
Staff	275	275	2

- 2.7. Hobart City Council has provided an immunisation service dating back many decades. Along with some other Tasmanian councils Hobart has been in a position to consistently provide and deliver the services in a manner embodying access and affordability and with a reputation for being reliable, trustworthy and equitable.
- 2.8. Officers are not supportive of the motion to modify section 57 to substitute 'must' for 'may' providing councils with the option to opt in or out where appropriate, given the diversity of circumstances, resourcing

and population dispersal across LGAs. It raises concerns about impacts on accessibility and consistency of immunisation services across the State if there is no specific blueprint for exactly how the Department of Health might approach stepping in and how far they should go.

- 2.9. It may be appropriate to review the current model/s to inform a position more broadly in relation to which level of government is best placed and resourced to deliver programs in the current environment examining for example impact points to improve vaccination rates in adolescents, shoring up ANI services, and engaging more closely with primary schools in preparing for vaccine acceptance in high school.
- 2.10. Increased resourcing at either level could create opportunities for proactive actions conducive to more widespread uptake of vaccines and improved herd immunity which is the stated goal of all national immunisation programs and policies.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

### **That:**

- 1. The Council not support the motion tabled by the West Tamar Council, 'Changing Local Government's role in delivering immunisation programs', as detail in Attachment A.**
- 2. The Council's delegates to the LGAT General Meeting be authorised to vote in accordance with Council's resolved position.**

*As signatory to this report, I certify that, pursuant to Section 55(1) of the Local Government Act 1993, I hold no interest, as referred to in Section 49 of the Local Government Act 1993, in matters contained in this report.*

Felicity Edwards  
**MANAGER ENVIRONMENTAL  
HEALTH**

Ben Artup  
**DIRECTOR COMMUNITY AND  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Michelle Wickham  
**ACTING DIRECTOR CORPORATE  
SERVICES**

Date: 19 March 2026

File Reference: F26/17179

Attachment A: West Tamar Council Motion - Changing Local Government's role  
in delivering immunisation programs (Supporting information)



**18. Dark Mofo 2026-2028 City Partnership Proposal**  
**File Ref: F26/10031; 16/119**

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Report of the Manager Creative City and the Director Community and Economic Development of 25 March 2026.

Delegation: Council

**REPORT TITLE: DARK MOFO 2026-2028 CITY PARTNERSHIP PROPOSAL****REPORT PROVIDED BY:** Manager Creative City  
Director Community and Economic Development**Report Summary and Key Issue**

- 1.1. This report outlines a multi-year City Partnership proposal between the City of Hobart (the City) and DarkLab Pty Ltd (DarkLab) for the 2026, 2027 and 2028 Dark Mofo festivals (Dark Mofo, the Festival).
- 1.2. Dark Mofo is one of the City's most powerful levers to deliver visibility, vibrancy and destination appeal across core civic precincts and the City for growing its cultural arts brand.
- 1.3. The City has supported Dark Mofo with significant cash and in-kind sponsorship for close to a decade.
- 1.4. DarkLab has approached the City seeking a new three-year sponsorship arrangement (**Attachment A**), with a cash contribution (indexed at 4% annually) and in-kind support. The proposal is summarised below (all figures exclude GST).

Year	Cash	In-Kind Support (upper limit)
2026	\$250,000	\$444,366
2026	\$260,000	\$545,054
2026	\$270,400	\$444,366

- 1.5. Officers have assessed DarkLab's proposal, taking into account the City's previous level of support and associated sponsorship obligations, together with the achieved outcomes of Dark Mofo 2025.
- 1.6. The assessment, and subsequent proposed funding level, has been informed by the Council-endorsed Funding Programs Policy.
  - 1.6.1. The proposal has been considered under the "City and Civic Partnerships" funding stream, noting that sponsorship proposals as presented as City Partnership Agreements.
  - 1.6.2. The proposal was assessed against the relevant guidelines of which they are eligible and meet the assessment criteria and weighting of Economic and Tourism (50%), Marketing 20%, Cultural 10%, and Inspired 10%.

- 1.7. A multi-year agreement enables long-term planning, reduces annual administrative load, and stabilises venue and infrastructure planning, and allows DarkLab to secure artists, suppliers and venues, further advancing and increasing economic returns.
- 1.8. Officers recommended proposed funding level includes a cash contribution of \$200,000 for each event, indexed annually to the March quarter Hobart CPI, and in-kind support as requested by DarkLab, to an upper-limit, summarised below (all figures exclude GST). The cash figures below are indicative only, assuming CPI of 3.5%.

Year	Cash	In-Kind Support (upper limit)
2026	\$200,000	\$440,656
2026	\$207,000	\$440,656
2026	\$214,245	\$440,656

- 1.1. The proposed funding level will support the City of Hobart Winter Feast “Free Sunday” community day, as well as broader festival activities. In proposing the above funding level, the City will seek naming rights for the Winter Feast and a range of promotional activities, consistent with previous years’ benefits.

## 2. Recommendation

### *That:*

1. ***The Council endorse a three-year City Partnership Agreement with DarkLab for Dark Mofo Festivals 2026, 2027 and 2028, with funding obligations of:***
  - (i) ***\$200,000 cash (excluding GST) p.a., with indexed to the Hobart CPI (March quarter), comprising sponsorship and support for the City of Hobart Winter Feast Community Day, naming rights for the Winter Feast, and any other ancillary benefits as negotiated for inclusion in the Sponsorship Agreement.***
  - (ii) ***In-kind support through full and partial fee waivers for equipment hire, supply and installation costs, venue hire, permits and approvals, car parking, civic banners, festive lighting and line marking, to an upper limit of \$440,656 (2026), \$440,656 (2027), \$440,656 (2028) (excluding GST).***
2. ***The Council delegates the authority to the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate and enter into a funding agreement on the Council’s behalf, and finalise any licence requirements, including the details of the sponsorship benefits and incidental additional requests for in-kind support sought by DarkLab for Dark Mofo 2026, 2027 and 2028.***

**3. *The total value of support be recorded in the ‘Grants, Assistance and Benefits Provided’ section of the City of Hobart’s 2025-26, 2026-27, and 2027-28 Annual Reports.***

**3. Discussion and Background**

3.1. Since 2013, Dark Mofo has delivered 3.19 million attendances, engaged 560,000 Tasmanians, and brought 290,000 interstate and international visitors.

3.1.1. This has resulted in total economic benefits of over \$540+ million to Tasmania.

3.2. Dark Mofo 2025 attracted 119,196 unique attendees, with more than 50,000 interstate and international visitors citing Dark Mofo as their main reason for travel.

3.2.1. Dark Mofo 2025 generated approximately \$67 million in economic benefit to Tasmania and \$31 million specifically to Hobart.

3.2.2. Council’s return-on-investment (ROI) was 67:1, with the City’s combined cash and in-kind contributions totalling \$460,000, against \$31 million in local economic benefits.

3.3. The City’s cash contribution has ranged from \$90,000 to \$280,000, and in-kind support has ranged from \$40,000 to \$310,000, as per the following summary table.

<b>Council Dark Mofo Support 2013-2025</b>							
	Year						
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Cash	\$ 90,000	\$150,000	\$136,000	\$250,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$280,000
In-kind	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 40,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000
	Year						
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	
Cash	\$ -	\$ -	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	
In-kind	\$ -	\$190,000	\$190,000	\$270,000	\$230,000	\$310,000	

3.4. In 2023 and 2025, Dark Mofo received a Net Promotor Score (NPS) of 80/100.

3.4.1. The NPS is a key metric used to measure customer loyalty and satisfaction, and overall enthusiasm for an event or brand, and likelihood of attendees of recommending an experience to others.

3.4.2. An NPS above 50 is considered excellent, and a score of 80 or higher is recognised as world-class.

- 3.5. Dark Mofo remains central to Hobart's cultural positioning, with:
  - 3.5.1. 346 events delivered in 2025 (including MONA-delivered programming).
  - 3.5.2. 1,241 artists, including 629 local performers and 85 First Nations artists across the Dark Mofo Festival and Winter Feast programming.
  - 3.5.3. Strong alignment with the City's Cultural, Economic Development and Creative Hobart strategic pillars.
- 3.6. Dark Mofo's broad mix of free and ticketed programming ensures inclusive community participation.
- 3.7. Challenges facing Dark Mofo and DarkLab's event cycle in 2026 include venue scarcity due to the Macquarie Point redevelopment, and limited access to suitable large-scale sites, as well as supply chain cost pressures and competition for infrastructure.
- 3.8. A multi-year agreement would allow:
  - 3.8.1. Long-term venue planning.
  - 3.8.2. Reduced administrative burden for both organisations.
  - 3.8.3. Secured access to City assets and regulatory pathways.

#### **4. Legal, Risk and Legislative Considerations**

- 4.1. A risk assessment will be undertaken annually by DarkLab. The assessment will include how City assets are used and monitored, and mitigation of any perceived risk to the City.
- 4.2. DarkLab's Event Management Plan will be reviewed by the City of Hobart's Risk and Audit officers to ensure that:
  - 4.2.1. The use of the City's venues complies with safety requirements.
  - 4.2.2. The use of the City's equipment in Dark Mofo's proposed venues complies with safety requirements.
- 4.3. Where a risk is identified as being unacceptable, the in-kind support will not be considered or will be renegotiated.
- 4.4. The City Partnership Agreement between DarkLab and the City will be prepared by the City's Legal and Corporate Governance Group, and reviewed by all relevant internal stakeholders.
- 4.5. DarkLab will be required to comply with all applicable legislation, including City of Hobart By-laws, as well as the terms and conditions of use of any of the City's venues and spaces where activations are planned.

- 4.6. As required by Section 77 of the Local Government Act 1993 (S77 LGA), the total value of support (both cash and in-kind) will be disclosed annually via the City's Annual Report.

## **5. Strategic Planning and Policy Considerations**

### 5.1. Capital City Strategic Plan 2023

#### *Pillar 1: Sense of Place*

- 1.1 Hobart keeps a strong sense of place and identity, even as the City changes.

#### *Pillar 3: Creativity and culture*

- 3.1.5 Support and deliver events, festivals and markets.
- 3.4.1 Support the activation of City-owned spaces for creative, cultural and commercial initiatives.

#### *Pillar 4: City Economies*

- 4.1.2 Attract investment that supports businesses and communities to flourish in ways consistent with the community vision.
- 4.3.1 Develop and maintain relationships with key institutions and stakeholders in the Hobart economy.

#### *Pillar 6: Natural Environment*

- 6.5.4 Encourage opportunities to activate the City's open space network for events and activations.

### 5.2. City of Hobart Funding Programs Policy

- 5.2.1. The Dark Mofo 2026-2028 Partnership Proposal has been considered under the "City and Civic Partnerships" funding stream, noting that sponsorship proposals are presented as City Partnership Agreements.
- 5.2.2. City Partnerships are commercial arrangements that involve the contribution of money and/or in-kind support for an activity, in return for a specified benefit provided over one or multiple years.

### 5.3. Grants and Benefits Disclosure Policy

- 5.3.1. The proposal is classed as both in-kind assistance (the provision of a Council service, including staff and/or equipment at nil or reduced charge) and sponsorship (a commercial arrangement in which the City of Hobart provides a contribution of money or in-kind support for a specified benefit such as brand exposure or naming rights).

**6. Financial Viability**

6.1. Financial Considerations:

Cash

6.1.1. DarkLab’s proposed three-year arrangement includes a cash contribution of \$250,000 annually, indexed at 4%.

6.1.1.1. This proposal represents an increase from previous years’ cash contribution of \$150,000 for Dark Mofo 2026.

6.1.2. Dark Mofo cite that the additional \$100,000 reflects the costs associated with the delivery of the Community Day, identifying total delivery costs of \$282,000, offset by \$80,000 in income, resulting in a net deficit of \$202,000. Included in this deficit is estimated foregone ticket revenue of \$90,000.

6.1.3. Following assessment of the proposal, officers recommend that the Council supports the Community Day with a cash contribution of \$200,000, offsetting the deficit associated with the delivery of this event.

6.1.4. Following internal engagement with the City’s Corporate Strategy, Finance and Performance Group, officers recommend that Hobart CPI (March quarter) is applied.

6.1.5. The increased cash contribution, from \$150,000 to \$200,000 is absorbed within the 2025-26 operational budget. The increased cash contribution for future years will be incorporated into the respective operational budgets.

6.1.6. For the purpose of providing figures to Council, the below has been calculated assuming CPI of 3.5%.

	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
<b>Revenue</b>				
Existing Revenue				
Additional Revenue				
<b>Total Revenue</b>				
<b>Expenditure</b>				
Operating	200	207	214.2	
Capital				
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>214.2</b>	
<b>Net Cost</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>214.2</b>	

**FTE Impact**

	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29
Change in FTE	0	0	0	0

## In-Kind

- 6.1.7. DarkLab have requested in-kind support totalling an upper limit of \$444,366 (2026), \$545,054 (2027), \$444,366 (2028) (excluding GST).
- 6.1.7.1. The increase in support, estimated at \$100,688 in 2027, is due to the request for the use of Salamanca Car Park for the duration of four (4) weeks for an art program during the 2027 event, however due to operational requirements this is unable to be supported.
- 6.1.7.2. DarkLab have also requested the use of Dunn Place Car Park for up to 15 days for each of the three (3) events, which is unable to be supported in full due to operational requirements, acknowledging that this is the main car park for patrons of the adjacent Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery. Instead, officers propose to support providing DarkLab with one quarter of the car park only, maintaining the rest as public car park throughout Dark Mofo.
- 6.1.7.3. DarkLab have also requested the use of the Town Hall Parking Deck for three (3) days and have been advised that the City is unable to support full use of this, instead sharing that they can use the publicly accessible spaces for two (2) days, with exception of the accessible parking bays.
- 6.1.8. Detailed of the recommended in-kind support is listed in the following table, and includes but is not limited to equipment hire, supply and installation, venues and spaces, permits and approvals, and parking.
- 6.1.9. The recommended in-kind support is tabled below, and excludes any material costs where Council would incur actual expenses, such as purchase of materials and advertising.
- 6.1.10. This list will be reviewed and confirmed on an annual basis, and the total value of in-kind support recorded in the relevant annual report as is required under S77 LGA.

	<b>2026 ESTIMATED UNITS</b>	<b>2027 ESTIMATED UNITS</b>	<b>2028 ESTIMATED UNITS</b>	<b>EVENT</b>
<b>EQUIPMENT HIRE</b>				
Table & bench sets	100	100	100	Winter Feast
PW1 food kiosks	20	20	20	Winter Feast
Turf chairs	10	10	10	TBC
Track mat	8	8	8	Winter Feast
Large concrete ballast blocks	6	6	6	Winter Feast
Steel benches	6	6	6	Winter Feast
PW1 purpose built cold room with wall panelling and fittings	5	5	5	Winter Feast
Grey 5000L water tanks	4	4	4	Winter Feast
Kiosk scullery walls	3	3	3	Winter Feast
Container ramps	3	3	3	Winter Feast
Concrete terrorist blocks	3	3	3	Winter Feast
Wheelchair ramps (yellow and black foldable)	2 plus	2 plus	2 plus	Winter Feast & Art Program
Scullery sinks	2	2	2	Winter Feast
Stillage of vinyl (good/large rolls)	1	1	1	Winter Feast
Container kitchen	1	1	1	Winter Feast
<b>Estimated in-kind value</b>	<b>\$200,411</b>	<b>\$200,411</b>	<b>\$200,411</b>	
<b>SUPPLY &amp; INSTALLATION</b>				
N.B. Any material expenses (such as supply of material or tip fees) will be borne by DarkLab.				
Council's Fabrication Crew's installation of kiosks & associated panelling	1	1	1	Winter Feast
Installation and removal of bitumen ramp Winter Feast Smoking area	1	1	1	Winter Feast
Installation and removal of Winter Feast back-of-house bitumen ramp	1	1	1	Winter Feast
Installation and removal of Winter Feast smoking area	1	1	1	Winter Feast
Removal and reinstallation of Trike Mania bench	1	1	1	Winter Feast

Transportation of concrete ballast blocks to and from storage	1	1	1	Winter Feast
<b>Estimated in-kind value</b>	<b>\$8,500</b>	<b>\$8,500</b>	<b>\$8,500</b>	
<b>VENUES &amp; SPACES</b>				
City Hall	As per existing booking	As per existing booking	As per existing booking	Art Program
Dunn Place	15 days (max)	15 days (max)	15 days (max)	Art Program
Elizabeth Street Conference room	4 days	4 days	4 days	Ogoh Ogoh
Hobart Central Car Park	2 weeks (Thurs to Sun)	2 weeks (Thurs to Sun)	2 weeks (Thurs to Sun)	Patron parking
Long Beach	1 day	1 day	1 day	Nude Solstice Swim
Mawson Concourse	3.5 weeks	3.5 weeks	3.5 weeks	Crosses
Royal Hobart Regatta Grounds	8 days across 2 weeks of the festival	8 days across 2 weeks of the festival	8 days across 2 weeks of the festival	Festival parking
Royal Hobart Regatta Grounds (area adjacent toilets)	2 weeks	3 weeks	4 weeks	Ogoh Ogoh: The Burning
Salamanca Lawns	4.5 weeks	4.5 weeks	4.5 weeks	Winter Feast
Town Hall car park (Elizabeth Street)	2 days	2 days	2 days	Ogoh Ogoh
<b>Estimated in-kind value</b>	<b>\$198,428</b>	<b>\$198,428</b>	<b>\$198,428</b>	
<b>PERMITS &amp; APPROVALS</b>				
Road closure approvals including consultation, permits/approvals and public notifications	N/A	N/A	N/A	Festival wide
Place of Assembly permits	N/A	N/A	N/A	Festival wide
<b>Estimated in-kind value</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	
<b>PARKING</b>				
Parking revenue loss	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Parking permits	From early May to the end of June	From early May to the end of June	From early May to the end of June	Festival wide
<b>Estimated in-kind value</b>	<b>\$20,572</b>	<b>\$20,572</b>	<b>\$20,572</b>	

<b>OTHER</b>				
City-wide banner campaign and installation including: arterial half set 2 & large CBD Set	As per previous years from early March to the end of June	As per previous years from early March to the end of June	As per previous years from early March to the end of June	City
Festive lighting program	1	1	1	City
Line marking for Regatta Grounds	1	1	1	Festival parking
Other requests as they arise	N/A	N/A	N/A	Misc
<b>Estimated in-kind value</b>	<b>\$12,745</b>	<b>\$12,745</b>	<b>\$12,745</b>	
<b>ESTIMATED TOTAL IN-KIND SUPPORT</b>	<b>\$440,656</b>	<b>\$440,656</b>	<b>\$440,656</b>	

## 6.2. City Economy Strategy:

6.2.1. This proposal aligns to the following strategic priorities listed in the City of Hobart City Economy Strategy 2023 – 2028:

### 1. Plan for our collective social, economic, and environmental prosperity

1.1 Advocate for City's lead role in harnessing the opportunity presented by the visitor economy.

### 2. Attract responsible investment to unlock an inventive and inclusive economy

2.5 Partner with stakeholders to develop initiatives that attract, retain, and develop Hobart's workforce.

### 3. Position Hobart as an enviable place to visit, live and do business

3.5 Deliver programs to foster night-time economy, cultural and creative activity that enhances the visitor experience and supports business in the City.

## Economic Impact:

6.3. A thriving night-time economy is vital to the social, cultural and economic health of Hobart. Events such as Dark Mofo, generate jobs, drive visitation, and enrich urban life after dark.

6.4. The importance of Dark Mofo as one of Hobart's most significant night-time cultural assets strengthen the rationale for a multiyear partnership.

6.5. Dark Mofo advances the City's Night-Time Economy (NTE) priorities by;

- 6.5.1. Strengthening after-dark economic activity - particularly in hospitality, retail, and accommodation
- 6.5.2. Increasing local employment and skills - by directly employing over 600 staff and supports hundreds of local businesses through programming, procurement, and increased nighttime visitation.
- 6.5.3. Supporting a safe, diverse, sustainable night-time environment - through collaborative work with Tasmania Police, emergency services, and the City's event safety teams for safe NTE activation.
- 6.5.4. Cultural vibrancy as a driver of NTE growth - Dark Mofo is Hobart's leading driver of nighttime cultural vibrancy, through 350 events across 10 nights, region shaping public art and late-night programming, and major audience drawcards such as Night Mass, and Winter Feast.
- 6.5.5. Distribution of activity across precincts, with multiple precincts activated including Salamanca, waterfront, CBD laneways, activation zones, Regatta Grounds and expanded Dark Park footprint, and partner venues across the City and region. This aligns with NTE objectives of spreading activity, reducing congestion, and supporting a wider business base.
- 6.5.6. Dark Mofo directly activates all these sectors, extending sponsorship over three years supports sustainable growth across the NTE ecosystem.

## **7. Climate and Sustainability Considerations**

- 7.1. All events operated within the City of Hobart must comply with the City's endorsed Waste Reduction Statement of Commitment.
- 7.2. Events or activities that the City of Hobart support are required to support the objectives of the City of Hobart Waste Management Strategy 2015-30.
- 7.3. Applicants must outline their commitment to sustainable events, certified compostable food packaging and reducing waste to landfill.
- 7.4. Waste reduction achieved by the 2026 Dark Mofo Festival within the Winter Feast's Zero Waste program include:
  - 100,000+ reusable cups avoided.
  - 75.88% waste diversion.
  - 53,000 litres processed via grey water trial.
- 7.4.1. DarkLab have affirmed a commitment to expand Zero Waste program, reusables, recycling, and reuse infrastructure, and have highlighted potential for joint investment in sustainability infrastructure as part of the

City's Event Equipment resource program, as a "Sustainable Events Lab".

## **8. Community and Business Engagement and Collaboration**

- 8.1. Officers have engaged internally to connect DarkLab to all relevant areas for engagement, permissions and media.
- 8.2. A Media and Communications Strategy, and Community Engagement strategy will be developed in consultation with Dark Mofo.
- 8.3. As with previous years, the City will work with DarkLab to further seek opportunities to showcase work and programs undertaken across Council and other government organisations.
- 8.4. Dark Mofo currently supports hundreds of local businesses and generates over \$5M stallholder revenue at Winter Feast through the Festival Box Office.
- 8.5. Dark Mofo provides cross sector collaboration (arts, events, hospitality, tourism, transport), engages TasTAFE, UTAS, volunteers, and creative workforce pathways, and involves extensive community participation via rituals (Ogoh Ogoh, Nude Solstice Swim) and free events.
- 8.6. Sponsorship benefits have been discussed with Dark Mofo to provide appropriate acknowledgment of the City of Hobart. These will be finalised once the Council has determined the level of support that the City will provide.

## **9. Innovation and Continuous Improvement**

- 9.1. Dark Mofo is improving its audience experience through program curation and capacity management. Recognising that several sites reached peak capacity on multiple nights in 2025, Dark Mofo is exploring new ways to manage congestion and enhance comfort, including program expansion, site redesign and modelling of new locations for growing audience demand.
- 9.2. Dark Mofo has placed emphasis on accessibility and inclusion, progressively expanding initiatives such as detailed accessibility guides, sensory-friendly sessions, companion card access, and enhancements to its website to support neurodiverse and mobility-impaired patrons.
- 9.3. These improvements ensure that participation barriers are reduced and that Dark Mofo remains welcoming to all members of the community.
- 9.4. Dark Mofo is exploring innovative approaches to infrastructure partnerships with the City and other organisations, including co-development of reusable infrastructure (such as dishwashing capacity, accessible toilets, fencing and radio equipment) and shared planning for venue activation.

- 9.5. This work reflects a broader strategic effort to create long-term efficiencies and improved resource utilisation across Hobart's event ecosystem.

*As signatory to this report, I certify that, pursuant to Section 55(1) of the Local Government Act 1993, I hold no interest, as referred to in Section 49 of the Local Government Act 1993, in matters contained in this report.*



Justyne Wilson  
**MANAGER CREATIVE CITY**



Ben Artup  
**DIRECTOR COMMUNITY AND  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Date: 25 March 2026  
File Reference: F26/10031; 16/119

**MOTIONS OF WHICH NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN****IN ACCORDANCE WITH REGULATION 19(1) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
(MEETING PROCEDURES) REGULATIONS 2025****19. Removing Parking Meter Exemption for Elected Members  
File Ref: F26/17572**

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Councillor Lohberger

**Motion**

“Elected Member car parking permits limit free parking to the Town Hall parking deck only, with free parking for Elected Members on Hobart City Council parking meters and in off-street HCC car parks, discontinued because it is unnecessary and inequitable.”

**Rationale:**

“Elected Members are currently provided with a reserved car parking space in the CBD, at the Town Hall, which is necessary given the amount of out-of-hours meetings required. The parking permit issued to elected members provides for free parking in this reserved space at Town Hall, and also allows free parking on Hobart City Council parking meters and off-street car parks that are located almost entirely within the CBD.

Because elected members already have a reserved parking space in the CBD, the free parking on parking meters and off-street car parks in the CBD is unnecessary. It is also inequitable to impose parking fees and fines on everyone else who parks on HCC spaces in the CBD while exempting ourselves. As I noted previously in the rationale for my motion of 28 August 2023,

*There have been regular complaints about the parking meters in Hobart for many years and it is only fair that elected members start using these meters and the EasyPark app, just like all other ratepayers and visitors to the City.*

Finally, there is also an issue I believe in elected members using CBD parking spaces meant for shoppers and visitors when we already have a reserved parking space at the Town Hall. We should either use our reserved space and walk, or pay for a CBD parking space using the same parking meters as everyone else.”

## Administration Response to Notice of Motion

### Discussion

The provision of parking permits is considered a benefit within the Elected Members' Development and Support Policy and accordingly, would require a Council decision to amend the policy.

Parking permits are provided for elected member use in controlled areas whilst they are undertaking their duties of office. This includes tasks like attending site visits and meetings with constituents. Displaying a permit is an indication of being on official duties.

It is considered appropriate for an Elected Member's reasonable out of pocket expenses, like parking, to be covered by the Council while they are on official duties.

While there are some administrative challenges when permits are not appropriately used, officers remain supportive of the allocation of permits as per the above rationale.

### Strategic, Legislative and Policy Implications

#### Capital City Strategic Plan

Pillar: 8 – Governance and Civic Involvement

Outcome: 8.1 Hobart is a city that is well governed that recognises the community as an active partner that informs decisions.

Strategy: 8.1.1 Build community trust through the implementation of effective civic leadership, ethical conduct and responsible governance processes that ensure accountability, transparency and compliance with all legislated and statutory requirements.

#### Legislation and Policy

Legislation: Not applicable

Policy: Elected Members' Development and Support Policy

### Financial Implications

1. There are no financial implication arising as a result of this report. However some cost savings would be achieved through reduced administrative processes associated with issue of permits, maintenance of system and costs associated with cancellation of parking tickets.

**20. Alliance for Gambling Reform - Leadership Council Program**  
**File Ref: F26/19481**

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Deputy Lord Mayor Councillor Sherlock

**Motion**

“That Council:

1. Endorse participation in the Alliance for Gambling Reform’s Leadership Council Program to support gambling harm minimisation, community wellbeing, and public health outcomes within the Hobart municipality;
2. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to engage with the Alliance for Gambling Reform to finalise the scope, governance and any further arrangements;
3. Note that participation would position Hobart as the first Tasmanian local government to join the national Leadership Council network.”

**Rationale:**

“According to the Grattan Institute and the Australia Institute, Australia experienced the highest gambling losses per capita in the world<sup>1</sup>, with gambling-related harm recognised as a public health issue with widespread community impacts. In 2025, Australians lost ‘\$32 billion on legal forms of gambling each year, more per capita than anywhere in the world.’<sup>2</sup> The Alliance for Gambling Reform notes that these impacts extend beyond financial loss and encompass mental health challenges, family violence, housing insecurity, and diminished community wellbeing.

Local councils, as the tier of government closest to their communities, have a recognised role in prevention, harm minimisation, community education, and responsible local decision-making, as well as, where appropriate, advocacy on behalf of their communities. This role is intended to complement, not replace, the regulatory and enforcement responsibilities of State and Federal governments.

“The Alliance for Gambling Reform is a national, non-partisan, registered health promotion charity that operates independently of the gambling industry and is informed by evidence and lived-experience perspectives. It is the only national organisation focused solely on gambling reform, working towards reforms federally and in all states and territories.”

More than twenty councils in Victoria, including the City of Melbourne, currently participate in the Leadership Council program. Through this program, councils are provided with access to learning opportunities, policy support, lived experience perspectives, and peer collaboration to strengthen their capacity to respond to locally observed community impacts.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://grattan.edu.au/report/a-better-bet-how-australia-should-prevent-gambling-harm-2/#:~:text=Australia%20has%20the%20highest%20per,584\)%20\(Figure%201.1\).&text=Note:%20Converted%20to%20Australian%20dollars%20using%20ATO%20\(2023\)](https://grattan.edu.au/report/a-better-bet-how-australia-should-prevent-gambling-harm-2/#:~:text=Australia%20has%20the%20highest%20per,584)%20(Figure%201.1).&text=Note:%20Converted%20to%20Australian%20dollars%20using%20ATO%20(2023) and https://australiainstitute.org.au/post/most-gambling-losses-are-from-at-risk-gamblers/) and <https://australiainstitute.org.au/post/most-gambling-losses-are-from-at-risk-gamblers/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2025-09-24/gambling-participation-harm-rising/105812048>

The Alliance is expanding its local government program to additional States in response to feedback from local communities and demonstrated interest from many councils and councillors in participating. The program provides locally relevant resources while offering Councils the opportunity to contribute to addressing an issue that is frequently described as a national blind spot. Through its Leadership Council model<sup>3</sup>, the Alliance supports participating Councils to build internal capability to address local needs through accessing expert advice and resources, as well as learning from peer experience.

Endorsing participation in the Alliance for Gambling Reform Leadership Council aligns with the City of Hobart's strategic priorities, including community wellbeing and safety, inclusion and support for vulnerable residents, evidence-based decision-making, collaboration with trusted partners, and responsible place-based leadership. As Tasmania's capital city, Hobart is well placed to demonstrate leadership on a significant public health issue while retaining full autonomy over local decision-making and resourcing.

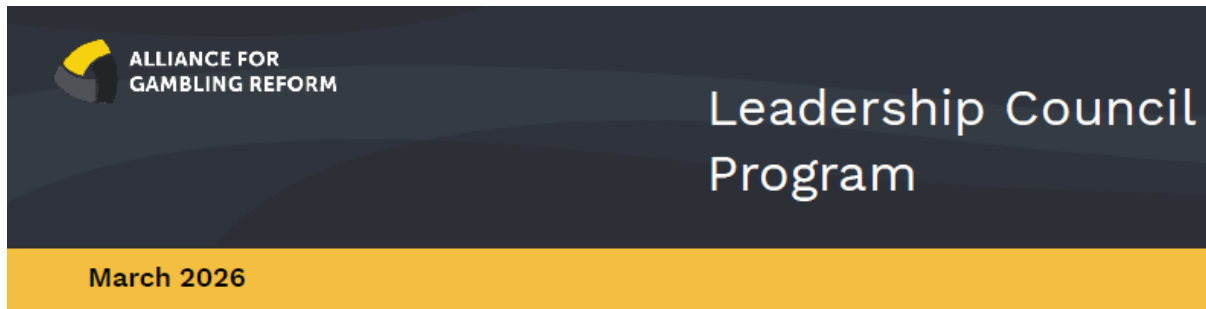
Any support associated with the program would be negotiated following Council endorsement and would be subject to Council's usual governance and approval processes. The appendix to this motion provides additional information to support Council's consideration of participation in the Alliance for Gambling Reform (AGR) Leadership Council program. It expands on the matters outlined in the accompanying motion by:

1. describing the relevance of gambling harm to local government
2. outlining the Alliance for Gambling Reform and its operating model
3. explaining the Leadership Council partnership program
4. clarifying the scope, governance, and evaluation of participation"

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.agr.org.au/councilstakingaction>

## APPENDIX 1



## Introduction

This document provides information to support Council's consideration of participation in the Alliance for Gambling Reform (AGR) Leadership Council program including:

- the relevance of gambling harm to local government
- the Alliance for Gambling Reform and its operating model
- explaining the Leadership Council partnership program
- clarifying the scope, governance, and evaluation of participation

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## Gambling Harm and Local Government

Australia experiences the highest gambling losses per capita in the world, with gambling-related harm widely recognised as a significant public health issue with widespread community impacts. These impacts extend well beyond financial loss to include mental health challenges, family violence, housing insecurity, and reduced community wellbeing.

Local governments are often the first to encounter the community-level consequences of gambling harm through increased demand for social support services, community safety initiatives, and wellbeing responses.

As governments closest to their communities, councils have a recognised role in **prevention, harm minimisation, community education, and responsible local decision-making**, and, at times, **advocacy on behalf of their communities** where local impacts are evident. This role complements, rather than replaces, the regulatory and enforcement responsibilities of state and federal governments.

## About the Alliance for Gambling Reform

The **Alliance for Gambling Reform** is a national, non-partisan, registered health promotion charity dedicated to preventing and reducing gambling harm in Australia.

The Alliance for Gambling Reform model is:

- independent from the gambling industry
- not affiliated with any political party
- grounded in a public health and evidence-based approach
- informed by lived-experience perspectives
- supported by Australian organisations and individuals, researchers, and local government

The Alliance is the only national organisation focused solely on gambling reform, working towards policy and legislative reforms federally and across all states and territories.

The Alliance works collaboratively with decision-makers across **local, state, and federal levels** to support informed approaches to gambling harm prevention and legislative reform, while respecting the distinct roles and responsibilities of each level of government. It maintains strong relationships across government departments, ministers, and MPs — regardless of party or position — providing insight into gambling-related issues and contributing to informed policy discussion.

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## The Leadership Council Program

The Leadership Council program is a **voluntary program** between the Alliance for Gambling Reform and participating local governments.

Leadership Councils are councils that choose to participate in a national network focused on:

- strengthening understanding of gambling harm as a public health issue
- building internal capability to respond to local community impacts
- accessing expert advice and evidence relevant to local government roles
- learning from the experience of peer councils
- demonstrating leadership in community wellbeing and harm minimisation

More than twenty councils in Victoria, including the **City of Melbourne**, currently participate in the Leadership Council program.

Participation is **deliberately non-prescriptive**, allowing councils to determine how, when, and whether information or advice is applied in response to their own local context, priorities, and resourcing.

The program is designed to **support informed local decision-making**, not direct or mandate specific actions. Councils retain full autonomy over decisions, priorities, and resourcing.

## Participation

Leadership Council participation can include access to:

- briefings or presentations for councillors and officers
- regular officer meetings
- learning and development opportunities related to gambling harm and local government
- advice on policy development or review
- support responding to gambling-related planning, licensing, or leasing matters
- assistance with community engagement and education initiatives
- access to lived-experience speakers for community discussions
- peer learning and collaboration with other councils
- regular updates on research, data, and policy developments

Participation in the Leadership Council program does not require Council to:

- regulate or enforce gambling laws
- take positions on specific venues or developments
- undertake campaigning or lobbying activities
- participate in advocacy beyond Council's own decisions
- commit to actions outside the local government remit

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## Examples of Council Actions

Participation does not require councils to adopt specific initiatives. However, councils participating nationally have chosen to pursue actions such as:

- developing or strengthening local policies related to gambling harm minimisation
- reviewing planning, licensing, or leasing processes to better consider community harm impacts
- reviewing gambling advertising and promotion on council-owned land or facilities
- supporting local sporting clubs to reduce reliance on gambling-related sponsorship
- delivering community education initiatives through neighbourhood centres, or public venues
- incorporating gambling harm considerations into broader wellbeing, homelessness, family violence or community safety strategies

These examples are indicative only. Each council determines which actions, if any, are appropriate for its community.

## Inclusion of Lived Experience

The Alliance for Gambling Reform includes lived-experience perspectives through its **Voices of Lived Experience** program.

People with lived experience of gambling harm contribute by:

- informing policy advice and program development
- participating in councillor or officer briefings where appropriate
- supporting community education and engagement activities
- contributing to submissions and consultations to ensure responses reflect impacts
- providing comments for media

Participation is voluntary and undertaken in a supported and trauma-informed manner.

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## Evaluation: Measuring Success

Success of the Leadership Council program is measured through **practical and proportionate indicators**, consistent with its purpose as a capacity-building and harm-prevention initiative rather than a regulatory program.

Measures of success may include:

- improved councillor and officer understanding of gambling harm and the local government role
- participation in briefings, learning opportunities, and officer check-ins
- use of evidence and advice to inform Council decision-making
- increased confidence in responding to gambling-related planning, licensing, or community matters
- integration of gambling harm considerations into relevant Council policies or strategies, where appropriate
- feedback from councillors and officers on the value and relevance of the partnership

Evaluation remains flexible and non-burdensome, recognising that broader gambling harm outcomes are influenced by factors beyond local government control.

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## Governance and Financial Considerations

Participation in the Leadership Council program is subject to agreed terms, including an annual participation fee.

Any financial or in-kind contribution would be negotiated following Council endorsement and would be subject to Council's normal budget, governance, and approval processes. Endorsement of participation does not, in itself, commit Council to specific expenditure beyond what is subsequently approved.

## Administration Response to Notice of Motion

### Discussion

1. While it is acknowledged that problem gambling is an issue for many community members, it has not been identified by Hobart community members as priority for action by the City of Hobart.
2. It is not identified within any of the City's strategic documents or community health and wellbeing, social inclusion or community action plans.
3. The financial and staffing resources required to support membership of the alliance are not known at this time, and there are currently no financial or staffing resources allocated towards problem gambling activities.
4. Noting the above, however, Council can play a role in helping to promote and support existing advocacy actions undertaken by the Alliance for Gambling Reform, such as signing open letters in support of gambling reform.
5. The City can also play an important role in supporting and promoting programs, projects and events that provide the community with information and resources in relation to problem gambling, such as the activities that are delivered by Anglicare Tasmania.
6. Participation in the program is non-prescriptive allowing Councils to determine how, when and whether information and advice is applied in response to its own local context, priorities and resources. Accordingly, the Council could elect to join the program and progressively determine the level of role it wishes to pursue over time.

### Strategic, Legislative and Policy Implications

#### Capital City Strategic Plan

Pillar: 8 – Governance and Civic Involvement

Outcome: 8.1 Hobart is a city that is well governed that recognises the community as an active partner that informs decisions.

Strategy: 8.1.1 Build community trust through the implementation of effective civic leadership, ethical conduct and responsible governance processes that ensure accountability, transparency and compliance with all legislated and statutory requirements.

8.1.2 Ensure the needs of the community are well represented through effective advocacy and strong collaborative partnerships with key stakeholders and all levels of government.

#### Legislation and Policy

Legislation: Not applicable

Policy: Not applicable

#### Financial Implications

1. There is no indication of a cost to join the program and participation is non-prescriptive. Accordingly the Council has the discretion to manage any financial implications.

## **21. RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE**

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Regulation 34 *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025*.  
File Ref: 13-1-10

### **The Chief Executive Officer reports:-**

“In accordance with the procedures approved in respect to Questions Without Notice, the following responses to questions taken on notice are provided to the Committee for information.

The Committee is reminded that in accordance with Regulation 34(3) of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025*, the Chairperson is not to allow discussion or debate on either the question or the response.”

### ***RECOMMENDATION***

*That the following responses to questions without notice be received and noted.*

#### **21.1 UTAS City Move-City of Hobart Website**

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Memorandum of the Head of Executive Services of 19 March 2026.

#### **21.2 Staff Attendance - Climate Events - Clarification**

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Memorandum of the Head of Executive Services of 19 March 2026.



City of **HOBART**

**MEMORANDUM: LORD MAYOR  
DEPUTY LORD MAYOR  
ELECTED MEMBERS**

## **UTAS CITY MOVE-CITY OF HOBART WEBSITE**

**Meeting: Council**

**Meeting date: 15 December 2025**

**Raised by:** Councillor Coats

**Question:**

Since the upgrade to the City of Hobart website, where would you find information about the UTAS city move?

**Response:**

In order to optimise performance and in line with best practice, the City of Hobart website only features live information that is relevant to City governance, services, active projects or events.

Non-active information and content was archived as part of the website redevelopment, this includes the UTAS City move. The page was published in 2022. Between then and now, it had one minor change in 2023, and no changes since then. The city is still able to provide information on past projects upon request.

In line with the October 2024 Council decision, the UTAS Stem Precinct project, still features on the City's website, under the advocacy priorities section.

*As signatory to this report, I certify that, pursuant to Section 55(1) of the Local Government Act 1993, I hold no interest, as referred to in Section 49 of the Local Government Act 1993, in matters contained in this report.*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Laura Eaton', written in a cursive style.

Laura Eaton  
**HEAD OF EXECUTIVE SERVICES**

Date: 19 March 2026  
File Reference: F25/93830



City of **HOBART**

**MEMORANDUM:** LORD MAYOR  
DEPUTY LORD MAYOR  
ELECTED MEMBERS

## **STAFF ATTENDANCE - CLIMATE EVENTS - CLARIFICATION**

**Meeting: Council**

**Meeting date: 23 February 2026**

**Raised by:** Cr Louise Elliot

**Published as Correction**

**Question:**

Listed as part of the question on notice response, item 21 (of the open Council Agenda 24/11/2025), how many staff attended the events or other events that are solely or predominately for the reason of saving the climate, and what has been the cost for staff to attend those events both interstate and international?

**Response provided to 27 January 2026 Council meeting:**

Since 1 January 2018, the Council's current subject matter expert (SME) has travelled internationally on two occasions and interstate on three occasions.

The details of each are listed below.

<b>Dates</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Funded by</b>
25-26 November 2025	CCCLM Climate Forum	Sydney, Australia	Costs covered by CCCLM	CCCLM
3-5	C40 Local	Rio de	Costs	GCOM & Bloomberg

<b>Dates</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Funded by</b>
November 2025	Leaders Forum	Janeiro, Brazil	covered by GCOM and Bloomberg Philanthropies  International Roaming charge - approx. \$100	Philanthropies  City of Hobart
10-11 September 2024	Better Futures Forum	Canberra, Australia	\$708	City of Hobart
29 November 2023 - 8 December 2023	UN Climate Conference COP28 & Local Leaders Forum  Note: The SME was awarded a Scholarship via the Climate Diplomacy Masterclass from University of Melbourne with support from Department of Foreign Affairs and Australia China Foundation. This trip was fully funded by University of Melbourne. An additional three days travel expenses were covered by C40.	Dubai, United Arab Emirates	Costs covered by GCOM/DFAT and Australia China Foundation	GCOM/DFAT/Australia China Foundation
6-7 September 2023	Cities Power Partnership & Climate Summit for	Melbourne, Australia	\$1,716	City of Hobart

Dates	Event	Location	Cost	Funded by
	Local Government *  <i>*Council resolved to join this partnership at its meeting of 17 July 2023).</i>			

### Further background

The above question without notice response was provided to Cr Elliot attached to the 27 January 2026 Council agenda marked as item 20.2, however on 4 February 2026, Cr Elliot sought further clarification.

In particular, Cr Elliot queried the Flying for Climate list with travel to Sydney (2025), Rio (2025), Canberra (2024), Dubai (2023) and Melbourne (2023).

Cr Elliot sought clarification as she thought there appeared to be significant discrepancies between the information provided under item 20.2 and with Employee Gift Register.

A response was provided to Cr Elliot via the EM Request System on 17 February 2026 from the Head of Executive Services. It was explained to Cr Elliot that due to an oversight, there were a small number of minor inaccuracies relating to specific dates in the earlier advice provided, and the following answers were provided to Cr Elliot's questions:

1. Travel to Dubai for the UN Climate Conference COP28 and Local Leaders Forum:

*Confirming there was only one trip to Dubai, with the correct dates of travel being 31 November to 8 December 2023*

2. Travel to Arizona USA in April 2025 for the Global Climate Communications Directors Meeting on the Employee Gift Register doesn't appear in item 20.2 at all, why?

*This particular travel was not included in the response because it was not related to Lord Mayor travel, it was a trip fully sponsored by Bloomberg*

3. The dates on Jesscia's travel to Brazil are listed on the Employee Gift Register as 1-9 November 2025 but only as 3-5 November on item 20.2 - which is correct?

*The correct dates of travel were from 1 to 11 November 2025 (the return date was incorrectly added to register as 9 November – which was date of departure from Brazil).*

4. Why is the CCLM funded 25-26 November travel to Sydney for Jessica appearing on 20.2 not on the Employee Gifts Register?

*This has now been registered on the employee gifts register. It didn't appear in the most recent reporting, as it was a simple oversight.*

*As signatory to this report, I certify that, pursuant to Section 55(1) of the Local Government Act 1993, I hold no interest, as referred to in Section 49 of the Local Government Act 1993, in matters contained in this report.*



Laura Eaton  
**HEAD OF EXECUTIVE SERVICES**

Date: 19 March 2026  
File Reference: F26/11152; 16/119

**22. RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

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Regulation 35 *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025*.  
File Ref: 13-1-10

**The Chief Executive Officer reports:-**

"In accordance with the procedures approved in respect to Questions On Notice, the following responses are provided to the Council for information.

The Council is reminded that in accordance with Regulation 35 of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025*, the Chairperson is not to allow discussion or debate on either the question or the response."

***RECOMMENDATION***

*That the following responses to questions with notice be received and noted.*

**22.1 Victoria Street**

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Memorandum of the Director Strategic and Regulatory Services of 25 March 2026

**22.2 Collins Street Changes from Molle to Murray Street**

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Memorandum of the Director Strategic and Regulatory Services of 25 March 2026

**22.3 Legislation Compliance**

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Memorandum of the Acting Director Corporate Services of 25 March 2026

**22.4 Plumbing Permit Timeframes**

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Memorandum of the Director Strategic and Regulatory Services of 20 March 2026

**22.5 Conflicts of Interest**

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Memorandum of the Chief Executive Officer of 24 March 2026

**22.6 Aquatic Centre Maintenance and Upgrade Costs**

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Memorandum of the Director Community and Economic  
Development of 18 March 2026

**22.7 Aquatic Centre Pool Closures**

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Memorandum of the Director Community and Economic  
Development of 24 March 2026

**22.8 Communication of Aquatic Centre Pool Closures**

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Memorandum of the Director Community and Economic  
Development of 19 March 2026



City of **HOBART**

**MEMORANDUM: LORD MAYOR  
DEPUTY LORD MAYOR  
ELECTED MEMBERS**

## **QUESTION WITH NOTICE - VICTORIA STREET**

**Meeting: Council**

**Meeting date: 30 March 2026**

**Raised by:** Councillor Elliot

**Question:**

What is the total cost for making the exit from Victoria Street into Collins Street one-way and returning it to two-lanes?

**Response:**

There is a nominal cost (less than \$5,000) tied into the larger Transforming Collins Street – Victoria Street to Murray Street budget of \$200,000.

*As signatory to this report, I certify that, pursuant to Section 55(1) of the Local Government Act 1993, I hold no interest, as referred to in Section 49 of the Local Government Act 1993, in matters contained in this report.*

Karen Abey  
**DIRECTOR STRATEGIC AND  
REGULATORY SERVICES**

Date: 25 March 2026  
File Reference: F26/17683



City of **HOBART**

**MEMORANDUM:** LORD MAYOR  
DEPUTY LORD MAYOR  
ELECTED MEMBERS

## **QUESTION WITH NOTICE - COLLINS STREET CHANGES FROM MOLLE TO MURRAY STREET**

**Meeting:** Council

**Meeting date:** 30 March 2026

**Raised by:** Councillor Elliot

**Question:**

What is the total actual cost of the Collins Street changes from Molle to Murray Street?

**Response:**

The Transforming Collins Street costs have been approximately \$600,000 for the full length from Molle Street to Murray Street. A final figure can be provided once the Victoria to Murray Street section has been completed.

*As signatory to this report, I certify that, pursuant to Section 55(1) of the Local Government Act 1993, I hold no interest, as referred to in Section 49 of the Local Government Act 1993, in matters contained in this report.*

Karen Abey  
**DIRECTOR STRATEGIC AND  
REGULATORY SERVICES**

Date: 25 March 2026  
File Reference: F26/17687



City of **HOBART**

**MEMORANDUM:** LORD MAYOR  
DEPUTY LORD MAYOR  
ELECTED MEMBERS

## **QUESTION WITH NOTICE - LEGISLATION COMPLIANCE**

**Meeting:** Council

**Meeting date:** 30 March 2026

**Raised by:** Councillor Elliot

### **Question:**

What legislation across the organisation is the Council aware that it is not currently complying with or has in the past 12 months not been complying with, such as Right to Information 20 day processing times and Privacy Act de-identification, Discrimination Act?

### **Response:**

The Council is actively striving to fulfill all legislative obligations within the complex regulatory environment in which it operates.

Naturally, as with any public body, instances of non-compliance will occur. Where non-compliance issues arise, the Council takes active steps to address them through performance plans, resourcing reviews, and short-term corrective actions.

For example, since resolving previous compliance issues a couple of years ago, the Council has not encountered any further concerns regarding privacy de-identification. Additionally, we are currently focusing our efforts on the processing of Right-to-Information applications in order to address a high volume of requests.

The Council remains committed to addressing any outstanding compliance matters, including the publication of its delegation register, and has introduced numerous

improvements to ensure statutory processing times are met for plumbing and building legislation.

The City operates a Breach Register as part of its Management System, which provides a structured and transparent mechanism for identifying, investigating, and addressing instances of non-compliance with legislation when they arise.

Breaches of legislative or policy requirements are reported by managers and key staff when identified and may also be identified through claims and incident processes. Each reported breach is investigated, with corrective actions implemented to address root causes and prevent recurrence. Once actions are completed, the breach is closed.

While the maintenance of a Breach Register is not a legislative requirement, it reflects recognised best practice and supports assurance that compliance risks are being actively monitored and managed. The Register is reported to the Risk and Audit Panel twice yearly where new breaches are identified, and the City's overall compliance monitoring framework is reviewed annually in accordance with the Panel's workplan.

*As signatory to this report, I certify that, pursuant to Section 55(1) of the Local Government Act 1993, I hold no interest, as referred to in Section 49 of the Local Government Act 1993, in matters contained in this report.*



Michelle Wickham  
**ACTING DIRECTOR CORPORATE  
SERVICES**

Date: 25 March 2026  
File Reference: F26/17689



City of **HOBART**

**MEMORANDUM:** LORD MAYOR  
DEPUTY LORD MAYOR  
ELECTED MEMBERS

## **QUESTION WITH NOTICE - PLUMBING PERMIT TIMEFRAMES**

**Meeting: Council**

**Meeting date: 30 March 2026**

**Raised by:** Councillor Elliot

### **Question:**

What is the status of timeframes for Plumbing Permit processing in terms of timeframe compliance and customer feedback?

### **Response:**

For the period November 2025 – February 2026:

- 92% of applications for plumbing permits were issued within the statutory time period; and
- the average processing time of applications was 11 days.

The plumbing team has implemented a range of operational improvements aimed at enhancing service delivery and responsiveness. These include the introduction of a new online booking system to improve accessibility and efficiency for inspections, expanded inspection coverage through the implementation of early-morning and afternoon inspections, and the use of new technology to support more efficient and effective inspections in the field. Improvements have also been made to the unit's phone systems to reduce the risk of calls ringing out and to ensure missed calls are promptly returned. The team will continue to identify and introduce further improvements to enhance service outcomes and meet community expectations.

*As signatory to this report, I certify that, pursuant to Section 55(1) of the Local Government Act 1993, I hold no interest, as referred to in Section 49 of the Local Government Act 1993, in matters contained in this report.*



Karen Abey  
**DIRECTOR STRATEGIC AND  
REGULATORY SERVICES**

Date: 20 March 2026  
File Reference: F26/17690



City of **HOBART**

**MEMORANDUM:** LORD MAYOR  
DEPUTY LORD MAYOR  
ELECTED MEMBERS

## **QUESTION WITH NOTICE - CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

**Meeting:** Council

**Meeting date:** 30 March 2026

**Raised by:** Councillor Elliot

**Question:**

What is the CEO's role in relation to preventing and responding to Council decisions impacted by conflicts of interest?

**Response:**

Under Section 55 of the *Local Government Act 1993* (LGA), council employees are obligated to notify the general manager (CEO), or in the CEO's case, the Lord Mayor, in writing if they hold a pecuniary interest in any matter where they are offering advice, making decisions, or recommending actions to the council or its committees. Once notified, the CEO is responsible for ensuring the council is informed of these declared interests and for maintaining a register to record such disclosures. In situations where an employee has provided advice without declaring a conflict, it is the CEO's duty to investigate and address the matter accordingly.

It is important to note, however, that the CEO's responsibilities do not extend to overseeing the notification or investigation of interests involving Elected Members. There is no role requirement for the CEO to manage cases where Elected Members participate in council decisions with undeclared conflicts. Instead, the CEO typically acts as a point of contact for Elected Members, providing guidance on how to disclose and manage potential conflicts, and facilitating the proper recording of these conflicts.

The CEO's prescribed functions are detailed in Section 62 of the LGA, with additional governance for council meetings provided by the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025*. Specifically, Section 48(5) of the LGA outlines the CEO's duties concerning conflicts of interest for Elected Members, including ensuring that all declarations of pecuniary interests—such as those relating to close associates, as defined in Section 51—are formally documented in both council or committee meeting minutes and the register of interests. Although not explicitly required by the LGA, the CEO also records other declared non-pecuniary conflicts in this register for comprehensive oversight.

Importantly, the CEO does not possess the authority to determine whether an Elected Member is conflicted or to direct them in the performance of their functions. Responsibility for declaring and managing conflicts rests solely with the Elected Member, and any disputes are handled through the Code of Conduct system, which also addresses non-pecuniary conflicts. While the CEO, like any individual, may lodge a Code of Conduct complaint, this action is discretionary and not mandated as part of their role.

A breach by an Elected Member, such as participating in a council decision without declaring a conflict of interest, does not automatically invalidate the council's collective decision. Unless otherwise specified, council decisions are adopted by simple majority, and any breach primarily affects the individual Elected Member involved. Whether such a breach has a significant impact on the validity of the council's decision depends on the specific circumstances and must be carefully assessed. Section 56 of the LGA clarifies that a council decision is not invalidated solely because an Elected Member failed to declare an interest under Section 48 or voted on a matter without such a declaration. The CEO does not possess administrative, delegated, or special powers to overturn or invalidate a council resolution.

*As signatory to this report, I certify that, pursuant to Section 55(1) of the Local Government Act 1993, I hold no interest, as referred to in Section 49 of the Local Government Act 1993, in matters contained in this report.*



Michael Stretton  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

Date: 24 March 2026  
File Reference: F26/17692



City of **HOBART**

**MEMORANDUM:** LORD MAYOR  
DEPUTY LORD MAYOR  
ELECTED MEMBERS

## **QUESTION WITH NOTICE - AQUATIC CENTRE MAINTENANCE AND UPGRADE COSTS**

**Meeting: Council**

**Meeting date: 30 March 2026**

**Raised by:** Councillor Elliot

**Question:**

What is the total cost of maintenance and upgrade work that is currently outstanding for the Aquatic Centre

**Response:**

The annual maintenance budget for DKHAC is \$386,500 (ex GST).

In terms of upgrades, the following capital works projects have been approved and are in the delivery phase totalling \$3,200,459 (ex GST)

- Tiling Replacement – Pool Concourses: \$602,386
- Upgrade to Spa, Steam Room & Sauna: \$1,290,000
- Replacement of Moveable Bulkhead: \$632,073
- Licence Plate Recognition (LPR) System – Car Park: \$91,000
- DKHAC DALI Lighting Tube Replacement: \$105,000
- Chemical Delivery Bay: \$180,000
- Main Switchboard upgrade: \$300,000

Please note, the major Roof Replacement project is currently being investigated with the detailed scope and costings still to be delivered.

Additionally, while not currently budgeted, an upgrade to the thermal heat pumps would be desirable. However, at a cost of \$2.3 million, this project is seeking external grant funding before it is progressed.

*As signatory to this report, I certify that, pursuant to Section 55(1) of the Local Government Act 1993, I hold no interest, as referred to in Section 49 of the Local Government Act 1993, in matters contained in this report.*



Ben Artup  
**DIRECTOR COMMUNITY AND  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Date: 18 March 2026  
File Reference: F26/17694



City of **HOBART**

**MEMORANDUM:** LORD MAYOR  
DEPUTY LORD MAYOR  
ELECTED MEMBERS

## **QUESTION WITH NOTICE - AQUATIC CENTRE POOL CLOSURES**

**Meeting: Council**

**Meeting date: 30 March 2026**

**Raised by:** Councillor Elliot

**Question:**

How often have the Aquatic Centre pools been closed due to chlorine issues or other preventable issues in the past 2 years?

**Response:**

Over the past two (2) years, there have been no pool closures caused by preventable operational issues. There were up to three (3) brief closures during this period related to chlorine or chemical imbalance, but these were the result of unforeseeable equipment failures, specifically overnight pump malfunctions that occurred when the Doone Kennedy Hobart Aquatic Centre (the Centre) was closed and unstaffed.

More recently, chlorine-management challenges have occurred due to construction works in the chemical delivery bay, which temporarily prevented bulk chlorine deliveries. During this time, staff used an established manual dosing procedure with granulated chlorine.

Some difficulty was experienced in maintaining precise overnight dosing for the 25m and leisure pools, causing a very short closure of these pools on a few occasions until chlorine levels reached the appropriate level. These manual dosing procedures have been improved to maintain safe chlorine levels consistently.

During the short closures of the 25m & leisure pools, the 50m pool and the dive pool remained open for swimming.

*As signatory to this report, I certify that, pursuant to Section 55(1) of the Local Government Act 1993, I hold no interest, as referred to in Section 49 of the Local Government Act 1993, in matters contained in this report.*



Ben Artup  
**DIRECTOR COMMUNITY AND  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Date: 24 March 2026  
File Reference: F26/17696



City of **HOBART**

**MEMORANDUM:** LORD MAYOR  
DEPUTY LORD MAYOR  
ELECTED MEMBERS

## **QUESTION WITH NOTICE - COMMUNICATION OF AQUATIC CENTRE POOL CLOSURES**

**Meeting:** Council

**Meeting date:** 30 March 2026

**Raised by:** Councillor Elliot

**Question:**

How does the Council communicate to the community that Aquatic Centre pools are closed (when they're typically open)?

**Response:**

The Doone Kennedy Hobart Aquatic Centre (the Centre) operates four (4) pools, which provides flexibility to ensure members and guests can continue swimming even when a pool is temporarily closed. Because of this, the Centre does not typically issue public notifications for short term or occasional pool closures. In almost all cases, alternative options remain available and the Centre's operational policy ensures that a minimum of two (2) lap lanes always remain available for use.

When a closure is expected for an extended period, the Centre actively communicates with the community, using a combination of email notifications, social media updates, on-site signage, and website updates.

*As signatory to this report, I certify that, pursuant to Section 55(1) of the Local Government Act 1993, I hold no interest, as referred to in Section 49 of the Local Government Act 1993, in matters contained in this report.*



Ben Artup  
**DIRECTOR COMMUNITY AND  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Date: 19 March 2026  
File Reference: F26/17697

## 23. QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

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Regulation 33 and 34 of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025*.  
File Ref: 13-1-10

33. (2) *A question asked at a meeting is to, as far as is practicable -*
- (a) be concise; and*
  - (b) be clear; and*
  - (c) not be a statement; and*
  - (d) have minimal pre-amble*
34. *Questions without notice by a Councillor*
- (1) A councillor at a meeting may ask a question without notice –*
    - (a) of the chairperson; or*
    - (b) through the chairperson, of –*
      - (i) another councillor; or*
      - (ii) the Chief Executive Officer.*
  - (2) In asking a question without notice at a meeting, a councillor must not –*
    - (a) offer an argument or opinion; or*
    - (b) draw any inferences or make any imputations –*  
*except so far as may be necessary to explain the question.*
  - (3) The chairperson of a meeting must not permit any debate of a question without notice or its answer.*
  - (4) The chairperson, councillor or Chief Executive Officer who is asked a question without notice at a meeting may decline to answer the question.*
  - (5) The chairperson of a meeting may require a councillor to put a question without notice in writing.*

**BUSINESS ARISING**


**24 Responses to Questions Arising During Debate**

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In accordance with the Council's *Meetings: Procedures and Guidelines Policy*, attached is a register of questions taken on notice during debate of previous items considered by the Council.

***RECOMMENDATION***

***That the register of questions arising during debate be received and noted.***

Attachment A: Responses to Questions Arising During Debate (Supporting information) 

## 25. CLOSED PORTION OF THE MEETING

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### RECOMMENDATION

That the Council resolve by absolute majority that the meeting be closed to the public pursuant to regulation 17(1) of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025* because the items included on the closed agenda contain the following matters:

- Minutes of a Closed Council Meeting
- Information relating to commercial arrangements
- Matters relating to litigation
- Closed Questions Without Notice

The following items are listed for discussion:-

- |             |  |
|-------------|--|
| Item No. 1  | Minutes of the last meeting of the Closed Portion of the Council Meeting |
| Item No. 2  | Communication from the Chairperson                                       |
| Item No. 3  | Leave of Absence   |
| Item No. 4  | Consideration of supplementary Items to the agenda                       |
| Item No. 5  | Indications of Conflicts of Interest                                     |
| Item No. 6  | Current Legal Proceedings<br>LG(MP)R 17(2)(k)                            |
| Item No. 7  | Micromobility Contract<br>LG(MP)R 17(2)(d)(i), (d)(ii) and (k)           |
| Item No. 8  | Response to Questions without Notice                                     |
| Item No. 9  | Question Without Notice - Discounts<br>LG(MP)R 17(2)(c)                  |
| Item No. 10 | Questions without notice   |