

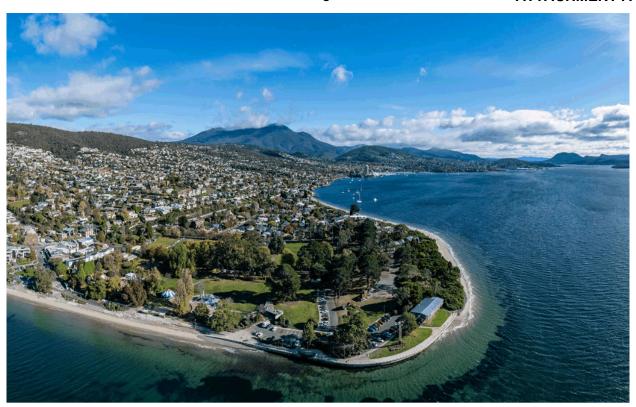
# SUPPORTING INFORMATION

# COUNCIL MEETING OPEN PORTION OF THE MEETING

## MONDAY, 30 JUNE 2025 AT 4.00PM VENUE: COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL

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# **BUDGET ESTIMATES**

2025-26



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#### Introduction

The Budget Estimates is an important planning and resource document supporting the ongoing financial sustainability of the City and should be read in conjunction with the City of Hobart Long-Term Financial Management Plan 2023 - 2033 and the Interim Strategic Asset Management Plan 2024-2034, which forecasts the activities that the City proposes to undertake over the medium to longer term to achieve its strategic objectives and meet community expectations.

The Budget sets out the expected revenue and expenditure for operational, strategic and capital activities for the coming year and also incorporates the City's rating strategies. Pursuant to the *Local Government Act 1993*, the City is required to adopt its Estimates by 31 August each year.

Key aspects of the 2025-26 Budget include:

- An operating budget of \$183.8 million for the delivery of services to the community;
- Total Rates and Charges revenue of \$120 million, an increase of \$4.4 million when compared to the 2024-25 Budget;
- A capital works program of \$36.9 million; and
- The City's debt levels are forecast to reduce by \$3.3 million in 2025-26 to \$32.5 million by the 30 June 2026.

In addition, the State Fire Commission has advised the City under the *Fire* Services *Act 1979*, the Fire Service Contribution to be collected on behalf of the State Fire Commission for 2025-26 has increased by \$614,000 or 4.06 per cent.

From 1 July 2022, the State Government introduced a state-wide landfill levy pursuant to the *Waste and Resource Recovery Act 2022* on waste disposed to landfill both as a disincentive to landfilling and as a mechanism to fund strategic investment into Tasmania's waste and resource recovery sectors. The City is required to collect this levy and pass it onto the State Government. For 2025-26 the amount to be collected is \$616,579.

The City is focused on delivering the actions of the key major strategies and plans approved by Council. Some of the key focus areas include:

- Capital City Strategic Plan 2023: priority projects each year are linked to the outcomes the City is aiming to achieve.
- 2040 Climate Ready Hobart Strategy: working to create a climate ready Hobart.
- Hobart Transport Strategy 2024: focused on key priority actions to deliver transport choice for Hobart.
- City Economy Strategy 2023 2028: continuing to grow the capacity and capability
  of our existing competitive advantages, while leveraging a variety of emerging
  planned growth and development opportunities.

# Supporting Information Council Meeting - 30/6/2025

During 2025-26, the City will also be finalising a revised Waste Management Strategy, an Open Space Strategy and a Creative Hobart Strategy.

#### **Financial Management Indicators**

As outlined in the City's Long-Term Financial Management Plan, ten Financial Management Indicators have been adopted for the purpose of measuring the City's financial sustainability. These are outlined below:

- Underlying Surplus/Deficit: Indicates the extent to which operational income raised covers operational expenses.
- Underlying surplus ratio: Indicates the extent to which operational incomes raised cover operational expenses, expressed as a ratio.
- 3. Net financial liabilities: Indicates what is owed to others less money held, invested, or owed to the City of Hobart.
- 4. Net financial liabilities ratio: Indicates the extent to which net financial liabilities could be met by operating income.
- Asset sustainability ratio: Indicates the extent to which assets are replaced as they reach the end of their useful lives.
- 6. Asset consumption ratio: Provides a measure of the condition of a Council's assets by comparing their age with their replacement cost.
- Asset renewal funding ratio: Measures the capacity to fund asset replacement requirements.
- 8. Net interest expense cover ratio: Indicates the extent to which the Council's operating income is committed to meeting the net interest expense.
- 9. Debt coverage ratio: Indicates the amount of adjusted recurrent income that is used to repay debt and interest charges.
- 10. Working capital ratio: Measures the Council's ability to meet short-term liabilities with short-term assets.

Based on the 2025-26 Budget Estimates, the City's forecast performance against the ten Financial Management Indicators targets are listed in Table 1:

Table 1 – Financial Management Indicators

ndicator No:	Description	Original Budget 2024-25	2025-26 Forecast	Target Benchmark
1	Underlying Result (\$'000)	(1,705)	1,000	> \$0
2	Underlying Result Ratio (%)	(0.09)	0.54	>0%
3	Net Financial Liabilities (\$'000)	(6,910)	9,672	0-50,000
4	Net Financial Liabilities Ratio (%)	(3.94)	5.23	0-50%
5	Asset Sustainability Ratio (%)	70.24	45.72	100%
6	Asset Consumption Ratio (%)	41.37	41.37	>60%
7	Asset Renewal Funding Ratio (%)	97.56	97.56	90-100%
8	Net Interest Expense Cover Ratio (%)	0.75	2.44	<7%
9	Debt Coverage Ratio (%)	2.99	2.46	0-20%
10	Working Capital	2.4	2.59	≥1

### **Operating Budget**

The City's is forecasting a small underlying surplus in 2025-26 of \$1 million, which is a \$2.2 million increase when compared to the 2024-25 original budget of a \$1.2 million deficit.

The City's operating result is shown in Table 2.

Table 2 – City of Hobart 2025-26 Operating Budget

				Variance to
	2024-25	2024-25	2025-26	2024-25
	Budget	Forecast	Budget	Budge
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Revenue				
Rates and Charges <sup>1</sup>	115,618	115,526	120,034	4,416
Fire Levy Commission	599	599	628	29
Fines	8,735	8,735	8,735	
Fees and Charges – Car Parks	14,240	14,240	15,162	922
Fees and Charges - On Street Parking	8,079	8,079	8,387	308
Other Fees and Charges	18,303	18,334	19,220	917
Operating Grants	4,837	4,986	3,756	(1,081
Interest	2,661	2,661	2,842	183
Rents	3,493	3,522	3,548	55
Tas Water Distributions	2,606	2,606	2,606	
Total Revenue	179,171	179,288	184,918	5,74
Expenses				
Labour	77,420	78,049	79,929	2,509
Materials and Services	39,635	41,588	44,193	4,55
Energy Costs	2,471	2,471	2,457	(14
Finance Costs	1,346	1,346	1,256	(90
Fire Levy	15,105	15,105	15,719	61
Depreciation	37,000	32,000	33,219	(3,781
Asset Write-offs	1,500	1,500	1,500	
Bad Debts	400	400	400	
Other Expenses	5,500	5,514	5,246	(254
Total Expenses	180,377	177,941	183,918	3,54
Underlying Surplus/(Deficit)	(1,206)	1,347	1,000	2,20
Capital Items				
Capital Grants	10,575	10,575	15,485	4,91
Surplus/(Deficit)	9,369	11,922	16,485	7,11

Note 1: Rates and Charges includes the State Government Fire and Waste Levy.

#### Revenue

#### Rates and Charges

The Budget Estimates forecast total Rates and Charges revenue of \$120 million, an increase of \$4.4 million from 2024-25.

#### **Rating and Valuation Strategy**

Following a 12-month review of the City's rating practices, which included community consultation, the City adopted a Rating and Valuation Strategy to guide the City's rating practices for the next four years, taking effect from 1 July 2024. 2025-26 is the second year of using the adopted strategy for levying rates and charges.

Council considers it important for the City to have a rating and valuation strategy consistent with taxation principles of fairness, equity, simplicity, capacity to pay, sustainable for the future thereby avoiding intergenerational equity issues and to ensure the City has sufficient rates revenue to meet the City's Community Vision and strategic objectives.

From 1 July 2024 Council changed the property valuation base it uses for the purpose of rating from Assessed Annual Value to the Capital Value of a property. To smooth the transition to Capital Value rating, Council introduced a maximum percentage increase cap of 10 per cent on the General Rate for properties with a commercial and industrial land use. For 2025-26 the level of the maximum increase cap for commercial and industrial properties will be reduced to 5 per cent.

The Council varies the general rate based on the use or predominant use of the land to maintain the equitable distribution of the rates burden amongst property owners. This is called 'differential rating'. The land use differential levels will remain unchanged for 2025-26.

The differential rating system will include the differential general rate for properties used for short stay visitor accommodation and vacant – residential land introduced in 2023-24.

This will ensure owners of residential land used for the commercial purpose of short stay visitor accommodation contribute to the provision of the City's services and facilities that are associated with that commercial use e.g. economic development, tourism, communications and marketing.

For properties identified with a land use of vacant – residential, a differential rating strategy will encourage development of vacant land for housing and other purposes. This will encourage the development of all properties to their full potential thereby stimulating economic growth and development in all areas of the municipal area. This will also assist to discourage the holding of land and ensure vacant land owners contribute an equitable share of the rate burden compared to other types of land owners.

#### **Fire Service Contribution**

The State Fire Commission has advised the City, as required under the *Fire Services Act* 1979, that the Fire Service Contribution required to be collected by the City on behalf of the State Fire Commission for 2025-26 has increased by \$614,000 or 4.06 per cent to \$15.7 million. The Fire Service Rate funds the State Fire Commission's work to respond to and manage fire and other emergencies, as well as assisting the community to manage fire risks.

#### **Waste Management**

The waste management service charge will increase by \$10 for residential properties and \$20 for non-residential properties for 2025-26, which includes \$10 and \$20 respectively to provide funding for rehabilitation costs at the McRobies Gully landfill site following completion of land filling, introduced in 2011-12.

In 2019-20 a Food Organics Garden Organics (FOGO) kerbside collection service was introduced to complement the green waste collection service provided to those properties that received a green waste garbage bin and meet certain criteria within the municipal area. For 2025-26 the cost of the fortnightly FOGO kerbside collection will increase by \$3 from the previous year to \$85 per annum. Weekly collection is available for businesses at a cost of \$176 per annum.

From 1 July 2022, the State Government introduced a state-wide landfill levy pursuant to the *Waste and Resource Recovery Act 2022* on waste disposed to landfill both as a disincentive to landfilling and as a mechanism to fund strategic investment into Tasmania's waste and resource recovery sectors and circular economy. The City is required to pay the levy to the State Government under the Act. The levy equates to \$20 per tonne of waste disposed to the City's landfill in the first two years, then \$45 per tonne after two years and \$66 per tonne after a further two years. For 2025-26 the amount to be collected from rates is \$616,579, with the service charge remaining unchanged at \$24 for residential properties and \$48 for non-residential properties.

#### Stormwater Removal

The amount required to fund stormwater removal services has increased by 5.6 per cent from 2024-25 reflecting costs increases. The Stormwater Removal Service Rate provides revenue that covers the operation and maintenance of the piped and non-piped stormwater systems and the waterways; funds the City's flood management activities and contributes towards stormwater works in all roads, allowing residents to travel along those roads safely during rainfall.

#### Fire Levy Collection Fee

The four per cent collection fee earned by the City for collecting the fire levy on behalf of the State Fire Commission will increase by \$29,000 to \$628,000 in line with the increase in the fire levy payment.

#### **Fines**

Penalty unit fee increases are set by State Government for both parking meter and traffic infringements. Fines revenue is forecast to remain consistent at 2024-25 levels of \$8.7 million.

#### Fees and Charges – Car Parks

The City's Fees and Charges – Car Parks have increased by 6.5 per cent, however, fees have been adjusted to enable the efficient management of cash collection. The total revenue from Fees and Charges – Car Parks is forecast to be \$15.2 million in 2025-26.

#### Fees and Charges – On-Street Parking

On-Street Parking fees have been increased by \$308,000 or 3.8 per cent for 2025-26. The estimated revenue in 2025-26 is \$8.4 million.

#### Other Fees and Charges

Revenue from Other Fees and Charges is expected to increase by \$917,000 from 2024-25, to a total of \$19.2 million for 2025-26. Further detail of the individual items in Other Fees and Charges is provided in Table 3.

Table 3 – Other Fees and Charges

	2024-25 Budget	2024-25 Forecast	2025-26 Budget	Variance to 2024-25 Budget
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Doone Kennedy Hobart Aquatic Centre	7,158	7,158	7,329	171
Landfill Charges	3,800	3,831	4,418	618
Plumbing Compliance fees	600	600	846	246
Tasmanian Travel and Information Centre	550	550	622	72
Customer Services	160	160	165	5
Sporting Facility Hire	499	499	523	24
Public health	424	424	439	15
Building Compliance Fees	1,272	1,272	453	(819)
Roads Policy and Management	103	103	649	546
Salamanca Market	28	28	29	1
External Services	341	341	663	322
Development Appraisal Fees	375	375	1,347	972
Stormwater maintenance	106	106	113	7
Other	2,887	2,887	1,623	(1,264)
Total Other Fees and Charges	18,303	18,334	19,220	917

**Note:** A more comprehensive review of the other fees and charges categories for 2025-26 has resulted in larger discrepancies in some of the year-on-year comparisons.

#### **Operating Grants**

Operating Grants total \$3.8 million, mainly comprising of \$3.1 million from the Australian Government Financial Assistance Grants (FAGs), \$183,333 for the Disaster Ready Willow Removal Project and \$470,000 in other grant projects.

Capital Grants total \$15.5 million, including \$13.3 million for the Greater Hobart Ferry Expansion, \$1.9 million for the Civil Reconstruction Program and \$330,000 for other capital works.

#### Interest

Interest revenue is forecast to increase by \$180,000 from the 2024-25 Budget to \$2.8 million in 2025-26 due to the forecast interest rates.

#### Rents

Property rental revenue is forecast to increase slightly by \$55,000 in 2025-26 to \$3.5 million.

#### Distribution from TasWater

Distributions are received as a result of the City's ownership interest in TasWater. The distributions comprise dividends, guarantee fees and income tax equivalent payments. Forecast amounts are based on advice from both TasWater and the State Government to provide distributions until 2025-26.

A provision of \$2.6 million has been made in the 2025-26 Budget to account for the ordinary dividend revenue of \$2.2 million and an additional special dividend to repay forgone dividends of \$434,000.

#### Expenses

#### Labour

Labour costs include wages and salaries, labour on-costs and leave entitlements. Wages and salaries include the direct costs of employees such as base pay, overtime and allowances. Labour on-costs include workers compensation insurance, superannuation contributions and payroll tax levied by the State Government.

Leave entitlements include annual leave, long service leave, sick leave, public holidays, and other leave accruing to employees.

The \$2.5 million increase is largely attributable the Hobart City Council Enterprise Agreement 2024.

External Labour includes all labour sourced from external labour-hire companies to fill short-term vacancies across a variety of services.

Table 4 – Labour

	2024-25 Budget	2024-25 Forecast	2025-26 Budget	Variance to 2024-25 Budget
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Labour	73,917	74,546	75,971	2,054
Overtime	1,991	1,991	2,353	362
Allowances	631	631	803	172
Elected Member Allowances	615	615	650	35
External Labour Charges	266	266	152	(114)
Total Labour	77,420	78,049	79,929	2,509

#### **Materials and Services**

The individual expense categories which comprise Materials and Services is provided in Table 5.

Table 5 – Materials and Services

	2024-25 Budget	2024-25 Forecast	2025-26 Budget	Variance to 2024-25 Budget
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
External Services <sup>1</sup>	13,188	13,989	15,039	1,851
Building Expenses	3,767	4,789	5,379	1,612
Licences	3,189	3,129	3,265	76
Cleaning	3,113	3,112	3,077	(36)
Materials	2,382	2,225	2,412	30
Vehicles	1,875	1,874	1,863	(12)
Insurance	1,663	1,663	1,668	5
ICT	1,440	1,664	1,566	126
Waste Levy Charge	1406	1,406	2,121	715
Staffing Expenses	1,355	1,542	1,548	193
Legal Expenses	1196	1,236	1,226	30
Office Expenses	1,060	1,054	1,062	2
Equipment	1,034	1,038	1,122	88
Banking Expenses	777	777	771	(6)
Security	735	735	735	
Advertising	647	590	587	(60)
Travel	242	212	245	3
Elected Members	211	126	121	(90)
Protective and Corporate Clothing	201	200	193	(8)
Other	155	196	194	39
Total Materials and Services	39,635	41,558	44,193	4,558

Note 1: External Services includes services such as FOGO Collection and Processing, Building Maintenance and Repairs, Recycling Processing, Fuel Reduction and Fire Break Management and Road Maintenance.

#### **Energy Costs**

Energy Costs are expected to reduce slightly by \$14,000 to \$2.5 million for 2025-26.

#### Finance Costs

Finance Costs are expected to decrease by \$90,000 from the 2024-25 Budget of \$1.35 million to \$1.26 million with the payment of principal instalments across the year.

#### Fire Levy

The Fire Levy will increase by \$614,000 or 4.06 per cent to \$15.7 million in 2025-26. Pursuant to the *Fire Service Act 1979*, local government acts as a collection agent for this State Government levy, which is paid directly to the State Fire Commission. The City earns a four per cent collection fee, which is included in revenue.

#### Depreciation

Depreciation expense is forecast to decrease by \$3.8 million from the 2024-25 Budget of \$37 million to \$33.2 million in 2024-25. The decrease is a result of a review of depreciation undertaken during 2024-25.

#### Asset Write-Offs

Asset Write-Offs comprise the remaining value of infrastructure assets replaced as part of the City's asset renewal program. An amount of \$1.5 million is estimated for 2025-26.

#### **Bad Debts**

The City maintains a provision for bad and doubtful debts, which is mainly in respect to parking fines. Bad Debts is estimated at \$400,000 for 2025-26, which is consistent with 2024-25.

#### Other Expenses

The individual items which comprise Other Expenses is provided in Table 6.

Table 6 – Other Expenses

	2024-25 Budget	2024-25 Forecast	2025-26 Budget	Variance to 2024-25 Budget
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Land Tax	1,317	1317	1,317	
Community Grants	1,200	1,200	1,513	313
Corporate Provision	800	1,275	800	
City Economy Business Grants	600	600	568	(32)
Other	553	599	553	
Sporting and Bushland Grants	500	270	263	(237)
Audit Fees	280	203	224	(56)
Rate Adjustments	250	50	6	(244)
Total Other Expenses	5,500	5,514	5,246	(254)

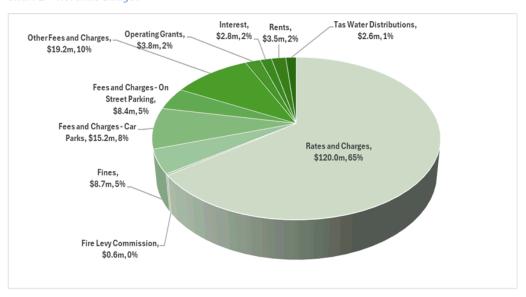
Grants and Specific Purpose Benefits

The City supports a diverse range of community, cultural, economic, and environmental organisations and events through grants and specific purpose benefits as highlighted in Table 6.

#### Chart Summary of 2025-26 Revenue and Expenses

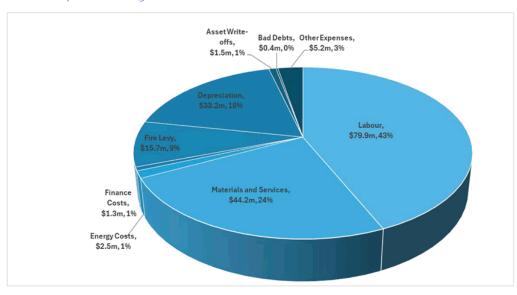
#### Revenue

#### Chart 1 – Revenue Budget



#### Expenses

#### Chart 2 – Expenditure Budget



### Capital Budget

#### Overview

The 2025-26 Budget provides capital works funding of \$36.8 million. As summarised in Table 7 capital expenditure will consist of the following:

- Infrastructure, including new assets/upgrades and asset renewals; and
- Plant and Equipment.

Table 7 – Capital Expenditure

	2024-25 Budget \$'000	2024-25 Forecast \$'000	2025-26 Budget \$'000	Variance to 2024-25 Budget \$'000
New Assets/Upgrades Infrastructure	12,116	12,116	18,033	5,917
Asset Renewal Infrastructure	20,135	20,135	15,253	(4,882)
Plant & Equipment	3,500	3,500	3,500	•••
Total Capital Expenses	35,751	35,751	36,785	1,034

Funding sources for the \$36.8 million program comprise:

- Capital Grants \$15.5 million; and
- City of Hobart Funding \$21.3 million.

Table 8 – Total 2024-25 Capital Program

	2025-26 Budget \$'000
Grant Funded Capital Works Program	15,485
City of Hobart Funded Capital Works Program	17,801
Plant & Equipment	3,500
Total 2025-26 Capital Program	36,785

#### 2025-26 Capital Program

Table 9 – 2025-26 Capital Program Listing

Project	Council Funding	External Funding	Total Amount
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
New Assets			
Street Tree Planting FY25-26	100		100
Clearys Gates Depot - embankment stabilisation	25		25
Pedestrian Priority Phase - CBD Junction upgrades	160		160
Queens Walk Footpath	300		300
Haig St Pedestrian Improvement	150		150
Crowther Reinterpreted -Interpretive Commission	50		50
Waterfront Interpretation Project	100		100
Centrepoint Carpark - Victoria Walk Ramp	158		158
Soundy Park CCTV Installation	25		25
Pump Track - South Hobart	25		25
Selfs Point Basketball Stadium	194		194
Greater Hobart Ferry Service Expansion	250	13,250	13,500
McRobies Gully Resource Recovery Hub Design	200		200
Intercity Cycleway, Mercer St 25-29 Mains Extension	70		70
Nelson Rd 329-337 -Drainage Improvements	85		85
Rosehill Crescent 20-36 - Mains Extension	450		450
Strickland Ave 189 -Extensions	185		185
Total New Assets	2,527	13,250	15,777
Renewal Assets			
Argyle St Car Park Concrete Remediation L1-3	75		75
Argyle Street Carpark Electrical Sub-board Renewal	50		50
Centrepoint Car Park - Main Vehicle Entry Gate	150		150
City Hall - Gutter and Downpipe Renewal	100		100
North Hobart Oval -Flooring & Membrane Replacement	200		200
Town Hall Annexe Air-Conditioning Renewal	400		400
Bushland Pedestrian Bridges	185		185
Fire Trail Renewal - Annual Program 2025-26	295		295
Soapbox Billboards -Replacement Frames and Lighting	30		30
DKHAC -Rectification critical roofing works	300		300
DKHAC Chemical Delivery Area-Vehicle Bay Fit out	180		180

Table 9 – 2025-26 Capital Program Listing (Continued)

Project	Council Funding	External Funding	Total Amount
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Renewal Assets (Continued)			
DKHAC Main Switchboard Renewal Project	300		300
DKHAC DALI lighting tube replacement project	200		200
CCTV and Safe City Infrastructure Maintenance FY25-26	50		50
FY24-26 Bushland Fund	50		50
Nutgrove Beach Sand ladder Remediation Renewal	50		50
Parks Playground Equipment Renewal FY25/26	200		200
Parks Walls, Fences and Edging	50		50
CBD Intersection Paver Replacement	100		100
FY25-26 Bridge Renewal	202	809	1,011
FY25-26 Footpath Program 1	625		625
FY25-26 Footpath Program 2	374		374
FY25-26 Laneway Program	70		70
FY25-26 Overlay Program 1	1,467		1,467
FY25-26 Overlay Program 2	549	1,096	1,646
FY25-26 Overlay Program 3	866		866
FY25-26 Prep and Reseal Program 1	1,243		1,243
Mawson Place timber seating	60		60
Waterworks Rd 127 Retaining Wall	400		400
Domain Athletic Centre Track Replacement	100		100
Wicket Soil Shed	150		150
Litter Basket Renewal Program	50		50
Mitah Crecent 2a -Outfall Landslip Remediation	210		210
O'Conor Court Stormwater Renewal	75		75
Roope Street No. 28 to Swanston No. 40 - Stormwater Mains Renewal	270		270
Stormwater Relining Program	280		280
Program Contingency	391		391
2024-25 Estimated Program Carry Forward	3,000		3,000
Total Renewal Assets	13,348	1,905	15,253

Table 9 – 2025-26 Capital Program Listing (Continued)

Project	Council Funding	External Funding	Total Amount
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Asset Upgrades			
Cascade Road tree surrounds	50		50
Building Disability Upgrades FY25-26	25		25
Path improvement -2 Castray Esplanade	80	70	150
Dewitt St - Hampden Rd Pedestrian Facility Improvements	150		150
DKHAC Car Park Licence Plate Recognition System	150		150
DKHAC Spa, Steam Rm, Sauna amenity-plant upgrade		210	210
Darcy St Wall Replacement	350		350
Eardley Wilmont Sandstone conservation/repair s	120		120
Edward St - Brooker to Aberdeen -Reseal Prep & Pedestrian	244		244
FY25-26 Minor & DDA Pedestrian Upgrades	157		157
Queenborough Oval Changerooms Redevelopment	550	50	600
South Hobart Tactical Uplift and Intervention	50		50
Total Upgrade Assets	1,926	330	2,256
Total Capital Program	17,801	15,485	33,285

#### Plant and Equipment

The City's plant and equipment budget comprises:

- Vehicle fleet, major and minor plant; and
- General plant including office equipment and information technology items.

The City's vehicle fleet, major plant items and information technology equipment are normally subject to a rolling replacement program. In each case, forward estimates are compiled to aid replacement decision-making.

As summarised in Table 10, capital expenditure on plant and equipment will total \$3.5 million in 2025-26.

Table 10 – Plant and Equipment

	2024-25 Budget	2024-25 Forecast	2025-26 Budget	Variance to 2024-25 Budget
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Vehicle fleet, major and minor plant	2,800	2,800	2,800	
General plant including office equipment and IT equipment	700	700	700	
Total Plant and Equipment	3,500	3,500	3,500	

## Financing

The City's debt levels, actual and forecast are:

30 June 2024 \$39.9 million (Actual)
30 June 2025 \$35.8 million (Forecast)
30 June 2026 \$32.5 million (Forecast)

The City is not entering into any new borrowings in 2025-26. The City will also repay \$3.3 million of existing debt during 2025-26.

## Commercial Like Undertakings

#### Off-Street Parking

Table 11 – Off-Street Parking

	2024-25 Budget	2024-25 Forecast	2025-26 Budget	Variance to 2024-25 Budget
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Revenue				
Other Fees and Charges	14,240	14,240	15,162	922
Rents	524	524	542	18
Total Revenue	14,764	14,764	15,704	940
Expenses				
Labour	639	830	1266	627
Energy Costs	157	157	219	62
Materials and Services	3,241	2,531	2,651	(590)
Land Tax	606	606	606	
Depreciation	1,646	586	603	(1,043)
Total Expenses	6,289	4,710	5,345	(944)
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	8,475	10,054	10,359	1,884

#### On-Street Parking

Table 12 – On-Street Parking

	2024-25 Budget	2024-25 Forecast	2025-26 Budget	Variance to 2024-25 Budget
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Revenue				
Other Fees and Charges	8,079	7,694	8,387	308
Fines	8,735	6,800	8,735	
Total Revenue	16,814	14,494	17,122	308
Expenses				
Labour	3,342	3,599	3,699	357
Energy Costs		50	50	50
Materials and Services	1,237	1,643	1,643	406
Bad Debts	400	350	400	
Depreciation	550	81	93	(457)
Total Expenses	5,529	5,723	5,885	356
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	11,285	8,771	11,237	(48)

#### The Doone Kennedy Hobart Aquatic Centre

Table 13 – The Doone Kennedy Hobart Aquatic Centre

	2024-25 Budget	2024-25 Forecast	2025-26 Budget	Variance to 2024-25 Budget
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Revenue				
Fees and Charges	6,663	6,684	7,330	667
Total Revenue	6,663	6,684	7,330	667
Expenses				
Labour	4,801	5,008	5,300	499
Energy Costs	484	484	806	322
Materials and Services	1,792	1,779	1,778	(14)
Depreciation	1,010	904	948	(62)
Finance Costs	47	47	73	26
Total Expenses	8,134	8,222	8,905	771
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	(1,471)	(1,539)	(1,575)	(104)

#### Tasmanian Travel and Information Centre

Table 14 – Tasmanian Travel and Information Centre

	2024-25 Budget	2024-25 Forecast	2025-26 Budget	Variance to 2024-25 Budget
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Revenue				
Commission	270	284	294	24
Other Fees and Charges	500	200	327	(173)
Grants	150	131	99	(51)
Total Revenue	920	615	720	(200)
Expenses				
Labour	1,050	1,050	1,150	100
Materials and Services	153	146	143	(10)
Energy Costs	10	10	15	5
Depreciation	9	20	22	13
Other	2	2	2	
Total Expenses	1,224	1,228	1,332	108
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	(304)	(613)	(612)	(308)

#### Salamanca Market

Table 15 – Salamanca Market

	2024-25 Budget	2024-25 Forecast	2025-26 Budget	Variance to 2024-25 Budget
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Revenue				
Other Fees and Charges	27	28	28	1
Rents	1,559	1,485	1,537	(22)
Total Revenue	1,586	1,513	1,565	(21)
Expenses				
Labour	933	912	951	18
Materials and Services	360	355	354	(6)
Energy Costs	12	12	12	
Depreciation	7	7	8	1
Total Expenses	1,312	1,286	1,325	13
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	274	227	240	(34)

#### Waste and Recycling

Table 16 – Waste and Recycling

	2024-25 Budget	2024-25 Forecast	2025-26 Budget	Variance to 2024-25 Budget
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Revenue				
Rates and Charges <sup>1</sup>	2,188	9,227	9,844	7,656
Other Fees and Charges	3,407	3,000	4,418	1011
Rents	140	66	145	5
Total Revenue	5,735	12,293	14,407	8,672
Expenses				
Labour	3,048	3,384	3,504	456
Materials and Services	6,103	6,103	7,300	1,197
Energy Costs	29	29	41	12
Depreciation	1,000	714	767	(233)
Other	6	6	6	
Total Expenses	10,186	10,236	11,618	1,432
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	(4,451)	2,057	2,789	7,240

Note 1: The Waste Collection Service Charge was previously allocated through the Rates area, this has now been consolidated in Waste & Recycling. The 2024-25 budget amount was \$7.32 million

# DRAFT City of Hobart Annual Plan 2025-26



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#### **VISION STATEMENT**

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.

# Our Mission – Working together to make Hobart a better place for the community.

#### We value:

#### 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.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

In recognition of the deep history and culture of our city, we acknowledge the Tasmanian Aboriginal people as the Traditional Custodians of this land. We acknowledge the determination and resilience of the Palawa people of Tasmania who have survived invasion and dispossession and continue to maintain their identity, culture and rights.

We recognise that we have much to learn from Aboriginal people today, who represent the world's oldest continuing culture. We pay our sincere respects to Elders past and present and to all Aboriginal people living in and around Hobart.

# City of Hobart - Annual Plan 2025-26

# Introduction by the Lord Mayor and the Chief Executive Officer

It is with great pleasure that we introduce the City of Hobart's Annual Plan for 2025-26. The Plan serves as our compass for the next 12 months and we hope it will be another productive year of serving and achieving great results for our community.

Our core values—people, teamwork, focus and direction, creativity and innovation, and accountability—are exemplified by our staff to ensure that the programs and projects we deliver bring value and benefit to the community.

The Annual Plan outlines the directions, key actions, and initiatives that will shape our work for the upcoming year. It aligns with the Capital City Strategic Plan with its vision of *Working together to make Hobart a better place for the community*.

Our annual plan features 33 individual actions designed to guide the work of staff at the City of Hobart. These actions are not only innovative but also ensure ongoing financial viability. This balanced approach allows us to implement forward-thinking initiatives while maintaining the fiscal health of our city.

Some of our priorities and commitments over the next 12 months include:

- Developing the City's first heritage strategy to provide clear guidelines in the management and preservation of Hobart's unique historic buildings, homes and public spaces.
- Continuing the work we've done on our in-depth plan for closing, rehabilitating and repurposing the McRobies Gully Waste Management Centre by 2030.
- Developing and implementing waste reduction actions and programs to ensure the City's objective of zero waste to landfill by 2030 is achieved.
- Continuing the development of the Mount Nelson and Sandy Bay Neighbourhood Plan, and delivery/implementation of the North Hobart Neighbourhood Plan.
- Designing and delivering a "Resilient Hobart" program to build community capacity to adapt to
  hazards (fire, flood, rising sea levels), as well as undertaking research and assessments to understand
  Hobart's disaster risk more comprehensively and to identify actions we can take to manage these
  risks.
- Supporting Hobart households and businesses to be sustainable, emissions-conscious and to save
  money through an "Electrify Hobart" program which includes developing an effective and reliable
  electric vehicle charging network in the city.

Importantly, during the year we will also be focused on several key strategic priorities including:

- Implementing a service review process to identify efficiencies and reduce costs.
- Cultivating a positive organisational culture with our leadership team.
- Protecting and enhancing Kunanyi/Mount Wellington through active participation in the Tasmanian Government's Strategic Review.

# Supporting Information Council Meeting - 30/6/2025

- Ensuring we are well governed through the development of a dedicated IT strategy.
- · Enhancing our asset management practices.
- Maintaining financial sustainability and a fair rating system.

For 2025-26, we have budgeted for a modest rate increase of 3.5%, which is lower than what was predicted in our long-term financial management plan. We have worked hard to keep this as low as possible while still delivering on what our community expects and needs. In addition, because of prudent financial management, the full year budget forecast will result in a higher surplus than originally forecast in the long-term financial management plan.

All these projects have been prioritised to set our city up for long term success. This in addition to our \$36.7 million capital works program which delivers playgrounds and open spaces, rivulet rewilding, roads and footpath maintenance, building and facilities upgrades, and plant and equipment renewal throughout the year.

The capital works program will include:

- · Street tree planting
- Haigh Street pedestrian improvements
- · Waterfront interpretation project
- Pump Track South Hobart
- · Queens Walk footpath
- Fire trail renewal
- · Domain Athletic Centre track replacement

We are strategically refining our operations and the allocation of ratepayer funds to be a high performing, contemporary organisation that meets our community's needs cost-effectively, positioning us to create a sustainable city for the future.

By thinking holistically about our services and operations, we are ensuring that we can adapt and thrive in a dynamic environment, while upholding the standards our community values. This commitment to excellence and efficiency helps us build a resilient and vibrant city for the long term.

We are looking forward the opportunity to implement the strategic projects detailed in this document throughout the upcoming year.

Looking ahead, we are currently working on a 4-year delivery plan and a 10-year capital works program. As always, the juggle is getting the right balance between investing in community infrastructure and services at the time of need and increased demand while ensuring rates increases are sustainable and affordable for our community.

We are excited for another productive year delivering for the people of Hobart so that our city can continue to be a vibrant, prosperous and welcoming place for all.

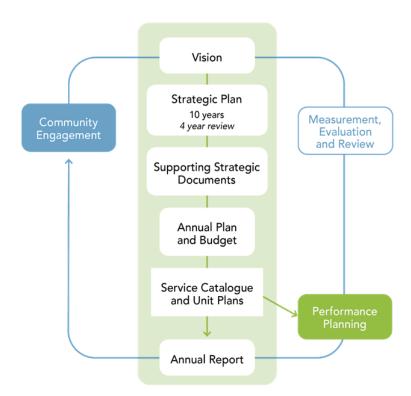
Lord Mayor Anna Reynolds Michael Stretton CEO

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# **Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework**

The City of Hobart Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework aligns our annual planning and reporting with performance evaluation and continuous improvement.

The Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework ensures that the Capital City Strategic Plan and Long-Term Financial Management Plan are put into action through the City's Annual Plan and Annual Budget Program.



#### Annual Plan 2025-26

The 2025-26 Annual Plan sets out the major actions and initiatives for the City of Hobart for the financial year ahead. It is aligned with the Capital City Strategic Plan 2023, the Capital Works Program and other informing strategies.

The Plan demonstrates the capacity of the City of Hobart to achieve the strategies in the Strategic Plan which in turn reflects the aspirations of the community as expressed in Hobart: A community vision for our island capital.

The Annual Plan is required pursuant to section 71 of the Local Government Act 1993.

The Annual Plan is developed with the annual budget estimates and organisational plans, which identify the operational priorities for each function area.

#### Strategic priorities

The City has a number of key strategies that have been endorsed by the Council, these documents set the priorities for key actions in the Annual Plan. Some of these strategies include:

#### 2040 Climate Ready Hobart Strategy

The Climate Ready Hobart Strategy is a guiding document to what the City of Hobart and the community can do together to respond to the climate and biodiversity emergency. Climate change is one of the most urgent and defining challenges of our time and it requires bold and immediate action from all sectors of society.

Despite the challenges, there are unprecedented opportunities to embrace innovative solutions through fostering a culture of sustainability. In 2025-26, the City of Hobart will continue to work towards achieving at least a 75 per cent reduction in organisational emissions by 2030. In addition to the identified Annual Plan actions, the City will commence the transition of the light vehicle fleet to electric vehicles and continue to increase the urban tree canopy.

# City Economy Strategy

The current City Economy Strategy leverages the strengths and opportunities of our City, while also considering the challenges, both now and into the future. The strategy defines our priorities, establishes outcomes and formalises the role of the City of Hobart in the local economic development of Hobart.

An action in the 2025-26 Annual Plan is to review the existing strategy to ensure alignment with current economic trends, community aspirations and to make Hobart the world's best small capital city.

#### Neighbourhood Structure Plans

In response to the growth of the Hobart population neighbourhood structure plans have been developed for Central Hobart and North Hobart, with plans also being developed for Mount Nelson and Sandy Bay and the Inner North-East.

They are evidence-based, future-focused plans that consider how a local area should develop and improve over time. They consider things like existing and future housing needs, infrastructure and services, streets and public spaces, open space and greening, planning controls and future road and transport network requirements.

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#### **Hobart Transport Strategy 2024**

The Hobart Transport Strategy 2024 aims to support the development and implementation of an integrated climate ready and efficient transport and land use system for Hobart. It supports the objectives of existing Tasmanian Government, Greater Hobart and City of Hobart strategies.

The 2025-26 Annual Plan has a number of key actions to deliver in relation to the Hobart Transport Strategy 2024 including, providing publicly available transport data to improve community knowledge on all transport modes, developing a policy to support an electric vehicle charging network and developing the Hobart Bike Plan.

#### **Hobart Waste Management Strategy 2025**

The Hobart Waste Management Strategy 2025 has been designed to underpin the behavioural change needed to ensure the City is able to achieve its waste reduction targets, including closing the McRobies Gully landfill site by 2030. This will enable McRobies Gully to be modernised to allow material recovery from Hobart's waste stream. The new strategy also maps out key actions required over the next five years to allow the City of Hobart to embrace a circular economy and prepare for the closure of the landfill site.

# Pillar 1: Sense of place

We are a city of unique beauty, environment, heritage and people, built on a shared sense of ownership, pride and wonder. This spirit of place has been shaped by Tasmanian Aboriginal people for tens of thousands of years and continues to be shaped by all who have called Hobart home. It is developed jointly by community, private enterprise and government, valuing and enhancing our Hobart identity.

- 1.1 Hobart keeps a strong sense of place and identity, even as the city changes.
- 1.2 Hobart's cityscape reflects the heritage, culture and natural environment that makes it special.

Strategic Reference	Major Actions and Initiatives			
1.1.1 6.1.1	Actively participate in the review of the governance arrangements and master planning for Kunanyi/ Mount Wellington and develop an agreed future direction and sustainable funding model.			
1.2.2 7.3.4	Develop a streetscape improvement plan for Montpelier Retreat from Salamanca Place to Hampden Road.			

# Pillar 2: Community inclusion, participation and belonging

We are an island capital city that is socially inclusive and coherently connected, whose people are informed, safe, happy, healthy and resilient.

### Community panel's pillar vision statement

- 2.1 Hobart is a place that recognises and celebrates Tasmanian Aboriginal people, history and culture, working towards shared goals.
- 2.2 Hobart is a place where diversity is celebrated and everyone can belong, and where people have opportunities to learn about one another and participate in city life.
- 2.3 Hobart communities are active, have good health and wellbeing and are engaged in lifelong learning.
- 2.4 Hobart communities are safe and resilient, ensuring people can support one another and flourish in times of hardship.

Strategic Reference	Major Actions and Initiatives				
2.1.2 2.2.2	Implement the final stage of the Crowther Reinterpreted project.				
2.1.4 8.2.6	Develop a First Nations Procurement Policy that supports the economic growth of First Nations businesses and employment opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People.				
2.3.1 2.4.1	Develop a Health and Wellbeing Strategy that sets the health priorities for the municipality, to prevent or reduce public health issues and support optimum community health and wellbeing.				
2.3.2 6.5.1	Commence planning for the implementation of a master plan for the Hockey Centre, Cornelian Bay and Selfs Point.				
2.3.3 6.5.1	Progress planning for the Selfs Point Basketball Stadium and continue to seek funding for its construction.				
2.3.3	Develop, with the other Greater Hobart councils, a Greater Hobart Sport Facilities Strategy that informs planning for new and upgraded sporting infrastructure.				

# Pillar 3: Creativity and culture

We are a city connected, embracing our diverse communities in cultural expression and creative and artistic participation; a city that enhances our homes, lifestyles and heritage; a city that bravely puts its people first.

### Community panel's pillar vision statement

- 3.1 Hobart is a creative and cultural capital where creativity is a way of life.
- 3.2 Creativity serves as a platform for raising awareness and promoting understanding of diverse cultures and issues.
- 3.3 Everyone in Hobart can participate in a diverse and thriving creative community.
- 3.4 Civic and heritage spaces support creativity, resulting in a vibrant public realm.

Strategic Reference	Major Actions and Initiatives		
3.1.1	Deliver and commence implementation of the Creative City Strategy.		
3.4.1 1.2.2	Improve the public realm outcome in Bidencopes Lane to create a safe, accessible and evolving creative space.		

# Pillar 4: City economies

We are a city whose economies connect people, businesses, education and government to create a high-quality lifestyle in a thriving and diverse community. Our city is our workshop. We collaborate, embracing ideas, inventiveness and initiative.

### Community panel's pillar vision statement

- 4.1 Hobart's economy reflects its unique environment, culture and identity.
- 4.2 Diverse connections give people opportunities to participate in the economic life of the city and help the economy, businesses and workers thrive.
- 4.3 Hobart is a place where entrepreneurs and businesses can grow and flourish.
- 4.4 Hobart's economy is strong, diverse and resilient.

Strategic Reference	Major Actions and Initiatives			
4.1.1	Working with key partners design and implement an investment attraction strategy for the Hobart Innovation Precinct that supports delivery of Strategy 3.1 of the Central Hobart Plan.			
4.4.1	Review the City's Economic Development Strategy to ensure alignment with economic trends, community aspirations and as part of building the world's best small capital city.			

# Pillar 5: Movement and connectivity

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.

#### Community panel's vision statement

- 5.1 An accessible and connected city environment helps maintain Hobart's pace of life.
- 5.2 Hobart has effective and environmentally sustainable transport systems.
- 5.3 Technology serves Hobart communities and visitors and enhances quality of life.
- 5.4 Data informs decision-making.

Strategic Reference	Major Actions and Initiatives			
Reference	Major Actions and Initiatives			
5.1.1 5.2.2	Undertake community engagement to inform the Mount Nelson Local Area Mobility Plan.			
5.1.1 5.2.7	Engage with relevant stakeholders to progress the concept design for the potential establishment of a shared accessway around the Battery Point Foreshore linking Marieville Esplanade with Sullivans Cove.			
5.1.3 5.1.4	Finalise the design and undertake the construction of three new passenger ferry terminals located at Lindisfarne, Wilkinson's Point, and Sandy Bay on behalf of the Greater Hobart councils.			
5.1.4 5.4.1	Provide publicly available transport data to improve community knowledge on all transport modes; driving, riding and walking.			
5.2.1 5.3.1	Develop a policy to support an effective and reliable electric vehicle charging network and initiate mapping of charging infrastructure in partnership with the private sector and government.			
5.2.2 5.4.1	Work with stakeholders to monitor the Collins Street streetscape design and report back to Council at the first month, third month and 12 months stages on the success of the project against the evaluation framework.			
5.2.2	Develop the Hobart Bike Plan following engagement with stakeholders.			
5.2.5	Commence research and engagement for the development of The Future State of Parking Report that explores and guides how on- and off-street parking will evolve in Hobart between 2027 and 2037.			

# Pillar 6: Natural environment

We are a city whose people see ourselves as part of a beautiful and unique natural environment, from the mountain to the river, which embrace us and shape our identity. We are proud custodians and advocates, ensuring resources are appreciated rather than wasted, supporting biodiverse ecosystems in honour of past, current and future generations.

# Community panel's vision statement

- 6.1 The natural environment is part of the city and biodiversity is preserved, secure and flourishing.
- 6.2 Education, participation, leadership and partnerships all contribute to Hobart's strong environmental performance and healthy ecosystems.
- 6.3 Hobart is a city supported by ecologically sustainable waste and water systems.
- 6.4 Hobart is a leader on climate change moving toward a zero emissions and climateresilient city.
- 6.5 Hobart's bushland, parks and reserves are places for sport, recreation and play.

Strategic Reference	Major Actions and Initiatives
6.1.1	Commence the development of a masterplan for a visitor and transport hub at Halls Saddle that informs the future use of the site to disperse visitation and ease congestion at the Springs and on the Pinnacle.
6.1.6 6.4.3	Finalise the Urban Tree Strategy.
6.1.6	Develop and implement a program to accelerate tree planting across the city in this financial year towards the urban canopy goal of 40% canopy cover by 2046.
6.1.6	Develop a program to enhance urban greening on private land, including education, promotion and giveaways.
6.3.1	Further develop the plan for the closure, rehabilitation and repurposing of McRobies Waste Management Centre.
6.3.3	Undertake an audit of current water sensitive urban design features and develop a plan to enhance their effectiveness.
6.3.3	Identify a trial site for water sensitive urban design treepits.
6.4.1	Design and deliver an 'Electrify Hobart' program to support households and businesses to be zero emissions, reduce costs and improve health.
6.4.2 1.1.4	Design and deliver a 'Resilient Hobart' program to build the community's capacity (including vulnerable populations) to adapt to all hazards (fire, floods heat and sea level rise etc) through increased knowledge, social connection, and wellbeing opportunities.

Strategic Reference	Major Actions and Initiatives
6.4.6 1.1.4	Undertake an Integrated Hazard Vulnerability Assessment to consolidate and address gaps in spatial hazard and vulnerability data, with a specific focus on flood risk, to comprehensively understand Hobart's disaster risk, how it will shift with climate change, and identify actions to manage these risks.

# Pillar 7: Built environment

We are a city that maintains our unique built and ecological character, where we all have a safe, secure and healthy place to live. We are a city where people and communities can access world-class services and infrastructure and provide for their social, cultural and economic wellbeing. We embrace change but not at the expense of our Hobart identity and character.

### Community panel's vision statement

- 7.1 Hobart has a diverse supply of housing and affordable homes.
- 7.2 Development enhances Hobart's unique identity, human scale and built heritage.
- 7.3 Infrastructure and services are planned, managed and maintained to provide for community wellbeing.
- 7.4 Community involvement and an understanding of future needs help guide changes to Hobart's built environment.

Strategic Reference	Major Actions and Initiatives			
7.1.1	Finalise the Hobart Housing Action Plan to support the housing sector, in collaboration with the state and federal government, to meet the urgent and growing needs of our community, expanding on the City's Affordable Housing and Homelessness Commitment 2021-23.			
7.2.6 1.2.1	Develop a Heritage Strategy that protects Hobart's character and heritage values and informs the Heritage Design Guidelines.			
7.3.2	Commence a review the long-term Strategic Asset Management Plan and develop and implement Asset Management Policies, Strategies and Plans that fully integrate and are aligned with the City's strategic objectives, finances, and direction.			
7.3.3	Engage with relevant stakeholders to design and redevelop the Hobart Council Centre, Town Hall Annex and Civic Square.			
7.3.3	Review the draft City Hall Masterplan and develop an action plan to address operational issues and increase activation of the Hall and its surrounds.			
7.4.3	Collaborate with the state government and other southern Councils in the review of the Southern Tasmania Regional Land Use Strategy.			
7.4.4 1.2.4	Develop an implementation plan for the delivery of the North Hobart Neighbourhood Plan.			
7.4.4 1.2.4	Continue the development of the Mount Nelson and Sandy Bay Neighbourhood Plan.			

# Pillar 8: Governance and civic involvement

We are a city of ethics and integrity. We govern with transparency and accountability, encouraging and welcoming active civic involvement. We collaborate for the collective good, working together to create a successful Hobart.

#### Community panel's vision statement

- 8.1 Hobart is a city that is well governed that recognises the community as an active partner that informs decisions.
- 8.2 Hobart is a city that delivers public value and excellence by being a financially responsible, high performing and accountable organisation that it responsive to the needs of the community.

Strategic Reference	Major Actions and Initiatives				
8.2.1	Investigate a new funding mechanism for attracting philanthropic funding for City and community priorities.				
8.2.3	Develop a City of Hobart Security Plan that improves organisation-wide clarity on the ownership of physical security, assets and policies.				
8.2.3	Develop an IT Disaster Recovery Plan that prepares for and responds effectively to unexpected events, safeguarding critical data, maintaining business operations, and protecting the overall health of the organisation.				
8.2.3	Improve the organisations cybersecurity to predict, prevent and respond to cyber threats.				
8.2.5	Undertake the mid-term review of the City's Rating and Evaluation Strategy 2024-28.				

### Public Health Goals and Objectives

Section 71(2)(d) of the *Local Government Act 1993* requires the City of Hobart's Annual Plan to include a summary of the major strategies to be used to achieve the City's public health goals and objectives. The City of Hobart's commitment to maintaining high levels of public health protection is identified under Pillars 2 and 6 of the Capital City Strategic Plan 2023:

#### STRATEGIC OUTCOME 2.4.

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

### Strategy - 2.4.1

Protect and improve public and environmental health, wellbeing and safety.

#### Strategy - 2.4.2

Ensure that Hobart is a safe and liveable city by enhancing community wellbeing and public safety and security.

#### STRATEGIC OUTCOME 6.1

The natural environment is part of the city and biodiversity is preserved, secure and flourishing.

#### Strategy - 6.1.5

Regulate, measure and manage potentially polluting activities, prioritising air and water quality.

#### Actions for 2025-26 are:

Develop a Health and Wellbeing Strategy that sets the health priorities for the municipality, to prevent or reduce public health issues and support optimum community health and wellbeing.

These actions are undertaken by the Environmental Health Unit of the Community and Economic Development Network.

# Capital Works Budget 2025-26

	2024-25 Budget \$'000	2024-25 Forecast \$'000	2025-26 Budget \$'000	Variance to 2024- 25 Budget \$'000
New Assets/Upgrades				
Infrastructure	12,116	12,116	18,033	5,917
Asset Renewal				
Infrastructure	20,135	20,135	15,253	(4,882)
Plant & Equipment				
	3,500	3,500	3,500	-
Total Capital Expenses	35,751	35,751	36,785	1,034

# **Capital Works Program**

Project	City of Hobart Funding \$'000	External Funding \$'000	Total Amount \$'000
New Assets			
Street tree planting	100	0	100
Clearys Gates Depot - embankment stabilisation	25	0	25
Pedestrian Priority Phase - CBD junction upgrades	160	0	160
Queens Walk footpath	300	0	300
Haig St pedestrian improvement	150	0	150
Crowther Reinterpreted - interpretive commission	50	0	50
Waterfront Interpretation project	100	0	100
Centrepoint Carpark - Victoria Walk ramp	158	0	158
Soundy Park CCTV installation	25	0	25
Pump Track - South Hobart	25	0	25
Selfs Point Basketball Stadium	194	0	194
Greater Hobart ferry service expansion	250	13,250	13,500
McRobies Gully Resource Recovery hub design	200	0	200
Intercity Cycleway, Mercer St 25-29 mains extension	70	0	70
Nelson Rd 329-337 -drainage improvements	85	0	85
Rosehill Crescent 20-36 - mains extension	450	0	450
Strickland Ave 189 - extensions	185	0	185

Project	City of Hobart Funding \$'000	External Funding \$'000	Total Amount \$'000
Renewal Assets	7		
Argyle St Car Park concrete remediation L1-3	75	0	75
Argyle Street Carpark electrical sub-board renewal	50	0	50
Centrepoint Car Park - main vehicle entry gate	150	0	150
City Hall - gutter and downpipe renewal	100	0	100
North Hobart Oval -flooring and membrane replacement	200	0	200
Town Hall Annexe air-conditioning renewal	400	0	400
Bushland pedestrian bridges	185	0	185
Fire Trail Renewal - annual program	295	0	295
Soapbox Billboards - replacement - frames and lighting	30	0	30
DKHAC -Rectification critical roofing works	300	0	300
DKHAC Chemical delivery area-vehicle bay fitout	180	0	180
DKHAC lighting tube replacement project	200	0	200
DKHAC main switchboard renewal project	300	0	300
CCTV and Safe City infrastructure maintenance	50	0	50
FY24-26 Bushland Fund	50	0	50
Nutgrove Beach Sand ladder remediation renewal	50	0	50
Parks playground equipment renewal	200	0	200
Parks walls, fences and edging	50	0	50
CBD Intersection paver replacement	100	0	100
Bridge Renewal	202	809	1,011
Footpath Program 1	625	0	625
Footpath Program 2	374	0	374
Laneway Program	70	0	70
Overlay Program 1	1,467	0	1,467
Overlay Program 2	549	1,096	1,646
Overlay Program 3	866	0	866
Prep and Reseal Program 1	1,243	0	1,243
Mawson Place timber seating	60	0	60
Waterworks Rd 127 retaining wall	400	0	400
Domain Athletic Centre track replacement	100	0	100
Wicket soil shed	150	0	150
Litter basket renewal program	50	0	50
Mitah Crecent 2a - outfall landslip remediation	210	0	210
O'Conor Court stormwater renewal	75	0	75
Roope Street No. 28 to Swanston No. 40 -stormwater mains renewal	270	0	270
Stormwater Relining Program	280	0	280
Program Contingency	391	0	391

Project	City of Hobart Funding \$'000	External Funding \$'000	Total Amount \$'000
Asset Upgrades			
Cascade Road tree surrounds	50	0	50
Building disability upgrades	25	0	25
Path improvement -2 Castray Esplanade	80	70	150
Dewitt St - Hampden Rd pedestrian facility improvements	150	0	150
DKHAC Car Park Licence Plate Recognition System	150	0	150
DKHAC spa, steam room, sauna amenity-plant upgrade	0	210	210
Darcy St wall replacement	350	0	350
Eardley Wilmont sandstone conservation/repairs	120	0	120
Edward St - Brooker to Aberdeen -reseal prep and pedestrian	244	0	244
Minor and DDA pedestrian upgrades	157	0	157
Queenborough Oval changerooms redevelopment	550	50	600
South Hobart tactical uplift and intervention	50	0	50
Capital Works Projects 2025-26	14,801	15,485	30,285
Carried Forward Capital Projects from 2024-25 (Estimate)	3,000	0	3,000
Total Capital Works	17,801	15,485	33,285
Plant and Equipment	3,500	0	3,500
Grand Total	21,301	15,485	36,785

# **Summary of Budget Estimates**

Pursuant to the *Local Government Act 1993*, the Council is required to prepare estimates of its revenue and expenditure for each financial year. The estimates must be adopted by an absolute majority of the Council before 31 August.

# **Operating Result Forecast**

	2024-25 Budget \$'000	2024-25 Forecast \$'000	2025-26 Budget \$'000
Revenue			
Rates and Charges	115,618	115,526	120,034
Fire Levy Commission	599	599	628
Fines	8,735	8,735	8,735
Fees and Charges – Car Parks	14,240	14,240	15,162
Fees and Charges - On Street Parking	8,079	8,079	8,387
Other Fees and Charges	18,303	18,334	19,220
Operating Grants	4,837	4,986	3,756
Interest	2,661	2,661	2,842
Rents	3,493	3,522	3,548
Tas Water Distributions	2,606	2,606	2,606
	179,171	179,288	184,918
Expenses			
Labour	77,420	78,049	79,929
Materials and Services	39,635	41,588	44,193
Energy Costs	2,471	2,471	2,457
Finance Costs	1,346	1,346	1,256
Fire Levy	15,105	15,105	15,719
Depreciation	37,000	32,000	33,219
Asset Write-offs	1,500	1,500	1,500
Bad Debts	400	400	400
Other Expenses	5,500	5,514	5,246
	180,377	177,973	183,918
Underlying Surplus/(Deficit)	(1,206)	1,315	1,000
Capital Items			

# **Cash Flow Forecast**

	2024-25 Budget \$'000	2024-25 Forecast \$'000	2025-26 Budget \$'000
Operating Activities			
Payments			
Employee Costs	(77,420)	(77,420)	(79,413)
Payments to Suppliers	(41,560)	(41,560)	(43,860)
Other Payments	(15,000)	(15,000)	(12,700)
	(133,980)	(133,980)	(135,973)
Receipts			
Rates and Charges	108,677	108,677	115,704
Statutory Fees and Fines Received	10,000	10,000	11,000
Grants	4,429	4,429	5,345
Fees and Charges	52,000	52,000	53,000
Rents	3,977	3,977	3,977
Interest	1,507	1,507	2,842
Other Receipts	3,007	3,007	5,500
	183,597	183,597	197,368
Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities	49,617	49,617	61,395
Investing Activities			
Payments			
Investments	(61,000)	(61,000)	(71,000)
Infrastructure - Employee Costs	(4,012)	(4,012)	(4,012)
Infrastructure and Facilities - Other	(42,574)	(42,574)	(34,973)
Distributions from TasWater	2,606	2,606	2,606
Property	(3,893)	(3,893)	(4,000)
Plant and Equipment	(7,787)	(7,787)	(7,787)
	(116,660)	(116,660)	(119,165)
Receipts			
Investments	61,000	61,000	61,000
Grants	3,861	3,861	5,000
Plant and equipment sales	719	719	800
Property sales	83	83	-
Sales of Intangibles	62	62	62
	65,724	65,724	66,862
Net Cash Flows from Investing Activities	(50,936)	(50,936)	(52,304)

	2024-25 Budget \$'000	2024-25 Forecast \$'000	2025-26 Budget \$'000
Financing Activities			
Payments			
Repayment of Borrowings	(4,064)	(4,064)	(5,064)
Repayment of lease liabilities (principal repayments)	(818)	(818)	(875)
Interest	(1,323)	(1,323)	(1,523)
	(6,204)	(6,204)	(7,462)
Receipts			
Proceeds from Borrowings	-	-	-
Net Cash Flows from Financing Activities	(6,204)	(6,204)	(7,462)
Net Cash Surplus / (Deficit)	(7,523)	(7,523)	1,630
Opening Cash On Hand	18,993	18,993	11,470
Closing Cash On Hand	11,470	11,470	13,100

# **Balance Sheet Forecast**

	2024-25 Budget \$'000	2024-25 Forecast \$'000	2025-26 Budget \$'000
Assets			
Current Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	11,470	11,470	13,100
Inventories	473	473	654
Receivables	8,911	8,911	9,850
Investments	61,000	61,000	65,000
Other	618	618	1,025
	82,472	82,472	89,629
Non-Current Assets			
Employee Benefits	3,380	3,380	3,500
Investment in TasWater	171,119	171,119	189,149
Property, plant and equipment	3,159,619	3,159,619	3,196,655
Right-of-Use Assets	8,076	8,076	8,502
	3,342,194	3,342,194	3,397,806
Total Assets	3,424,666	3,424,666	3,487,435
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Payables	11,970	11,970	12,810
Trust, Deposits, Retention	2,606	2,606	2,615
Employee benefits	11,308	11,308	13,594
Unearned Revenue	3,529	3,529	3,882
Loans	3,331	3,331	3,448
Other			895
Provision for landfill restoration	122	122	66
	32,866	32,866	37,310
Non-Current Liabilities			
Non-Current Liabilities Employee benefits	2,282	2,282	3,496
	2,282 32,465	2,282 32,465	,
Employee benefits	,		29,017
Employee benefits Loans	32,465	32,465	29,017 3,925
Employee benefits Loans Other Provisions	32,465 3,639	32,465 3,639	29,017 3,925 9,000
Employee benefits Loans Other Provisions	32,465 3,639 8,728	32,465 3,639 8,728	3,496 29,017 3,925 9,000 <b>45,438</b>

# **Reserved Funds Balance Sheet Forecast**

Closing Cash Balance ear-marked for:	2024-25 Budget \$'000	2024-25 Forecast \$'000	2025-26 Budget \$'000
Grants and Contributions subject to Conditions	3,070	3,070	4,100
Heritage Funding	1,656	1,929	2,050
Trust Funds, Deposits and Retention	1,979	2,362	2,615
Bushland Acquisition	50	50	100
McRobies Gully Landfill Rehabilitation	4,703	4,322	4,354
Queens Domain Facility Upgrades	2,400	2,850	3,250
Street Tree Compensation Fund	23	26	26

Some of Council's cash reserves are restricted. In some cases, this restriction is imposed by legislation (e.g. The Heritage Account). Others have been earmarked for certain purposes by Council decisions and may therefore be used for other purposes at Council's discretion.

# **Delegations**

At its meeting to approve the Annual Estimates, the Council approved the delegation of power to expend monies to all the Council committees and the Chief Executive Officer. The power to expend monies was linked to the delegation categories shown below.

The delegation categories are defined as follows:

Delegation 1: power to expend monies delegated to the Chief Executive Officer. Pursuant to the Council resolution and further pursuant to section 64 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, the Chief Executive Officer is authorised by the Council to delegate this power to Council employees.

Delegation 3: power to expend monies reserved to the Council.

The expenditure of money within all budget functions listed in the Annual Plan are Delegation 1.



#### 2025-26 RATES

#### That:-

 In accordance with the provisions of Part 9 of the Local Government Act 1993 and the Fire Services Act 1979, the following Rates and Charges be made to provide for the estimates of revenue and expenditure for the period commencing on 1 July 2025 and ending on 30 June 2026.

#### General Rate

- Pursuant to s.90 of the Local Government Act 1993, a General Rate of 0.2951 cents in the dollar of Capital Value be made.
- 2.2 Pursuant to s.107 of the Local Government Act 1993, Council declares by absolute majority that the General Rate is varied according to the use or predominant use of land, as follows:
  - a) for land used for commercial purposes, vary the General Rate to 0.5659 cents in the dollar of Capital Value.
  - b) for land used for industrial purposes, vary the General Rate to 0.5659 cents in the dollar of Capital Value.
  - c) for land used for primary production purposes, vary the General Rate to 0.2264 cents in the dollar of Capital Value.
  - d) for land used for public enterprise purposes, vary the General Rate to 0.3806 cents in the dollar of Capital Value.
  - e) for land used for residential purposes, vary the General Rate to 0.2264 cents in the dollar of Capital Value.
  - f) for land used for residential short stay visitor accommodation purposes, vary the General Rate to 0.4528 cents in the dollar of Capital Value.
  - g) for land used for sporting or recreation facilities purposes, vary the General Rate to 0.3045 cents in the dollar of Capital Value.
  - h) for non-use of the land, vary the General Rate to 0.2851 cents in the dollar of Capital Value.
  - for non-use residential land, vary the General Rate to 0.5702 cents in the dollar of Capital Value
- 2.3 Pursuant to s.88A(1)(a) and (b) of the Local Government Act 1993 the Council by absolute majority sets and declares that the maximum percentage increase cap on the General Rate for land used or predominately used for commercial and industrial purposes (as previously made and varied in 2.1 and 2.2 above) is 5% above the amount payable in respect of that rateable land in the 2024-25 financial year.
- 2.3.1 Pursuant to s.88A(2)(b) of the Local Government Act 1993 the Council by absolute majority fixes the condition that to qualify for the maximum percentage increase cap (as previously made and varied above) the rateable land must not be subject to a supplementary valuation issued by the Valuer-General during the period from 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026.

## Service Rates

- 3.1 Pursuant to s.93 of the Local Government Act 1993, a Stormwater Removal Service Rate of 0.0237 cents in the dollar of Capital Value be made for all rateable land within the municipal area for which a stormwater removal service is provided.
- 3.1.1 Pursuant to s.107 of the Local Government Act 1993, Council declares by absolute majority that the Stormwater Removal Service Rate is varied according to the use or predominant use of land, as follows:

- for land used for commercial purposes, vary the Stormwater Removal Service Rate to 0.0392 cents in the dollar of Capital Value.
- b) for land used for industrial purposes, vary the Stormwater Removal Service Rate to 0.0359 cents in the dollar of Capital Value.
- c) for land used for primary production purposes, vary the Stormwater Removal Service Rate to 0.0207 cents in the dollar of Capital Value.
- d) for land used for public enterprise purposes, vary the Stormwater Removal Service Rate to 0.0209 cents in the dollar of Capital Value.
- e) for land used for residential purposes, vary the Stormwater Removal Service Rate to 0.0196 cents in the dollar of Capital Value.
- f) for land used for sporting or recreation facilities purposes, vary the Stormwater Removal Service Rate to 0.0126 cents in the dollar of Capital Value.
- g) for non-use of the land, vary the Stormwater Removal Service Rate to 0.0210 cents in the dollar of Capital Value.
- 3.2 Pursuant to s.93A of the Local Government Act 1993 and the provisions of the Fire Service Act 1979 (as amended) the Council makes the following service rates for land within the municipal area:
  - a) A permanent brigade district fire rate of 0.0542 cents in the dollar of Capital Value subject to a minimum amount of \$50 in respect of all rateable land within the permanent brigade rating district.
  - b) A Fern Tree volunteer brigade district fire rate of 0.0135 cents in the dollar of Capital Value subject to a minimum amount of \$50 in respect of all rateable land within the Fern Tree volunteer brigade rating district.
  - c) A general land fire rate of 0.0121 cents in the dollar of Capital Value subject to a minimum amount of \$50 in respect of all rateable land within the municipal area which is not within the permanent brigade rating district or the Fern Tree volunteer brigade rating district.
- 3.2.1 Pursuant to s.107 of the Local Government Act 1993 Council declares by absolute majority that the permanent brigade district fire rate is varied within the permanent brigade rating district according to the use or predominant use of land, as follows:
  - h) for land used for commercial purposes, vary the permanent brigade district fire rate to 0.0857 cents in the dollar of Capital Value.
  - for land used for industrial purposes, vary the permanent brigade district fire rate to 0.0775 cents in the dollar of Capital Value.
  - j) for land used for primary production purposes, vary the permanent brigade district fire rate to 0.0445 cents in the dollar of Capital Value.
  - k) for land used for public enterprise purposes, vary the permanent brigade district fire rate to 0.0884 cents in the dollar of Capital Value.
  - for land used for residential purposes, vary the permanent brigade district fire rate to 0.0425 cents in the dollar of Capital Value.
  - m) for land used for sporting or recreation facilities purposes, vary the permanent brigade district fire rate to 0.0244 cents in the dollar of Capital Value.
  - n) for non-use of the land, vary the permanent brigade district fire rate to 0.0435 cents in the dollar of Capital Value.

#### 4. Service Charges

- 4.1 Pursuant to s.94 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, a Waste Management Service Charge be made in the sum of \$600.00 for all rateable land within the municipal area.
- 4.1.1 Pursuant to s.94(3) of the Local Government Act 1993, the Council by absolute majority hereby varies the Waste Management Service Charge (as previously made) for all rateable land within the municipal area which is used or predominantly used for residential purposes to \$300.00.
- 4.2. Pursuant to s.94 of the Local Government Act 1993, a Waste Management Service Charge for food organics garden organics collection be made in the sum of \$85.00 for all rateable land within the municipal area to which Council supplies or makes available a food organics garden organics waste collection service fortnightly utilising a food organics garden organics collection bin.
- 4.2.1 Pursuant to s.94 of the Local Government Act 1993, a Waste Management Service Charge for food organics garden organics collection be made in the sum of \$176.00 for all rateable land within the municipal area to which Council supplies or makes available a food organics garden organics waste collection service weekly utilising a food organics garden organics collection bin.
- 4.3 Pursuant to s.94 of the Local Government Act 1993, a service charge be made for waste management services to offset a levy payable by the Council to the State Government under the Waste and Resource Recovery Act 2022 (a Waste Management Levy Offset Service Charge) in the sum of \$48.00 for all rateable land within the municipal area.
- 4.3.1 Pursuant to s.94(3) of the Local Government Act 1993, the Council by absolute majority hereby varies the Waste Management Levy Offset Service Charge (as previously made) for all rateable land in the municipal area which is used or predominantly used for residential purposes to \$24.00.
- 4.4 Pursuant to s.94 of the *Local Government Act 1993* the Council makes the following service charges on all rateable land within the municipal area of Hobart (including land which is otherwise exempt from rates pursuant to s.87 but excluding land owned by the Crown to which the Council does not supply any of the following services), namely:

service charges for waste management in respect of all land to which the Council supplies different waste management services comprising:

- (i) the supply of mobile garbage bins;
- (ii) the supply of a recycling service;
- (iii) the supply of a food organics garden organics collection service;

#### As follows:

- a) \$117 initial service charge for waste or recycling, residential or non-residential.
- b) \$191 upgrade from a 120Lt to 240Lt mobile garbage bin residential.
- Pursuant to s.124 of the Local Government Act 1993, the Rates may be payable by four instalments.
- 5.1. The Rates shall be payable on the following dates:-

1st Instalment 15 August 2025 2nd Instalment 15 November 2025 3rd Instalment 15 February 2026 4th Instalment 15 April 2026

 For lands otherwise exempt from General Rates pursuant to s.87 of the Local Government Act 1993, Service Rates pursuant to s.93 of the Local Government Act 1993 and Service Charges pursuant to s.94 of the Local Government Act 1993 will apply.

# 7. Penalty and Interest

Pursuant to s.128 of the Local Government Act 1993:

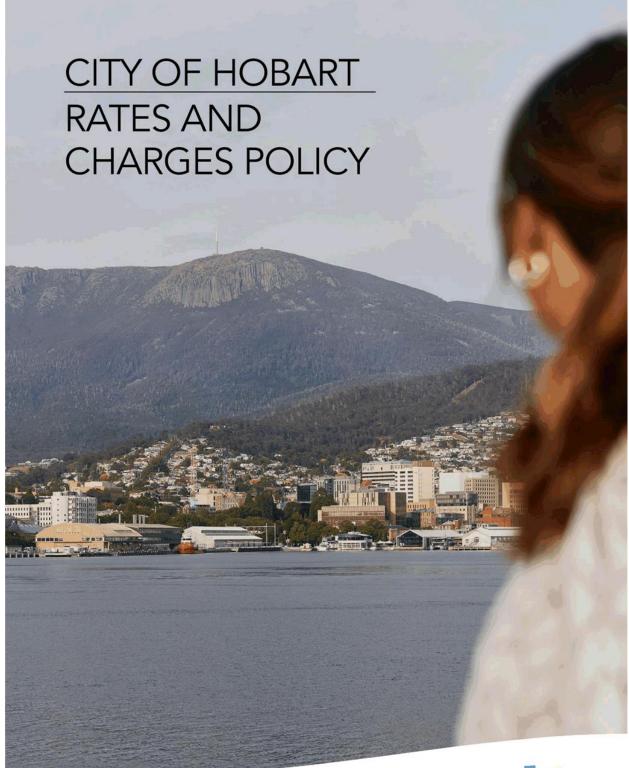
# Supporting Information Council Meeting - 30/6/2025

- (a) where any amount of rates or charges remains unpaid after the date on which it is to be paid, there shall be payable penalty and interest in accordance with s.128(1)(c) with penalty to be calculated at the rate of 3% of the amount and interest on that amount calculated at the rate of 10.3% per annum, charged monthly, in accordance with the prescribed percentage contained in s.128(2).
- (b) where any amount of rates or charges that was payable in a financial year beginning prior to 1 July 2025, remains unpaid in the financial year beginning 1 July 2025 and there is payable interest on that amount pursuant to a determination under s.128(1)(c) in that firstmentioned financial year, there shall be payable interest on that amount on and after 1 July 2025, at a rate equal to the rate fixed for the purposes of s.128(1)(c) and operative on and after 1 July 2025, being at a rate of 10.3% per annum, charged monthly.

Dated this 30th day of June 2025

(Michael Stretton)

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, being the General Manager as appointed by Council pursuant to section 61 of the *Local Government Act 1993 (Tas)* 





# **Document Control**

Policy Name	City of Hobart Rates and Charges Policy		
First issued/approved	August 2012		
Last approved	24 June 2024		
Source of approval/authority	Council Section 86B of the <i>Local Government Act 1993</i>		
Last reviewed	<del>24 June 2024</del> 21 May 2025		
Next review date	August 2028		
Version number	9.21		
Responsible Officer	Manager Rates, Procurement and Risk		
Department responsible for policy development	City Enablers Corporate Services		
Strategic Plan reference	Outcomes 8.2		
Related documents	Local Government Act 1993, Part 9 – Rates and Charges		
	City of Hobart Rating and Valuation Strategy 2024-28		
	Council Policy - Collection of Rates Arrears		
	Council Policy - Rate Remissions – Service     Rates and Charges		
	Council Policy - Rates Exemption – Charitable Purposes		
	Council Policy - Rates Remissions		
	City of Hobart Financial Hardship Assistance Policy		
Publication of policy	City of Hobart website at:		
	https://www.hobartcity.com.au/Council/About-		
	Council/Council-policies		

# **Acknowledgement of Country**

In recognition of the deep history and culture of our city, we acknowledge the Tasmanian Aboriginal People as the Traditional Custodians of this land. We acknowledge the determination and resilience of the Palawa People of Tasmania who have survived invasion and dispossession and continue to maintain their identity, culture, and rights. We recognise that we have much to learn from Aboriginal People today, who represent the world's oldest continuing culture. We recognise the value of continuing Aboriginal knowledge and cultural practice. We pay our sincere respects to Elders past and present and to all Aboriginal People living in and around Hobart.

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#### 1. Introduction

Rates and charges are an important revenue source for local government, comprising approximately 65% of the City of Hobart's (Council's) annual income. In setting its rates and charges Council has the challenge of balancing the need to fund existing services, the continual demand for increased services, the need to maintain and renew essential infrastructure required of a Capital City and the desire to keep increases to rates and charges to a minimum.

Council uses the revenue collected from rates and charges to fund the provision of more than 300 programs and services to the community and provide the infrastructure required and expected of a modern, well serviced and growing Capital City.

Following a 12-month review of the City's rating practices, which included community consultation, at its meeting on 29 April 2024 Council adopted a Rating and Valuation Strategy to guide the City's rating practices.

This document sets out the City of Hobart policy for setting and collecting rates from its community and meeting the requirements of Part 9 of the *Local Government Act 1993* (the Act) in accordance with the City of Hobart Rating and Valuation Strategy 2024-28

This Rates and Charges policy will explain:

- The relationship between Council's Strategic Plan, budget and rates;
- · Council's goal in setting its rates and charges;
- The principles Council uses when setting its rates and charges;
- How Council sets its rates and charges for the year;
- What rates and charges are levied in the Hobart municipal area;
- The services that rates and charges fund for the benefit of the community;
- · Rates rebates and remissions;
- How and when to pay rates and the consequences of late payments; and
- Ratepayer objection rights.

The City of Hobart Rates and Charges Policy will be reviewed at least every 4 years by 31 August unless a change occurs that requires Council to amend its Rates and Charges Policy under section 86B(4) of the Act.

#### 2. Relationship between Council's Strategic Plan, Budget and Rates

The Rates and Charges Policy has been prepared within the context of Council's integrated planning and reporting framework, which aligns the City's annual planning and reporting with performance evaluation and continuous improvement and ensures the Capital City Strategic Plan and Long-term Financial Management Plan are put into action through the City's Annual Plan and Annual Budget Program. In setting its rates, Council gives primary consideration to the Community Vision for the City, strategic directions, financial sustainability and the likely impacts on the community.

The Council has worked with the community to develop a community vision for the City, set out in the document Hobart: A community vision for our island capital, to guide the City's strategic planning.

The Capital City Strategic Plan 2023 puts the community vision into action. The plan is built around eight pillars from the community vision and will guide the City's work over the next 10 years. Each pillar has outcomes that detail what the City is trying to achieve and the strategy it will use to get there.

Performance in achieving the major actions and initiatives outlined in the Annual Plan are reported to the community through Council's Annual Report.

#### 2.1 Pillars

#### Pillar 1 - Sense of place

- · Hobart keeps a strong sense of place and identity, even as the city changes.
- Hobart's cityscape reflects the heritage, culture and natural environment that make it special.

#### Pillar 2 - Community inclusion, participation and belonging

- Hobart is a place that recognises and celebrates Tasmanian Aboriginal people, history and culture, working together towards shared goals.
- Hobart is a place where diversity is celebrated and everyone can belong, and where people have opportunities to learn about one another and participate in city life.
- Hobart communities are active, have good health and wellbeing and are engaged in lifelong learning.
- Hobart communities are safe and resilient, ensuring people can support one another and flourish in times of hardship.

#### Pillar 3 - Creativity and culture

- Hobart is a creative and cultural capital where creativity is a way of life.
- Creativity serves as a platform for raising awareness and promoting understanding of diverse cultures and issues.
- Everyone in Hobart can participate in a diverse and thriving creative community.

Civic and heritage spaces support creativity, resulting in a vibrant public realm.

#### Pillar 4 - City economies

- Hobart's economy reflects its unique environment, culture and identity.
- Diverse connections give people opportunities to participate in the economic life of the city and help the economy, businesses and workers thrive.
- Hobart is a place where entrepreneurs and businesses can grow and flourish.
- · Hobart's economy is strong, diverse and resilient.

### Pillar 5 - Movement and connectivity

- An accessible and connected city environment helps maintain Hobart's pace of life.
- · Hobart has effective and environmentally sustainable transport systems.
- · Technology serves Hobart communities and visitors and enhances quality of life.
- · Data informs decision-making.

#### Pillar 6 - Natural environment

- The natural environment is part of the city and biodiversity is conserved, secure and flourishing.
- Education, participation, leadership and partnerships all contribute to Hobart's strong environmental performance and healthy ecosystems.
- Hobart is a city supported by ecologically sustainable waste and water systems.
- Hobart is a leader on climate change moving toward a zero-emissions and climate-resilient city.
- Hobart's bushland, parks and reserves are places for sport, recreation and play.

#### Pillar 7 - Built environment

- Hobart has a diverse supply of housing and affordable homes.
- Development enhances Hobart's unique identity, human scale and built heritage.
- Infrastructure and services are planned, managed and maintained to provide for community wellbeing.
- Community involvement and an understanding of future needs help guide changes to Hobart's built environment.

#### Pillar 8 - Governance and civic involvement

- Hobart is a city that is well governed that recognises the community as an active partner that informs decisions.
- Hobart is a city that delivers public value and excellence by being a financially responsible, high performing and accountable organisation that is responsive to the needs of the community.

The City's Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework is outlined in the following diagram:



#### 2.2 Long-term Financial Management Plan

Council's Long-term Financial Management Plan (LTFMP) provides a plan to resource Council's future directions outlined above and ensure Council's financial sustainability in the long-term. Council defines financial sustainability as follows:

"A Council's long-term financial performance and position is sustainable where planned long-term service and infrastructure levels and standards are met without unplanned increases in rates or disruptive cuts to services."

Financial sustainability is particularly important for local government because councils hold assets worth in the billions of dollars (large relative to their revenue bases), that have lives of in some cases well over 100 years.

Council has over \$2 billion in physical assets, managed through Asset Management Plans, including buildings, parks infrastructure, plant, vehicles and equipment, playground equipment, road infrastructure, stormwater infrastructure and The Doone Kennedy Hobart Aquatic Centre. The expected life of Council's infrastructure assets varies from 3 years to 150 years. It is important for Council to adequately fund asset management to ensure its assets achieve their full expected service life but can also be renewed without incurring large rates increases in the future.

Council's LTFMP is used in the preparation of its annual budget and Council's rates and charges policy is prepared within its context. Information on how rates and charges are calculated is included in section 5 and 6.

#### 3. Goal

Council's goal in raising rates and charges is to ensure a sufficient revenue base for Council to:

- Continue to provide existing activities, programs and services to the community.
- Provide new or expanded services to the community.
- Ensure a balanced budget and provide a strong financial basis for effective management of expenditure programs to provide for both current and future community requirements.
- Encourage a strong, growing and sustainable local economy with appropriate levels of infrastructure assets and facilities.
- Provide certainty of funding for the provision of infrastructure identified by Council in its Long-term Financial Management Plan and Asset Management Plans.

# 4. Policy Principles

In adopting its Rates and Charges Policy and making decisions concerning the making of rates, Council has taken into account the following pursuant to section 86A(1) of the Act:

- (a) rates constitute taxation for the purposes of local government, rather than a fee for a service; and
- (b) the value of rateable land is an indicator of the capacity of the ratepayer in respect of that land to pay rates.

Council currently raises revenue for the vast majority of its services through the Capital Value rating system and not through a user pays pricing system. Council's rating system does not separate those aspects of a particular service that may have a public benefit from those that have a more private benefit such as a kerbside waste collection.

Council rates are based on property values and are therefore a property tax. Generally, the Act expects that the higher the value of the property the higher the rates to be paid.

Council determines rates and charges after due consideration of the following:

- The principles of taxation outlined in section 86A(1) of the Act, outlined above.
- The objectives, strategies and actions outlined in the Council's Strategic Plan, Annual Plan and Long-term Financial Management Plan.
- Council's legislative obligations.
- The needs and expectations of the general community.
- The level of the cost of maintaining existing facilities and necessary services.
- The need for additional services and facilities.

In setting its policy on rates and charges, Council has applied the following principles of taxation:

- Equity –by taking into account the different levels of capacity to pay within the local community;
- Wealth Tax rates paid are dependent upon the value of the ratepayer's property.
- Benefit by recognising that Council services benefit the community as a whole.
- Simplicity by using a rating system that is simple, practical and cost effective to administer as practicable.
- Sustainability the rating system supports the City's financial strategies for the delivery
  of infrastructure, programs and services in Council's Long-term Financial Management
  Plan and Strategic Asset Management Plan.
- Efficiency by supporting the the financial, social, economic and environmental, and other strategic objectives outlined in Council's Capital City Strategic Plan 2023.
- Transparency by being open in the processes involved in the making of rates and charges.
- Timeliness by ensuring all ratepayers are given adequate notice of their liability to pay rates and charges.
- Flexibility by responding where possible to unforeseen changes in the economy.
- Compliance by complying with the requirements and intent of relevant legislation.
- Capacity to Pay by including mechanisms to support those with least capacity pay.
- Diversity by acknowledging that there is considerable diversity in the economic circumstances of households and businesses relative to their income.

# 5. Property Valuation Base

Under section 89A of the Act Council has the choice of three bases of value of land:

- Land Value the value of the property excluding all visible improvements such as buildings, structure, fixtures, roads, etc.
- Capital Value the total value of the property, excluding plant and machinery and includes the land value; or

 Assessed Annual Value (AAV) - the estimated yearly rental value of the property, excluding GST, council rates and land tax, but is not to be less than 4% of the capital value of the property.

Council uses the Capital Value of a property as a basis for valuing land in the municipal area, recognising the benefits of Capital Value and that of all the three valuation bases, it demonstrates the strongest performance of the three bases against the principles of taxation. It is easiest to understand, most equitable (particularly in terms of capacity to pay) and allows Council the flexibility to levy differential rates.

Capital Value reflects capacity to pay rather than the other two bases as it incorporates the developed value of properties i.e. the total value, and therefore most closely aligns with the wealth tax principle in determining the distribution of rates. The Capital Value valuation method takes into account the full development value of the property and hence better meets the equity principle than Land Value and AAV.

# **Adoption of Valuations**

Setting rates based on property values, whether on land value, capital value or the assessed annual value (AAV) as determined by the Valuer-General, is a requirement of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

Under the *Valuation of Land Act 2001* the Valuer-General must determine the land value, capital value and assessed annual value of each property in the Hobart municipal area and provide this information to Council. Council has no role in the process of determining the valuations ascribed to individual properties.

Council adopts the valuations made by the Valuer-General as provided to the Council and uses the valuation of each property as the basis for calculating the rates on that property.

All land within the Hobart municipality is rateable except for land specifically exempt under section 87 of the Act.

Ratepayers are encouraged to contact the Office of the Valuer-General if they have any objections in relation to their property valuation.

# 6. Rates and Charges

Rates and charges are calculated each year during Council's budget process. The budget process involves Council setting its priorities and expenditure levels to enable the key strategic objectives outlined in Council's Annual Plan to be implemented.

Through the budget process Council also specifies its capital requirements to renew infrastructure assets, plant and equipment and create new essential infrastructure for the City; as well as the community programs and services it will provide in the next financial year; and how much these will cost.

A Council budget also estimates the revenue to be collected from other sources such as parking fines, Commonwealth and State grants, distributions from Council's ownership interest in TasWater, rents, interest income and parking and other fees and charges. Using these

# Supporting Information Council Meeting - 30/6/2025

City of Hobart Rates and Charges Policy

estimates Council determines the amount of revenue it needs to collect in rates revenue to meets its financial responsibilities for the coming year.

Council uses property values as the basis for calculating how much each property owner pays in rates. Property values are not calculated by Council; they are provided to Council by the Office of the Valuer-General.

After identifying how much it needs to collect in rates and charges, Council calculates the total amount required to fund waste management services, food organics and garden organics collection services, stormwater removal services, the State Government fire levy and the State Government landfill levy, leaving the balance required from General Rates.

Generally, the rate in the dollar is calculated by dividing the total amount of money the City needs to raise from each land use to provide infrastructure, programs and services by the total capital value of all rateable properties in the Hobart municipal area by land use.

Council varies the rates by applying a higher rate in the dollar to specific land uses to maintain an equitable distribution of the rate burden in the move to Capital Value rating.

The rate in the dollar for each land use is then multiplied by the value of a property, using the capital value, to establish the amount to be paid by each property owner plus service rates and charges.

The formula for calculating General Rates, excluding service rates and charges, arrears or additional supplementary rates is therefore:

Valuation (Capital Value) x Rate in the Dollar (Differential Rate Type)

The rate in the dollar for each rating differential category is included in Council's annual Rating Resolution.

Council sets its budget annually to ensure it raises the budgeted amount required. Valuations do not determine the rates income of a Council, and as a result, Councils do not gain windfalls from valuation increases and an increase in property values does not cause a rate rise.

Council raises its rates and charges through the following:

# 6.1 General Rate

Pursuant to section 90 of the Act, the General Rate is levied on all rateable properties within the Hobart municipality and provides revenue to fund over 300 Council programs and services, except those related to Council's stormwater removal services, waste management services including landfill rehabilitation services, food organics garden organics collection services, the State Government fire levy and the State Government landfill levy.

The Council varies the general rate based on the use or predominant use of the land to maintain the equitable distribution of the rates burden amongst property owners.

The Council limits the increase on the general rate at 510% using a maximum percentage increase cap to help mitigate significant rate increases in the move to Capital Value for land used or predominately used for commercial and industrial purposes.

The maximum percentage increase cap does not apply to a supplementary valuation issued by the Valuer-General.

#### Short Stay Visitor Accommodation and Vacant - Residential Land

The Council also varies the general rate for properties used for short stay visitor accommodation and vacant – residential land.

The objective is to ensure housing stock is retained and ensure owners of residential land used for the commercial purpose of short stay visitor accommodation contribute to the provision of Council services and facilities that are associated with that commercial use e.g. economic development, tourism, communications and marketing; and for properties with a land use of vacant – residential, to encourage development of vacant land for housing and other purposes, promote the development of all properties to their full potential thereby stimulating economic growth and development in all areas of the municipal area, to discourage the holding of land; and to ensure vacant land owners contribute an equitable share of the rate burden compared to other types of land owners.

#### 6.2 Stormwater Removal Service Rate

Pursuant to section 93 of the Act, the Stormwater Removal Service Rate is levied on all rateable properties within the Hobart municipal area. It provides revenue that covers the operation and maintenance of the piped and non-piped stormwater systems and the waterways, which includes major rivulets and a host of minor watercourses.

In addition, this revenue funds Council's flood management activities and provides for the replacement of elements of the stormwater and waterways asset base. This includes the kerb and guttering and underground stormwater pipes along Council's roads and the general maintenance of Council's rivulet's and their tributaries. As such these services have a public and community-wide benefit.

The Stormwater Removal Service Rate also contributes towards stormwater works in all roads, which allows residents to travel along those roads safely during rainfall.

Council also has in place litter traps within stormwater systems and waterways to limit the amount of pollution entering the Derwent Estuary.

The Council varies the stormwater removal service rate based on the use or predominant use of the land to maintain the equitable distribution of the rates burden amongst property owners.

# 6.3 Fire Service Rate

Pursuant to the *Fire Services Act 1979*, local government acts as a collection agent for this State Government tax, which is paid directly to the State Fire Commission.

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Council has no control over the level of the Fire Service Rate. It is required to collect this revenue on behalf of the State Government which is then passed onto the Tasmanian Fire Service.

The State Fire Commission identifies 3 districts for the Hobart municipality, being:

- Fern Tree Volunteer Brigade Rating District;
- Permanent Brigade Rating District; and
- General Land.

There is a different fire service rate for each district and a minimum fire service contribution. The Council varies the rate for the permanent brigade rating district based on the use or predominant use of the land to maintain the equitable distribution of the rates burden amongst property owners.

# 6.4 Waste Management Service Charge

Pursuant to section 94 of the Act, the Waste Management Service Charge is levied on all rateable properties within the Hobart municipal area.

In addition to the standard kerbside waste and recycling collections, the waste management service charge provides revenue that covers a number of activities with a more general benefit such as solid waste minimisation initiatives and contributions to a range of recycling initiatives, which have a public and community-wide benefit.

In 2010/11 Council introduced a waste management service charge following its decision to move away from AAV based rates for waste management and introduce a flat charge that all properties would pay. Council felt that this would make the waste management service fairer and more equitable across the community.

Non-residential properties pay double the waste management service charge of residential properties reflecting that a standard garbage collection service means:

- In the case of a residential property, 120 litres of solid waste per week; or
- In the case of a non-residential property, 240 litres of solid waste per week.

The Waste Management Service Charge includes revenue to fund the rehabilitation of the McRobies Gully Waste Management Centre.

From 1 July 2011 Council introduced a temporary ratepayer levy to fund the rehabilitation of the McRobies Gully Waste Management Centre. The levy appeared on the annual rates notice as a Landfill Rehabilitation Service Charge. The temporary landfill rehabilitation service charge was introduced because the McRobies Gully Waste Management Centre was considered to be nearing the end of its life as an active landfill.

The City has a permit to operate the landfill until 2030, at which point it will close and no new permit will be sought to operate a landfill within Hobart. As such the City has a detailed level of certainty on key factors such as how long the landfill has left, how much rehabilitation is required, and how much it will cost to complete the works. The amount to be collected for

landfill rehabilitation was amended to a lower annual amount from 1 July 2018, collected over a longer timeframe, and will be recovered from the rates as part of the Waste Management Service Charge until 30 June 2027.

Non-residential properties pay double the amount of residential properties reflecting the different waste collection volumes, being:

- In the case of a residential property, 120 litres of solid waste per week; or
- In the case of a non-residential property, 240 litres of solid waste per week.

Rehabilitation of the landfill involves installing an impervious layer of capping over the landfill and landscaping. These works are required so as to prevent methane and other greenhouse gasses entering into the atmosphere, and to prevent rainwater entering the landfill, and are required by law under the permit issued by the Environment Protection Authority to rehabilitate the landfill upon closure.

# 6.5 Food Organics Garden Organics Collection Service Charge

Pursuant to section 94 of the Act, a Waste Management Service Charge for food organics garden organics collection is levied on all rateable properties within the Hobart municipal area to which Council supplies or makes available a food organics garden organics collection service utilising a food organics garden organics collection bin. The Council offers a standard fortnightly collection and a weekly collection at an additional charge.

Service is provided to residential properties:

- With three or less tenancies;
- A land area between 400m2 and 4000m2; and
- · Located outside Sullivans Cove, the CBD and Fern Tree.

Properties outside the above area are able to Opt-in to the service.

For more information on the Food Organics Garden Organics waste collection service visit: www.hobartcity.com.au/FOGO.

# 6.6 Waste Management Levy Offset Service Charge

From 1 July 2022, the State Government introduced a state-wide landfill levy pursuant to the *Waste and Resource Recovery Act 2022* on waste disposed to landfill both as a disincentive to landfilling and as a mechanism to fund strategic investment into Tasmania's waste and resource recovery sectors and circular economy. The City is required to pay the levy to the State Government under the Act. The levy equates to \$20 per tonne of waste disposed to the City's landfill in the first two years, then \$45 per tonne after two years and \$66 per tonne after a further two years.

# 7. What Programs and Services does Council provide?

Rates and charges revenue funds more than 300 services for the benefit of the Hobart community. Many of Council's services, such as stormwater drainage, are largely invisible, but they may prevent flooding in Hobart streets each year.

## 8. Rebate of Rates

Under section 87 of the Act Council is required to grant a rebate of the General Rate to specific properties that are owned for specific purposes outlined in the Act.

Applications for the rebate of rates under section 87 of the Act must be made in writing and include appropriate documentation to support the application.

Council's Policy Rates Exemption – Charitable Purposes is available from Council's website at: <a href="https://www.hobartcity.com.au/Council/Council Policies">www.hobartcity.com.au/Council/Council Policies</a>

For more information contact Council's Rates Office on tel:  $03-6238\ 2787$  or email: coh@hobartcity.com.au.

# 9. Rates Remissions

# 9.1 Pensioner Remissions

Pensioners eligible for assistance under the *Local Government (Rates and Charges Remission)*Act 1991 may receive a rebate as follows, noting that limits apply:

- State Government 30% (maximum limits apply)
- State Fire Commission 20% (of the Fire Service Rate)

Pensioners are eligible for a remission if they hold the following cards:

- Centrelink or Department of Veterans' Affairs Pensioner Concession Card
- · Centrelink Health Care Card
- Department of Veterans' Affairs 'Gold Card' endorsed with TPI or War Widow

The card holder must be legally responsible for the rates on the property and be their principal place of residence. In the case of joint ownership, at least one of the owners must meet the eligibility criteria. There is a limit of one remission per year per pensioner household.

Pensioners who received a remission last year should receive a remission automatically. Any pensioner who has not previously received a remission must complete an application form and possess a current Pensioner Concession Card (PCC) with a date of grant on or before 1<sup>st</sup> July of the current financial year.

An application form is available online from the City's website at: <a href="https://www.hobartcity.com.au/Residents/Rates/Pensioner-discounts">www.hobartcity.com.au/Residents/Rates/Pensioner-discounts</a> or from the Customer Service Centre, 16 Elizabeth Street, Hobart. If you are submitting an application in person it is necessary that current concession cards be presented to Customer Service when submitting an application form. If you are submitting an application online you will need to upload a copy of your current concession card to this application.

Eligibility of a pensioner remission is determined by the State Government - Department of Treasury and Finance and not by Council.

#### 9.2 Rate Remissions

Pursuant to section 129 of the Act, a ratepayer may apply to the Council for remission of all or part of any rates paid or payable or any penalty imposed or interest charged under section 128 of the Act

Applications for rates remissions should be made in writing and addressed to the Chief Executive Officer.

The Chief Executive Officer is authorised to grant a rates remission up to the value of \$8,000. Where the value of the rates remission exceeds \$8,000 the authority of the Council is required, by absolute majority.

Generally, a property will only receive a remission of the stormwater removal service rates and / or the waste management service charge in the event that:

- The property does not receive and is not capable of receiving a standard garbage collection service or stormwater removal service from the Council whatsoever; and
- Even if the property were capable of receiving such a service, a request to Council for such a service would be denied.

The term 'standard garbage collection service' means:

- In the case of a residential property, 120 litres of solid waste per week; or
- In the case of a non-residential property, 240 litres of solid waste per week.

This does not affect any remissions the Council may grant as part of setting the General Rate and Service Rate and Charges in any given year.

#### Vacant - Residential Land

As outlined in section 6.1 above, the Council has adopted a differential general rate for residential vacant land. The differential general rate is 2x the general rate applied to other types of vacant land in the Hobart municipal area. The objective of the residential vacant land rate is to encourage development of residential vacant land for housing and other purposes, promote the development of all properties to their full potential thereby stimulating economic growth and development in all areas of the municipal area, discourage the holding of land; and ensure residential vacant landowners contribute an equitable share of the rate burden compared to other types of landowners.

A property will only receive a 50% remission of the vacant residential land general rate in the event that:

• The property has received a planning permit, a building permit, if applicable and a plumbing permit, if applicable from Council for their property indicating a commitment to develop the land for residential purposes.

If there are pieces of adjacent or other land that cannot be developed for residential purposes in their own right (due to size, easements or boundaries as examples), such as areas that are land locked, the property may be entitled to the 50% remission of rates.

The effect of the 50% remission will be to reduce the differential general rate to the general rate applied for non-use of the land (other types of vacant land).

# **Penalty and Interest**

The criteria for granting a remission of penalty and/or interest charges is based on extenuating circumstances, as follows:

- Penalty was incurred as a result of an error on the part of Council staff such as a receipting error;
- The amount was paid to a past property or using an incorrect property number;
- The ratepayer is able to provide evidence that their payment has gone astray in the post or late payment has otherwise resulted from matters outside their control e.g. a disruption to normal banking service;
- If a new owner receives penalty and / or interest resulting from the Notice of Sale procedure i.e. lateness of issue of sale notice, incorrect postal address or late payment of rates on property settlement.
- Council accepts that there are extraordinary or compassionate grounds for the remission. Examples are:
  - o Serious illness or accident of ratepayer or family member at the due date;
  - o Death of immediate family member at the due date; and
  - o Birth.
- Other extenuating circumstances not outlined above that are considered reasonable by the Chief Executive Officer.

Requests for penalty and/or interest remissions should meet the following conditions:

- Requests must be made in writing to the Chief Executive Officer.
- A good payment history which means that over the past 2 years all instalments of rates
  have been paid on time and payment is made within a short time following the ratepayer
  becoming aware of the non-payment.
- No previous penalties or interest amounts have been remitted for the two years immediately prior to the application for penalty and/or interest remission.

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 The ratepayer attempted to have the amount paid on time and/or extenuating circumstances exist for its non-payment on time.

Each application will be considered on its merits and remission will be granted where it is considered just and equitable to do so.

# 10. Payment of Rates

Council levies the rates once a year and issues an annual rates notice to all ratepayers. Rates are due for payment on the following dates each year:

- 15 August
- 15 November
- 15 February
- 15 April

Rates can be paid in full by the first instalment due date, by two equal amounts on the first and third instalment due date or paid in four equal amounts on the instalment due dates shown above.

Council offers a free service to ratepayers who wish to opt-in to receive a SMS reminder when a rates instalment is due. Ratepayers can register to receive the service by completing the registration form online from the City's website or by contacting the Rates Team.

Council does not offer a discount for the early payment of rates or for paying rates in full by the first instalment due date.

Council offers a range of convenient and flexible payment options for the payment of rates, as follows:

# **Payment in Person**

The rates notice should be presented intact when making a payment at the Customer Service Centre, 16 Elizabeth Street, Hobart between 8.15am and 5.00pm, Monday to Friday.

## Telephone

Telephone payments can be accepted for holders of Visa or MasterCard by calling the payments hotline on 1300 886 745, 24 hours a day, every day.

#### Internet

Internet payments can be made by Visa or Mastercard at Council's <u>Payments page</u>. Call your bank, credit union or building society to arrange payment from your cheque or savings account.

# **BPay**

BPay payments can be made from a cheque, credit card, debit, transaction or savings account. Please refer to your rates notice for your BPay reference number.

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#### Mail

Cheques or money orders should be made payable to Hobart City Council and posted to 'The Chief Executive Officer, Hobart City Council, GPO Box 503, Hobart 7001'. Receipts for cheques are subject to due collection of money. Council will not accept postdated cheques.

#### **Australia Post**

Payment is accepted at all Australia Post offices in the country. Payment must be made by the due date and the notice presented intact at time of payment.

#### **Direct Debit**

Payment can be made by direct debit through weekly, fortnightly, monthly or instalment payments that are automatically debited from your bank account. For further information about payment of rates by direct debit please contact the Rates Office on 03 - 6238 2787, email <a href="mailto:coh@hobartcity.com.au">coh@hobartcity.com.au</a> or complete the online <a href="Direct Debit Request form">Direct Debit Request form</a> and return it to Council.

# 11. Late Payments

Council will exercise its rate recovery powers under the Act in order to reduce the overall rate burden on ratepayers and to better manage the scarce financial resources of Council. It will be guided by the principles of:

- Simplicity by making the processes used to recover rates arrears straight forward as well as easy and cost effective to administer.
- Transparency by making clear the obligations of the ratepayer to pay rates and the consequences of failing to pay rates.
- Responsibility making clear the obligations of ratepayers to pay rates.
- Equity applying the same treatment and processes for ratepayers with the same circumstances.
- · Flexibility by responding where necessary to changes in the local economy
- Capacity to pay having regards to the financial hardship of individual ratepayers and negotiating support under the City's Financial Hardship Assistance Policy on application.

Rates are due for payment on the instalment due dates outlined in section 10. Council does not send final reminder notices to those property owners that do not pay their rates by the instalment due date.

Where rates remain unpaid after the instalment due date Council will charge a penalty on unpaid instalments in accordance with section 128(1)(c) of the Act, and thereafter interest will be charged monthly.

The purpose of penalty and interest is to act as a deterrent to ratepayers who might otherwise fail to pay their rates on time, to allow Council to recover the administrative cost of following up unpaid rates and to cover any interest cost the council may meet because it has not received the rates on time.

Any ratepayer who may, or is likely to, experience difficulty with meeting the standard instalments and due dates can contact Council to discuss alternative payment arrangements. Requests should be made in writing. It should be noted that penalty and interest will still be

levied in accordance with section 128(1)(c) of the Act under any payment arrangement. However, a ratepayer who is having difficulty meeting rate payment obligations to Council can apply to Council for financial hardship assistance, as detailed in section 12 of this Policy, below.

Rates and charges are payable within the period as stated on the rate notice. Should a ratepayer fail to pay within the stipulated period or not enter into an approved arrangement to pay Council may institute the following procedure.

- If rates are not paid, a letter will be sent advising the ratepayer that any arrears will be summonsed unless arrears are paid or a satisfactory arrangement entered into. Council will make every effort to contact ratepayers to collect outstanding rates prior to taking further action.
- In response to approaches by ratepayers who have difficulty in meeting scheduled payments, suitable arrangements for payments will be considered and may be entered into.
- · Where rates remain unpaid, a summons for arrears is issued.
- However, if a ratepayer has made satisfactory arrangements with Council to clear rates arrears and has adhered to those arrangements, summons will not be required.

Section 131 of the Act provides that when the Council receives a payment in respect of the rates, the Council applies the money received as follows:

- First to satisfy any costs awarded in connection with court proceedings
- Second to satisfy any interest imposed
- Third to satisfy any penalty imposed
- Fourth in payment of rates, in chronological order (starting with oldest amount first).

### 11.1 Sale of Land for Non-Payment of Rates

Section 137 of the Act provides that a Council may sell any property where the rates have been in arrears for three years or more. Council is required to notify the owner of the land of its intention to sell the land, provide the owner with details of the outstanding amounts, and advise the owner of its intention to sell the land if payment of the outstanding amount is not received within one month.

# 12. Financial Hardship Assistance

The City recognises that some ratepayers may experience significant financial hardship. The City has adopted a Financial Hardship Assistance Policy to provide assistance to ratepayers in meeting their rates payment obligations to Council.

Ratepayers in the Hobart municipal area experiencing genuine and serious financial hardship and needing assistance should contact the City's Rates Team as soon as possible on 03 – 6238 2787, email <a href="mailto:coh@hobartcity.com.au">coh@hobartcity.com.au</a> or apply online for financial hardship assistance.

To view the City of Hobart's Financial Hardship Assistance Policy or to apply online, visit <a href="https://www.hobartcity.com/rates-assistance">www.hobartcity.com/rates-assistance</a>.

# 13. Objection Rights

Pursuant to section 123 of the Act a person may object to a rates notice on the following grounds:

- The land specified in the rates notice is exempt from the payment of the rates.
- · The amount of the rates is not correctly calculated.
- The basis on which the rates have been calculated does not apply.
- He or she is not liable for payment of the rates specified in the rates notice.
- He or she is not liable to pay the rates for the period specified in the rates notice.

An objection is to be made in writing within 28 days after receipt of the rates notice and lodged with the Chief Executive Officer.

Pursuant to section 109 of the Act a ratepayer may object to a variation in a rate (differential rate) based on a particular use of the land. The only ground for an objection is that the use of the ratepayer's land is not the use of land on which the variation is based.

An objection is to be made in writing within 21 days after receipt of the rates notice, state the use of the land, be accompanied by evidence of the use of the land and lodged with the Chief Executive Officer.

If a ratepayer has enquiries related to their property valuation or is dissatisfied with a property valuation then an objection may be made to the Office of the Valuer-General (OVG) by completing the online objection form at: Objection Form - Valuation Portal (dpipwe.tas.gov.au) or contacting:

Office of the Valuer-General Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania GPO Box 44 Hobart TAS 7001

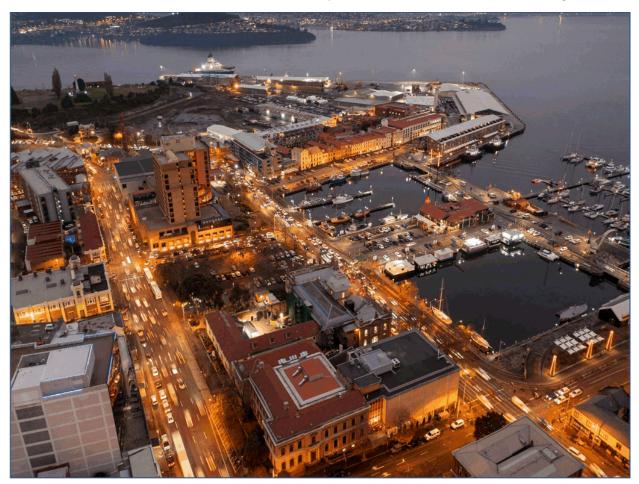
Phone: 03 6165 4444 (Option 2) Email: ovg@nre.tas.gov.au

# 14. More Information

For more information on Council rates and charges please contact Council's Rates Office on: Tel: 03 - 6238 2787.

Email: coh@hobartcity.com.au

Or visit Council's website at: <a href="www.hobartcity.com.au/Residents/Rates">www.hobartcity.com.au/Residents/Rates</a>



# LONG-TERM FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

2023-2033



# **Acknowledgment of Country**

In recognition of the deep history and culture of this place, the City of Hobart acknowledges Tasmanian Aboriginal people as the Traditional Custodians of this land. We acknowledge the determination and resilience of the Palawa people who have survived invasion and dispossession and continue to maintain their identity, culture and rights.

We recognise that we have much to learn from Aboriginal people today, who represent the world's oldest continuing culture. We pay our sincere respects to Elders past and present and to all Aboriginal people here today.

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## Overview

The City of Hobart Long-Term Financial Management Plan 2023 – 2033 (LTFMP) is a strategic planning document that will activate the vision for Hobart to be the best small capital city in Australia.

The LTFMP is informed by the contextual setting of the Tasmanian economic environment, financial assumptions, modelling and strategies, and performance indicators. These factors impact the strategic financial framework within which the City will make sound financial decisions.

The City's key financial management strategy is to ensure the financial sustainability of the organisation, through sound fiscal management. Financial sustainability will ensure the City can meet its public service requirements to residents and visitors of the capital city.

The City will aim to provide quality and efficient service delivery to the community, both now and into the future, while ensuring each generation is responsible for the cost of services and resources they consume.

The LTFMP is based on a range of assumptions and is based on the 2023-24 Budget Estimates. The assumptions are then used to model potential outcomes for the City, across the 10 year period of the plan.

The LTFMP demonstrates that the City is in a sound financial position and is forecast to remain in a robust financial position over the long-term.

Revenue growth will average approximately 3.4 per cent over the LTFMP, while expenses are expected to grow by approximately 3.3 per cent over the same period.

The City maintains appropriate levels of cash and investments to ensure it has liquid assets to meet its short-term financial commitments, while also managing levels of debt that are both manageable and reasonable.

The City maintains a significant asset base with replacement cost of these assets at over \$2.5 billion, and it will continue to invest in critical infrastructure including parks, cycle ways, roads, sports grounds and other public facilities over the next 10 years.

The City will undertake a comprehensive review of the City's Asset Management Plan during 2023-24. In conjunction with the review of the Plan, the City is also developing a new framework to identify and prioritise critical capital projects each financial year.

# Legislative Framework

The City of Hobart is required under Section 70 of the *Local Government Act 1993* to prepare a Long-Term Financial Management Plan for the municipal area. The plan is to be for a period of at least 10 years.

Under section 70(3) of the *Local Government Act 1993*, a long-term financial management plan for a municipal area is to –

- (a) be consistent with the strategic plan for the municipal area; and
- (b) refer to the long-term strategic asset management plan for the municipal area; and
- (c) contain at least the matters that are specified in an order made under section 70F as required to be included in a long-term financial management plan.

The Local Government (Content of Plans and Strategies) Order 2014 sets out what is required to be included in the long-term financial management plan.

Section 70A of the *Local Government Act 1993* also requires the City of Hobart to prepare a Financial Management Strategy for the municipal area. Under section 70A(2), a financial management strategy for a municipal area is to –

- (a) be consistent with the strategic plan for the municipal area; and
- (b) contain at least the matters that are specified in an order made under section 70F as required to be included in a long-term financial management plan.

The Local Government (Content of Plans and Strategies) Order 2014 sets out what is required to be included in the financial management strategy.

# Planning Framework

The City of Hobart's Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework will be implemented over the coming year to align annual planning and reporting with performance evaluation and continuous improvement.

The Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework also ensures that the Capital City Strategic Plan and LTFMP are put into action through the City's Annual Plan and Annual Budget Program.

The effectiveness of the strategic priorities, major actions and initiatives in the City's Annual Plan will be monitored through progress reports to the Council and through the City of Hobart Annual Report. The progress of the Capital City Strategic Plan will also be reviewed and evaluated annually.

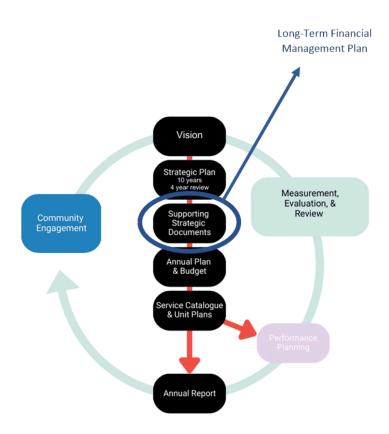
The City's Community Vision outlines what people value about Hobart and what they aspire to for its future. The vision guides the City of Hobart's work and calls on us to demonstrate long-term commitment to help create the Hobart our communities want.

The vision and its identity statements and pillars detail the values and special qualities that the community want to see reinforced, developed or improved and highlights the aspirations for the future of Hobart.

The vision is used to guide and direct the City's strategies, plans and priorities now and into the future. All strategic actions and programs are designed to deliver on the vision.

The LTFMP is a fundamental supporting strategic document and sets out the City of Hobart's strategy to deliver the organisational plans and objectives in financial terms.

Figure 1 – Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework



# Financial Management Strategy

The City of Hobart's Financial Management Strategy provides a strong and effective framework for the management of the City's Budget. The Strategy is focused on the achievement of long-term fiscal principles that aim to deliver budget sustainability.

Importantly, and consistent with the LTFMP, the Financial Management Strategy aims to ensure the City conducts its activities efficiently and effectively, while providing residents and ratepayers with a level and quality of service that meets appropriate expectations.

# Financial Principles

The financial principles underlying the Financial Management Strategy are:

- 1. Managing the City's finances efficiently and effectively for the benefit of the residents and ratepayers of Hobart;
- 2. Allocating City resources to activities and services that maximise community benefit;
- 3. Investing in the City's infrastructure to support resilience, growth and renewal within the Capital City;
- 4. Supporting a strong local economy that promotes business activity and sustainable development across all sectors;
- 5. Adopting risk management practices that identify and appropriately manage risks and unforeseen events;
- 6. Explore partnering opportunities to deliver outcomes for the community; and
- 7. Applying good governance practices that ensure transparency and accountability in developing, implementing and reporting fiscal objectives.

# Key Financial Management Strategies

The City of Hobart's Financial Management Strategy includes six strategic actions that are aimed at achieving the fiscal principles. These strategic actions are:

- 1. Incrementally deliver an underlying surplus of two per cent of total revenue over the period of the LTFMP.
- 2. Annual increases in rates are lower than the long-term average increase in the Local Government Association of Tasmania's (LGAT) Council Cost Index over the period of the LTFMP.
- Annual growth in the City's operating expenses are lower than the long-term average increase in the LGAT Council Cost Index over the period of the LTFMP.

- 4. The City's infrastructure investment will maintain existing assets, respond to economic and population growth and reflect the changing needs of the community.
- 5. Debt is only used to support strategic investment in new infrastructure.
- 6. The City will openly and transparently communicate its budget and financial plans.

The Financial Management Strategy underpins the annual budget process. The annual budget process results in the Budget, being the financial plan to establish resource allocations for the coming financial year.

Figure 2 – City of Hobart Budget Process



# Asset Plan Integration

Integration to the Asset Management Plan is a requirement under the *Local Government Act* 1993 and is essential to ensure future funding is allocated to support service delivery in terms of the plans and the effective management of the City's assets into the future.

The Asset Management Plan identifies the operational and strategic requirements which will ensure the City manages assets across their life cycle in a financially sustainable manner. The Asset Management Plan is designed to inform the LTFMP by identifying the amount of funding required over the life of the plan. The level of funding will incorporate knowledge of asset condition, the risk assessment issues as well as the impact of interventions undertaken.

In addition to identifying the operational and strategic requirements that ensure the City manages assets across their life cycle in a financially sustainable manner, the Asset Management Plan quantifies the asset portfolio and the financial implications of those practices. Together the LTFMP and the Asset Management Plan seek to balance projected investment requirements against projected budgets.

The current City of Hobart Asset Management Plan 2016 - 2036 will undergo a significant review and update during 2023-24.

# **Economic Outlook**

Global growth is forecast by the Reserve Bank of Australia in its Monetary Policy, February 2023 to remain well below the historical average over the next two years. Real incomes have declined as the cost of living has escalated.

Economic growth is forecast to slow in Australia in 2023 due to rising interest rates, the high cost of living and a decline in real wealth. Domestic activity is forecast to pick up a little from late 2024 onwards as the damping of growth from the current monetary policy tightening starts to wane and inflation moderates.

Consumer price inflation was 7.8 per cent over 2022 and remains high. Global factors including pandemic-related disruptions to supply chains and Russia's invasion of Ukraine have accounted for much of the increase in inflation over the past year. Domestically, strong domestic demand, a tight labour market, flood related disruptions and capacity constraints have also contributed to the upward pressure on prices.

Inflation is forecast to decline to the Reserve Bank of Australia's target of 2-3 per cent over the coming years. The easing of global price pressures flowing to domestic prices, slower growth in domestic demand and moderation in labour markets are expected to reduce domestic inflationary pressures.

The Tasmanian Government's 2023-24 Budget notes that the Tasmanian economy is expected to grow by 1½ per cent in 2022-23, a significant decline from the 4.3 per cent growth experienced in 2021-22. The Budget anticipates more subdued growth over the next three years, which reflects the impact on the Tasmanian economy of high inflation, rising interest rates and other global events.

The Budget also forecasts a slowdown in Tasmania of employment growth to ½ of one per cent, consistent with the expected slowing of the economy, before returning closer to the long-term average in 2024-25, with forecast growth of 1 per cent.

Private investment grew strongly through the pandemic, with high levels of dwelling investment. However, dwelling investment has been easing and is expected by the Tasmanian Treasury to continue to ease.

Consistent with the RBA's forecasts for national Consumer Price Index (CPI), the Hobart CPI is expected to continue to grow in the final quarter of 2022-23 and it is forecast that the series will grow by 7½ per cent in year-average terms in 2022-23.

More moderate growth of 4½ per cent is forecast for 2023-24. This lower growth compared with 2022-23 reflects the expectation that tightening monetary policy will be effective at reducing inflationary pressures. In 2024-25, year-average growth in the Hobart CPI is expected to ease further, with growth of 3½ per cent forecast.

The City of Hobart is not immune to the global and domestic economic conditions and the direct impact on its budgetary position to ensure ongoing financial sustainability.

# Financial Sustainability

The City of Hobart's key financial management strategy is to ensure the financial sustainability of the organisation, through sound fiscal management. Financial sustainability will ensure the City can meet its public service requirements to the residents, businesses and visitors of the capital city.

The City of Hobart will aim to provide quality and efficient service delivery to the community, both now and into the future, while ensuring each generation is responsible for the cost of services and resources they consume.

The *Local Government (Management Indicators) Order 2014* establishes four key financial management indicators and three key asset management indicators. In addition, the City of Hobart has adopted an additional three indicators to monitor the overall performance of the organisation.

Table 1 – Financial Management Indicators and Targets

Measure	Formula	Description	Target
Underlying surplus or deficit *	Adjusted recurrent income less recurrent expenses Expressed as a dollar amount	Indicates the extent to which operational income raised (excluding capital items) covers operational expenses	> \$0
	Overall measure of financial op A positive amount indicates that support investment in capital p offset past or expected future of	at surplus revenue is available to rojects, or to hold in reserve to	
	A negative amount indicates an can not be sustained in the long	operating deficit. Operating deficits g term.	
Underlying surplus ratio *	Underlying surplus or deficit divided by the adjusted recurrent income Expressed as a percentage	Indicates the extent to which operational incomes raised cover operational expenses	>0%
	Overall measure of financial op A positive amount indicates that support investment in capital p offset past or expected future of	at surplus revenue is available to rojects, or to hold in reserve to	
	A negative amount indicates ar can not be sustained in the lon	n operating deficit. Operating deficits g term.	
Net financial liabilities *	Liquid financial assets less total liabilities Expressed as a dollar amount	Indicates what is owed to others less money held, invested or owed to the City of Hobart	\$0 (\$50m
	Overall measure of the level of Includes items such as employed other amounts payable.	indebtedness ee long-service leave entitlements and	
Net financial liabilities ratio *	Net financial liabilities divided by the adjusted recurrent income Expressed as a percentage	Indicates the extent to which net financial liabilities could be met by operating income	0% (50%)
	Indicates the extent to which n recurrent income.	et liabilities can be met by adjusted	
	operating revenue, the council	io is greater than (50 per cent) of has limited capacity to increase loan e stress in servicing current debt.	

Table 1 – Financial Management Indicators and Targets (continued)

Measure	Formula	Description	Target
Asset sustainability ratio *	Capital expenditure on replacement and renewal of existing assets divided by the annual depreciation expenseExpressed as a percentage	Indicates the extent to which assets are replaced as they reach the end of their useful lives	100%
	Provides a comparison of the ra infrastructure, property, plant a restoring and replacing existing	and equipment through renewing,	
	Provides a measure of whether infrastructure assets.	Council is reinvesting in existing	
		expenditure can be deferred in the ent funds available from operations and	
Asset consumption ratio *	Depreciated replacement cost of asset divided by current replacement cost of asset	Provides a measure of the condition of a Council's assets by comparing their age with their replacement cost	>60%
	Shows the average proportion of assets.	of new condition left in the depreciable	
	Measures the current value of a build a new asset with the same	assets relative to what it would cost to benefit to the community.	
Asset renewal funding ratio *	Future (planned) asset replacement expenditure divided by future asset replacement expenditure (actual) required Expressed as a percentage	Measures the capacity to fund asset replacement requirements	90- 100%
	An inability to fund future requi or debt consequences, or a red	rements will result in revenue, expense uction in service levels.	
	Provides an indication of Councreplacement.	il's performance of asset renewal and	

Table 1 – Financial Management Indicators and Targets (continued)

Measure	Formula	Description	Target
Net interest expense cover ratio	Net annual interest expense divided by operating income Expressed as a percentage	Indicates the extent to which the Council's operating income is committed to meeting the net interest expense	<7%
	The proportion of recurrent income on loans, net of interest income	ome used to pay the interest expense e.	
Debt coverage ratio	Total principal repayments and interest expense divided by adjusted recurrent income Expressed as a percentage	Indicates the amount of adjusted recurrent income that is used to repay debt and interest charges	0-20%
		le to pay current third party debt	
Working capital ratio	Current assets divided by current liabilities Expressed as a number	Measures the Council's ability to meet short-term liabilities with short-term assets	≥1.0
	Basic measure of liquidity.  A working capital ratio of less the liquidity problems.	nan one is indicative of potential future	
	0 .	er than two can indicate the Council etter to generate maximum possible	

<sup>\*</sup> Indicates the management indicators required under the *Local Government (Management Indicators) Order 2014* 

Table 2 has the modelled financial management indicators for the LTFMP. It identifies that the indicators associated with assets are not currently meeting target. This will be addressed as part of the review of the Asset Management Plan during 2023-24.

Table 2 – Long-Term Financial Management Plan Indicators

Financial Management Indicators and Targets	Target	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33
		\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Underlying surplus or deficit	> \$0	500	1,945	2,634	2,944	3,654	4,395	5,167	5,969	6,804	7,670
Underlying surplus ratio	> 0%	0.30%	1.11%	1.45%	1.56%	1.87%	2.17%	2.46%	2.74%	3.01%	3.28%
Net financial liabilities	> \$0	(9,006)	(6,910)	(3,208)	390	6,796	15,082	18,061	22,078	28,614	37,216
Net financial liabilities ratio	0%-(50%)	(5.38%)	(3.94%)	(1.76%)	0.21%	3.47%	7.44%	8.59%	10.14%	12.68%	15.91%
Asset sustainability ratio	100%	34.42%	70.24%	70.65%	77.82%	68.28%	72.10%	71.30%	72.09%	78.14%	91.74%
Asset consumption ratio	>60%	41.33%	41.37%	41.37%	41.37%	41.35%	41.37%	41.40%	41.39%	41.37%	41.39%
Asset renewal funding ratio	90-100%	44.73%	97.56%	97.56%	97.56%	97.56%	97.56%	97.56%	97.56%	97.56%	97.56%
Net interest expense cover ratio	<7%	0.89%	0.75%	0.66%	0.58%	0.50%	0.42%	0.34%	0.27%	0.20%	0.13%
Debt coverage ratio	0-20%	6.94%	3.07%	2.49%	2.40%	2.32%	2.24%	2.16%	2.08%	2.01%	1.94%
Working capital ratio	≥1.0	2.5	2.4	2.4	2.3	2.3	2.4	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.5

# Loans

The City of Hobart has a number of loans that were undertaken for the purposes of investing in capital works. The maturity date for the loans extends from June 2024 to June 2036. The level of debt held by the City is considered manageable and reasonable.

Table 3 – City of Hobart Loan Schedule

Lender	Purpose	Term (Years)	Maturity Date	Fixed Interest Rate	Loan Amount	Forecast Loan Balance 30 June 2023
				%	\$'000	\$'000
TASCORP	Capital Works	10	Jun-24	4.56	2,375	288
TASCORP	Capital Works	3	Jun-24	0	15,000	5,054
TASCORP	Capital Works	3	Aug-24	0	5,000	2,517
National Australia Bank	Capital Works	15	Jun-33	4.02	10,000	7,297
TASCORP	Capital Works	15	Jan-34	3.59	20,000	15,663
National Australia Bank	Capital Works	15	Mar-35	2.45	20,000	16,009
Commonwealth Bank	Porter Hill Land Purchase	30	Jun-36	6.41	4,800	3,163
Total					77,175	49,991

# LTFMP Objectives

The LTFMP reflects in financial terms how the City proposes to deliver its vision and outcomes for the next 10 years. The fundamental goal of the LTFMP is to ensure that the City of Hobart can deliver its vision and outcomes and remain financially sustainable.

The LTFMP is a key component of the City's strategic planning framework and along with the Asset Management Plan, forms the basis of the City's resource and capacity planning tools to inform decision making processes.

# LTFMP Inputs and Assumptions

The LTFMP is based on a baseline set of data and a range of assumptions. It is important to understand the key inputs into the LTFMP model as this will assist in decision making, now and into the future, to ensure the organisation has the capacity to deliver services to the community.

Since 2016, the Local Government Association of Tasmania has published a Council Cost Index. The Council Cost Index is produced to provide a more accurate indication of the cost increases associated with the delivery of council services, recognising that CPI alone is not a perfect measure.

Over the past 10 years, the City of Hobart has increased rates by 2.15 per cent, compared to a 2.6 per cent increase in the Council Cost Index. This has resulted in the City managing internal costs to maintain low increases in rates and charges below the Council Cost Index. However, this is not an effective long-term strategy, if applied in isolation.

The revenue generated by the City of Hobart is an important input to the financial sustainability of the organisation. Revenues fund the daily operations across the City as well as contribute to the overall investment in infrastructure across the capital city.

In 2023-24, 66 per cent of revenue will be generated through revenue raised from Rates and Charges, with Other Fees and Charges being the second biggest contributor to the revenue base.

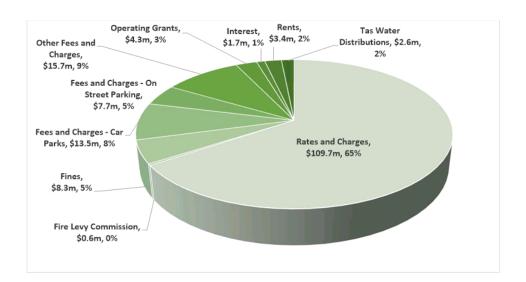


Figure 3 – City of Hobart 2023-24 Operating Revenue Budget

The largest expenditure component of the City's operations is labour. Labour represents 44 per cent of total costs, followed by depreciation at 21 per cent and materials and services at 20 per cent.

Other Expenses, Bad Debts, Asset Write-Offs, \$4.5m, 3% \$0.4m, 0% \$1.2m, 1% Depreciation, \$35m, 21% Labour, \$73.1m, 44% Fire Levy, \$14.2m, 8% Materials and Services, \$34.4m, 21% Finance Costs, \$1.8m, 1% Energy Costs, \$2.4m, 1%

Figure 4 – City of Hobart 2023-24 Operating Expenditure Budget

The LTFMP financial model is based on a range of assumptions. The baseline data is set as the 2023-24 Budget Estimates and the assumptions are then used to model potential outcomes for the City, across the 10 year period of the plan.

# **Primary Assumptions**

Table 4 – Key LTFMP Inputs

Key LTFMP Inputs	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Consumer Price Index	4.25	3.50	3.25	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00
Council Cost Index	8.11	5.00	4.50	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00
Rates and Charges Revenue	8.50	5.00	4.00	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75
Grants and Donations	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50
Fines	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50
Provision of Services	5.50	5.00	4.00	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75
Distributions from TasWater	0.00	0.00	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50
Interest	4.50	4.00	3.50	3.00	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50
Rents	4.50	4.00	4.00	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75
Employee Costs	6.86	3.50	3.00	3.00	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50
Materials and Services	4.50	4.00	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50
Depreciation and Amortisation	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50
Finance Costs	5.00	4.50	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25
State Fire Commission Levies	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00
Other Expenditure	4.50	4.00	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50

A summary of the primary underlying assumptions contained within the LTFMP are noted below:

# Consumer Price Index

CPI is expected to remain high in 2023-24 before beginning to return to the RBA's target of between two and three per cent. The LTFMP has assumed three per cent across the modelled years.

#### Council Cost Index

The Local Government Association of Tasmania released the Council Cost Index for 2023-24 in March 2023. The Council Cost Index for 2023-24 is 8.11 per cent. The Council Cost Index has historically exceeded CPI due to higher increases in some of the key expenditure categories specific to the Local Government Sector. The Council Cost Index is expected to exceed CPI throughout the timeframe of the LTFMP.

# Rates and Charges Revenue

Rates and Charges revenue has been modelled to minimise the individual impact while ensuring the continual delivery of services. The City of Hobart will be undertaking a Strategic Rates Review during 2023-24 and this will be used to inform future updates to the LTFMP.

#### **Grants and Donations**

A modest increase has been assumed across the LTFMP, however, the City of Hobart is currently centralising grant management across the organisation. This approach will ensure a more targeted approach to grant applications aligning to the strategic priorities of the City.

#### **Fines**

Fines are predominantly set through legislation. Due to the statutory requirements, modest increases have been modelled across the LTFMP.

# Provision of Services

Provision of Services increases have been closely modelled on alignment to CPI. The City of Hobart will be commencing a review of all fees and charges and the review will inform the future setting of its fees and charges.

# Distributions from TasWater

The Distribution from TasWater has been set on known increases in 2023-24 and 2024-25 and then a 2.5 per cent increase across the remaining periods of the LTFMP.

#### Interest

In 2023-24, Interest has been based on the average interest across current investments. Over the term of the LTFMP Interest is forecast to closely align to CPI.

#### Rents

Rents have been forecast in line with the Provision of Services. Rents will also be reviewed as part of the broader review of fees and charges.

#### Labour Costs

In 2023-24 Labour Costs are increasing by 6.86 per cent in accordance with the Hobart City Council Enterprise Agreement 2021. 2023-24 is the final year of the current agreement and the outyear estimates will be updated when a new agreement is negotiated.

#### Materials and Services

Expenditure related to Material and Services is based on known contract costs and forecasts for other expenditure. In 2023-24, an internal efficiency dividend has been applied to Materials and Services to enable revenue from rates and charges to remain below the level that would have been required to fully cover the cost to delivery the existing level of services. This is not an effective cost management strategy in the long term and future cost structures will be informed by review of existing services.

#### **Depreciation and Amortisation**

The rate adopted across the LTFMP for Depreciation and Amortisation is set at 3.5 per cent. This is to recognise that the City conducts regular revaluations of major asset classes, constructs new assets during the capital works program and identifies other assets adding to the overall replacement costs of the depreciable asset base.

# Finance Costs

Finance costs have been modelled on the average cost to service the existing level of debt.

# State Fire Commission Levy

The 2023-24 increase in the State Fire Commission Levy is 6.46 per cent. The forecast from 2024-25 onwards is four per cent.

# Other Expenditure

Other Expenditure increases have been modelled on the same basis as Materials and Services across the LTFMP.

# Capital Program

As discussed under the Asset Plan Integration section, the City will undergo a significant review of its Asset Management Plan during 2023-24. In addition, the City is developing a new framework for determining and prioritising capital projects in each financial year. The new framework will also consider the ongoing operational costs of undertaking a capital project to ensure the cost for operating and maintaining any new asset is affordable.

The LTFMP does not assume that all desired capital work projects will automatically be funded, particularly those requiring external grant funding. Projects will only be included in the LTFMP when funding is reasonably assured and committed to by the City. This establishes an understanding of what the City can afford and deliver with reasonable certainty over the 10 year period.

The inputs into the LTFMP are only concerned with the quantum of funding forecasts across each category; new, upgrade or renewal. Individual capital projects will continue to be assessed and prioritised for approval annually as part of the Budget development process.

The capital works program for 2023-24 which will have a primary focus on completing projects commenced during 2022-23 is detailed in Table 5:

Table 5 – 2023-24 Capital Program by Category

Category	2023-24 Budget
	\$'000
New	14,192
Upgrade	3,846
Renewal	12,731
Plant and Equipment	4,231
Total	35,000

The funding breakdown for 2023-24 is detailed in Table 6:

Table 6 – 2023-24 Capital Program by Funding

Funding Source	2023-24 Budget
	\$'000
City of Hobart Funding	24,425
Grant Funding	10,575
Total Funding	35,000

# Other Assumptions

In addition to the primary assumptions underpinning the LTFMP, the following additional assumptions were also considered to inform the plan:

# Local Government Reform

There are no assumptions in the current LTFMP on the future direction of the Local Government Reform. Although there is current discussion on the future amalgamation of Councils the discussions have not progressed to the point of understanding or modelling what those changes may be.

# Service Levels

The assumptions in the LTFMP assume that the current level of services remain unchanged. These assumptions may require updating in future LTFMP models as the City's Service Catalogue is developed and discussion and decisions regarding the provision of services occur.

# Budget

The LTFMP assumes the 2023-24 Budget is adopted and is included in the plan.

#### **Indexation Factors**

Indexation factors will be reviewed annually as the LTFMP financial model is updated.

#### Staffing Levels

The assumption is that the current staffing levels, aligned to current service levels remain constant across the LTFMP. There may be changes within the organisation, however, there is no current forecast to change the current staffing levels.

# Sensitivity Analysis

The purpose of sensitivity modelling is to demonstrate the robustness of the adopted financial model and the potential impact on the City's financial position should there be any movement in the assumptions underpinning the model.

Considering the range of assumptions in relation to inputs into the LTFMP model it is inevitable that there will be some variation to the input assumptions. However, reviewing and updating the LTFMP annually will provide robustness in the underlying modelling.

The sensitivity analysis has considered movement in the largest two revenue categories, rates and charges and fees and charges, and largest two expenditure categories, employee costs and materials and services. The analysis in Table 7 assumes a 0.5 per cent movement from the assumed key LTFMP input indices.

Table 7 – Sensitivity Analysis Assumptions

Revenue/Expenditure Item	Optimistic Model	Pessimistic Model	Average Annua Movement	
Rates and Charges	Additional 0.5%	Decrease of 0.5%	+/- \$675,000	
Fees and Charges	Additional 0.5%	Decrease of 0.5%	+/- \$218,000	
Employee Costs	Decrease of 0.5%	Increase of 0.5%	-/+ \$422,000	
Materials and Services	Decrease of 0.5%	Increase of 0.5%	-/+ \$223,000	

One of the key financial management strategies was to incrementally deliver an underlying surplus of two per cent of total revenue over the period of the LTFMP. The sensitivity analysis in Figure 5 indicates that this will not currently be realised and further reviews will occur during 2023-24 to ensure this can be achieved over the longer term.

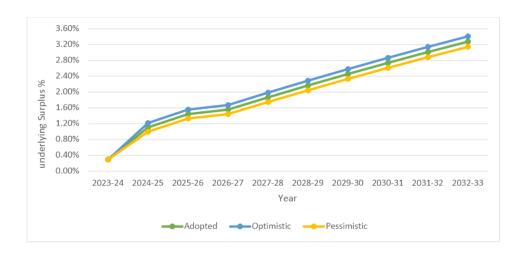


Figure 5 – Underlying Surplus as a percentage of revenue

# Risk Management

The City of Hobart is currently undertaking a review of its risk management framework and the strategic risk of the organisation. One of the City's key risks is its financial sustainability. To realise financial sustainability the City has the:

- Ability to meet the needs of Council and our community now and in the future;
- Ability to absorb unforeseen financial impacts; and
- Ability to manage key and absorb key input costs including the management of supply chain risks and critical suppliers.

There are various external risks over which the City has no direct control. To mitigate and manage these potential risks, the LTFMP will be reviewed and updated annually prior to being presented to Council for adoption. Following are key risks that could have a significant impact on the financial sustainability of the City, or directly impact the inputs of the LTFMP.

#### Local Government Reforms

No assumptions regarding the outcome of the Local Government reforms have been assumed in this LTFMP. The impacts of any changes under the reform agenda will continue to be monitored and update when required.

#### **Employee Entitlements**

Labour expenditure is the biggest cost driver for the City of Hobart, at 44 per cent of total expenditure. Increases in 2023-24 will be in line with the Hobart City Council Enterprise Agreement 2021. Beyond 2023-24 modest increases have been modelled annually, however, these increases will be subject to negotiation of a new Enterprise Agreement from 2024-25.

In addition to the annual salary cost of employees is the employee benefit liabilities. These liabilities are a substantial and pose a financial risk to the City. The City will be undertaking work in 2023-24 to implement plans to manage the current employee liabilities balances.

#### Price Indices

The LTFMP relies on a number of forecasting measures and assumptions. Any major discrepancy with these indices will impact future projections. This risk is mitigated by updating the LTFMP annually and changing any price indices as require.

#### Consumer Price Index

CPI is a key measure of household inflation published quarterly to reflect the movement in prices on a wide range of goods and services. Annual Hobart CPI to March 2023 was 6.86 per cent. Any significant movement in CPI from current forecasts could have a material impact on the financial modelling.

#### Council Cost Index

The Local Government Association of Tasmania publishes an annual index, which reflects cost increases directly associated to services provided by Local Governments. This index recognises that CPI does not fully represent the best measure of costs across the Local Government sector.

# Damage to Infrastructure

Council is exposed to the risk that damage will occur to infrastructure such as roads, bridges, stormwater, parks and buildings. Damage can occur through natural disasters of acts of vandalism. Any damage will require redirection of capital and/or operational budgets and could result in changes to levels of service and increases in insurance premiums.

# Statement of Comprehensive Income

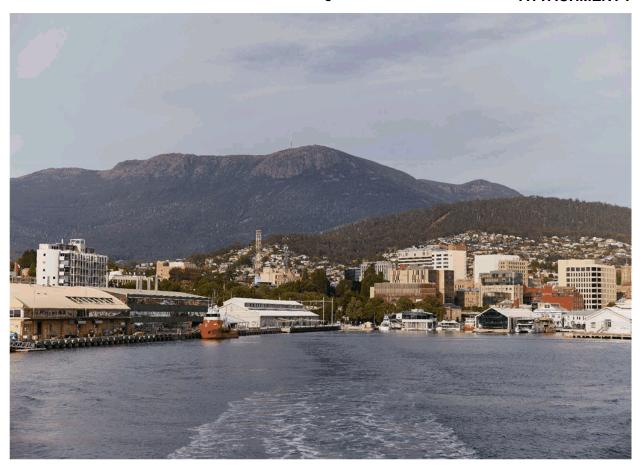
Statement of Comprehensive Income	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33
	(\$'000)	(\$'000)	(\$'000)	(\$'000)	(\$'000)	(\$'000)	(\$'000)	(\$'000)	(\$'000)	(\$'000)
Recurrent Income										
Rates and Charges	110,271	115,785	120,416	124,932	129,617	134,477	139,520	144,752	150,180	155,812
Grants and Donations	4,343	4,452	4,563	4,677	4,794	4,914	5,037	5,162	5,292	5,424
Fines	8,320	8,528	8,741	8,960	9,184	9,413	9,649	9,890	10,137	10,391
Fees and Charges	36,928	38,774	40,325	41,838	43,406	45,034	46,723	48,475	50,293	52,179
Distributions from TasWater	2,606	2,606	2,671	2,738	2,806	2,877	2,948	3,022	3,098	3,175
Interest	1,657	1,723	1,784	1,837	1,883	1,930	1,978	2,028	2,079	2,130
Rents	3,419	3,556	3,698	3,837	3,981	4,130	4,285	4,445	4,612	4,785
Total Recurrent Income	167,544	175,424	182,198	188,818	195,671	202,775	210,140	217,775	225,690	233,896
Recurrent Expense										
Employee Costs	73,074	75,632	77,901	80,238	82,243	84,300	86,407	88,567	90,781	93,051
Materials and Services	37,221	38,710	40,065	41,467	42,918	44,420	45,975	47,584	49,250	50,973
Depreciation and Amortisation	35,000	36,225	37,493	38,805	40,163	41,569	43,024	44,530	46,088	47,701
Finance Costs	1,815	1,897	1,977	2,061	2,149	2,240	2,335	2,435	2,538	2,646
State Fire Commission Levies	14,234	15,088	15,993	16,953	17,970	19,048	20,191	21,403	22,687	24,048
Other	5,700	5,928	6,135	6,350	6,572	6,803	7,041	7,287	7,542	7,806
Total Recurrent Expense	167,044	173,479	179,564	185,874	192,016	198,380	204,973	211,806	218,886	226,226
Underlying Surplus/(Deficit)	500	1,945	2,634	2,944	3,654	4,395	5,167	5,969	6,804	7,670
Capital Income										
Capital grants received specifically for new or upgraded assets	2,979	4,290	4,487	4,017	4,371	4,399	4,369	4,489	4,529	4,574
Net gain on disposal of property, plant and equipment	180	222	176	197	203	197	204	206	208	211
Contributed property, plant and equipment	4,438	4,967	5,772	5,185	5,441	5,603	5,545	5,668	5,745	5,794
Total Capital Income	7,597	9,479	10,435	9,399	10,015	10,198	10,118	10,363	10,482	10,579
Surplus / (Deficit)	8,097	11,423	13,069	12,343	13,669	14,593	15,284	16,333	17,286	18,249

# Statement of Financial Position

Statement of Financial Position	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33
	\$.000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$.000
Current Assets										
Cash and Cash Equivalents	32,062	30,431	26, 180	27,496	25,709	30,750	30,413	28,722	27,779	28,822
Inventories	455	473	489	507	524	543	562	581	602	623
Receivables	8,499	8,911	9,261	9,602	9,957	10,324	10,705	11,100	11,509	11,934
Investments	41,000	41,000	46,000	46,000	51,000	51,000	51,000	54,000	58,000	62,000
Prepayments	589	618	642	666	690	716	742	769	798	827
Total Current Assets	82,605	81,433	82,573	84,271	87,880	93,332	93,421	95,173	98,687	104,206
										,
Non-Current Assets										
Investment in TasWater	165,866	171,119	176,504	182,023	187,680	181,881	175,938	182,030	175,785	169,385
Property, Plant and Equipment	2,528,243	2,595,549	2,662,802	2,728,801	2,791,584	2,849,294	2,919,846	2,990,292	3,057,018	3,121,940
Intangibles	3,830	2,949	2,293	1,801	1,434	1,160	956	804	692	609
Right-of-Use Assets	8,804	8,418	8,076	8,464	8,159	7,919	7,760	8,246	8,087	7,911
Employee Benefits	11,240	8,536	11,430	8,234	11,217	8,143	11,277	8,163	11,322	8,133
Total Non-Current Assets	2,717,983	2,786,571	2,861,104	2,929,323	3,000,074	3,048,397	3,115,776	3,189,534	3,252,904	3,307,977
Total Assets	2,800,588	2,868,004	2,943,676	3,013,594	3,087,954	3,141,729	3,209,197	3,284,706	3,351,591	3,412,184
Current Liabilities										
Payables	11,455	11.970	12,465	12.981	13.520	14.084	14,672	15.287	15.929	16,600
Trust Funds, Deposits and Retentions	2,506	2,606	2,697	2,792	2,889	2,991	3,095	3,204	3,316	3,432
Employee Benefits	10,925	11,308	11,647	11,996	12,296	12,604	12,919	13,242	13,573	13,912
Contract Liabilities	3,377	3,529	3,675	3,827	3,986	4,152	4,325	4,507	4,696	4,894
Loans	4,064	3,331	3,448	3,565	3,691	3,818	3,950	4,088	4,231	3,478
Provisions	150	122	149	140	137	142	140	140	140	140
Lease Liabilities	818	813	832	857	884	935	938	967	918	65
Ecuse Elasinees	010	015	032	037	004	333	330	307	520	
Total Current Liabilities	33,295	33,679	34,913	36,158	37,404	38,725	40,040	41,433	42,803	42,522
Non-Current Liabilities										
Employee Benefits	8,447	8,743	9,005	9,275	9,507	9,745	9,988	10,238	10,494	10,756
Loans	35,796	32,465	29,017	25,452	21,761	17,943	13,992	9,904	5,673	2,195
Provisions	3,908	3,639	3,388	3,154	2,937	2,734	2,546	2,370	2,207	2,055
Lease Liabilities	9,121	8,728	8,327	8,668	8,261	7,844	7,489	7,798	7,497	8,012
Total Non-Current Liabilities	57,272	53,574	49,737	46,550	42,466	38,266	34,016	30,311	25,871	23,018
Total Liabilities	90,567	87,253	84,649	82,708	79,870	76,991	74,056	71,744	68,674	65,540
				· i						
Net Assets	2,710,021	2,780,751	2,859,027	2,930,886	3,008,084	3,064,738	3,135,141	3,212,963	3,282,918	3,346,644
Equity										
Reserves	1,607,906	1,705,128	1,803,322	1,901,909	1,998,605	2,079,991	2,175,281	2,283,674	2,377,438	2,470,646
Retained Earnings	1,102,115	1,075,622	1,055,705	1,028,977	1,009,479	984,747	959,859	929,288	905,480	875,998
Total Equity	2,710,021	2,780,751	2,859,027	2,930,886	3,008,084	3,064,738	3,135,141	3,212,963	3,282,918	3,346,644

# Cash Flow Statement

Cash Flow Statement	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-3
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Cash Flows from Operating Activities										
Rates	132,325	138,942	144,499	149,918	155,540	161,373	160,448	166,465	172,707	179,184
Rendering of services (inclusive of GST)	41,902	43,998	45,757	47,473	49,254	51,101	53,017	55,005	57,068	59,200
Interest	1,449	1,507	1,560	1,607	1,647	1,688	1,730	1,773	1,818	1,86
Grants (inclusive of GST)	4,321	4,429	4,540	4,653	4,769	4,889	5,011	5,136	5,264	5,390
Rents (inclusive of GST)	3,824	3,977	4,137	4,292	4,453	4,620	4,793	4,973	5,159	5,35
Fines	7,904	8,102	8,304	8,512	8,725	8,943	9,166	9,395	9,630	9,87
Distributions from TasWater	2,606	2,606	2,671	2,738	2,806	2,877	2,948	3,022	3,098	3,179
Employee costs	(76,728)	(79,413)	(81,796)	(84,249)	(86,356)	(88,515)	(90,727)	(92,996)	(95,320)	(97,704
Payments to suppliers (inclusive of GST)	(42,804)	(44,516)	(46,074)	(47,687)	(49,356)	(51,083)	(52,871)	(54,722)	(56,637)	(58,619
Other payments (inclusive of GST)	(18,937)	(19,965)	(21,022)	(22,138)	(23,315)	(24,558)	(25,870)	(27,255)	(28,717)	(30,261
Net Cash Flow from Operating Activities	55,863	59,665	62,576	65,118	68,166	71,332	67,644	70,797	74,069	77,46
Cash Flows from Investing Activities										
Grants	2,681	3,861	4,038	3,615	3,934	3,959	3,932	4,040	4,076	4,11
Investments	11,000	11,000	5,000	10,000	5,000	10,000	10,000	0	0	(
Sales of Property	81	83	85	87	89	91	93	96	98	100
Sales of Plant and Equipment	700	719	737	755	773	789	808	828	846	864
Sales of Intangibles	80	62	48	38	30	24	20	17	14	13
Investments	(11,000)	(11,000)	(10,000)	(10,000)	(10,000)	(10,000)	(10,000)	(3,000)	(4,000)	(4,000
Infrastructure - Employee Costs	(3,876)	(4,012)	(4,132)	(4,256)	(4,362)	(4,471)	(4,583)	(4,698)	(4,815)	(4,936
Infrastructure and Facilities - Other	(42,980)	(44,124)	(45,268)	(46,390)	(47,457)	(48,438)	(49,637)	(50,835)	(51,969)	(53,073
Property	(3,792)	(3,893)	(3,994)	(4,093)	(4,187)	(4,274)	(4,380)	(4,485)	(4,586)	(4,683
Plant and Equipment	(7,585)	(7,787)	(7,988)	(8,186)	(8,375)	(8,548)	(8,760)	(8,971)	(9,171)	(9,366
Net Cash Flow from Investing Activities	(54,691)	(55,092)	(61,474)	(58,430)	(64,555)	(60,868)	(62,506)	(67,009)	(69,506)	(70,964
Cash Flows from Financing Activities										
Repayment of Borrowings	(10,132)	(4,064)	(3,331)	(3,448)	(3,565)	(3,691)	(3,818)	(3,950)	(4,088)	(4,231
Repayment of lease liabilities (principal repayments)	(807)	(818)	(813)	(832)	(857)	(884)	(935)	(938)	(967)	(918
Interest	(1,496)	(1,323)	(1,209)	(1,092)	(975)	(849)	(722)	(589)	(452)	(309
Net Cash Flow from Financing Activities	(12,434)	(6,204)	(5,353)	(5,372)	(5,397)	(5,424)	(5,475)	(5,478)	(5,507)	(5,458
Net Increase/(Decrease) in Cash Held	(11,263)	(1,631)	(4,251)	1,316	(1,787)	5,040	(337)	(1,690)	(944)	1,04
Cash Held at the Beginning of the Year	43,325	32,062	30,431	26,180	27,496	25,709	30,750	30,413	28,722	27,779
Cash held at the End of the Year	32,062	30,431	26,180	27,496	25,709	30,750	30,413	28,722	27,779	28,82



# INTERIM STRATEGIC ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN

2024-2034



# **Acknowledgment of Country**

In recognition of the deep history and culture of this place, the City of Hobart acknowledges Tasmanian Aboriginal people as the Traditional Custodians of this land. We acknowledge the determination and resilience of the Palawa people who have survived invasion and dispossession and continue to maintain their identity, culture and rights. We recognise that we have much to learn from

Aboriginal people today, who represent the world's oldest continuing culture. We pay our sincere respects to Elders past and present and to all Aboriginal people here today.

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#### Overview

The City of Hobart Strategic Asset Management Plan 2024 – 2034 (SAMP) outlines the assets owned and managed by the City and forecasts the funding required to maintain, renew and re-invest in the asset portfolio.

Along with the staff in the organisation, the City's assets assist with the provision of quality service delivery to the community. The SAMP identifies the operational and strategic requirements which will ensure the City manages assets across their life cycle in a financially sustainable manner. The SAMP quantifies the City's assets and the financial implications of holding such a diverse portfolio of assets.

The SAMP is designed to inform the Long-Term Financial Management Plan (LTFMP) by identifying the funding required over the life of the plan. The level of funding will incorporate knowledge of asset condition, risk assessment issues as well as the impact of interventions undertaken.

The City has not had a current SAMP for a number of years. This SAMP ensures the City meets its legislative requirements. This interim SAMP will undergo detailed review and enhancements during 2024-25.

# Legislative Framework

The City of Hobart is required under section 70B of the *Local Government Act 1993* to prepare a long-term strategic asset management plan for the municipal area. The plan is to relate to all assets that are within a class of assets and is to be for a period of at least 10 years.

Under section 70B(4) of the *Local Government Act 1993*, a long-term strategic asset management plan for a municipal area is to –

- (a) be consistent with the strategic plan for the municipal area; and
- (b) refer to the long-term financial management plan for the municipal area; and
- (c) contain at least the matters that are specific in an order made under section 70F as required to be included in a long-term strategic asset management plan.

The Local Government (Contents of Plans and Strategies) Order 2014 sets out what is required to be included in the long-term strategic asset management plan.

The Local Government (Contents of Plans and Strategies) Order 2014 also requires the City to have a Asset Management Policy and Asset Management Strategy.

# Planning Framework

The City of Hobart's Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework aligns annual planning and reporting with performance evaluation and continuous improvement.

The Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework also ensures that the Capital City Strategic Plan, LTFMP and SAMP are put into action through the City's Annual Plan and Annual Budget program.

The effectiveness of the strategic priorities, major actions and initiatives in the City's Annual Plan will be monitored through progress reports to the Council and through the City of Hobart Annual Report. The progress of the Capital City Strategic Plan will also be reviewed and evaluated annually.

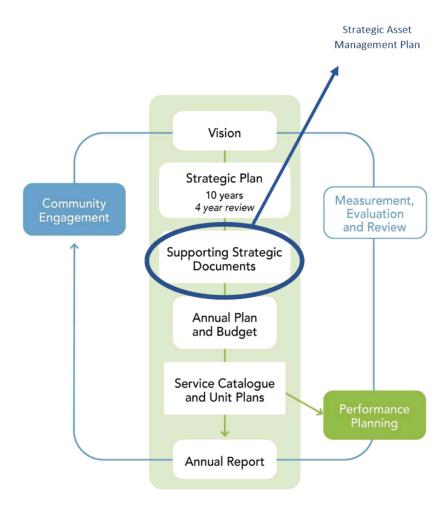
The City's Community Vision outlines what people value about Hobart and what they aspire to for its future. The vision guides the City of Hobart's work and calls on us to demonstrate long-term commitment to help create the Hobart our communities want.

The vision and its identity statements and pillars detail the values and special qualities that the community want to see reinforced, developed or improved and highlights the aspirations for the future of Hobart.

The vision is used to guide and direct the City's strategies, plans and priorities now and into the future. All strategic actions and programs are designed to deliver on the vision.

The SAMP is a fundamental supporting strategic document and sets out the City of Hobart's strategy to manage the wide variety of infrastructure assets across the municipality.

Figure 1 – Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework



# Strategic Plan and Long-Term Financial Management Plan Integration

Integration to the City's Strategic Plan 2023 and the LTFMP is a requirement under the *Local Government Act 1993*.

The Strategic Plan 2023 is a partner document to the Community Vision and reflects the community's values and aspirations in *Hobart: A community vision for our island capital*. The strategy is crucial to the City's work, guiding the development of long-term strategies and plans to set priorities and guide practical decision-making.

The City of Hobart Long-Term Financial Management Plan 2023 – 2033 is a strategic planning document that activates the vision for Hobart to be the best small capital city in Australia. The LTFMP is informed by the contextual setting of the Tasmanian economic environment, financial assumptions, modelling and strategies, including the Strategic Plan and SAMP.

## Financial Sustainability

The City's key financial management strategy is to ensure the financial sustainability of the organisation, through sound fiscal management. Financial sustainability will ensure the City can meet its public service requirements to the residents, businesses, and visitors of the capital city.

The SAMP is designed to inform the LTFMP by identifying the funding required over the life of the plan. The level of funding will incorporate knowledge of asset condition, the risk assessment issues as well as the impact of interventions undertaken.

The SAMP identifies the operational and strategic requirements which will ensure the City manages assets across their life cycle in a financially sustainable manner. The SAMP quantifies the City's assets and the financial implications of holding such a diverse portfolio of assets.

#### **SAMP Limitations**

The City is commencing a rebuild of its asset management function and capability. Detailed work will commence in 2024-25 and will focus on recruitment of key strategic personnel, reviewing the asset management systems and underlying data and ensuring each asset class has a detailed asset management plan that informs the SAMP.

# **Current Asset Management Challenges**

In managing a diverse asset portfolio focussed on service delivery, there are a number of challenges currently faced by the City. These include:

- kunanyi/Mt Wellington infrastructure and governance;
- · community need for new sporting infrastructure, particularly indoor courts;
- the need to increase our urban canopy to assist in managing climate change;
- implementation of the Neighbourhood Plans/Mobility Plans developed or being developed for urban renewal purposes;
- addressing our high cost of services as a Council;
- · demand for new infrastructure such as bike lanes;
- the Council's administration building is require upgrade to provide a contemporary office environment;
- · development of surplus land and assets; and
- determining futures for our developable sites, particularly within the central business district.

#### SAMP Improvement Plan

The City has identified the following areas for improvement in relation to asset management:

- Creation of an Assets Team within the structure, including key strategic roles to lead the work.
- Review of the useful lives of our assets.
- Review and documentation of the service levels for our assets.
- Review of the depreciation expense related to our assets.
- · Consideration of climate change impact on our asset management.
- A review and consideration of the system that supports our asset management.
- Development of an Asset Management Strategy and Asset Management Policy.
- Development of a Property Portfolio Management Strategy, particularly for leased assets.

#### Our Assets

The City manages assets with a combined value at 30 June 2023 in excess of \$2.5 billion. These assets are strategically owned and managed to provide services and benefits to the community. The assets are managed by class and are categorised into the following groups:

#### Buildings:

The City owns and manages a number of building assets that are available and support our staff and the community. The building asset class consists of:

- Halls;
- Car Parks;
- Grandstands and Change Rooms;
- · Public Conveniences;
- Depot Buildings;
- · Administrative Offices; and
- The Doone Kennedy Hobart Aquatic Centre.

#### Land Improvements:

The City has a number of land improvement assets that has made areas of land more useable to the community. The land improvement asset class is a diverse range of asset types that do not fall under any other asset class. This asset class consists of:

- Playground Equipment;
- Sporting Infrastructure;
- Fountains;
- Landscaping;
- Furniture and Signs;
- · Drainage Structures; and
- External Playing Surfaces.

# Pathways and Cycleways:

The City has an extensive network of pathways and cycleways. These are managed and maintained to ensure users can move around the City in a safe manner. This asset class also includes walking tracks, including those on kunyani/Mount Wellington. The City manages approximately 465 kilometres of pathways and cycleways and approximately 150 kilometres of walking tracks.

#### Stormwater:

The stormwater asset network is designed to provide drainage service and flood mitigation responsibilities for the municipal area. To deliver these services, the City manages a portfolio of stormwater infrastructure assets including an underground pipe network and a series of overland flow paths and watercourses together providing drainage, flood protection to people, property and road users during rainfall events, public and environmental amenity.

#### Roads and Bridges:

The City maintains an extensive roads and bridges network. This asset class includes approximately 305 kilometres of both sealed and unsealed roads.

#### Plant and Equipment:

The City owns and maintains plant and equipment used in providing services to the community. This asset class includes:

- · Heavy Plant and Equipment;
- Fleet;
- Minor Plant;
- Furniture and Office Equipment; and
- ICT Equipment.

#### Other Property

Other property consists of Fine Arts and Public Art.

# Asset Useful Lives

The useful live of an asset is an accounting estimate of the number of years an asset is likely to be used in the City's operations. This is important as an asset is depreciated over its useful live. The useful live considers factors such as wear and tear, maintenance and the likelihood of scrapping, selling or abandonment of the asset. The City of Hobart uses a range of useful lives for different asset classes as shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Asset Useful Lives

Asset Class	Asset Sub-class	Range of Useful Lives (Years)	Valuation model
Land	Under roads	Unlimited	Fair value
	Freehold	Unlimited	Fair value
	Leasehold	Unlimited	Fair value
	Vested	Unlimited	Fair value
	Other	Unlimited	Fair value
Buildings	Halls	125 -150	Fair value
	Car Parks	150	Fair value
	Grandstands and change rooms	40 – 150	Fair value
	Public conveniences	100	Fair value
	Depot buildings	40 – 150	Fair value
	Administrative offices	100 - 500	Fair value
	Other	40 – 150	Fair value
and Improvements	Landscaping	10	Fair value
	Playground equipment	20	Fair value
	Sports Infrastructure	10 - 50	Fair value
	Fountains	10 - 100	Fair value
	Furniture and signs	10 - 100	Fair value
	Drainage structures	15 - 100	Fair value
	External playing surfaces	5 - 100	Fair value
	Other	5 - 100	Fair value
Pathways & Cycleways	Footpaths and cycleways	10 – 85	Fair value
	Walking tracks	25	Fair value
Stormwater	Water Mains	50 - 100	Fair value
	Stormwater Mains	25 – 120	Fair value
	Rivulets	30 -120	Fair value
Plant & Equipment	Heavy plant and equipment	5 – 20	Cost
	Fleet vehicles	3 – 10	Cost
	Minor plant	3 – 43	Cost
	Furniture and office equipment	2 – 40	Cost
	ICT equipment	2 – 10	Cost
Roads & Bridges	Sealed roads	12 – 150	Fair value
	Bridges	20 - 100	Fair value
	Kerb and gutters	10 - 100	Fair value

Table 1: Asset Useful Lives (continued)

Asset Class	Asset Sub-class	Range of Useful Lives (Years)	Valuation model	
Other property	Fine Arts	100	Fair value	
	Public Art	15 - 30	Fair value	
	Monuments & statues	30 - 50	Fair value	
Intangible Assets	Software	7	Cost	
	Valuation Roll	6	Cost	
		The shorter of the		
Leased Assets	Leased assets	useful life and the lease term	Cost	

# Asset Base

The City of Hobart has a significant infrastructure asset portfolio. The current written down value of the asset base is \$2.5 billion. The split between the different asset categories as at 30 June 2023 is as follows:

Table 2: Asset Category Written Down Value

Asset Category	Fair Value	Accumulated Depreciation	Written Down Value
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Land	1,436,154		1,436,154
Land Improvements	265,333	121,339	143,994
Buildings	360,798	141,807	218,991
Pathways and Cycleways	229,384	119,202	110,182
Stormwater	381,769	152,961	228,808
Roads and Bridges	512,878	191,571	321,307
Plant and Equipment <sup>1</sup>	50,572	32,234	18,338
Other Property	3,647		3,647
Total	3,240,535	759,114	2,481,421

Note 1: Plant and Equipment is measured at cost rather than fair value.

# **Asset Condition**

Infrastructure assets owned by the City are generally considered to be in reasonable condition. While the age and condition of individual assets within each asset class varies, consistent asset renewal and maintenance over a long period of time has ensured that the overall asset base is in good condition. The asset base is considered appropriate for the current service delivery levels.

Ongoing condition audits and assessments provide up to date information on the asset base which enables the remaining life to be updated regularly. Assets condition is measured using a condition grading assessment that applies a consistent approach to report asset performance that enables effective decision making around assets.

Table 3 details the condition grading system implemented by the City.

Table 3: Condition Grading System

Grading	Rating	Description
1	Very Good	Free of defects, only planned and/or routine maintenance required
2	Good	Minor defects, increasing maintenance required plus planned maintenance
3	Fair	Defects requiring regular and/or significant maintenance to reinstate service
4	Poor	Significant defects, higher order cost intervention likely
5	Very Poor	Physically unsound and/or beyond rehabilitation, immediate action required

Table 4 provides a summary of the asset condition in the form of the service potential remaining in each asset class.

Table 4: Remaining Service Potential as at 30 June 2023

Asset Category	Remaining Service Potential
	%
Land Improvements	54.3
Buildings	60.7
Pathways and Cycleways	48.0
Stormwater	59.9
Roads and Bridges	62.7
Plant and Equipment	36.3
Average	53.7

The City monitors the condition of all its assets on an ongoing basis and responds accordingly, particularly when issues arise.

# Climate Change

The City's assets operate in a dynamic environment and are exposed to climate risks which could impact service delivery or cause damage to historical, cultural and heritage assets. Climate change risk is an integral part of the organisation's asset management capability otherwise the impacts of climate change could lead to:

- Greater risk of asset failures, including reduced levels of performance and greater service disruption;
- Increased costs associated with managing these risks and continuing to meet required levels of service;
- · Reputational damage due to asset failures or lack of action to reduce emissions; and
- Access barriers due to extreme weather events.

It will be critical for the City to embed climate change in asset management practices moving forward. The impact of climate change will be more fully considered and assessed in future SAMPs.

#### **Future Demand**

The City's fundamental role is to provide services to the community. There are many factors that affect future demand for assets, including: population change; demographic changes; seasonal factors; community expectations; economic conditions; and climate change. Future demand for assets may be for improved existing assets or for new assets.

# **Financial Projections**

The financial projections in Table 5 are for a period of 10 years and have been provided by the relevant asset managers. The projected financials demonstrate that the greatest investment over the 10-year period will be in the renewal of existing assets. The investment in asset renewals ranges from 82 per cent to 98 percent over the period.

The financials will be continually developed and refined as work continues to rebuild the asset management function and capability.

Table 5: Proposed 10 Year Capital Works Program

Asset Class	Capital Program Type	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33	2033-34	2034-35
		\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$1000	\$'000	\$'000
Plant and Equipment	Renewal	3,300	2,053	2,747	3,678	2,799	2,543	3,347	4,477	3,564	3,230	3,777
	Upgrade	100										
	New	100	****	****			****	****	****			
Plant and Equipment Tota	_	3,500	2,053	2,747	3,678	2,799	2,543	3,347	4,477	3,564	3,230	3,777
Buildings	Renewal	2,235	10,380	8,802	3,599	3,599	4,793	3,453	3,597	4,174	3,144	2,715
	Upgrade	2,000						****				
	New	150										
Building Total	_	4,385	10,380	8,802	3,599	3,599	4,793	3,453	3,597	4,174	3,144	2,715
Land Improvements	Renewal	2,512	5,625	6,441	4,381	7,621	6,363	6,484	6,861	6,413	6,824	6,806
	Upgrade	931	1,559	436	669	372	905	376	378	369	370	372
	New	4,613	1,387	1,171	1,218	737	3,090	1,083	498	325	196	218
Land Improvements Total	_	8,056	8,571	8,048	6,268	8,730	10,358	7,943	7,737	7,107	7,390	7,396
Stormwater	Renewal	3,082	1,145	999	450	1,234	1,093	1,108	10,557	12,183	13,582	13,973
	Upgrade			130	1,900							
	New	600	900	844	350							
Stormwater Total	_	3,682	2,045	1,973	2,700	1,234	1,093	1,108	10,557	12,183	13,582	13,973
Roads and Bridges -												
including Pathways and		0.400	40.500	44 600	40.205	45 470	44.704	44 704	44.704	44 704	44 704	44 704
Cycleways	Renewal	9,409 666	10,580 1,150	11,608 1,325	12,395 396	15,470 320	11,784	11,784	11,784	11,784	11,784	11,784
	Upgrade New	340	60	60	60	60	60					
	_											
Roads and Bridges Total	_	10,415	11,790	12,993	12,851	15,850	11,844	11,784	11,784	11,784	11,784	11,784
Other Property	Renewal	****										
	Upgrade											
	New	30	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Other Property Total	_	30	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Total Capital Program	Renewal	20,538	29,783	30,597	24,503	30,723	26,576	26,176	37,276	38,118	38,564	39,055
	Upgrade New	3,697 5,833	2,709 2,447	1,891 2,175	2,965 1,728	692 897	905 3,250	376 1,183	378 598	369 425	370 296	372 318
		5,653	2,997	2,1/3	1,720	697	3,250	1,103	536	425	236	318
Capital Program Total		30,068	34,939	34,663	29,196	32,312	30,731	27,735	38,252	38,912	39,230	39,745

Note: The total Capital Program excludes potential carry forwards from 2023-24.

# Conclusion

Asset Management Plans are the first critical step towards an integrated asset management program for the City of Hobart's diverse asset portfolio.

The City is rebuilding its asset management function and capability and there will be continuous improvements to both the strategy and operations over the coming years. This continuous improvement work will include asset management practices, financial forecasts for informing the Long-Term Financial Management Plan and budget allocations to ensure a fit for purpose asset portfolio and contemporary asset management practices to ensure ongoing and reliable service provision to staff and the community.

# Appendix 1 – Building Assets

# **Asset Description**

The City of Hobart's building assets comprises the following building types:

- Administrative Offices
- Aquatic Centre
- Change & Club Rooms
- Grandstands
- Community Halls
- Multi-story Car Parks
- Public Conveniences
- Residences
- Retail Buildings
- Depot buildings
- Sheds, Frames and Large Shelters

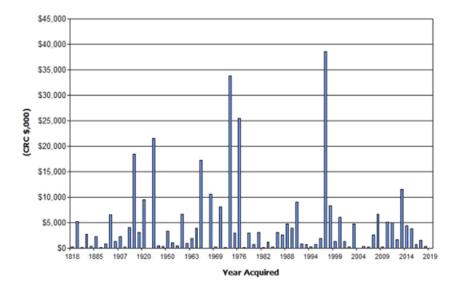
In total there are around 350 building structures with a total renewal value estimated to be approximately \$300 million.

These buildings provide a broad range of community services, including:

- Administration
- Emergency evacuation centres and shelters
- Aquatic and gym activities
- Sporting
- Halls
- Commercial and non-commercial leases
- · Off-street car parking
- Public conveniences
- Retail
- · Operational support
- Parks and bushland

#### Age Profile

The following graph demonstrates the age profile of the building assets. There are a number of buildings that were constructed in the 1800s and early 1900s and some of these are heritage listed buildings.



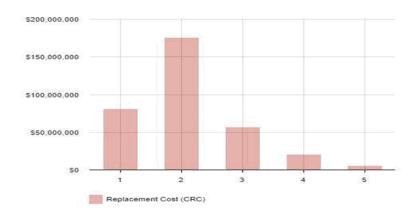
# **Condition Summary**

Building conditions are monitored on a regular basis and is measured using the 1-5 grading system.

Inspections are prioritised based on the highest, hierarchy ranked, buildings and condition grades. The most recent inspections were undertaken by external specialists. Condition data from these inspections is then stored in the asset management system.

Not all buildings are regularly programmed for condition inspections. Many buildings have a low building hierarchy score, are not planned for renewal, or are leased and maintained by community groups, or have a low risk.

The following graph (July 2020) outlines the asset condition profile of the City's Building assets:



The buildings that are in condition 5 are either at, or approaching, the end of their service life.

#### **Renewal Summary**

Renewal is major capital work which does not significantly alter the original service provided by the asset, but restores, rehabilitates, replaces, or renews an existing asset to its original service potential. Work over and above restoring an asset to original service potential is considered to be an acquisition resulting in additional future operations and maintenance costs.

Assets requiring renewal are identified from one of two approaches in the lifecycle model:

- The first method uses Asset Register data to project the renewal costs (current replacement cost) and renewal timing (acquisition year plus updated useful life to determine the renewal year), or
- The second method uses an alternative approach to estimate the timing and cost of forecast renewal work (i.e. condition modelling system, staff judgement, average network renewals, renewal in conjunction with upgrades).

Building renewal costs for the next 10 years have been forecast and detailed in Table 5.

#### Maintenance Summary

Buildings require both operating and maintenance activities to meet level of service expectations.

Operations include regular activities to provide services, examples of typical operational activities are cleaning, utility costs and painting.

Maintenance includes all actions necessary for retaining an asset as near as practicable to an appropriate service condition including regular ongoing day-to-day work necessary to keep assets operating. Examples of typical maintenance activities include gutter repairs, electrical works, and HVAC maintenance.

The annual building maintenance budget for 2023-24 is detailed below:

Building Maintenance	Amount	
	\$'000	
General (Painting, Carpentry, Lifts, HVAC, Fire)	811	
Electricity	410	
Plumbing	261	
Services (Water, Sewerage, Comms, Misc)	65	
Hygienic Services	56	
Electrical maintenance	50	
Civil & Structural works	25	
Asbestos Removal	4	
Building Safety Compliance	2	
Total	1,684	

#### **Buildings Summary**

The City has a broad portfolio of building assets which provide numerous services including office accommodation, public facilities, change rooms, depots, sporting facilities, multistorey carparks, and retail buildings which provide community services throughout the municipality.

There are a number of buildings and building assets that require renewal and partial renewal. These works will be prioritised and funded through City's Capital Works Program.

Projected annual maintenance costs are forecast to remain consistent at approximately \$1.7 million per annum.

# Appendix 2 – Roads and Bridges Assets

#### **Asset Description**

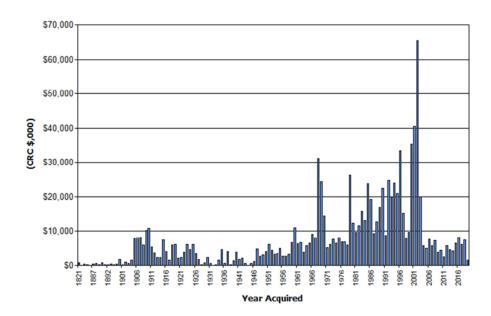
The City's Road and Bridges asset portfolio includes a variety of elements, such as road pavements, pedestrian infrastructure like footpaths, street furniture, and structural components such as bridges and retaining walls. The prioritisation of these assets is determined by their usage and location, establishing a hierarchical structure.

Effective asset management relies on comprehensive data for the organisation's asset portfolio. Essential information, such as age, value, condition, performance, and risk, coupled with robust data integrity, enables informed decision-making for both short and long-term asset management strategies.

The City's Road and Bridges asset portfolio is designed to facilitate safe and efficient movement for both vehicular and pedestrian traffic. Asset information is centralised within the integrated asset management system, categorising road assets based on their functional roles and attributes.

#### Age Profile

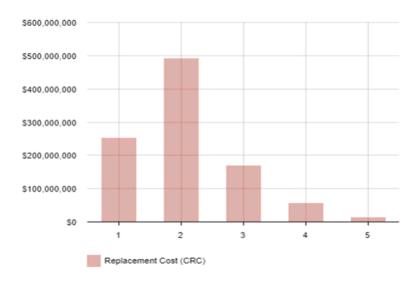
The following graph demonstrates the age profile for the road and bridge assets. The profile reflects the year in which the asset first came into service, noting that upgrades and renewals have occurred over this time.



#### **Condition Summary**

The council conducts routine condition assessments of its road and bridge assets, following industry reference documents to ensure consistency in evaluation. This approach enables accurate identification of capital works needs and supports informed decision-making for efficient asset management.

The following graph (December 2020) outlines the asset condition profile of the City's Roads and Bridges assets:



The condition profile of the Roads and Bridges asset is generally favourable.

# **Renewal Summary**

The City's Capital Works Program for Roads & Bridges mainly focuses primarily on asset renewals, guided by routine condition assessments. Occasionally, new or upgraded assets are also integrated into the program, allowing the City to address emerging needs while maintaining existing infrastructure.

The Capital Works Program uses information such as the road hierarchy, to inform its prioritisation.

#### Maintenance Summary

Maintenance involves addressing minor defects like pothole patching, edge-break repairs, minor kerb maintenance, or footpath grinding. In addition, other assets such as retaining walls, linemarking and street furniture also requires maintenance. These actions aim to ensure the safety and operational functionality of the City's road and bridge assets without necessarily aiming to enhance their overall condition. Typically, these defects must meet the

thresholds stipulated by the City's adopted level of service before maintenance works are undertaken.

The annual maintenance budget for Roads and Bridges assets in 2022-23 is \$2.4 million.

Road Maintenance	Amount	
	\$'000	
Road surface and pavement	1,154	
Tree associated repairs	263	
Road signage	225	
Street furniture	213	
Asphalt footpaths	154	
Gravel roads	135	
Kerb and gutter	75	
Guide posts, fences, guard rail	58	
Concrete footpaths	37	
Retaining walls	30	
Public safety works	25	
Road surface drainage	19	
Linemarking	7	
Wet weather response	5	
Total	2,400	

# Roads and Bridges Summary

In its commitment to serving the community, the City oversees an integrated network of Roads and Bridges infrastructure, essential for meeting the diverse transportation needs of pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists within the municipal area. This network plays a fundamental role in ensuring connectivity and accessibility, key factors in fostering well-serviced communities. Currently, the overall condition of the network is deemed to be in good condition, with the assets effectively providing the necessary level of service required by the community.

# Appendix 3 – Stormwater Assets

# **Asset Description**

The stormwater asset network is designed to provide drainage service and flood mitigation responsibilities for the municipal area. To deliver these services, the City manages a portfolio of stormwater infrastructure assets including an underground pipe network and a series of overland flow paths and watercourses together providing drainage, flood protection to people, property and road users during rainfall events, public and environmental amenity.

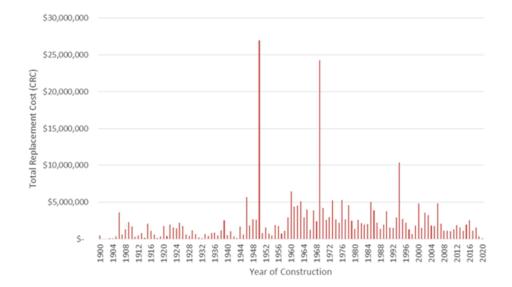
The SAMP provides how the services are to be provided and what funds are required over the 10-year period.

The stormwater network comprises:

Asset Category	Dimension
Pipe - Concrete DN300 and smaller	168km
Pipe - Concrete DN450 - DN900	71km
Pipe - Concrete DN1050 and larger	14km
Pipe - PVC/Other	77km
Rivulet - Enclosed (Hobart CBD)	2km
Rivulet - Lined	1km
Rivulet - Natural	68km²
Rivulet - Retaining Wall	3.9km <sup>2</sup>
Property Connections	7,003 items
Debris and Pollutant Capture Devices	561 items
Other	8,135 items

#### Age Profile

The following graph shows the age profile of the stormwater assets. The original stormwater network was constructed at the beginning of the 1900s, with a large peak in construction from the late 1940s to the late 1960s.

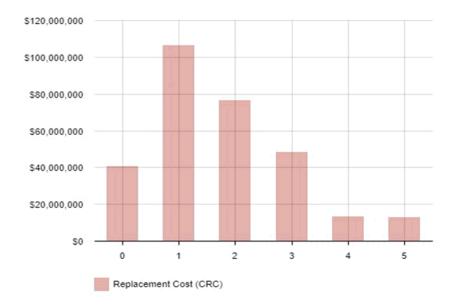


#### **Condition Summary**

Stormwater assets are generally longlife assets, are mostly hidden and used in every rainfall event. Stormwater assets provide service during every rainfall event and are generally well functioning in their capacity to manage regular nuisance flows.

Heavy rainfall is managed through a combination of the minor, below ground network and the major overland flow network, including our Rivulets, roads and other drainage paths. Our major stormwater network (overland conveyance) is less well understood than our below ground drainage network, however, the City is continuing to build this dataset to ensure reliable information is available to be responsive to the management of this critical asset category.

The following graph (July 2021) outlines the asset condition profile of the City's Stormwater assets:



#### Levels of Service

The City provides the following stormwater services and activities are prioritised based on safety:

- Provision of underground drainage infrastructure to manage urban stormwater flows:
- Facilitation of stormwater connection for the discharge of private drainage;
- Planning and mitigation of flood events;
- Environmental actions to support water ecological elements and reduce pollutant transfer; and
- Management and protection of urban waterways and open drainage channels.

#### Maintenance Summary

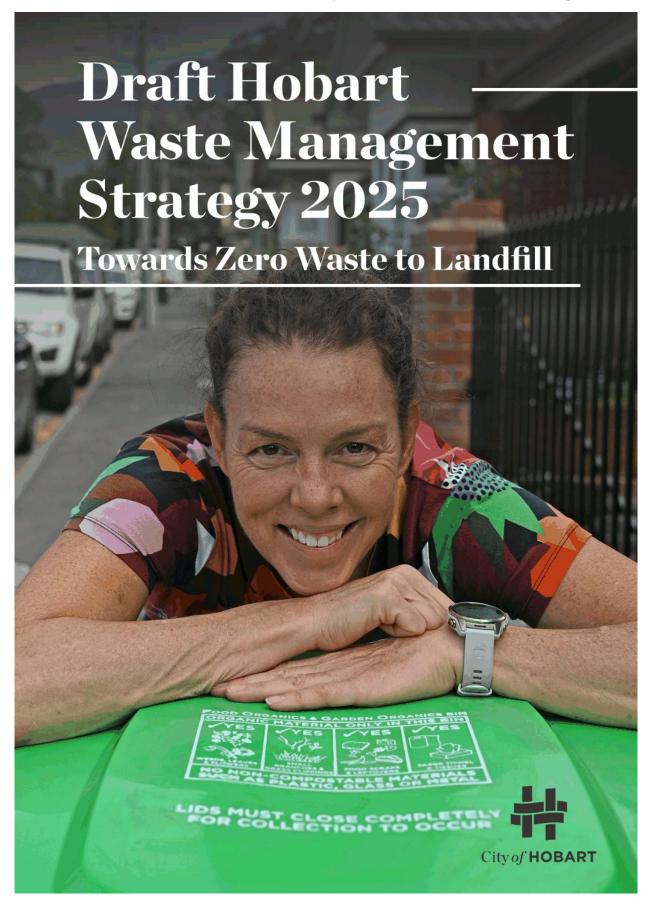
Proactive maintenance programs are required to prevent blockages in pipes and inlets, collapse of pipes and/or trenches and minimise contaminated outflows.

The annual Stormwater maintenance budget for 2023-24 is detailed below:

Stormwater Maintenance	Amount	
	\$'000	
Stormwater reticulation maintenance	301	
Stormwater responsive maintenance	173	
Waterways inspections and maintenance	59	
Stormwater inlet maintenance	37	
Sewer pump maintenance	28	
Stormwater connections	25	
Fountain maintenance	22	
Miscellaneous works	12	
Total	657	

# Stormwater Assets Summary

The City has a fully developed stormwater network which provides stormwater management and flood mitigation for the municipality. Wherever possible, stormwater renewal projects are linked with associated roads and bridges projects to minimise disruptions and inconveniences to the community.



2

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# Acknowledgement of Country

In recognition of the deep history and culture of Nipaluna (Hobart), we acknowledge the Palawa (Tasmanian Aboriginal people), their elders past and present as the Traditional Custodians of the skies, land and waterways of Lutruwita (Tasmania). We recognise that Palawa have made journeys across Lutruwita and Nipaluna for many thousands of years. We acknowledge the determination and resilience of the Palawa people who have survived invasion and dispossession and continue to maintain their identity, culture and rights.

We also acknowledge all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who live on the country of the Palawa, here in Nipaluna (Hobart), Lutruwita (Tasmania).





Term	Definition
Biochar	Charcoal, sometimes modified, suitable for use as an organic material.
Circular economy	A circular economy is an economic system aimed at eliminating waste and promoting the continual use of resources by designing products for reuse, repair and recycling, creating a closed-loop system.
FOGO	Food organics and garden organics, usually contained in the one bin for collection and processing.
Green-lidded bins	For the provision of organic material suitable for composting.
Kerbside collections	The collection of bins containing waste, recyclables, FOGO and other materials, undertaken by the relevant council authority.
McRobies Gully Waste Management Centre	A comprehensive waste management facility comprising a resource recovery centre (tip shop), weighbridge, material recovery infrastructure, organic processing facility, waste transfer station and landfill.
McRobies Gully landfill	A component of the waste management centre where material not suitable for reuse or recycling is buried. Also known as the active tip face.
PET	Plastic material polyethylene terephthalate.
PFAS	A class of mirco substances containing long lasting chemicals and components that break down very slowly over time.

Term	Definition
Red-lidded bins	For the provision of waste material that cannot be reused or recycled.
Residual waste	Material for disposal after the removal of all recyclables and other materials suitable for reuse.
Resource Work Cooperative	A not-for-profit, worker owned cooperative that operates the South Hobart Tip Shop and associated services.
Re-Think Waste	A platform established by Tasmania's 29 councils to deliver statewide, consistent and contemporary educational and behavioural change programs aimed at waste reduction.
Southern Waste Solutions	A joint waste authority established under the Local Government Act and jointly owned by Clarence City Council, Sorell Council, Kingborough Council and Tasman Council.
TasWaste South	A regional joint waste authority established under the Local Government Act that is owned by the 12 southern councils in Tasmania.
Waste hierarchy	A framework that prioritises how best to manage and reduce waste, often represented as an inverted pyramid.
Waste diversion	The volume of material recovered (diverted) from the waste stream for reuse or recycling.
Yellow-lidded bins	For the provision of material that can be recycled.

# Message from the Lord Mayor



Effective waste management is a vital part of any thriving, efficient and sustainably-run city. Reducing waste and maximising reuse and recycling is of great importance to the City of Hobart.

This draft waste management strategy for the City of Hobart builds upon the last one developed in 2015, which contained 91 actions and commitments.

The vast majority of these are now complete and I congratulate our hard working waste management teams for this achievement. However, since that time, with some significant external strides made in legislation and our new Zero Emissions by 2040 climate target, we have needed to adjust and rethink our approach.

A total of 42 000 tonnes of waste is currently generated in Hobart each year, which equates to an average of over 730 kg per person. That's the equivalent of approximately 554 kg of  $\mathrm{CO}_2$  emissions per person every year. These figures are, to put it plainly, too high. To reduce this volume, we need to ensure our waste management services and supporting infrastructure not only reflect best practices but also challenge traditional approaches. To achieve our goals, we also need community buy-in and collaboration with other organisations.

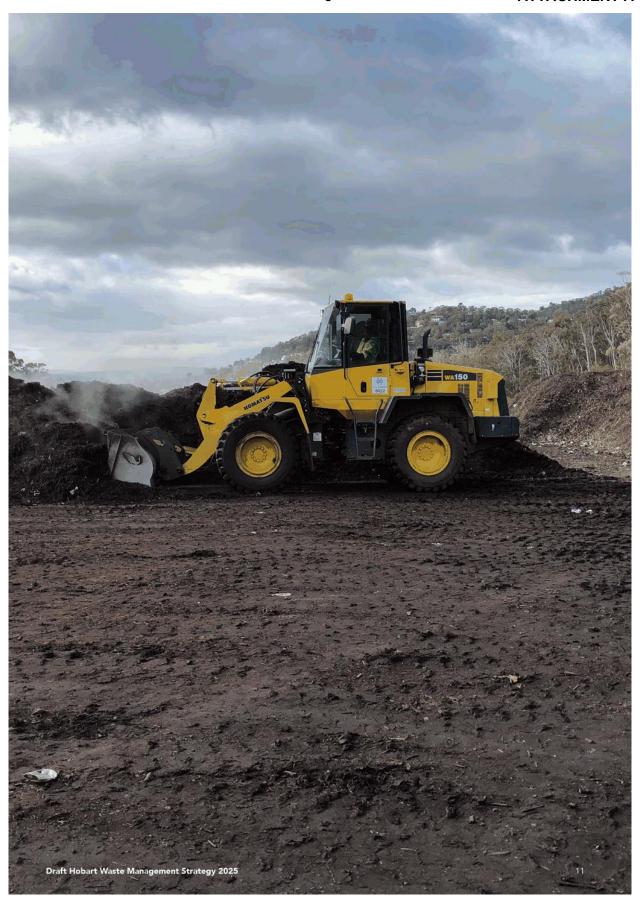
I am pleased to see ambition, innovation and collaboration reflected in the City's new draft Waste Management Strategy. We have action plans centred around community education and initiatives such as like repair cafes and equipment libraries to foster behaviour change and work collaboratively with industry and other councils in southern Tasmania to reduce waste.

Key elements of this new strategy include honouring Hobart City Council's commitment to close McRobies Gully landfill site in South Hobart by 2030 at the latest and a plan for redirecting residual waste from that site.

Waste avoidance is the best strategy of all and I am happy to see this reflected in our strategy as well, with a focus on increasing diversion and embracing the circular economy.

This new draft Waste Management Strategy demonstrates how committed we are to finding practical and innovative ways to reduce waste and carbon emissions from the waste sector.

Anna Reynolds







# Waste management and recovery

The delivery of waste management services has long been a key service provided to the community by the City of Hobart, which administers 77.9 square kilometres of land.

Waste management and resource recovery operate in a dynamic environment, changing in response to government policy, industry development, market conditions and other circumstances. This environment has become even more dynamic and important in recent years with the growing need to avoid waste, optimise material recovery and embrace the circular economy.

The City of Hobart has committed to closing the McRobies Gully landfill site by 2030. We have also committed to zero waste to landfill, a significant commitment that requires a strategic review of waste management options. The City's current waste management strategy was developed in 2015. It is a comprehensive plan identifying a broad range of initiatives and includes 91 actions, the vast majority of which are either complete or well progressed.

The strategy included a comprehensive review of the future capacity of the McRobies Gully landfill site. That review found that if managed appropriately the site could accommodate Hobart's waste needs until 2030, and would then be closed to landfill.

Waste management infrastructure at McRobies Gully would then be modernised



Draft Hobart Waste Management Strategy 2025

to optimise material recovery from Hobart's waste stream.

Analysis of waste data undertaken in 2024 found Hobart creates around 42 000 tonnes of waste every year. Approximately 46 per cent of that material is recovered and either reused or recycled, preventing it from entering landfill.

The analysis also found that more than half of the "rubbish" residents put in kerbside bins is actually organic material or other recyclable objects that can be disposed of in recycle bins or FOGO bins and should not end up as landfill. This new waste management strategy has been designed to underpin the behavioural change needed if Hobart is to achieve its waste reduction targets.

It also maps out key actions we need to take over the next five years to allow the City of Hobart to embrace a circular economy and prepare for life without its own landfill site, and possibly without needing landfill at all.

As the capital city of Tasmania, Hobart, home to almost 60 000 people, has an opportunity through this new strategy to propel the community towards best practice waste management.



Draft Hobart Waste Management Strategy 2025

## Reducing waste, an ongoing legacy

This strategy builds on previous strategies to lower the amount of waste created and sent to landfill in Hobart. It reflects the City of Hobart's embrace of a circular economy. It increases the reuse and recovery of materials, preventing them from ending up in landfill.



## Why do we need a waste management strategy?

The City of Hobart is committed to ending the life of McRobies Gully as a landfill site by 2030.

Once this happens and the City of Hobart no longer owns and manages its own waste disposal site we will face significant costs for the consolidation, transport and disposal of residual waste to another facility.

To reduce these costs the City is committed to finding ways in which we can embrace the circular economy and reduce the amount of waste generated by residents, businesses, organisations and the City of Hobart itself.

The actions outlined in this strategy are designed to achieve this goal. They range from targeting specific materials for reduction or removal from the waste stream to broader education and advocacy programs.

## Vision and targets

Our vision is for the Hobart community working together to embrace a low waste, circular economy, minimising and where possible eliminating waste to landfill and ensuring material resources are valued, not wasted.

To achieve this vision the City of Hobart will implement this strategy by:

- Leading by example.
- · Recovering and recycling materials.
- · Avoiding and reducing waste.
- · Engaging and empowering stakeholders.
- Advocating and influencing others.
- Delivering a financially sustainable waste service
- Reviewing governance arrangements and management practices.

## A STRATEGY TO DELIVER

## MORE

- Repai
- Reuse
- Pacyclin
- Waste diversion

#### LESS

- Material in the waste system.
- Organics to landfill.
- Greenhouse gas emissions
- Illegal dumping.
- Reliance on landfill



## **GOVERNANCE** & MANAGEMENT

## **LEAD** BY EXAMPLE

## **MEASURE**



Prioritise waste minimisation, procurement of recycled and recyclable goods, and the trial and use of recycled contents its operations and delivery of projects and programs. We will become a leader in organisational sustainability, leading by example in the pursuit of our vision to avoid waste and embrace the circular economy.

Procurement statistics detailing the contracts that incorporate recycling content.

#### **REUSE. REPAIR** & RECYCLE

## **MEASURE**



Facilitate the recovery and recycling of materials through education programs and delivery of collection services focused on maximising recovery of recyclables. Support existing and new circular economy initiatives such as the Tip Shop, which is run by the Resource Work Cooperative, the Hobart Bike Kitchen, Recycle Rewards – Tasmania's container refund scheme, repair cafes, toy and tool libraries.

Diversion rates of material recovered from the waste stream.

## **AVOID** & REDUCE

#### **MEASURE**



Facilitate waste avoidance and reduction through education programs and supporting community programs for sharing, repurposing and repair of products and materials.

Kilograms of waste generated per person.

## **ENGAGE** & EMPOWER



Encourage and support community leadership of waste avoidance and minimisation projects and involve a diverse range of participants in activities aimed at improving how we manage our waste.

#### **MEASURE**

Number of projects (and programs) and participation rates in those projects and programs.

## **ADVOCATE** & INFLUENCE

## **MEASURE**

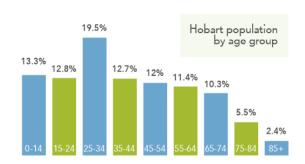


Engage with a range of external stakeholders to advocate for improvements in waste management and use Hobart's capital city status to influence positive change in the region and Tasmania.

Regional project and programs.

## **HOBART** TODAY

The diversity of the Hobart LGA is evident in our demographic and urban profile



## RESIDENT POPULATION

**Population** 

55 977

median age

1.6%
are Aboriginal
people

29%





21% of people use a language other than English at home



4.0 % of people live with disability

people experience homelessness

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**



#### HOUSING TENURE



## THE CITY'S WASTE



Source: ABS Census 2021, .id (informed decisions), City of Hobart.

## MEASURING OUR SUCCESS

We will use the metrics listed below to help us measure the success of this strategy. A progress report will be produced annually based on these measures.

## **PER CAPITA WASTE GENERATION**

• The amount of waste generated per resident, measured in kilograms per person per day or per year, providing insight into the individual waste footprint.

## TOTAL MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE DIVERTED FROM LANDFILL

 Percentage of total waste diverted through re-use and/or recovery, recycling, composting or other methods, highlighting the effectiveness of waste diversion efforts.

## **RECYCLING** & COMPOSTING RATES

 The percentage of collected recyclable and organic materials, indicating success in separating and recovering these materials from the waste stream.

## **GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS** FROM WASTE MANAGEMENT

 Emissions from waste-related activities, typically measured in CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent, reflecting the environmental impact of waste handling, especially landfill methane.

### **FOOD WASTE REDUCTION**

 Amount of food waste per household or per business sector, often monitored through food waste audits or data from food donation programs, which also indicates food recovery success.

## **BUSINESS PARTICIPATION**IN WASTE REDUCTION PROGRAMS

 Number of businesses involved in city-supported programs for waste reduction, such as reusable container programs or zero-waste certifications.





## **COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION**IN EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

 Number of residents or organisations participating in waste reduction workshops, events and campaigns, gauging community engagement in waste avoidance efforts.

## **REGIONAL PROJECTS** AND PROGRAMS

 The City of Hobart's participation in a number of regional projects and city-supported programs for waste reduction, such as reusable container programs or zero-waste certifications.



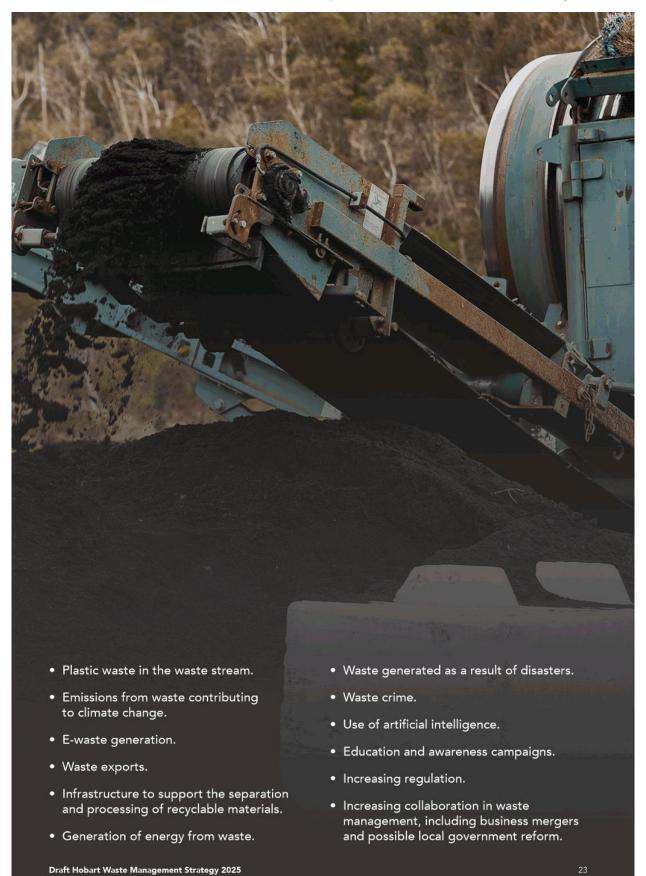
Some of those issues are global and some are national. All either directly impact or have the potential to impact the way waste is managed at the local level in Hobart.

Those issues include:

- Increasing need to embrace the circular economy.
- Volumes of food waste.
- Technology innovations including those

associated with the breakdown of organic materials.

- PFAS contamination in the waste stream.
- Asbestos contamination in the waste stream.
- Use of biochar technologies.
- Volumes of clothing and textiles in the waste stream.







# How waste analysis is guiding this strategy

An analysis of how waste is managed by the City of Hobart based on ten years of data, January 2014 to June 2024, carries a number of key findings that are being used to help guide this strategy.

The analysis was based on data for waste and recoverable materials received at:

- McRobies Gully Waste Management Centre.
- Southern Waste Solutions Derwent Park Waste Management Centre.
- Cleanaway's Derwent Park Materials Recovery Facility.
- Pure Living (Barwick's) at Brighton.

The analysis included a projection of the amount of waste and diversion rates we can expect to see over the next two decades, 2025 to 2044.

## Key findings

- No obvious trend was observed in overall waste generation. Quantities fluctuated between 2014 and 2016, then increased steadily until 2020. In 2021 there was a spike in waste generation, most likely due to the COVID epidemic. Waste quantities decreased in 2023 and increased in 2024.
- In the ten years from 2014 to 2024 most waste received by McRobies Gully Waste Management Centre was delivered by the City of Hobart, including kerbside waste. In 2021, during COVID, most waste was delivered by commercial customers.
- The overall trend in diversion between 2014 and 2024 appears to be decreasing, from 55 per cent in 2014 to 50 per cent in 2024. The trend is not statistically significant.

- Excluding diversion rates for 2014 and 2021, overall diversion seems to be mostly stable, between 41 per cent and 50 per cent.
- The amount of waste generated in Hobart per person seems to be decreasing. The highest waste generation in Hobart was 1092 kg per person in 2021. This is most likely due to the COVID epidemic. In 2023 this figure dropped to 737 kg per person, similar to most previous years.
- Based on the data from 2014 to 2024
   Hobart is currently forecast to produce
   65 400 tonnes of waste in 2044. This high
   amount would be costly and result in poor
   environmental outcomes.
- Landfill and compostable materials are projected to increase over time, while recyclable materials are projected to decrease.
- The data also indicates commercial and industrial, construction and demolition materials will increase over time, while waste generated by residents could decrease.
- The waste trend identified that without change the amount of materials recovered from the waste stream could be as low as 40 per cent.
- But with a proactive approach the recovery of those materials could be as high as 76 per cent. This strategy aims to achieve a recovery rate of 85 per cent.



FIGURE 2: WASTE GENERATION PER CAPITA PER YEAR BY INDUSTRY SECTOR



FIGURE 3: TOTAL WASTE GENERATION PER CAPITA

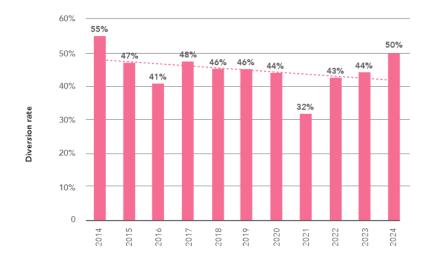


FIGURE 4: OVERALL DIVERSION RATES BY YEAR



FIGURE 5: PROJECTED DIVERSION RATES 2014–2044

## Landfill gas emissions

Landfill gas is a natural byproduct of decomposing organic waste in landfills, consisting mainly of methane and carbon dioxide. Landfill gas adds to global greenhouse gas emissions, therefore it is important this gas can be captured and used as an energy source and must be managed to reduce environmental impacts.

Landfill gas emissions are primarily composed of methane ( $\mathrm{CH_4}$ ) and carbon dioxide ( $\mathrm{CO_2}$ ). Both gases are released as organic waste decomposes in anaerobic (oxygenfree) conditions. While  $\mathrm{CO_2}$  is a significant greenhouse gas, methane is far more potent, with a global warming potential approximately 28 times greater over a 100-year period. This makes methane emissions from landfill a major contributor to climate change, highlighting the need for effective waste management strategies to capture and reduce these gases.

Emissions are not limited to landfill sites – composting operations also generate greenhouse gases as organic material breaks down aerobically (with oxygen). Composting produces  $\mathrm{CO}_2$  and hence also contributes to emissions. Composting systems significantly reduce methane emissions compared to landfilling, as they prevent the anaerobic conditions that lead to high methane release.

Currently, 730 kg of waste per person generates the equivalent of approximately 554 kg of  $\mathrm{CO}_2$  emissions per person, largely due to the presence of organic waste in landfill. Removing food and garden organics (FOGO) from the waste stream is critical to reducing emissions, as these materials are the primary source of methane production in landfills. Additionally, it is important to recognise that the total waste-related emissions for the City of Hobart include

those generated by our waste, even if it is transported to facilities outside the Local Government Area. Addressing waste emissions requires a whole-system approach, with short-term consideration of McRobies Gully Waste Management Centre and the long-term emissions footprint of waste processing and disposal within the Southern Tasmania region.



## 2040 Climate Ready Hobart Strategy

The 2040 Climate Ready Hobart Strategy sets out ambitious goals, including a 70 per cent reduction in community emissions by 2030, zero emissions by 2040, climate ready infrastructure and a connected and cohesive community better prepared for climate impacts, ready to recover and rebuild better.

The strategy outlines three zero emissions waste targets:

- Goal 1: Design out waste, diverting 85 per cent of waste from landfill by 2030.
- Goal 2: Divert organic waste, including 95 per cent of residential from general waste by 2030.
- Goal 3: Improve methane capture, aiming for 100 per cent or as close as possible, from landfill by 2035.

# Collecting and managing waste



## Waste infrastructure and services

The City of Hobart provides the following facilities and services.

## One waste management centre, incorporating:

- An active Category 2 landfill.
- A transfer station.
- A resource recovery centre, incorporating recycling drop-offs.
- An organic waste composting facility.
- Externally operated tip shop for salvage and sale of reusable materials as well as running educational tours and workshops.
- Facilities for recycling and recovering engine oil, e-waste, appliances, batteries, tyres, concrete, paint, cardboard, recycling and steel.



## Kerbside collection services

The City of Hobart runs several kerbside collection services.

- 120L red-lidded waste bins are picked up weekly.
- 240L yellow-lidded recycling bins on rateable properties are picked up fortnightly.
- 240L green-lidded FOGO bins are picked up fortnightly for 80 per cent of rateable properties on an opt-in basis.

The City collects around 20 000 waste bins a week (red bins), predominately from the residential sector (95 per cent). It also picks up 10 000 recycling bins and 10 000 greenlidded FOGO bins.

Over one year the City of Hobart collects more than two million kerbside bins. Waste bins once a week, FOGO and recycling bins once a fortnight.

#### Waste audit

Every year the City of Hobart carries out a detailed waste audit.

Our 2024 waste audit found that a typical domestic kerbside waste bin in Hobart weighs about 7.66 kg and contains:

• Food and garden organics: 41 per cent.

• Recyclables: 11 per cent.

• Other organics: 10 per cent.

• Waste to landfill: 38 per cent.

Low levels of recyclable materials such as cardboard and hard plastic continue to end up in Hobart residential waste bins instead of kerbside recycling bins (11 per cent).

Organic materials such as food scraps and garden waste also continue to end up in residential waste bins instead of FOGO bins – 51 per cent of most residential kerbside bins put out for collection is actually made up of organic materials.

Both problems can be tackled through better public education that encourages people to ensure all recyclable and organic materials are placed in the right bin.

For this strategy to be effective measures to remove and recycle garden and food waste from waste bins must be a high priority.

Improving residential recycling rates in Hobart and implementing measures that stop organic waste ending up in waste bins will significantly reduce the volume of material going to landfill.

A public education campaign that encourages all residents and businesses to dispose of organic and recyclable materials in the correct recycling and FOGO bins could more than halve the average weight of waste bins from 7.66 kg to under 4 kg.

## - Waste composition by bin type



FIGURE 6

## Red-lidded bins

Red-lidded rubbish bins should be a last resort for waste that cannot be put in recycling or FOGO bins, and yet food remains the highest single component at 29 per cent of red-lidded waste bins in Hobart coupled with 12 per cent garden organics and 10 per cent compostable packaging. Waste to landfill makes up 38 per cent, of which

6 per cent is soft plastics. The remaining 11 per cent is recyclables, with only 1 per cent eligible for Recycle Rewards, the container refund

Food and recyclable items such as plastic containers, paper and e-waste all have the potential to be recovered and recycled, an easy way to rapidly increase recycling



FIGURE 7

#### Green-lidded bins

Green-lidded bins, used for the collection of organic materials, had the lowest levels of waste contamination at just 2.12 per cent.

The low level of contamination is a positive sign and shows residents who use a FOGO bin understand our organics collection service and that community education efforts in this space have been highly successful.

A small amount of non-organic materials continues to be placed in the wrong bin.



FIGURE 8

### Yellow-lidded bins

Yellow-lidded bins are designed for recyclable materials such as hard plastics, paper and cardboard as well as glass jars and aluminium cans.

Our 2024 waste audit found recyclable paper and cardboard made up 34 per cent of the content disposed of in Hobart's recycling bins, while recyclable containers made up 55 per cent. The remaining 11 per cent was non-recyclable items, which we refer to as contamination

With the Tasmanian
Government set to introduce
the Recycle Rewards
container refund scheme
in 2025, we anticipate a
significant reduction in the
number of these containers
ending up in yellow-lidded
bins – 14 per cent of them will
be eligible for the refund.

Thirty four per cent of recyclable materials in these bins is paper, magazines,

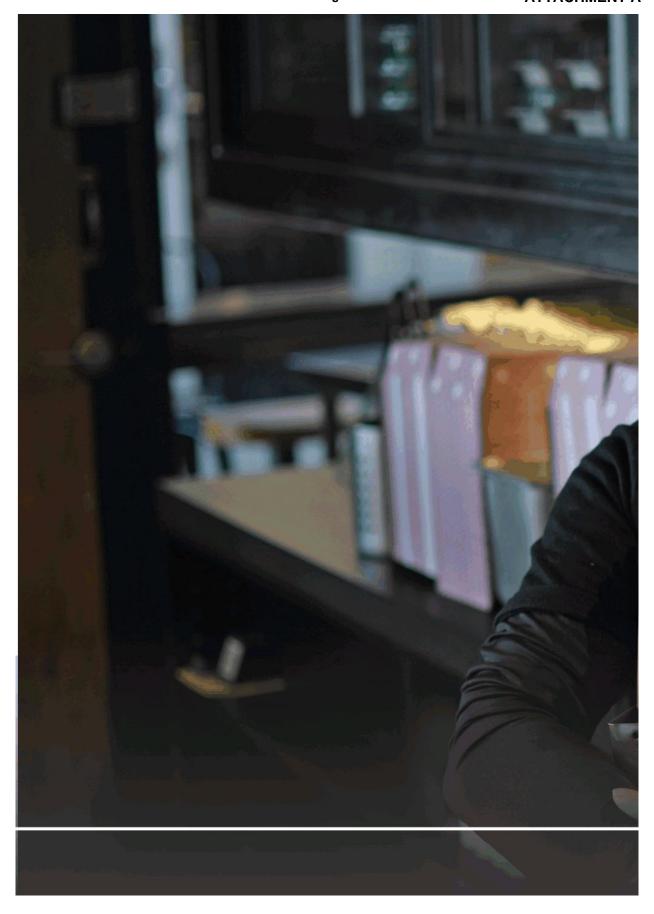
newspapers and cardboard. In the past this figure has been closer to 55 per cent. It is expected the increased use of digital communication platforms over printed materials will see this figure continue to fall as more people get their news online instead of from newspapers and magazines.

The most common beverage container materials were glass, polyethylene terephthalate (PET) plastic and aluminium. Wine and spirit bottles, which are not eligible for Recycle Rewards at this stage, made up 19 percent.

Understanding why items are placed in the wrong bins by residents is important if we are to improve the recycling stream. This requires better community engagement and waste education programs.









# National and state influences on waste management

Waste management in Hobart is influenced by the actions, strategies and legislative requirements of different levels of government and several Hobart City Council plans and policies.

#### National waste policy

The Australian Government's National Waste Policy: Less Waste, More Resources was released in 2018. The policy provides a framework for nation-wide waste and resource recovery. It outlines five key principles for transitioning to a circular economy:

- · Waste avoidance.
- Improved resource recovery.
- Increased use of recycled materials and market development for these products.
- Better management of materials to improve human and environmental health.
- Improved information for innovation, investment and decision making.

The Australian Government regulates the export of all plastic, glass and tyre waste from Australia. In 2024 it started regulating the export of paper and cardboard too, ensuring waste cannot be sent overseas. These regulations impact how waste collected from households can be processed and turned into new products.

The Australian Government also supports national product stewardship schemes to provide collections for difficult items such as electronics, packaging and vehicle tyres.

#### State waste policy

State and territory governments in Australia are responsible for the regulation of waste management and resource recovery within their state or territory as well as:

- Helping businesses reduce waste and improve product stewardship.
- Supporting wide ranging efforts to repair and reuse products rather than send them to landfill.
- Preventing plastic pollution and banning single-use plastics.
- Introducing a container deposit scheme.
- Creating new markets for recycled materials
- Improving the safe management of hazardous materials.

The Tasmanian Parliament passed legislation in 2002 that included the introduction of a landfill levy to help reduce the volume of waste being buried in Tasmanian landfill sites.

The levy also helps fund initiatives that improve material recovery from the waste stream and reduce reliance on landfill as a means of waste disposal.

Another result of the legislation was the establishment of the Tasmanian Waste



and Resource Recovery Board. The board provides oversight of the dissemination of the levy funding by administering a range of grant programs and investing in the circular economy through a range of projects and initiatives.

## Regional context

The City of Hobart is an active member of networks across Greater Hobart and works closely with TasWaste South, Southern Waste Solutions, other councils, the Tasmanian Government and the broader waste industry.

The City will increase collaboration with other councils on joint procurement of waste services, delivery of waste minimisation projects, community education and sharing of knowledge and experience.

The City is part owner and an active member of TasWaste South, a joint authority

established by the 12 southern Tasmanian councils. TasWaste South is leading change and innovation in waste minimisation, management and resource recovery across southern Tasmania.



## Local and relevant strategies, policies and plans

Waste services delivered by the City of Hobart influence, and are influenced by, several key City strategies and policies, including the Capital City Strategic Plan 2023 and the 2040 Climate Ready Hobart Strategy.



## State waste levy reporting

The Tasmanian Government's waste levy plays a key role in funding waste reduction initiatives and requires accurate waste data reporting to track landfill diversion, support policy development and drive resource recovery efforts.

# Reducing waste and creating a circular economy together

We all have a role to play in ensuring materials are appropriately managed to conserve natural resources and minimise waste.

AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT	Ensures international obligations for waste management are met. Oversees national waste policy and administers product stewardship schemes.
TASMANIAN GOVERNMENT	Sets policy and strategy direction, makes laws and regulates waste management across Tasmania.
LOCAL GOVERNMENT	Works independently and regionally to deliver waste and recycling services to households and some businesses. Educates the community on how to use these services appropriately.
WASTE AND RESOURCE RECOVERY INDUSTRY	Collects, sorts and manages waste for reuse, recycling and disposal.
LOCAL INDUSTRY	Makes decisions on how they use resources, design products or services and manage waste generated by their operations and products.
LOCAL HOUSEHOLDS AND BUSINESSES	Purchase products and make decisions about how they maintain, use and dispose of those products.
COMMUNITY GROUPS	May run projects to help their community minimise waste, such as educational workshops, tool sheds, repair cafes and clothing swaps.
EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS	Help residents understand their world, including the potential impacts of their decisions and how to make sustainable choices.



# Capital City Strategic Plan

Our Capital City Strategic Plan 2023 details those services the City of Hobart will deliver to build inclusive and connected communities, with sustainable and balanced growth.

The City of Hobart and its Capital City Strategic Plan use eight pillars to represent the major parts of city life. The sixth pillar is the Natural Environment. This pillar states:

We are a city whose people see ourselves as part of a beautiful and unique natural

environment, the mountain to the river, which embraces us and shapes our identity. We are proud custodians and advocates, ensuring resources are appreciated rather than wasted, supporting biodiverse ecosystems in honour of past, current and future generations.

Among the strategic objectives of the Capital City Strategic Plan 2023 is strategy 6.3.1: Implement significant waste reduction actions and programs to ensure the City's objective of zero waste to landfill by 2030 is achieved.

# Guiding principles for change

The waste hierarchy and developing a circular economy are the two key guiding principles for waste management considered in the planning of all future waste services.

## Principle 1: Waste hierarchy

The waste hierarchy principle ranks waste disposal options from most preferable to least preferable. It is represented as an inverted triangle, the larger portions representing the options that should be selected more frequently and disposal being a last option.

- At the top of the hierarchy, waste avoidance should be considered most often, selecting items that will create minimal waste in the future.
- The second option is to **reduce waste** in any way possible.

- **Reuse** is the next option when considering how to deal with an item no longer wanted.
- Repair is increasing in importance to optimise the use of materials.
- **Recycling** is the next preferable option when reuse and repair are not possible.
- **Recovery of energy** (e.g. electricity generation) is the next option for items that cannot be dealt with by the higher ranked options.
- Disposal in landfill is considered as the least preferable and last resort if no higher ranked option is possible.

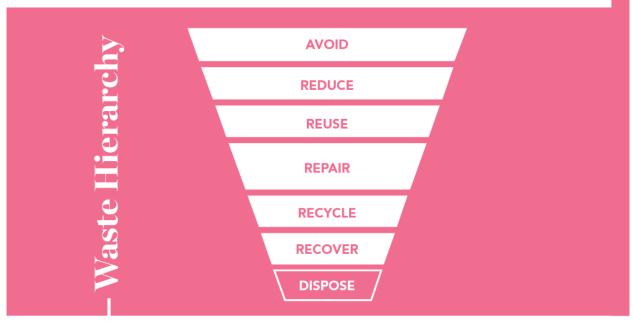


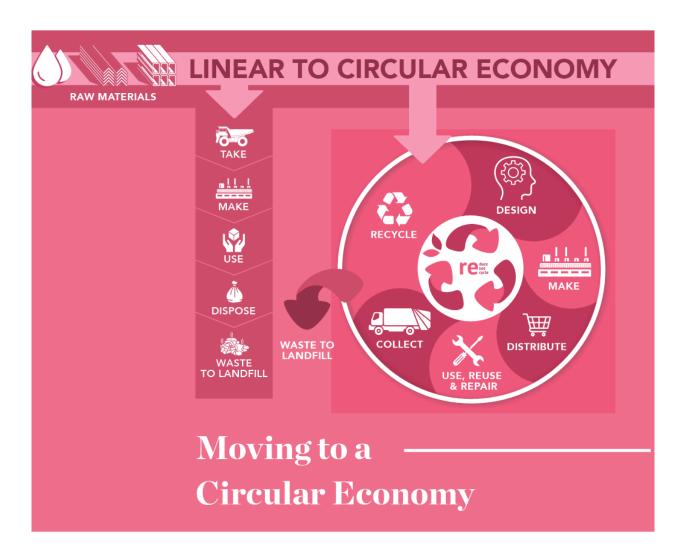
FIGURE 9

#### Principle 2: Circular economy

Economies have traditionally been linear in nature – sourcing natural resources, manufacturing and using products and creating waste has been a one-way system.

The need to develop a circular economy has arisen from the realisation that our natural resources are finite, and their use to create products causes negative impacts on our environment.

A circular economy is an alternative model to the linear economy. It finds new uses for materials currently going to landfill by reusing, recycling, repairing or recovering them for other purposes such as processing the waste to generate energy. A circular economy encourages the management of waste using the waste hierarchy.



# **Funding**



#### Recurrent funding

External influences and other changes to the delivery of the City of Hobart's waste services are driving the need for the development of this new waste strategy. These changes will impact the City's recurrent budgets and long-term financial plan.

An underlying principle of our waste service is that it ensures sufficient revenue is generated to provide a sustainable waste service for Hobart residents.



#### Service delivery review

Evaluate the cost, efficiency and effectiveness of waste services.



#### Market analysis

Conduct a market analysis of recoverable recycling streams to understand market trends and identify opportunities for resource recovery, negotiate contracts and guide future investment. This proactive approach supports circular economy principles, reduces landfill reliance and strengthens the resilience of Hobart's recycling system.

### Capital funding

Investment will be needed to improve waste services infrastructure, particularly at McRobies Gully Waste Management Centre, if the outcomes of this strategy are to be realized.

Required capital works funding will be a mix of:

- City of Hobart investment.
- Existing rehabilitation fund.
- External grant funding.

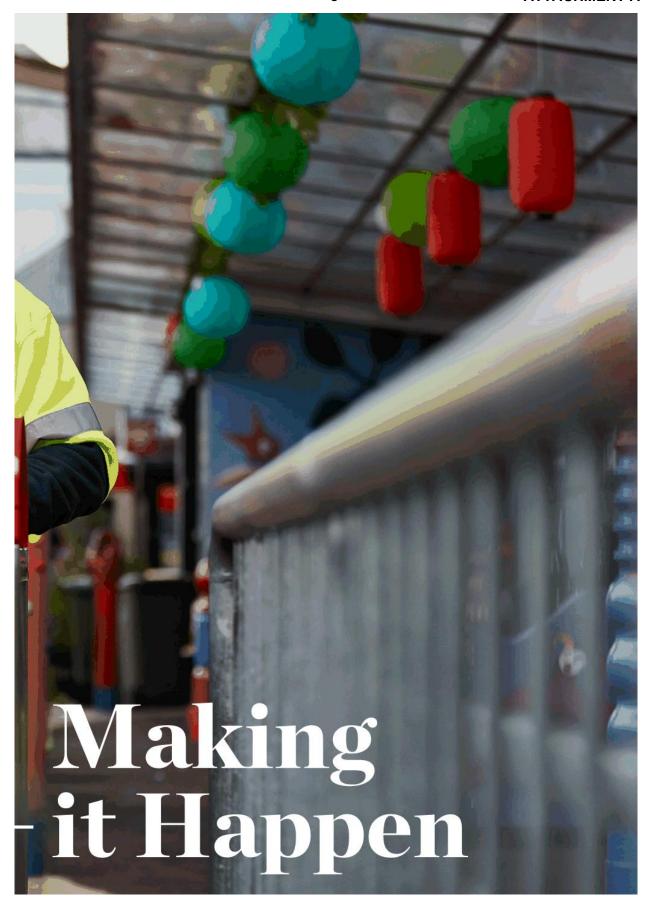


#### **Transport logistics**

Review transport logistics for waste, recycling and FOGO to improve efficiency, reduce emissions and lower costs. Optimise collection routes, vehicle types and processing locations to enhance service delivery while supporting environmental and economic sustainability.







# Waste strategy action plan

The City of Hobart will undertake the following actions to achieve the strategic objectives and targets of this plan.

STRATE	GIC DIRECTION: AVOID & REUSE		PRIORITY	
	Action	2024-26	2026-28	2028-30
1	Develop, implement and promote initiatives and programs to recover organic material from the residential waste stream.	<b>Ø</b>		
2	Develop, implement and promote initiatives and programs to recover organic material from the commercial waste stream.	<b>Ø</b>	<b>Ø</b>	
3	Undertake a review of the Single-Use Plastics By-Law No 1 of 2020 and promote the avoidance of, and alternatives to, single use plastics, including reuse options.	<b>Ø</b>	<b>Ø</b>	<b>Ø</b>
4	Review the size of kerbside bins and the servicing frequency of those bins, with consideration to be given to bin sizes and associated servicing (waste weekly, recycling and FOGO fortnightly).		Ø	
5	Review the public waste, recycling and FOGO bin network to identify ways to improve access and encourage community and visitor participation in achieving our waste reduction goals.		<b>Ø</b>	
6	Support local food groups and networks to include food waste avoidance in programs and activities.	<b>Ø</b>	<b>Ø</b>	<b>Ø</b>
7	Progressively identify and promote initiatives such as alternatives to disposable nappies and sanatory products.	<b>Ø</b>	<b>Ø</b>	

8	Engage with relevant stakeholders to increase the recovery of cardboard from the waste stream.	<b>⊗</b>	<b>Ø</b>	<b>⊗</b>
9	Undertake annual audits to identify components and contamination in kerbside collection services and collections at the waste transfer station.	<b>Ø</b>	<b>Ø</b>	<b>Ø</b>
10	Provide advice and support for general community projects targeting waste avoidance and minimisation.	<b>Ø</b>	<b>Ø</b>	<b>Ø</b>
11	Review the City of Hobart's event policies and procedures to ensure waste avoidance is optimised in City-led and supported events.		<b>Ø</b>	
STRATE	EGIC DIRECTION: REUSE, REPAIR & RECYCLE		PRIORITY	,
	Action	2024-26	2026-28	2028-30
12	Close, rehabilitate and revitalise the landfill site at McRobies Gully Waste Management Centre, transitioning to a Resource Recovery Centre that provides best practice infrastructure to support material recovery from the waste stream.	<b>Ø</b>	<b>⊗</b>	<b>⊗</b>
13	Integrate and coordinate litter control, flood mitigation, stormwater management and leachate disposal at McRobies Gully Waste Management Centre, considering Hobart's streetscapes, waterway health and the larger Derwent Estuary Program.			<b>Ø</b>
14	Construct an additional weighbridge at the McRobies Gully Waste Management Centre to enable identification of the volume of residual waste collected by the waste transfer station.	<b>Ø</b>		
15	Investigate opportunities to formalise an effective partnership for the continued delivery of a resource recovery tip shop.	<b>Ø</b>		
16	Investigate ways to support the increase of reuse, repair, share with sectors in the community through activities such as repair cafes and tool/toy equipment libraries.		<b>Ø</b>	<b>Ø</b>
17	Increase promotion of collections for hazardous and difficult to dispose of items and increase participation of City of Hobart supported collections, based on 2022 levels.	<b>Ø</b>	<b>Ø</b>	

Investigate options for increased glass recovery from the waste stream.	$\bigcirc$	$\odot$	
Investigate options to improve product and material recovery in residential rated, multi-unit developments.	<b>Ø</b>		
Investigate the use of statutory approval processes to improve material separation, reuse and recycling programs at building sites.			<b>Ø</b>
Investigate opportunities for the implementation of large-scale biochar processing facilities.	<b>Ø</b>	<b>Ø</b>	
Review current recycling and FOGO bins provided to schools and early education facilities. Develop a policy for provision of new collections to schools in line with education programs.			<b>Ø</b>
Improve recycling infrastructure for sporting clubs and community groups to optimise material recovery.	<b>Ø</b>		
Engage with industry sectors – particularly the tourism and hospitality sectors – to increase the collection of recyclable materials.		<b>Ø</b>	<b>Ø</b>
GIC DIRECTION: ENGAGE & EMPOWER		PRIORITY	
Action	2024-26	2026-28	2028-30
Develop, implement and promote initiatives and programs to recover organic material from the residential waste stream.	<b>Ø</b>		
Work with TasWaste South to support ReThink			
Waste to develop and deliver a statewide behavioural change program aimed at waste reduction by residents, businesses and visitors.	<b>Ø</b>	$\otimes$	<b>⊗</b>
	Investigate options to improve product and material recovery in residential rated, multi-unit developments.  Investigate the use of statutory approval processes to improve material separation, reuse and recycling programs at building sites.  Investigate opportunities for the implementation of large-scale biochar processing facilities.  Review current recycling and FOGO bins provided to schools and early education facilities. Develop a policy for provision of new collections to schools in line with education programs.  Improve recycling infrastructure for sporting clubs and community groups to optimise material recovery.  Engage with industry sectors – particularly the tourism and hospitality sectors – to increase the collection of recyclable materials.  GIC DIRECTION: ENGAGE & EMPOWER  Action  Develop, implement and promote initiatives and programs to recover organic material from the residential waste stream.	Investigate options to improve product and material recovery in residential rated, multi-unit developments.  Investigate the use of statutory approval processes to improve material separation, reuse and recycling programs at building sites.  Investigate opportunities for the implementation of large-scale biochar processing facilities.  Review current recycling and FOGO bins provided to schools and early education facilities. Develop a policy for provision of new collections to schools in line with education programs.  Improve recycling infrastructure for sporting clubs and community groups to optimise material recovery.  Engage with industry sectors – particularly the tourism and hospitality sectors – to increase the collection of recyclable materials.  GIC DIRECTION: ENGAGE & EMPOWER  Action  2024-26  Develop, implement and promote initiatives and programs to recover organic material from the residential waste stream.	Investigate options to improve product and material recovery in residential rated, multi-unit developments.  Investigate the use of statutory approval processes to improve material separation, reuse and recycling programs at building sites.  Investigate opportunities for the implementation of large-scale biochar processing facilities.  Review current recycling and FOGO bins provided to schools and early education facilities. Develop a policy for provision of new collections to schools in line with education programs.  Improve recycling infrastructure for sporting clubs and community groups to optimise material recovery.  Engage with industry sectors – particularly the tourism and hospitality sectors – to increase the collection of recyclable materials.  GIC DIRECTION: ENGAGE & EMPOWER  PRIORITY  Action  2024-26 2026-28  Develop, implement and promote initiatives and programs to recover organic material from the residential waste stream.

28	Engage with TasWaste South to develop standardised design/components for waste transfer stations in the southern region of Tasmania.		<b>Ø</b>	
29	Engage with commercial operators to target the removal of construction and demolition material from the waste stream.	<b>Ø</b>	<b>Ø</b>	
30	Actively engage in the implementation of the new Container Refund Scheme.	$\odot$		
31	Continue the implementation of the Good Neighbour Agreement at McRobies Gully.	$\odot$	$\odot$	$\otimes$
32	Engage with external stakeholders to source program funding.	<b>Ø</b>	$\odot$	<b>Ø</b>
33	Enable access to an App that provides the community with access to information on the City of Hobart's waste services and a range of waste avoidance measures.	<b>Ø</b>		
STRATE	GIC DIRECTION: ADVOCATE & INFLUENCE		PRIORITY	
	Action	2024-26	2026-28	2028-30
34	Engage with relevant stakeholders to explore the use of packaging materials as an alternative to polystyrene.	2024-26	2026-28	2028-30
34	Engage with relevant stakeholders to explore the use of packaging materials as an alternative	2024-26	© ©	2028-30
	Engage with relevant stakeholders to explore the use of packaging materials as an alternative to polystyrene.  Advocate for investment to improve the quality of material recovery facilities in the Southern	2024-26 Ø	© ©	<b>2</b> 028-30
35	Engage with relevant stakeholders to explore the use of packaging materials as an alternative to polystyrene.  Advocate for investment to improve the quality of material recovery facilities in the Southern Region of Tasmania.  Engage with relevant stakeholders to establish new organic waste processing facilities in the	© ©	© © © © © © © © © © © © © © © © © © ©	<b>2</b> 028-30

39	Work with Southern Waste Solutions and advocate for the establishment of a regional construction and demolition recovery facility at Lutana.	<b>Ø</b>		
40	Advocate for Southern Waste Solutions to minimise landfill gas generation at the Copping landfill and improve gas capture infrastructure.			<b>Ø</b>
41	Advocate to government and industry for more sustainable packaging options for common household items, such as recyclable food packaging, increased recycled content in packaging and the establishment of national packaging covenants as well as the establishment and implementation of produce stewardship schemes.	<b>⊗</b>	<b>⊗</b>	<b>⊗</b>
42	Advocate for the investigation of facilities for the potential upcycling of residual waste to energy or e-fuels.			<b>Ø</b>
43	Advocate for the establishment of clear waste avoidance, material recovery and waste reduction targets by the Tasmanian Government.	<b>Ø</b>	<b>Ø</b>	
44	Maintain a watching brief on national waste and circular economy policy development and the establishments of targets.	<b>Ø</b>	<b>Ø</b>	<b>Ø</b>
45	Advocate for statewide and/or regional waste stream tracking.	<b>Ø</b>	Ø	
STRAT	EGIC DIRECTION: LEAD BY EXAMPLE		PRIORITY	
	Action	2024-26	2026-28	2028-30
46	Prepare a staged development master plan for the McRobies Gully Waste Management Centre.	<b>Ø</b>		
47	Progressively implement infrastructure as a component of the redevelopment of the McRobies Gully Waste Management Centre to optimise material recovery from the waste stream, specifically the recovery of materials with a reuse value.	<b>Ø</b>	<b>Ø</b>	<b>Ø</b>

48	Progressively relocate the City of Hobart's residential kerbside collections from the McRobies Gully Waste Management Centre to the regional waste transfer station at Lutana.	<b>⊗</b>	<b>⊗</b>	<b>Ø</b>
49	Transfer the residual waste collected at the McRobies Gully Waste Management Centre to the regional waste transfer station at Lutana from 1 July 2030.			<b>Ø</b>
50	Cease operational utilisation of the landfill site at McRobies Gully by 30 June 2030 and retain remaining air space for emergency waste recovery and future disposal use.			<b>Ø</b>
51	Explore the opportunity to utilise rehabilitated areas of the McRobies Gully landfill site for recreational purposes.			<b>Ø</b>
52	Investigate potential for the installation of solar panels and/or wind turbines to generate electricity together with community recreational opportunities within the rehabilitated McRobies Gully landfill site.	<b>Ø</b>		
53	Improve infrastructure at the rehabilitated McRobies Gully landfill site to optimise recovery of gas from the area.	<b>Ø</b>	<b>Ø</b>	<b>Ø</b>
54	Improve data collections for measuring and monitoring waste volumes, material flow and diversion rates.	<b>Ø</b>	<b>Ø</b>	
55	Review litter and dumped rubbish compliance procedures to ensure they align with regulatory expectations.	<b>Ø</b>		
56	Work with the City of Hobart's internal networks, contractors and designers to incorporate recyclable and recycled materials into new infrastructure and facilities developed by the City.		<b>Ø</b>	<b>⊗</b>
57	Strengthen waste minimisation principles and actions in City of Hobart procurement policies to utilise more recycled and recyclable product and ensure suppliers prioritise waste avoidance practices.		<b>Ø</b>	<b>Ø</b>

58	Promote the City of Hobart's Community Grants programs to attract and support waste minimisation projects in the community.	$\bigcirc$	<b>Ø</b>	
59	Establish a new digital display in the City of Hobart's Customer Service Centre to provide online reporting of waste data to the community – including recycling streams and waste sent to landfill.	<b>Ø</b>	<b>Ø</b>	
	EGIC DIRECTION: GOVERNANCE		PRIORITY	
	Action	2024-26	2026-28	2028-30
60	Investigate options for future governance arrangements associated with the delivery of waste services by the City of Hobart, including participation in joint authorities.	<b>Ø</b>	<b>Ø</b>	
61	Identify, catalogue and undertake a comprehensive review of the provision and management of waste services delivered by the City of Hobart.	<b>Ø</b>		
62	Develop a financial strategy to underpin progressive changes to the recurrent costs for the delivery of waste management services in Hobart.	<b>Ø</b>		
63	Pursue all opportunities to identify and secure external funding to underpin implementation of the infrastructure improvements identified in this strategy.	<b>Ø</b>	<b>Ø</b>	<b>Ø</b>
64	Engage with various industry sectors – particularly the tourism and hospitality sectors – to increase the collection of recyclable materials.		<b>Ø</b>	<b>Ø</b>

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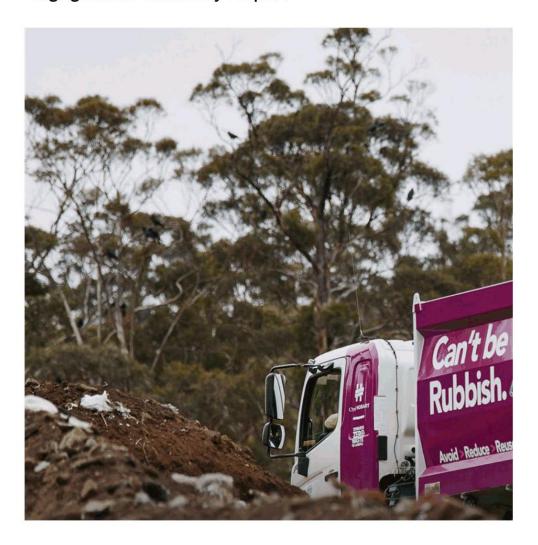
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# Draft Waste Management Strategy

# **Engagement Summary Report**



Date of Report: [May 2025]

Prepared By: [Isabela Izidro /Community Engagement Team]

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# 1. Executive Summary

The City of Hobart has developed a new Waste Management Strategy, updating the previous plan from 2015. To ensure the strategy reflects community needs and priorities, the City of Hobart invited community members and stakeholders to participate in the engagement process.

Following the engagement process, the draft of the Waste Management Strategy will be reviewed and updated considering the feedback received before being presented to the council for endorsement.

#### Community Engagement

To ensure this engagement process was effective and that the community's voice was heard, a diverse range of engagement methods were utilised:

- Engagement Promotion through social media, email invitations, posters, e-newsletters, and flyers.
- Three Pop-up events were conducted at Elizabeth Mall, YouthArc, and Resource Tip Shop.
- 40 responses to an Online Poll.
- 20 Written Submissions sent via YourSay page and email.
- 126 survey participation including online Your Say Survey and face-to-face survey
- Consultation with Community groups: attending the Council of Hobart Community Associations (CHCA) and Access Advisory Committee (AAC)
- . One-on-one session online session with member from the community with vision impairment
- Workshop with Culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD)

#### Key insights

The engagement provided a rich source of quantitative and qualitative data, reflecting the diverse needs and preferences of the community. Key insights include:

- Supportive of the Waste Management Strategy: Most were supportive due to satisfaction with current services and the City's commitment to sustainable practices, however, some expressed concerns about trust in the City of Hobart along with construction and demolition waste.
- Supportive of Closing of McRobies Gully Landfill: There was emphasis on the need for
  updates and involvement in the future development, particularly for recreational use, while also
  supporting the long-term presence of the South Hobart Tip Shop.
- Accessibility: Such as limited access to services, inadequate signage, complicated material separation, and the need for more accessible hard waste collection options.

- Soft Plastic recycling services request: Which has now been launched to support proper disposal, though they were not included in the draft Waste Management Strategy.
- **Bin disposal confidence:** Participants generally felt confident about disposing of materials but were unsure about specific items.
- Use of green lid FOGO bin: While most participants felt confident, there were knowledge gaps, particularly among Culturally and Linguistically Diverse participants.
- Very supportive of the Circular economy: Participants strongly supported emphasising the need for more actions focused on waste avoidance through circular initiatives
- Positive response to Recycle Rewards container scheme and incentive and rewards programs: Participants responded positively to the Recycle Rewards container scheme and various incentive programs, though some are not aware this is a State Government initiative.
- Very supportive of reuse and repair programs along with educational programs:
   Participants strongly supported reuse and repair programs.
- Needs to improve communication: emphasised the need for better bin labeling, more information on waste processing, and increased awareness of waste impacts.
- Concerns on Construction & Demolition waste and Commercial & Industrial waste: Expressed concerns about the need for more regulations and actions on the disposal and reuse of commercial and construction waste.
- **Bin Collection Frequency:** Respondents varied in their opinions on bin collection frequency, with strong support for weekly green lid FOGO bin collections.
- Private and Public Sector responsibility: Respondents emphasised the significant role of both residents and the public and private sectors in waste reduction.
- **Behavioral change:** Respondents emphasised the importance of behavior change in waste management, suggesting initiatives and education for the community.
- Supportive of the engagement process: Respondents expressed strong support and satisfaction with the engagement process.

# 2. Background

The City of Hobart has drafted a new Waste Management Strategy, updating the previous plan from 2015. This revision aligns with the City's Capital City Strategic Plan 2023, implementing reduction actions and programs to achieve the target of diverting 85% of waste from landfill by 2030 and supporting the goal of achieving Zero Emissions by 2040. The updated strategy emphasises community education, innovative waste management initiatives, and collaboration with industry partners and neighbouring councils. The draft Waste Management Strategy outlines comprehensive actions to achieve its goals, including the closure of McRobies Gully landfill by 2030, redirecting residual waste, focusing on waste diversion initiatives, and developing a circular economy.

#### Report purpose

The purpose of this report is to summarise the key findings from the community related to waste management and summarise their feedback on the draft Waste Management Strategy. It is envisaged that this report and its findings will ensure the Waste & Circular Economy Team consider pertinent feedback and update the draft Strategy to align with the community feedback.



# 3. Engagement overview

This section provides a comprehensive overview of the objectives, methodologies, participation in the engagement process, and considerations from the engagement activities. The engagement activities occurred for over six weeks, commencing on 21 March 2025 and ending on 4 May 2025.

### 3.1 Engagement objectives

The objectives of the draft Waste Management Strategy program are:

Step 1



**Inform** the community about the draft Waste Management Strategy including its objectives and steps to achieve it.

# Step 3



Listen to diverse community groups.

#### Step 5



**Build** community trust to involve and gain their support, which is pivotal to the success of the Waste Management Strategy in achieving its goals.

#### Step 2



**Collect** feedback on the draft Waste Management Strategy.

#### Step 4



**Identify** barriers the community faces to support the City of Hobart in achieving the goals of the Waste Management Strategy.

#### Step 6



**Report** back on what was heard to inform the development of the design.

## 3.2 Methodology

To ensure a diverse group of the community were informed and able to provide feedback, various engagement tools and channels were used. These methods aimed to gather comprehensive feedback and foster active participation from various stakeholders.



**Engagement Promotion:** Promotional activities were conducted through social media platforms, e-newsletters, email invitation, posters, and flyers. These channels were used to inform the community about the draft Waste Management Strategy and encourage participation in the engagement process.



**Pop-Ups and Face to Face Interviews:** Face to face interviews were held during three pop-ups to gain in-depth insights from individuals. The pop-ups were held at Elizabeth Mall, YouthArc and McRobie Gully Tip Shop (and landfill) and allowed for detailed discussions and a better understanding of personal perspectives and concerns of the wider community and users of the McRobie Gully TipShop and landfill.



Your Say Online Survey and online Poll: The Your Say Online Survey was posted on the City of Hobart's online engagement platform to collect structured feedback from a broad audience. On this platform, participants could view or download the draft Waste Management Strategy. To facilitate quick engagement, a poll was created on the page to measure the support on the draft Waste Management Strategy.



**Written Submissions:** The City of Hobart invited written submissions to gather detailed feedback from the community and key stakeholders. Participants were encouraged to submit their thoughts and suggestions regarding the draft Waste Management Strategy. This method allowed for in-depth responses and provided an opportunity for individuals to express their views comprehensively.



Consultation with the Council of Hobart Community Associations (CHCA) and Access Advisory Committee (AAC): Targeted consultations were conducted with CHCA and AAC members. These sessions were an opportunity to promote the draft Waste Management Strategy and ensured that the perspectives of diverse stakeholders were considered in the strategy development process.



Workshop with culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) group: The City of Hobart conducted a dedicated workshop session to engage with Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) groups at Migrant Resource Centre (MRC). This workshop provided a supportive environment for participants to share their unique perspectives, and provide information related to waste avoidance and management. The aim of the session was to understand the barriers and perspectives from the group. This understanding will help develop a strategy where everyone, regardless of their background or barriers, can contribute to achieving waste reduction.

## 3.3 Target Audience



Rate Payers and residents within Hobart municipality: Their direct involvement and feedback can provide valuable insights into local waste management practices and community needs.



Users of McRobies Gully landfill and South Hobart Tip Shop: Their feedback can highlight practical challenges and opportunities for improvement, ensuring the strategy is effective and user-friendly. By involving them, especially with the planned closure of McRobies Gully landfill by 2030, we can develop a more comprehensive and inclusive approach to waste management that addresses the needs and concerns of those directly impacted.



Hard-to-reach groups including young people, people with disabilities and Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) people: Their unique perspectives and experiences can highlight specific barriers and opportunities for improvement ensuring the strategy is inclusive and effective for all community members.



Individuals who might lack awareness or interest in waste management practices and their impact on the environment: Their involvement can help identify specific barriers to engagement and uncover opportunities for raising awareness.



**Groups and individuals who care about the environment:** Their passion and commitment to environmental sustainability provide valuable perspectives on effective waste management practices. By involving them we can build trust and collaborate to find solutions together, ultimately achieving waste reduction and lower gas emissions.



Groups and individuals professionally and/or personally involved with Waste Management: Their expertise and experience provide valuable insights into current practices and potential improvements. Their feedback can help identify practical challenges and innovative solutions, ensuring the strategy is effective, forward-thinking and regionally relevant.

#### 3.4 Promotion

To promote the draft Waste Management Strategy and encourage people to be informed and provide their feedback, different types of promotions were used to reach the community and encourage them to have their say.

The promotion included:

Posters and digital poster in different locations including:

- Customer Service Centre
- Information Centre
- YouthArc
- Hobart Aquatic Centre
- South Hobart Tip Shop





150x Pamphlets distributed to McRobies Gully users at the boot gate

## Your Say Hobart Webpage

• 536 people access the page (updated on 5 May 2025)

#### E- Newsletter

• 6,304 Your Say subscribers (4,002 open the email)

#### Email to key stakeholders including:

- Regular McRobies Gully landfill users
- South Hobart Sustainable Communities
- South Hobart Residents
- oResource Work Cooperative
- South Hobart Progress Association
- Hobart Rivulet Platypus Foundation

#### • 4 April 2025

- o Reach 7,025
- o Engagement 87
- 2 May 2025
- o Reach 2,487
- o Engagement 35



# 3x Social Media posts

- 21 March 2025
  - o Reach 7,406
  - o Engagement 106

# 3.5 Number of Participants and Reach



x126

#### Survey Responses

- 108 x Online Surveys
- 18 x Face to Face Surveys



x40

#### **Poll Responses**

via Your Say page



х3

#### Pop-Ups

- 1 x Elizabeth Mall
- 1 x YouthArc
- 1 x Resource Tip Shop



x20

# Written Submissions

- 14 x via Your Say page
- 6 x via email



x380

# Draft Waste Management Strategy downloaded

via Your Say page \*Updated on 5 May 2025



x3

#### Meetings with community groups

- 1 x CHCA meeting
- 1 x CALD group workshop
- 1 x AAC meeting



# 3.6 Participant Demographics

The demographic data demonstrated below are based on the participants from the online and face-to-face survey total of 126 responses.

#### Age Group - What is your age group

Under 20 years old	20-29 years old	30-39 years old	40-49 years old	50-59 years old	60-69 years old	70-79 years old	80+ years old
1	8	22	24	26	25	17	3

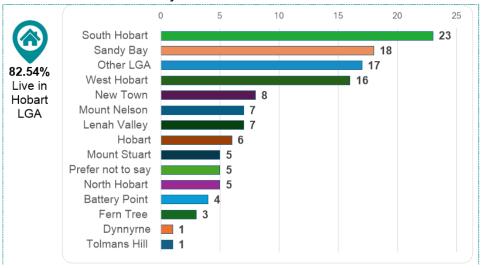
#### Gender - What gender do you identify as?

***		Female	Male	Gender diverse		Other
l	N <b>T</b> II				say	
ı		60	57	2	5	2

#### Housing situation - What is your current housing situation?

l live in a home l own	l am renting a house	I am renting an apartment		I live in an apartment I own	Other
90	17	6	7	2	4

#### Location - Which suburb do you live in?



# 4. Analysis

In this report, we present an analysis of the quantitative and qualitative data collected through five distinct types of engagement methodologies, including:

- 1. Your Say Online Survey combined with Face-to-Face Survey
- 2. Online Poll (comparing with the survey results)
- 3. Council of Hobart Community Associations (CHCA) meeting
- Hard-to-reach groups, including (representations of diverse members of the community):
  - · Engagement session for young people
  - Workshop with a Culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) group
  - Access Advisory Committee meeting & One on One meeting with local resident with vision impairment
- 5. Written submissions

Each methodology was designed to reach different segments of our target audience, ensuring a comprehensive understanding of their needs and preferences.

Given the varied nature of these engagement methods and the diverse audience, it is important to note that there may be slight differences in the results obtained from each approach. These differences are expected and reflect the unique perspectives and experiences of the participants reached through each methodology. By combining these diverse data sources, we aim to provide a holistic view of the community's needs and preferences, ensuring that our findings are both inclusive and representative.

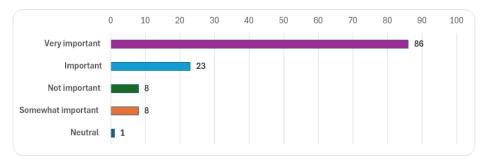
Participants who have a stronger interest in the subject of the engagement tend to be more involved and provide more feedback. This is particularly evident among those who submitted written responses, as their heightened interest in the topic can significantly influence the results of the data collected.



# 4.1 Survey

#### Importance of improving recycling and reducing organic waste

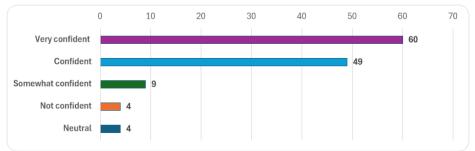
Question 1 - Improving residential recycling rates and implementing measures to stop organic waste from ending up in red lid general waste bins are high priorities of the waste management strategy. How important do you think it is for the City of Hobart to focus on these measures?



Most of the survey participants are very supportive of the City of Hobart focusing on improving recycling rates and implementing measures to stop organic waste from ending up in general waste bins. With **70.63% of respondents considering, it very important** and 18.25% respondents finding it important.

#### Sorting household waste

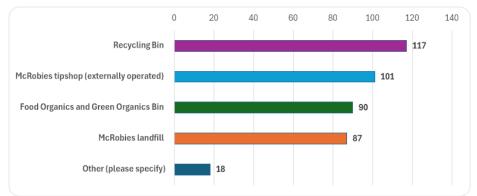
Question 2 - The 2024 waste audit found that a typical domestic kerbside waste bin in Hobart contains 51% food and garden organics, 11% recyclables and 38% waste to landfill. How confident do you feel sorting your household waste?



Majority of respondents feel confident in sorting their household waste, with 47.62% respondents being very confident and 38.89% respondents confident.

#### Facilities / Services used

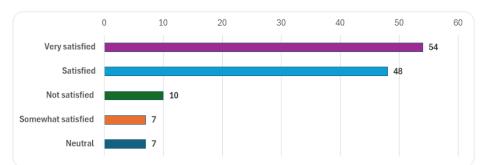
Question 3 - The City of Hobart currently provides facilities and services to manage the City's waste. What facilities/service have you used or use? (Select all that apply)



The survey results show that the McRobies TipShop is the most frequently used facility, with 101 responses, followed by the Food Organics and Green Organics Bin with 90 responses, and the McRobies Landfill with 87 responses. The recycling bin was used by 17 respondents. Other facilities or services mentioned included: own worm farms, recycling bank at the Council Center, compost, Good Karma Network, Gumtree, Recycle Smart, Mornington and Glenorchy landfills.

#### Kerbside collection service

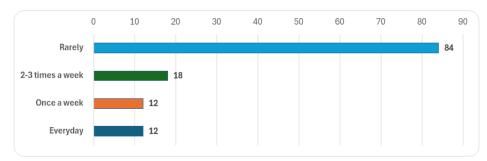
Question 4 - The City of Hobart offers kerbside collection services for waste, recycling and organic material (FOGO). How satisfied are you with the frequency of these collections?



The survey results indicate a high level of satisfaction with the frequency of kerbside collection services in Hobart, with 42.86% respondents being very satisfied and 38.10% respondents satisfied. A smaller number of respondents expressed dissatisfaction, with 10 not satisfied, 7 somewhat satisfied, and 7 neutral.

#### Food waste in red lid general waste bin

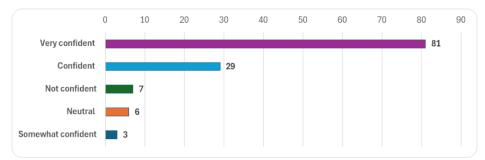
Question 5 - Red lid general waste bins should be a last resort for waste that cannot be put in yellow lid recycling bins or green lid food and garden organics (FOGO) bins. However, food remains the highest single component at 29% of red lid general waste bins in Hobart. How often do you place food waste in your red lid general waste bin?



The majority of respondents (66.67%) rarely place food waste in their red lid general waste bins, aligning with the goal of using these bins as a last resort. However, a notable portion of respondents still dispose of food waste more frequently, with 14.29% doing so 2-3 times a week, and 9.52% each doing so once a week or every day.

#### Using green lid FOGO bin

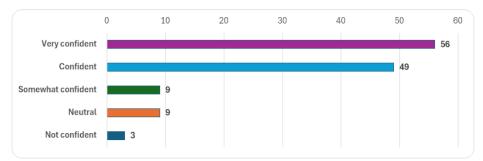
Question 6 - Green lid FOGO bins, used for the collection of organic materials, have the lowest levels of waste contamination at just 2.12%. Food waste is a significant issue identified in the draft waste management strategy. Organic materials such as food scraps and garden waste make up on average 41% of residential red lid general waste bins. How confident are you using the green lid FOGO bin?



The survey results show a high level of confidence among respondents in **using the green lid FOGO bins, with 64.29% respondents feeling very confident** and 23% respondents confident. A smaller number of respondents are not confident (5.56%), neutral (4.76%), or somewhat confident (2.38%).

#### Using yellow lid recycling bin

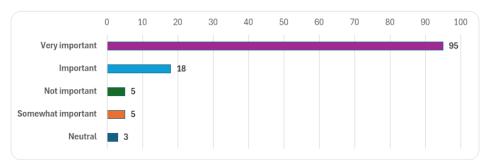
Question 7 - City of Hobart residents place 3860 tonnes of containers and packaging in their yellow lid recycling bins each year. However, on average, 11% of the red lid general waste bins consist of recyclable materials. How confident are you of correctly using your yellow lid recycling bin?



The survey results indicate that a majority of respondents feel confident in **correctly using their yellow lid recycling bins, with 44.44% respondents being very confident** and 38.89% respondents confident. A smaller number of respondents are somewhat confident (7.14%), neutral (7.14%), or not confident (2.38%).

#### Circular economy importance

Question 8 - A circular economy aims to find new uses for waste products by reusing, recycling, or recovering them. The need to develop a circular economy arises from the realisation that our natural resources are finite, and their use causes negative environmental impacts. The 2020 National Waste Report highlights the increasing need to embrace the circular economy. How important do you think it is for Hobart to adopt circular economy practices to improve waste management?



The survey results show strong support for adopting circular economy practices in Hobart, with 75.40% of respondents considering it very important and 14.29% of respondents finding it important. Only a small number of respondents viewed it as not important (3.97%), somewhat important (3.97%), or neutral (2.38%).

#### Waste avoidance practices

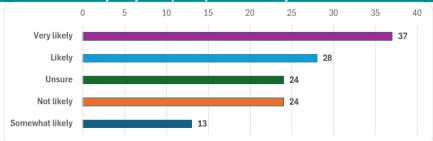
Question 9 - The waste hierarchy focuses on reducing landfill waste by first preventing waste generation (avoid), followed by reusing and repairing items, and finally recycling materials to recover valuable resources for creating new products. Which of the following waste avoidance practices have you embraced?(Select all that apply)



According to the survey, the most embraced practice is reducing waste, with 112 participants prioritizing this approach. Close behind, 110 respondents focus on recycling materials that cannot be reused or repaired. Reusing items instead of discarding them is also popular, with 107 participants adopting this practice. Repairing items rather than replacing them when they break is embraced by 89 respondents. Additionally, 39 participants mentioned other waste avoidance practices, including: composting, food preservation, educating others, and buying quality products.

#### Recycle Rewards scheme

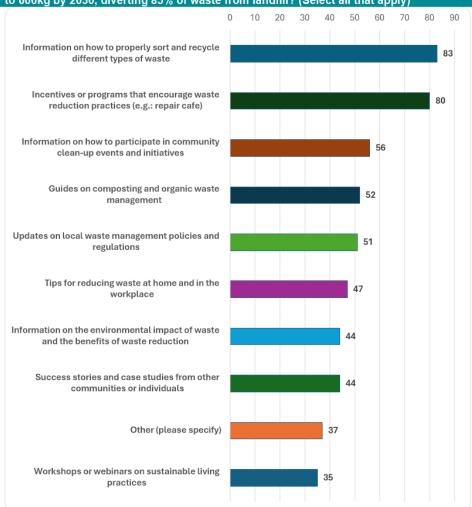
Question 10 - With the Tasmanian Government set to introduce the Recycle Rewards container refund scheme in 2025, we anticipate a significant reduction in the number of containers ending up in yellow-lidded bins. The recent waste audit found 14% of the contents of yellow lid recycling bins are made up of containers eligible for Recycle Rewards. How likely are you to participate in the Recycle Rewards scheme?



The survey results indicate a mixed response to the Recycle Rewards container refund scheme, with 29.37% respondents being very likely and 22.22% likely to participate. However, a significant portion of respondents remain unsure (19%) or not likely (19%) to engage with the scheme, while 10.32% respondents are somewhat likely.

#### Motivation to reduce waste

Question 11 - The draft waste management strategy outlines specific actions for education and awareness campaigns. What sort of information would help you be part of reducing the average waste generated per person every year in Hobart from 730 kg to 600kg by 2030, diverting 85% of waste from landfill? (Select all that apply)



The survey results reveal that the most requested information to help reduce waste in Hobart includes guidance on properly sorting and recycling different types of waste, with 65.87% respondents prioritizing this. Close behind, 63.49% of participants are interested in incentives or programs that encourage waste reduction practices, such as repair cafes.

Information on participating in community clean-up events and initiatives is important to 44.44% respondents, while 41.27% seek guides on composting and organic waste management. Updates on local waste management policies and regulations are valued by 40.48% participants. Additionally, tips for reducing waste at home and in the workplace, information on the environmental impact of waste, and success stories from other communities or individuals are also significant, with 34.92% of respondents each. Other areas of interest include workshops or webinars on sustainable living practices (27.78% respondents) and various other suggestions (29.37% respondents), including:

#### · Clear communication:

- Information is easier to understand in "small doses" instead of all at once. Consider small packages of information.
- Better labelling on the bins it's difficult to always know what's accepted and don't want to contaminate green waste.
- Clear lists of exactly which plastics can be put into the yellow bin.
- Information on the condition of items disposed of in the recycling bin E.g.: clean/washed/labels removed/lids removed, etc.
- Public litter bins with better signage, especially for non-English speakers.

#### Information about the waste process:

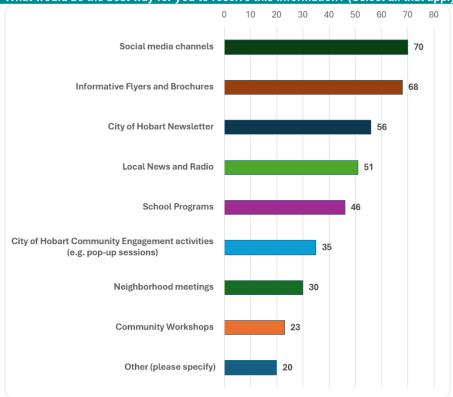
- Information on how waste streams are processed and the impact of putting the wrong thing in the wrong bin.
- Confirmation that the yellow-lid recycling bin is actually recycled rather than landfilled.
   This certainty is very important if we are to believe in the process.
- Information on what the City of Hobart is doing to reduce commercial waste.

# · Inspirational campaign:

- Information on where to easily drop items for recycling, particularly plastics, old home wares, and clothing.
- Clever & fun public service adverts on TV.
- Campaigns to reduce consumption in the first place.
- Inspire people to keep a few chickens = food scraps sorted! :)
- There needs to be a focus on what residents can put into the green bin
- There must be collaboration with government, industry and promotion by Tasmanian celebrities to get the message across.

#### Information to reduce waste

Question 12 - According to the most recent waste audit, a public education campaign could help reduce the average weight of the red lid general waste bin from 7.66 kg to under 4 kg by encouraging proper sorting of waste, recyclables and organic materials. What would be the best way for you to receive this information? (Select all that apply)



According to the survey participants, the most effective methods for receiving information about waste management include social media channels, preferred by 55.56% respondents, and informative flyers and brochures, chosen by 53.97% participants. The City of Hobart newsletter is also a popular choice, with 44.44% of respondents favouring it. Additionally, local news and radio (40.48% respondents) and school programs (36.51% respondents) are significant channels. Other notable methods include City of Hobart community engagement activities like pop-up sessions (27.78% respondents), neighbourhood meetings (23.81% respondents), and community workshops (18.25% respondents). A smaller group of 15.87% respondents suggested other methods, including: email, top of the bins, webpage, landfill guided tours, educational programs at workplaces, and workshops at the South Hobart TipShop.

#### Methane emissions

Question 13 - Methane gas has a global warming potential of approximately 28 times greater than carbon dioxide over a 100-year period. How concerned are you about methane emissions from landfills in Hobart?



The survey results indicate a significant level of concern among respondents regarding methane emissions from landfills in Hobart. A majority of 19% participants are very concerned about the issue, highlighting the awareness of methane's high global warming potential. Only one respondent is simply concerned, while 14.29% remain neutral. Additionally, 9.52% of respondents are not concerned, and another 9.52% are somewhat concerned.

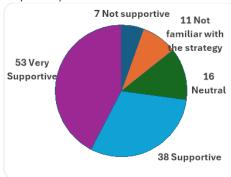
# **Draft Waste Management Strategy support**

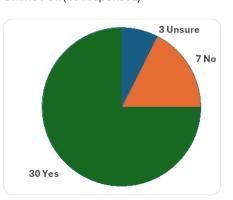
# Question 14 - Do you support the Draft Waste Management Strategy?

Online and Face-to-Face Survey (125

Online Poll (40 responses)

responses)





The survey results indicated that most respondents were in favor of the strategy, with 42% respondents being very supportive and 30% respondents supportive. When compared to an online poll, the support was similarly high, with 75% respondents answering yes in support of the draft Waste Management Strategy.

Draft Waste Management Strategy support - justify		
Question 15 – Justify the level of support for the Draft Waste Management Strategy?		
Very Supportive – 53 Total responses     Main responses		
Towards more sustainable waste management / reduction	15 responses	
practice		
Support Circular economy	10 responses	
Care about sustainable practices	8 responses	
Strategy is clear and simple to understand with solid actions	7 responses	
Sustainable waste management awareness	6 responses	
Education programs	6 responses	
Positive action for a better environment	6 responses	
McRobies Gully closure	3 responses	
Opportunity to do things differently	3 responses	
Necessary and logical	3 responses	

"Appreciate emphasis in circular economy. And the need to reduce consumption in the first place. Education programs are paramount. Although I am very committed to using the right bins, I still am sometimes unsure of where to put certain items. It is an excellent strategy and one that other councils should replicate. Well done!" (Serena King)

<ul> <li>Supportive – 38 Total responses</li> </ul>	Main responses
Care about sustainable practices	16 responses
Towards more sustainable waste management / reduction practice	8 responses
Sustainable waste management awareness	6 responses
Comprehensive document with solid actions	6 responses
Education programs	5 responses
Positive action for a better environment	4 responses
Support Circular economy	2 responses
McRobies Gully closure	1 response
	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·

<sup>&</sup>quot;It's an important area that we are all responsible for. The Strategy seems to be going in the right direction, but is light on actionable details, which is why I didn't give it the highest rating." (Rhys Roberts)

Neutral – 16 Total responses	Main responses
Lack of strategy focus on waste avoidance	2 responses
Lack of trust in the Hobart City Council	2 responses
Didn't read the strategy	2 responses
Lack of control over supermarket packaging	1 response
Lack of regulations around compostable packaging	1 response
Concerns about building industry waste materials	1 response
Concerns about adding cost to ratepayers	1 response
Concerns about the strategy be inclusive	1 response

<sup>&</sup>quot;More concerningly, I don't see anything in this strategy that genuinely addresses waste avoidance. There's no indication that slowing consumption is even on the radar. Once again, the focus is on cleaning up waste rather than preventing it—just another ambulance at the bottom of the cliff."

<ul> <li>Not familiar with the strategy – 11 Total responses</li> </ul>	Main responses	
Haven't read	9 responses	
Not accessible for diverse cultures	1 response	

"I have not read the strategy yet. But I am very supportive of a strategy that can improve the opportunities associated with waste reduction and utilisation with an education campaign."

Not supportive – 7 Total responses	Main responses
Don't believe it will be effective	2 responses
Not enough actions around construction waste	1 response
Not enough investment in recycling facilities	1 response

<sup>&</sup>quot;Seems a bit over the top for the global impact that will be achieved. More important to concentrate on traffic congestion which will have immediate local impact."

#### Key Suggestions discussed by participants were;

#### 1. Green lid FOGO bin

- o Lack of FOGO green lid bins in public spaces and local business 3x
- o Increase green lid FOGO bin collection to weekly. 2x
- o FOGO green lid bins should be compulsory for all COH residents.
- o Provide smaller green lid FOGO bin.

#### 2. Education / Information

- o Need more information on what bin to use.
- o Community education programs in other languages.
- Lack of information on where the recycling items are processed.

#### 3. Incentives / Rewards

- o Incentives / rewards to encourage improved waste behaviour.
- o Disincentive / consequences for those who don't separate waste. 2x
- o We should subsidise worm farms for domestic use.

#### 4. Waste services

- o We need to better address industrial and commercial waste. 3x
- o Provide soft plastic recycling services / factory. 2x
- o Reduce the frequency of red lid general waste bin and yellow lid bin collection. 2x
- Hard waste collection needs to be repaired and reused.
- It would be more effective and efficient to sort a single stream of waste collection, than
  engage in the current practice of upstream separation, which is never going to sort
  waste correctly. As an example, check out the work at Potato Head in Bali.
  https://seminyak.potatohead.co/journal/introducing-the-community-waste-project

#### 5. Regulations and responsibilities

- Legislations to stop using unrecyclable wrapping and packaging. 4x
- Role of Councils and Government to make waste management easy and accessible to everyone.
- The current definition of PFAS is somewhat misleading and needs to be revised for accuracy.

# 4.2 CHCA meeting

# Consultation with the Council of Hobart Community Associations (CHCA)

Date: 16 April 2025

Participants: Representatives from several City of Hobart suburbs including North Hobart, South Hobart Progress Association, Glebe, New Town, Lenah Valley, Hobart not Highrise and Mount Nelson, Mount Stuart, South Hobart Sustainable Community.

Purpose: Promote and inform about the draft waste management strategy and encourage attendees of the meeting to provide feedback on the City's draft.

#### Objectives of the Consultation:

- Inform about the strategy: The primary aim was to inform about the strategy goals and actions
  plan, including the closure of the McRobies Gully landfill by 2030.
- Feedback on the strategy: Since the members had the information about the draft Waste Management Strategy, participants were encouraged to provide feedback on the draft according to their personal experiences and their local communities.
- Broader feedback and clarification: members were also encouraged to provide feedback on any issues or questions they had related to waste management.
- Feedback Channels: Members were encouraged to provide suggestions and feedback during
  the session and via an online survey to support data collection. It was also encouraged for the
  attendees to share the draft with their groups.

#### Key Feedback from the Consultation:

- Reduce the collection of red bins: Suggest reducing the collection of the red bin general waste
  to fortnightly.
- Incentives: Some members of the CHCA believe that cost of the tip discourages disposing material correctly
- Positive feedback on the container scheme: a Member mentioned it as a great opportunity to fundraise for the local community.
- Include to address the hospitals: Members mention concerns with hospitals and age care not separating their waste. Suggestion of having compostable containers.
- Community engagement on the master plan: Concerns the community involvement on the master plan for the McRobies Gully Waste Management Centre (action 46 of the draft Waste Management Strategy).
- Overall Waste Management Feedback: provide more information about where dispose (opportunity for education), promote the image of the bins with the percentage of the materials (as in the draft waste management strategy figure 7) as it is very impactful, provide clearer and accessible information on how to dispose chemicals.

# 4.3 Representation

Waste generation and disposal are integral aspects of daily life for everyone. To effectively address this issue, it is crucial to involve the entire community. As part of the engagement process, we aimed to inform and listen to diverse community members to understand their perspectives on waste management and the barriers they might face in supporting the goal of zero waste. This includes individuals who, for various reasons, may not typically provide feedback but can offer valuable insights or need to be informed to encourage more sustainable practices.

# 4.3.1 Young people

Date: 10 April 2025

Participants: Young people from 13 to 25 years old, including two members of the Youth Advisory Committee attending YouthArc on that day. (Around 10 participants)

Purpose: Promote and inform about the draft waste management strategy and waste management through fun and interactive activities.

Objectives of the Consultation:

- Engage and inform: Finding interactive ways to engage with young people to connect and
  provide information on the draft waste management strategy focusing on its targets and also
  general information about the waste management service in the City of Hobart.
- Understand their concerns: Participants were encouraged to share their concerns and views/ perspective on topics related to the waste management strategy.
- Provide broader information on waste: While the focus was on the draft Waste Management strategy, it was a great opportunity to gather feedback on general waste management from young people.

# Key Feedback from the pop-up session:

- Supportive and motivation: All participants believe it is very important or important improving
  recycling and reducing organic waste. One participant adds the importance of restaurants
  decreasing the use of plastic waste. They revealed that their main motivation, which encourages
  them to dispose of their waste mindfully, is knowing it helps the environment.
- Confidence about sorting waste: Although all participants are aware of separating their waste, they shared that sometimes they are unsure about certain items. E.g. biodegradable packages. Additionally, half of the participants said they are unsure about using green FOGO lid bin correctly, one of the items they were unsure about adding meat scraps to the FOGO bin.
- Circular economy practices: The participants are very conscious of circular economy practices
  and are very supportive. In between their practices to reduce waste are the reuse, reduce, and
  recycling, repairing items when possible.
- Concerns for methane emissions from landfill in Hobart: all participants described their concern for the methane emissions from the landfill in Hobart.

- Information and Education: most of the participants like the idea of being informed on waste management, and according to their responses, their preferable way is through educational programs. They also mention the value of including programs for workplaces to educate people on recycling practices.
- Need information: In between the items, they mentioned the need for clarification on where to
  dispose of items such as cellophane paper and coffee cups. They also added that materials that
  have a lid that goes in separate bins becomes a barrier to dispose of correctly. Some also mention
  that not knowing where the recyclable materials go. And in terms of nomenclatures, they don't
  understand the meaning of the plastic numbering, labels on packages and what PFAS stands for.

"I would like to learn more about recycling. I think workplaces should be educated on how important recycling is. Workplaces, mainly hospitality - restaurants should decrease plastic waste by not using plastic bottles instead using big refillable cans and fill up reusable glasses instead."

	Join at menti.com   use code 39541493	M Mentimeter	
What is one thing about waste sorting or recycling that you find confusing or are unsure about?			
7 responses			
Biocups	Where its going. Plastic numbering? What do they mean?	The labels on the packages. Coffee cups recycle or composting? What is PFAS	
I was wondering about whether it's okay to put meat scraps into the green bin. Also if celophane can be recycled or if you put it into the red lid bin.	WHY PEOPLE DONT PICK UP THEIR TRASH GRR	where did the paper bins go $\ensuremath{\text{\ensuremath{\wp}}}$	
Items that had a lid etc that have two different types of recycling requirements.			
		(a) Q	

# 4.3.2 People with accessibility needs

# Access Advisory Committee (AAC)

Date: 7 May 2025

Participants: Representatives from MS Australia, Migrant Resource Centre (MRC), Disability Voices Tasmania, Blind Citizens Australia, Brain Injury Association of Tasmania (BIAT), additionally representants with lived experience – physical disability, visual impairment, and hearing impairment.

Purpose: Promote and inform about the draft waste management strategy and encourage the attendees of the meeting to provide feedback on the City's draft.

Objectives of the Consultation:

- Inform about the strategy: The primary aim was to inform about the strategy goals and actions
  plan including the closure of the McRobies Gully landfill by 2030.
- Feedback on the strategy: Three weeks prior the meeting (on 16 April 2025), the AAC members
  received an email promoting the draft Waste Management Strategy and encouraging them to
  provide feedback via Your Say page, email, through a set up meeting or during the AAC meeting.
- Broader feedback and clarification: members were also encouraged to provide feedback on any issues or questions they had related to waste management.

Although the draft Waste Management Strategy main target goals have been shared during the AAC meeting, no feedback has been provided. However, in March the engagement and the waste management team had a one-on-one meeting with one of the members of the Access Advisory Committee, who provided insightful feedback related to general waste management.

#### One on One Meeting

Date: 18 March 2025

Participant: Vaughn Bennison is Hobart resident living in south Hobart with his wife and three kids. Vaugh has vision impairment and beside being a member of the AAC, he also supports the community through disability advocate, voices Tasmania, and present blind citizen Tasmania.

Purpose: Main focus on FOGO green lid bin understanding and the challenges faced from his lifestyle perspective.

Objectives of the Consultation:

- Feedback on FOGO bin: Understand how FOGO bin is used according to lifestyle behavior as individuals and households.
- Challenges and barriers: Learn about his personal challenges and barriers faced related to managing his and his households' waste and from the groups he advocates.

 Accessibility information: Provide information about the services available to people with accessibility needs to assist in managing their waste for him and to share with the groups he advocates.

#### Key Feedback from the pop-up session:

- Uses plastic bag to help using kitchen FOGO bin: Vaughn didn't know what FOGO stands for. He usually calls his FOGO kitchen bin "Little kitchen box thing", which he empties once a week or second week from the kitchen to the green lid bin. To make easier the transport of the food scraps to the green bin lid, he uses a plastic bag, which he throws in the red lid bin. He knows the plastic bag isn't ideal, but he also uses because of smell and messy in the kitchen bin. He tried biodegradable bag before but finds them too tin and they usually fall apart before he reaches the green bin lid.
- Bins colors are meaningless for him: As he can define the bin by their colors, he keeps the bins always in the same order, and also know they have some shape differences that helps him to ensure what bins he is intending to use when they are in a different order than usual. He suggested adding a sticker in different shapes to the help people with vision impairment or people who can't identify colors to identify the bins without relying on its color. Another suggestion was putting braille written in the bin.
- Information about disposing items: Him and his family try to be as sustainable as possible and has a good understanding of disposable materials. For instance, he knows that plastic bags shouldn't go in the recycling yellow lid bin. However, he finds difficult to know what goes in each bin. Need more clear and concise information. He thinks there were misinformation about putting bones in the organic bins, for example.
- Find hard to identifying icons to dispose products: He finds hard to identify if packages are
  organic or recyclable. He doesn't think icons about recycling products aren't accessible.
  Additionally, he doesn't think it is practicable separating lid materials that go in different bins.
- Accessibility challenges with bin collection: People who he supports through his advocacy
  roles have difficulty to take the bins out on the kerb, including himself, for example when there is
  car parked in front of his house. He also finds hard to collect the bin back when it is moved from
  where he had placed for collection. Another issue related to collection, is about hard waste, for
  people like him who doesn't drive. He thinks the Council should provide an accessibility service
  to assist people who can't drive as other options can be expensive.
- Information not always accessible: He finds the COH website isn't overly accessible, when he
  needs to find information about the bins service, he uses search websites. Although wasn't
  information accessible to his needs when FOGO kitchen bin was launched, he felt it was very
  straight forward.
- Satisfied with COH services: He feels pleased with the new truck contractor being quieter and coming earlier than the previous contractor. Additionally, He said the council has been very good assisting with the bins.

# 4.3.3 Culturally and Linguistic Diverse (CALD) people

Date: 2 May 2025

Participants: Culturally and Linguistic Diverse participants over 25 years old attending an engagement session at Migrant Resource Centre. (Around 20 participants)

Purpose: An accessible session about City of Hobart Waste Management to promote and inform using enjoyable and interactive activities.

Objectives of the Consultation:

- Engage and inform: Making the Waste Management information accessible to engage with CALD people to provide general information about the waste management service in the City of Hobart
- Understand their concerns: Participants were encouraged to share their concerns and views/ perspective on topics related to waste management.
- Build trust: According to demographic data from the <u>Draft Waste Management Strategy</u> (page 19), almost 30% of City of Hobart population was born overseas and 21% speak another language at home. Therefore, cultural diversity needs to be represented and considered as part of the success to achieve the targets mentioned in the draft Waste Management Strategy. And as per Action 27 of the strategy.

#### Key Feedback from the pop-up session:

- Importance of disposing waste: The participants understand the importance of disposing waste
  properly and understand that dry and wet rubbish should go in different bins as well as food scraps
  shouldn't be mixed with general waste. Additionally, they see the value of the food scrap as a
  resource to the soil.
- Impact concerns: The participants see the main impact that could be caused by waste is the
  pollution of risks to nature.
- **Bin awareness:** Most of the participants (70%) know the difference between the color lid bins. However, only 50% of the participants know their bin collection day.
- Barriers and issues: One of the participants mentioned the challenges to dispose hard waste as
  there is no collection and it implies cost. Another participant finds it difficult to take all recycling
  materials to the bin outside.
- Circular economy: During the session reusable options were shared to demonstrate how waste
  can be avoided. They loved exploring new ways to reuse and were very supportive of circular
  economy practices.
- FOGO findings: Most of participants were surprised when I explained that the food scraps from FOGO kitchen bin could go in their FOGO green lid bin. Additionally, they didn't know that plastic bags shouldn't be used in FOGO bin and learned about other alternatives including compostable bags.

Value of the session: By the end of the session, one of the interpreters from Iran mentioned
that the session was very informative and engaging. The participants and her loved the activities
and the information provided. She shared that when she moved to Australia, she didn't know
anything about how to sort waste. She said that sessions like that would be very helpful to provide
valuable information for new Australians.





# 4.4 Written submissions

Total of 20 written submissions including:

- 14 x via Your Say page
- 6 x via email

Background from the written submissions include:

- City of Hobart staff 8x
- · Resource Work Cooperative
- Green Design Sustainable Architecture
- South Hobart Sustainable Community
- South Hobart resident 2x
- · City of Hobart residents
- North Hobart Football Club (at North Hobart oval)
- Next Level Mountain Bike

"Well done in putting together a concise and grounded draft strategy, with a good timeframe for consultation, and a solid consultation plan."

#### Specific comments about the draft document

# P.01 - Title of the Strategy

-Comments from Resource Waste Centre include

- Add: "Resource Recovery": Hobart Waste Management and Resource Recovery Strategy 2025. This highlights the importance of "Resource Recovery", in line with the state.
- Include CRS in definitions.
- o Include Hobart Bike Kitchen in definitions.
- Christiaan Van Dam suggested renaming the strategy's title e.g., "Hobart Circular Economy and Waste Management Strategy 2025."

# P.08-09 - Terms and Definitions

- Resource Work Cooperative suggested including in the definitions: "Resource Work Cooperative (RWC) is a not for profit worker owned cooperative that operates the South Hobart Tip shop and associated services. RWC also salvages materials from the whole Waste Management Centre." (TWS and SWS are already there, it makes sense). Additionally suggested to add: CRS and Hobart Bike Kitchen in definitions.

#### P.14-15 - Waste management and recovery

- Resource Waste Centre suggested adding a whole page case study talking about how CoH have been supporting RWC for 32 years to divert material from landfill, getting them back into circulation. Highlighting this partnership and its long history is good for both organisations. Something like "We are proud to have supported a Not for Profit Workers Cooperative for the last 32 years in achieving their

aims of reducing waste, creating sustainable employment, and educating about waste minimisation. By providing and improving infrastructure on the site which Resource leases from the City, we give back to the community and improve local capacity to resell, recycle and keep valuable resources out of landfill ...." Big photos: team, reuse in action.... stats, strategic plans, assisting the Council with e-waste, community pick up, CRS, Education, HBK.

# P.16-17 - Reducing waste an ongoing legacy

#### Figure with targets by year

- Confusing to swap between audit year and financial year (footnote)

#### P.18 - Governance & Management

# Lead by example

- For the use of recycled material for projects, it needs to be considered/specified upfront by designers instead of relying on contractors to tender on recycled materials.

#### Reuse, Repair & Recycle

- Resource Waste Centre suggested changing "Resource Tip Shop" to "Tip Shop, run by Resource work Cooperative", and add CRS, and "Hobart" to Bike Kitchen.

#### **Engage & Empower**

- As a worker / community owned cooperative working in this space, engagement and empowerment are at the core of Resource Work Cooperative. What might this look like for us to step up more in this space, and how might CoH like to support that? (Resource Waste Centre)

# P.19 - Hobart Today

# Breakdown of waste (2024)

- Jess Robins suggested including emission from waste in these graphic e.g. Overall emissions from waste, emissions per capita and possibly something such as emissions generated from a 'cabbage' in landfill vs FOGO'd.
- Resource Waste Centre suggest including waste diverted to reuse data 983 tonnes last FY, E-waste recovery data (separate).

# P.20 - Measuring our success

# In total Municipal Solid Waste Diverted from Landfill

- Resource Waste Centre suggest including "Reuse and / or recovery

# P. 22-23 – Emerging trends & challenges

- Jess Robins suggested including "Waste, particularly methane, as a cause of climate change"

# P. 26 – 28 How waste analysis is guiding this strategy

# Key Finding section: Could be used to identify areas for improvement:

- Analysis of the actions that have influenced the trends.
- Initiatives that have been undertaken in the 2014 -2025 timeframe by COH and how these impacted the trends.
- o Strategy to inform the actions of this new strategy.
- o Highlight what is within CoH sphere of control and influence.

#### Graphs

- Resource Waste Centre suggest clarifying graph: does "Council" mean curbside pickup?

#### P.29 - Landfill gas emissions

- Jess Robins thinks this section is quite technical, making it hard to read. She offered to help to rework it to make it easier to read and digest. She also suggested to include Community Emissions Diagram or a specific waste emissions visual.
- She commented that the simplest points should be:
  - Waste / methane is a cause of climate change.
  - We are committed to reducing emissions from waste to create a ZERO EMISSIONS Hobart by 2040
  - There are practical things we can all do.
  - Together, we can design out waste and unlock benefits such as reduced costs, create jobs and tackle climate change.

# P. 30-31 - Collecting and managing waste

#### Waste infrastructure and services

RWC suggested:

- Separate "Externally funded tip shop" out of point 3, and
- Remove "E Waste" from point 5, and
- Add a new dot point, something like:
  - o "Supporting Resource Work Cooperative to provide:
  - o Salvage and sale of reusable material through a tip shop,
    - e-waste disassembly and recycling,
    - battery recycling,
    - · a free community collection service for resalable items,
    - a Container Refund Scheme
  - o Education tours and workshops"
- Also, another comment related to dot 5:
  - Tyre Refund Scheme like the container refund scheme dispose is a major issue (as well as mattress).
  - The cost of recycling tyres and mattresses is expensive, due to the wire/metal and more research needs to be developed to reduce this cost - work closer with the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA)
  - The draft strategy does not include any strategies for disposing of steel, iron and other recyclable metals such as brass, lead et cetera. I think the city should be providing this as a service which could be profitable for Council.
  - Any need for specific e-waste stream actions? E-waste expansion and diversification (processing more and finding solutions for items that aren't currently accepted)

#### Waste audit

Contamination of general waste with organics has been an ongoing issue. It would be valuable to share how the introduction of green waste bins has decreased this volume over time. (SHSC suggestion)

# P. 36-37 National and state influences on waste management

#### State waste policy

- Jess Robins suggested exploring regulatory powers to introduce a by-law to ban food and garden waste organics to landfill by 2030.
- It relates to our lack of recognition of the Tasmanian Waste and Resource Recovery Board....I should have realised this much earlier....the Board is not mentioned. I think we need an additional paragraph that says something like......

"Legislation was passed by the Tasmanian Parliament in 2002 that included the introduction of a landfill levy to be imposed as a measure to progressively reduce the volume of waste buried in Tasmanian landfills.

It was agreed that the funds collected from the levy would be available to fund initiatives to improve material recovery from the waste stream and further reduce reliance on landfill as a means of waste disposal. The legislation also established the Tasmanian Waste and Resource Recovery Board. The Board provides oversight of the dissemination of the levy funding by administering a range of grant programs and investing in the circular economy via a range of projects and initiatives."

#### Regional context

- Suggest including a Sphere of Control in the Strategy at a high level outlining what things City of Hobart has direct control over (e.g. McRobies Landfill, waste collection), influence (regional waste processing facilities) and concern (vast scale of use of plastics). This might help to frame up exactly Hobart's role and can provide some caveat as to why we cannot do some things (but also have an interest in and want to see action on).

#### Local and relevant strategies, policies and plans

-Suggest specifically calling out which sections/priorities of the City's Strategic Plan and Climate Ready Hobart Strategy link to this Strategy.

# P.38-39 Reducing Waste and creating a circular economy

#### Waste and Resource Recovery Industry

- Resource Waste Centre suggest including "reuse" before recycling
- Christiaan Dan Vam suggested embedding it within the purpose/why of the strategy, vision, and targets. For example, aligning it with the European Parliament and setting a circular economy goal by 2050.

#### Capital City Strategic Plan

- Relate Community Pillars (figure 8) from Capital City Strategic Plan with the circular economy.

#### P.40-41 Guiding principles for change

#### P. 40 Principle 1

- "Waste avoidance should be considered most often, selecting items that will create minimal waste in the future...or avoiding their purchase/acquisition entirely.
- -Suggest including examples for each of the waste hierarchy disposal options e.g., reduce planning your meals for the week so you don't overbuy food and have to throw out excess food that goes off.

# P. 41 - Principle 2: Circular economy

- A key principle of a circular economy is that you "close the loop" and avoid sending waste to landfill.
- Resource Waste Centre suggest changing "waste to landfill" to "residual waste"
- -Linear economy should read as: Take; Make; Use; Dispose; Waste to Landfill
- -Suggest revising the diagram to align with models such as the EU <u>Circular economy: definition, importance and benefits | Topics | European Parliament or the ACT Circular Economy Strategy: ACT Circular Economy Strategy and Action Plan 2023-2030/</u>
- Add local examples to demonstrate what a circular economy means in a practical sense.
- Provide examples of what a circular economy in Hobart might look like to demonstrate it can be successful.
- Change reference to "waste products", to "materials": reusable and recyclable material are not waste.

#### P.42 - Funding

#### **Capital funding**

-There will also be an increase in capital project costs with the use of recycled materials in the design of projects.

# P. 46-52 – Waste strategy action plan

- Have a column that clarifies which are the CoH program/project, partner or advocate etc? i.e.. What's within our control and what's not since we all have a role to play / relate back to P38 (Reducing waste and creating a circular economy together). Including: action 14, action 23, action 56, action 57, action 59
- It would assist the reader to include a summary of these strategic objectives and targets, identifying what underpins them and linking them to the actions at the end of the document.
- Could include more detailed information in support of the proposed actions i.e. there is a clear link between the priority to increase diversion of organic matter from the general waste stream and the proposed actions, however, for many of the actions it is unclear how they are linked to the strategic objectives and targets.

#### P.46-47 Avoid & Reuse Actions

#### Action 3 - Single-Use Plastics

- -City of Hobart could provide greater ongoing support for unpackaged food providers, such as a reduction of the 'Waste Management Surcharge
- '. -Plastics (bulk processing/shredding? Remanufacturing, 3D Printing filaments) RWC suggestion
- -The draft strategy does not include any recommendations about implementation of processing soft plastics, although the City appears to have developed a system which would be acceptable to the community.

COH needs to put more pressure on the State Government to adopt similar single-use plastics for the State of Tasmania

#### Action 4 - Kerbside Waste

- Manifold incentives for reducing household general waste are required, with the potential introduction of fortnightly collection of general waste, an initiative that SHSC would genuinely support.
- -We recommend that the city considers bins with stronger bin lids, as they become damaged when toppling over during wind events or on sloping streets, and this also leads to rubbish escaping.

#### Action 5 – Public Waste Access and participation

- -There are no public organic bins in the CBD. All rubbish bin stations should have all three bin types, including organics, to eliminate contamination of general waste and create a consistent message to the public.
- -Caroline Riseley shared her perspective on accessibility: many residents don't have access to FOGO bins, and hard waste isn't accessible or affordable for everyone. She also said that affordability is another barrier. Living in a unit where none wanted to share the cost of a green lid FOGO bin. And she also doesn't think paying to drop off recycling encourage people to dispose materials correctly. She suggested thinks would be better if fee was incorporated into the waste & recycling fee and if everyone had the service. Including businesses.
- -Caroline also don't think lessening the frequency of rubbish collection will help, because it will just lead to more rubbish going into the other bins or being dumped. But increasing the frequency of FOGO collection may help. But residents who find their recycling bins fill up too soon should be able to get an additional recycling bin for free.
- -Provide more clarity on disposing take away containers (including bioplastic) compostable or not recyclable?

- Suggestion to refuse taking bins not correctly sorted and living a printed information on the resident's doorstep.
- Red-lidded bins are defined as having red lids, but there are lots of old general waste bins which still have the original dark green lids. This should be clarified in the definition.(Eric Pinkard)
- Localised reduced costs by aggregating collection points? Manifold incentives for reducing household general waste are required, with the potential introduction of fortnightly collection of general waste, an initiative that SHSC would genuinely support. Additionally recommend that council consider bins with stronger bin lids, as they become damaged when toppling over during wind events or on sloping streets, and this also leads to rubbish escaping. (SHSC)
- Should consider a strategy for the disposal of hard waste and that the Hobart City Council should review its range of services to more directly benefit all residents and ratepayers.
- Very many municipalities, in Tasmania, and on the mainland provide an annual hard waste collection for their residents. Your draft strategy appears to concentrate on reducing the collection of waste. Without considering the need for a wider waste service for residents and for ratepayers.

#### Action 9 - Audits

- Council's need to monitor waste and do audits from Hobart's tip shop and maybe change contract conditions, to maximise waste avoidance over private profit.

#### Action 10 - Waste Avoidance

- Promote/educate that refillable containers are 'best practice' for household goods where possible.

# Action 11 - Review CoH's event policies and procedures

- Cross-contamination of rubbish in bins at some markets/events (Salamanca Markets in particular) is so problematic that it might benefit from community involvement in monitoring waste during operational hours, with council providing in-kind rewards to groups/associations for their 'community hours'. (South Hobart Sustainable Community can provide feedback on their 'Green Team' performing this function). Additionally, CoH could provide support/incentive for events/markets that generate no or minimal general waste.
- Bec Johnson suggested volunteers at the Salamanca Market to help the event audience to dispose waste correctly. E.g. Wooden boat had scout volunteers. Additionally, more yellow bins would encourage the stallholders to dispose their package correctly.

# P.47-48 Reuse, Repair & Recycle Actions

# Action 12 - McRobie's Gully

- As a local stakeholder SHSC looks forward to being consulted in the master-planning phases of the redevelopment of the McRobie's landfill area but would also seek clarification at a relatively early stage as to how this area can be rehabilitated and used recreationally without conflicting its capacity to become a future venue for landfill deposits in case of emergency waste recovery/disposal.

# Action 14 -Additional weighbridge at McRobies Gully Waste Management Centre

- Needs more clarification

# Action 15 - Investigate opportunities to formalise an effective partnership for the continued delivery of a resource recovery tip shop

- -Suggestions from Resource Waste Centre to be included:
  - The Resource Tip Shop is not only a commercial entity, but also an important community resource, which enables households to save money while not contributing to the demand of

- new products. It has therefore a much higher benefit to society than just reducing waste for the tip, which should not be measured by its economic success alone. Accordingly, it ought to receive generous funding support from the authority to effectively increase the benefit to the community.
- "Formalise partnership to deliver resource recovery shop", add: "with Resource Work Cooperative."
- Establish innovation hubs or incubators that support startups and businesses developing circular economy solutions (either in the Council Centre or at McRobies as it transitions to becoming a Recovery Centre) Christiaan Van Dam suggestion

#### Action 16 - Reuse, Repair & Recycle

- -Tasmania still harbors a generation (though decreasing) of skilled repairers that possess the handson skills, and knowledge, that could enable current and future generations to be able to attempt to repair their own goods.
- -We need a campaign to keep/repair items or buy 2nd hand. Future 'Brand Tasmania' also needs to incorporate some hand stitched goods.
- Add a tick in the "24-25" column too.(suggestion from RWC)
- Multiple mentions support to programs like repair cafes and reusing programs.
- Local groups like Local Good Karma Network but offering alternative for non-Facebook users.
- Community Resources and Skills Hub/Cafe/Repair cafes, workshops, skill share (e.g. HBK model)
- Research and Development partnerships hub grassroots level engagement, between community and other stakeholders to explore/create solutions, data collection projects that help justify investment into new initiatives (e.g. C&D).
- Libraries cargo bikes, toys, tools, tech, rental center for everything (whitegoods, furnishings)
- Online catalog sales of direct-from-warehouse secondhand office furniture.
- Taking people to visit and see the recycling sorting center at Lutana, would help people to adopt better recycling practices, including Council staff. Council staff could be leaders in the community inspiring ratepayers and visitors and businesses to do "what we do", not "what we say". We could lead by example and increase our credibility in the community.
- Strategy could focus more on waste minimisation strategies higher up in the waste hierarchy, particularly reuse and repair.
- Recycle: Need to advocate for a larger minimum size for recyclability and composability symbols, and that embossing of these symbols on plastic lids/containers is to be clearer.

#### Action 17 - Promotion of collection for hazardous and difficult to dispose items

- Tyre Refund Scheme like the container refund scheme dispose is a major issue (as well as mattress).
- -The cost of recycling tyres and mattresses is expensive, due to the wire/metal and more research needs to be developed to reduce this cost work closer with the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA)
- -The draft strategy does not include any strategies for disposing of steel, iron and other recyclable metals such as brass, lead et cetera. I think the city should be providing this as a service, which could be profitable for Council.
- -E-waste expansion and diversification (processing more and finding solutions for items that aren't currently accepted)
- -Any need for specific e-waste stream actions ?

#### Action 18 - Glass recovery

- I understand that the Container Refund Scheme does not provide for refunds for glass wine bottles? I know this is not part of the Council's ambit, but people need to be informed.
- How will improve the recovery?

# Action 19 - Improve material recovery in residential rated and multi-unit developments

- Why need to introduce special processing to multi-unit developments

#### Action 20 - Improve material separation, reuse and recycling programs at building sites.

- This could include High tip fees for mingled waste, and Restriction of demolition without deconstruction, e.g. with target recoverable volumes
- After this action, RWC suggested adding another action: investigate support businesses being able to provide specialised removal of C&D materials. Reduce landfilling and reduce costs.
- Organising direct collections from build sites in a bid to increase recovery of C&D.
- In our work we found that many waste materials (about half) that are produced on a construction site of a new building (offcuts, packaging) are actually recyclable or re-usable.

#### Action 22 – Recycling and FOGO bins at schools and education programs.

- Supportive of this action as believes schools are a very important place to start good recycling practices.

#### P.48-49 Engage & Empower Actions

# Action 25 - Initiatives and Programs

- As a worker / community owned cooperative working in this space, engagement and empowerment are at the core of Resource Work Cooperative. What might this look like for us to step up more in this space, and how might CoH like to support that?
- What about create a Waste Week?
- Provide information on What can be recycle and how to use FOGO
- It is worth highlighting that every little bit counts and that every individual can make a difference.
- Communicate through videos, visual representations, The War of waste videos for instance. Make the information personal, verbal, visual, and interactive.
- Other suggestions to provide information through social media but need to be interactive to engage people who likely don't know or don't care. Letterbox with sticker or fridge magnet that would last a long time and be less likely to be thrown out in a pile of papers.
- Free red bin audits with free worm farm or plants as reward. City of Hobart to also advocate state government/'Rethink Waste' to consider this.(SHSC)

# Action 26 - Behavioral change program

- Council to engage with state government to forecast landfill levy increases beyond 1st July 2026, with greater adjustments needed to bring our state into alignment with that of other regional areas in Australia.
- More than one person mentioned about the importance of educating CoH staff on waste management practices to encourage and assist with behavioral change.
- Caroline Riseley suggested helping hoarders and their families through things like free garage sales or free collection. Promoting restaurants with good waste practices.

#### Action 27 - Accessibility and Inclusion

- Face to face dialogue needed: schools, supermarkets etc are places where a typically contaminated waste bin (clear display version) could be displayed

- Resource Waste Centre suggest reviewing signage, website and app interfaces around waste and RR, to make sure it is accessible.
- We need to better understand the barriers to waste separation, in particular for organic matter, by commercial and residential waste producers and highlight and address these barriers.(SHSC)

# Action 29 - Construction & Demolition Waste

- We support the increased separation of building materials to ensure viability and value within resource recovery but would like to see a long-term strategy for staged increases in further separation.
- The education of tradespeople will be important in the interest of changing attitudes.
- The incentives of separating usable materials from landfill could include: Free drop off of materials separated into categories; Free or low fee removal of separate bins for each material; Vouchers for second hand material (There are plenty of examples overseas, which could be copied).
- Resource Waste Centre suggest including phase out of 'demolition' completely over the coming years and replace it with 'deconstruction'.

#### Action 30 - Actively Engage in the implementation of the new Container Refund Scheme

- Should be an ongoing action
- How this initiative is incorporated into the draft strategy. Provide guidance and container collection support to users of major crowd attracting facilities.
- Support Resource Work Cooperative to provide a Container Refund Scheme.
- Glass wine and spirit bottles should be also included in the scheme.

# Action 32 - Engage with external stakeholders to source program funding

- Although some charities, such as City Mission and the Salvation Army accept furniture and other items in for their Op-shops, they only accept furniture and other items in good to very good condition. But could we fund or encourage social organisations or small waste startups to collect things?

#### Action 33 – Access to an App that provided community access to information

- Caroline Riseley believes that providing more information will encourage people to better dispose their waste. Such as information about greenhouses emissions related to waste, material to line the FOGO caddy (or own container), items that you couldn't compost at home, but you can put in a FOGO bin

# P.49-50 Advocate & Influence Actions

# Action 34 - Packaging Materials

- Packing/wrapping is a major problem in the construction waste stream, but polystyrene and soft plastic pallet wrap do have viable alternatives that require greater advocacy, so a national packaging covenant is needed immediately, as well as mandatory auditing of businesses to ensure they have a management policy compliant and consistent with current and future waste reduction targets.

# Action 37 - Improve facilities to process glass

- Glass wine and spirit bottles should be also included in the scheme.

# Action 38 - Recovery materials process

- Textiles (processing/shredding, remanufacturing, micro-factories for fabrics/tiles/bricks/3D printing filaments etc).
- Very supportive on a facility for processing mattress on-site).

#### Action 39 - Establishment of a regional construction and demolition recovery facility at Lutana.

- This should result in a permanent facility -similar to a tip shop- which reliably carries large quantities of recovered building materials. It is important that a large volume is built up over time, so building practitioners can rely on the availability of common products.
- Supportive on Strategies to reduce building and demolition waste

#### Action 40 - Minimise landfill gas generation

- Jess Robins suggested adding an action requiring refrigerated appliances (e.g. fridges, freezers, air conditioners) to be degassed by a certified technician prior to disposal at waste management facilities including McRobies; as well as third party facilities in the south region. Degassing certificate or proof of degassing must be provided prior to disposal.

#### Action 41 - Establishment and implementations of produce stewardship schemes

- Tyre Refund Scheme like the container refund scheme dispose is a major issue (as well as mattress).
- Advocate for the State Government to introduce Extended Producer Responsibility Programs: Develop EPR schemes where producers are responsible for the end-of-life management of their products, incentivising them to design for longevity and recyclability. (Christiaan Van Dam) Advocate for improving product durability, reusability, upgradability and repairability e.g., EU's Circular Electronics Initiative and Ecodesign Directive. (Christian Van Dam)

#### Action 45 - Advocate for statewide and / or regional waste

- After action 45, the Resource Waste Centre suggested including. <u>More State Government advocacy goals, possibly including:</u>
  - Ban on e-waste dumping in landfill, and support increased recovery of e-waste, targeting problem items e.g. TVs, printers, appliances.
  - While establishing the new C&D separation and sorting system, aiming for decentralized sorting and resale of reusable C&D materials, to support regional communities, and minimise wasted transportation of materials and the consequent environmental impact.
- RWC also suggested including after action 45: National and federal advocacy goals, possibly including:
  - A federal review of how to move away from material consumerism as the driver of economic prosperity, in order to address our social waste issues at the foundation and have an economy that supports a transition to a low resource consumption society / completely circular economy, while maintaining economic prosperity.
  - Updating the Waste Award to reflect the growing need in the waste industry for employees to communicate with and educate the general public.
  - Tax incentive for repairing and selling secondhand goods.
  - Tax consequences for new purchases.
  - Move towards ending planned obsolescence, through implementing stronger quality testing controls.
  - o Legislated independence of regulatory initiatives from industry: e.g. CRS, seamless.
- COH needs to put more pressure on the State Government to adopt similar single-use plastics for the State of Tasmania.
- -Regulatory levers audit: investigate what options City of Hobart has to direct action towards circular economy (i.e., building on the Single Use Plastics ban). Jess Robbins, is investigating regulatory levers at the moment from a climate change lens. This action may be addressed by Jess's work, but if not, suggest it should still be taken forward. (Christiann Van Dam)

#### P.50-52 Lead by example

Action 46 – Staged development master plan for the McRobies Gully Waste Management Centre - Why this isn't ongoing?

# Action 47 – Optimise material recovery from the waste stream, specifically the recovery of materials with a reuse value

- If the council seriously wants to embrace the circular economy, as stated in the paper, the local recycling/reuse of building materials needs to be enabled by permitting, seed funding and supporting a building material storage and sale facility.
- The minimum initial implementation of infrastructure should include separated bins at the drop off facility, for all materials mentioned above— similar to current separation of cardboard, metal, electronics, etc
- This recovery from the waste stream should include the following common building materials: Timber linear members, Timber sheet material (plywood, particle board, mdf, osb), Steel linear members Steel sheet Other Sheeting (cement sheet, polycarbonate, etc) Bricks and blocks Roof tiles Concrete pavers Insulation, Glass, plastics Plumbing and electrical Elements like doors, fixtures, fittings, joinery

# Action 49 - Transfer the residual waste to the regional waste transfer station at Lutana

- David Bradford suggested that if the Council must use the copping landfill site, then the cost of rubbish would dramatically increase. He believes that Council should look at developing another landfill site, with other Council's. Similar to the governance of Copping Waste Precinct.

# Action 50 - McRobies Gully landfill cease operational utilisation by 2030

- Geoff Lang recommended changes to say, "Cease operational utilisation of the landfill site at McRobies Gully by 30 June 2030, retain remaining air space for emergency waste recovery, recycling / disposal of inert materials from Council's roadworks and future disposal use."

Additionally, The City of Hobart also collects a significant volume of leaves when cleaning its roads and parks during Autumn. The composting of this material does not produce offensive odours. It is recommended that an area be set aside for the ongoing composting of this material. The resulting compost would be useful for McRobies Gully site. The future of the waste management center should include an area that will allow for inert materials from Council's roadworks to be recycled or disposed of.

- Lyn Wallace likes the fact that the strategy target of closure of the landfill (with space for emergency waste) by 2030.
- David Allingham suggested the Draft Waste Management Strategy should be updated to 1) acknowledge that the McRobies Gully site is the wrong location for a composting facility; and 2) include a stand-alone action that composting should cease immediately at the site and be undertaken elsewhere

#### Action 51 - McRobies Gully landfill rehabilitation

- Resource Work Cooperative demonstrated interest in whether CoH were ever to contract the management of the whole site at McRobies post landfill closure. RWC would like to be in a competitive position to apply for and take on the contract.
- Jess Robins suggested putting in place anaerobic digestion facilities to reduce emissions from FOGO processing at McRobies and require closed-loop anaerobic processing facilities for third party waste facilities used by City of Hobart residents.
- Resource Work Cooperative suggested adding a new point after 51: "Explore the opportunity to utilize rehabilitated areas of the McRobies Gully landfill site for the purposes of a Community Sustainability Innovation Park, including spaces for community initiatives such as:

- Skills Hub/Cafe/Repair cafes,
- Workshop/ education Spaces,
- Remanufacturing initiatives (e.g. micro-factories for fabrics/tiles/bricks/3D printing filaments etc),
- o Research and Development partnerships hub (community and other stakeholders
- (business, Universities, Schools, CSIRO, etc) to explore/create solutions, data collection projects, etc),
- Resource Libraries cargo bikes, toys, tools, tech, rental center for everything (whitegoods, furnishings)
- Next level mountain bike proposed developing the McRobies Gully Waste Management Centre into a mountain bike and adventure hub presents an extraordinary opportunity for Hobart to enhance visitor retention, increase economic activity, and elevate the city's outdoor recreation profile.

# Action 59 - provide online reporting of waste data to the community

- Could this also be sitting on the website, providing an educational resource tool for all
- Rates notices what about highlighting on rates notices the cost to households of waste services as a way of raising awareness?
- Jess Robins suggested delivering and reporting progress on the Climate Ready Hobart Strategy to achieve zero emissions waste.
- Provide information about the waste process including: "Where do recyclables end up? How are they currently processed and reused? What are the issues with recycling and why is avoidance so critical?

#### P.52 Governance & Management

# Action 64 – Engage with various industry sectors to increase the collection of recyclable materials

- Support this recommendation but believe it should be implemented ASAP.
- One option that could be considered would be to have a separate collection service for red lidded bins provided to Airbnb properties, other hospitality venues, etc so that the waste can be correctly processed. Users of such a service would be required to pay an additional levy to cover the cost.
- Has the Council thought about extending the existing card notification system to red lidded bins which include organic waste and/or recycling?

# 5. Key Findings

The key insights presented in this report are derived from a comprehensive engagement project conducted for the Waste & Circular Economy Team in the City of Hobart. This project utilised a multifaceted approach to gather feedback from stakeholders, ensuring a diverse range of perspectives and experiences were captured.

These varied engagement activities provided a rich source of data, ensuring that the insights reflect the diverse needs, views, and preferences of the community. The following key insights highlight the suggestion for improvement, concerns, and the most valued features, guiding the city towards its goal of zero waste by 2030. However, most insights reflect the community's perspectives on waste management services rather than the content of the draft Waste Management strategy.

# Key Insights

- **1.Supportive of the Waste Management Strategy:** Most participants expressed support for the draft Waste Management Strategy, frequently mentioning satisfaction with the City's current waste management services across various engagement activities. The primary reason for this support is their commitment to sustainable practices. However, some participants were not supportive due to a lack of trust in the City of Hobart and insufficient actions regarding construction and demolition of waste.
- **2.Supportive of Closing of McRobies Gully**: The closure of McRobies Gully landfill received strong support from participants, with no comments against it. However, during engagement activities at the landfill gate, several users reported being unaware of the upcoming closure. Residents expressed concerns about the future of McRobies Gully and emphasised their desire to be updated and involved in the development of the McRobies Gully Development Plan. They are particularly interested in how the area will be rehabilitated and used for recreational purposes. There is a particular interest in transforming the land into a mountain bike and adventure hub. Additionally, participants showed strong support for the long-term presence of the South Hobart Tip Shop.
- 3. Access to Services: Participants from various engagement methods and backgrounds expressed a strong interest in proper material disposal but faced several challenges and barriers. These include:
  - <u>Limited Access to Services:</u> Issues such as insufficient hard waste collection options and the absence of green bins for residents in multi-unit were highlighted.
  - Inadequate Signage: There is a need for better signage that is accessible to people with low literacy, non-English speakers, and those with visual impairments. Suggestions include adding stickers with different shapes on each bin. Additionally, current recycling and composting icons are not accessible to all users.

- <u>Material Dispose Separation:</u> The need to separate materials into different bins, such as bottle lids and takeaway cups, complicates proper disposal.
- **4. Soft Plastic recycling services:** The suggestion to provide soft plastic recycling services was mentioned multiple times across various engagement activities. By the end of this report, this service has been proudly launched and is now available to residents, supporting the correct disposal of soft plastics in the City of Hobart. It was also noted that soft plastic recycling was not included in the draft Waste Management Strategy.
- 5. Bin disposal confidence: While participants in various engagement activities generally felt confident about disposing of materials, there were several items they were unsure about. The most frequently mentioned materials included compostable cups, biodegradable containers, knowing which plastics can go in the yellow bin, and the proper disposal of chemicals. Additionally, waste disposal during events and markets was highlighted as a significant concern due to high levels of material contamination. Participants suggested involving community volunteers to monitor bins during events and providing support or incentives for event organisers to improve waste management practices.
- **6. Use of green lid FOGO bin:** Although most survey participants felt confident using the green lid FOGO bin, engagement activities with Culturally and Linguistic Diverse participants and during pop-ups revealed some gaps in knowledge. Some participants were unaware that food scraps, including meat and bones, can be disposed of in the green lid FOGO bin. There is a common misconception that the bin is only for garden waste. Additionally, many people did not know that plastic bags cannot be used in the FOGO bin. In general, respondents' comments demonstrate the requirement for additional education, which is outlined in the strategic actions.
- 7. Very supportive of the circular economy: Participants across all engagement activities demonstrated strong support for the circular economy. They shared various waste avoidance and reduction behaviours they have adopted and emphasised the need for the strategy to suggest more actions focused on recycling and resource recovery. Although the Culturally and Linguistically Diverse participants were not very familiar with waste avoidance methods, they were enthusiastic about learning alternatives to adopt reusable materials.
- 8. Positive response to Recycle Rewards container scheme and incentive and rewards programs: Participants responded positively to the Recycle Rewards container scheme and various incentive and rewards programs. These initiatives include fundraising for community groups and ideas to create similar schemes to reduce waste of other hard-to-recycle materials. Participants believe these programs encourage improved waste behaviour. Suggestions included subsidising worm farms, consequences for improper waste separation, developing National Tyre and Mattress Schemes, and expanding the existing Recycle Rewards scheme to include glass wine and spirit bottles.

- 9. Very supportive of reuse and repair programs and educational programs: Participants expressed strong support for reuse and repair programs, particularly highlighting repair cafes as an excellent alternative to avoid waste. Other supportive programs mentioned include providing more information on how to properly sort and recycle different types of waste, with significant enthusiasm for school-based educational programs.
- 10. Needs to improve communication: Participants frequently mentioned difficulties in knowing which bin to use for correct material disposal and the need for better labelling on bins. They emphasised the need for more information on where and how waste streams are processed, as well as the impact of not reducing waste. Sharing current bin audit figures during the engagement was found to be very impactful, and participants recommended extending this practice to the broader community to raise awareness. They also noted the importance of explaining plastic classification, package labels, and terms like PFAS. Participants also highlighted the need for better communication about the red lid bin, since dark lid bins are still in use for the same purpose. They stressed the importance of promoting waste avoidance behaviours and providing options to encourage this practice. Additionally, they expressed concern about methane gas emissions and their connection to waste and climate change, highlighting the need for increased awareness to encourage behaviour change.
- 11. Concerns on Building and commercial waste: Several participants shared their desire for stronger regulation for the disposal of construction & demolition waste and commercial & industrial waste, including opportunities to reuse recovered materials from these streams. Additionally, the lack of actions in the draft Waste Management Strategy related to materials such as steel, iron and other recyclable metals such as brass, lead, e-waste, and tyres were mentioned. Many construction materials are currently landfilled and could be recycled or re-used. Suggestions include reducing fees for this material when correctly disposed, the importance of educating trades people, and vouchers for secondhand material.
- 12. Bin Collection Frequency: Opinions on bin collection frequency varied among participants. While there was strong support for increasing the green lid FOGO bin collection to weekly to encourage the disposal of food and kitchen scraps, some participants suggested that the frequency of the yellow lid recycling bin and general waste bin collections might need adjustment. Additionally, only 50% of participants in the Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) engagement activity were familiar with their bins collection day. This lack of awareness can influence how they dispose of their materials, particularly recycling, leading them to place recyclable items in the general waste bin.
- **13. Private and Public Sector responsibility:** Participants acknowledged the responsibility residents have in reducing waste but emphasised the significant role of the public and private sectors, including

restaurants, supermarkets, and hospitals. Specifically important is Construction & Demolition along with Commercial & Industrial waste as these streams contribute a more significant volume than Municipal Solid Waste from kerbside collections.

- 14. Behavioural change: Participants emphasised the importance of behaviour change in waste management. They suggested initiatives such as Waste Week to raise awareness, providing easy-to-access information on correct disposal practices and waste management impacts and processes, offering rewards and incentives, and providing circular economy programs. Additionally, participants highlighted the need to educate City of Hobart staff on waste management practices to encourage and assist with behavioural change.
- 15. Supportive of the engagement process: Participants across various engagement activities expressed strong support and satisfaction with their involvement in the draft Waste Management Strategy community engagement and providing their feedback. The Culturally and Linguistically Diverse participants (CALD) particularly valued the engagement session for being informative and fostering a sense of belonging for those new to Australia, as they learned about local waste management services and showed willingness to adapt to them. This proactive engagement not only fostered collaboration and built trust but also ensured that the community felt included in the process, ensuring their views and needs can be considered in the draft Waste Management Strategy, supporting a collective effort in the implementation of the strategy.



# 6. Engagement Recommendations

Based on the comprehensive engagement project conducted by the City's Community Engagement Team, the following recommendations are proposed to ensure the community's feedback is effectively considered in the draft Waste Management Strategy.

- Update the Draft Waste Management Strategy: Review the insights provided through the
  engagement process and incorporate relevant feedback into the draft strategy. This will ensure
  the strategy better reflects the community's needs and outlines actions to achieve the City's goals.
- Provide Community Feedback on the Final Waste Management Strategy: Keep the community informed about progress and actions taken. Regular updates will build trust and gain support throughout the process.
- Engage with the Community on the McRobies Gully Development Plan: Communicate the
  development process clearly and involve the community as much as possible. Transparency and
  effective communication are key to gaining community support for the future of McRobies Gully,
  including updates on its closure.
- Enhance Accessibility: Implement actions to make waste disposal more accessible for everyone
  and promote existing services. Regularly discuss opportunities to improve accessibility with the
  Access Advisory Committee (AAC).
- 5. Provide More Information: Offer regular, easy-to-understand information on various waste-related topics, including material disposal, waste management processes, and the impacts of waste reduction. Providing more information will empower the community to make informed decisions, thereby enhancing the effectiveness of the Waste Management Strategy.
- Listen to the Community and Stakeholders: Continuously engage with the community and stakeholders to tailor programming and services. This will ensure the Waste Management Strategy remains aligned with community expectations and effectively achieves its goals.

# 7. Conclusion

The City of Hobart's Community Engagement Team has developed and implemented a comprehensive engagement process to inform and consider the community's feedback on the draft Waste Management Strategy. Throughout March and May 2025, the engagement team worked closely with the Waste & Circular Economy team to understand the barriers, views and experience from the broader community including McRobies Gully landfill users, residents, young people, people with disabilities, culturally and linguistically diverse individuals, community groups, City of Hobart staff, the Resource Waste Centre and other relevant stakeholders on waste management and draft Waste Management Strategy.

To ensure this engagement process was effective and that the community's voice was heard, a diverse range of engagement methods were utilised:

- Engagement Promotion: Conducted through social media, email invitations, posters, enewsletters, and flyers.
- Pop-Ups: pop-ups at Elizabeth Mall, YouthArc, and Resource Tip Shop.
- Online Poll: online via Your Say poll with 40 participants
- Written Submissions: 20 written submissions via YourSay page and email.
- Your Say Survey and face-to-face survey: Collected structured feedback from 108 participants
  via the City's online engagement platform and 18 face-to-face surveys.
- Consultation with Community groups: attending the Council of Hobart Community Associations (CHCA) and Access Advisory Committee (AAC).
- One-on-one session: online session with members from the community and AAC member with vision impairment.
- Workshop with Culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) group: conducted at Migrant Resource Centre.

#### Key Insights

The engagement project provided a rich source of quantitative and qualitative data, reflecting the diverse needs and preferences of the community. Key insights include:

- Supportive of the Waste Management Strategy: Due to satisfaction with current services
  and a commitment to sustainable practices, some express concerns about trust in the City of
  Hobart and construction waste.
- Supportive of Closing of McRobies Gully: Emphasizing the need for updates and involvement in its future development, particularly for recreational use, while also supporting the long-term presence of the South Hobart Tip Shop.
- Accessibility: Such as limited access to services, inadequate signage, complicated material separation, and the need for more accessible hard waste collection options.
- Soft Plastic recycling services request: Which have now been launched to support proper disposal, though they were not included in the draft Waste Management Strategy.
- **Bin disposal confidence:** Participants generally felt confident about disposing of materials but were unsure about specific items.

- Use of green lid FOGO bin: While most participants felt confident, there were knowledge gaps, particularly among Culturally and Linguistically Diverse participants.
- Very supportive of the Circular economy: Participants strongly supported emphasising the need for more actions focused on waste avoidance.
- Positive response to Recycle Rewards container scheme and incentive and rewards programs: Participants responded positively to the Recycle Rewards container scheme and various incentive programs.
- Very supportive of reuse and repair programs and educational programs: Participants strongly supported reuse and repair programs.
- Needs to improve communication: emphasised the need for better bin labeling, more information on waste processing, and increased awareness of waste impacts.
- Concerns on Building and commercial waste: Expressed concerns about the need for more regulations and actions on the disposal and reuse of commercial and construction waste.
- Bin Collection Frequency: Participants varied in their opinions on bin collection frequency, with strong support for weekly green lid FOGO bin collections.
- **Private and Public Sector responsibility:** Emphasized the significant role of both residents and the public and private sectors in waste reduction.
- Behavioral change: Emphasized the importance of behavior change in waste management, suggesting initiatives.
- Supportive of the engagement process: Expressed strong support and satisfaction with the
  engagement process.

#### **Engagement Recommendations**

Based on the comprehensive engagement project, the following recommendations are proposed:

- Update the Draft Waste Management Strategy: Incorporate community feedback to improve the Waste Management Strategy.
- Provide Community Feedback on the Final Waste Management Strategy: Keep the community informed with regular updates to build trust and gain support.
- Engage with the Community on the McRobies Gully Development Plan: Clearly
  communicate the McRobies Gully development process and involve the community to gain
  support.
- Enhance Accessibility: Make waste disposal more accessible and promote existing services, regularly discussing improvements with the Access Advisory Committee (AAC).
- **Provide More Information:** Offer regular, easy-to-understand information on waste-related topics to enhance the Waste Management Strategy's effectiveness.
- Listen to the Community and Stakeholders: Continuously engage with the community and stakeholders to ensure the Waste Management Strategy aligns with expectations and achieves its goals.

# Biodiversity Action Plan 2025 - 2030

**Bushland and Reserves** 



# DOCUMENT VERSION CONTROL

VERSION	DATE	
1	2019	Prepared by Elise Jeffery, Fire and Biodiversity, City of Hobart; Martina Smith, Parks and Recreation, City of Hobart.
2	2024	Reviewed and edited by Emma Birnbaum and Glenn Wardle, Fire and Biodiversity, City of Hobart.
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# 1. INTRODUCTION

# 1.1 What is Biodiversity?

Biodiversity - or biological diversity - is a term used to describe the variety of life on Earth. It refers to the number, variety and variability of living organisms (animals, plants, fungi, microbes, etc.), the genetic differences among them, and the ecosystems in which they occur.

#### Why is protecting Biodiversity important?

Biodiversity represents the rich, interconnected web of life that has evolved over millions of years. We have a profound moral responsibility to protect and preserve these complex ecological systems, not for their utility to humans, but for their inherent right to exist. Our role is to be stewards, recognising that every species, ecosystem, and ecological interaction has value beyond human measurement or benefit

No matter how technologically advanced we consider ourselves to be, food, fibre, materials and energy from nature are the foundation of our livelihoods. We rely on the life-supporting ecosystem services that nature provides including the production of oxygen, soil formation and retention, water and nutrient cycling and climate regulation (Natural Resource Management Ministerial Council 2010).

Today, the principal mechanism for the conservation of biodiversity is protected areas.

A protected area has been defined by the IUCN as '[a] clearly defined geographical space, recognised, dedicated and managed, through legal or other effective means, to achieve the long-term conservation of nature with associated ecosystem services and cultural values' (Worboys et al., 2013).

Protected areas and their establishment and professional management are particularly a 20th and 21st-century phenomenon. They are critical for maintaining healthy ecosystems and a healthy environment for people and all other species. They are essential for biodiversity conservation; they deliver clean water and air; they are vital to the cultures and livelihoods of traditional and indigenous communities for sustainable sustenance; they bring sustainable development benefits to millions of people through nature-based tourism; and they are a critical natural solution for climate change. They are also important for their rich history and the cultural associations they conserve including grand historical sites, and their special cultural landscapes, features and sites of spiritual, social and historical significance to a nation's peoples.

The City of Hobart Open Space Group has direct responsibility for the management of nearly 4,600 hectares of 'protected areas' within our Bushland Reserves system within and adjacent to the Hobart municipal area and is the stronghold for much of the City's biodiversity.

#### City of Hobart Vision

Since September 2017, the City of Hobart has been collaborating with community members and stakeholders to share what they love about Hobart and how they would like to see it move into the future. Hobart: A community vision for our island capital is the document that guides the City's work.

The Vision has three parts which work together to inform the City's strategic planning: the vision statement, the identify statements and the pillars.

The connection to the natural environment is at the forefront of this Vision with the recognition that we all live, work and play in the midst of our mountain, our river and the land around us. Our identity in Hobart is shaped by where we live, a place where we are deeply connected to nature, in, around and above our city.

The natural environment pillar represents what Hobart communities would like to see for Hobart in the future and is represented by the following statement:

We are a city whose people see ourselves as part of a beautiful and unique natural environment, from the mountain to the river, which embrace us and shape our identity. We are proud custodians and advocates, ensuring resources are appreciated rather than wasted, supporting biodiverse ecosystems in honour of past, current and future generations. The City of Hobart is extremely well-placed to make a difference to biodiversity in our region as we operate at the appropriate scale to make decisions, carry out actions and measure change. In their report, *Beyond roads, rates, and rubbish: opportunities for local government to conserve native vegetation*, Binning et al (1999) writes:

Whilst strategic policies may be developed by higher levels of government, it is Local Government that must make detailed decisions that balance ongoing development with the need to protect natural resources. It may be argued that Local Government is the most significant sphere of government in regulating land use.

# 1.2 Why a Biodiversity Action Plan?

Within the Capital City Strategic Plan 2015-2025 for the City of Hobart the following strategic objective was identified:

"Review and improve the Council's approach to biodiversity management"

To achieve this objective, the development of a Biodiversity Policy was identified in the City of Hobart's Annual Plan as a major action and initiative for 2017-18. Specifically, the action was to:

"Prepare a Biodiversity Policy that outlines the City's role and practices in biodiversity management and identifies conservation priorities and gaps in biodiversity data."

The Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) was chosen as the appropriate mechanism to fulfil the above requirement to allow staff within the City of Hobart, to holistically plan management actions for our bushland reserves and ensure that management of these areas is in line with biodiversity principles. Ensuring that our bushland reserves are prioritised for management according to their biodiversity values, the threats that may impact upon them and the resources available to achieve the best long-term outcomes

The Biodiversity Action Plan aims to:

- Outline the City's role in biodiversity management as part of the broader natural resource management network of government agencies, industry, private landowners, not-for profit organisations and community groups operating in the City;
- Identify the City's biodiversity values and threats within its bushland reserves, and what
  conservation actions could be undertaken to protect, preserve and improve the City's
  biodiversity;
- Develop and prioritise conservation actions that protect, preserve, and support the intrinsic value of ecological systems;
- Identify gaps in the City's understanding of its biodiversity to inform the prioritisation of future work, and improve biodiversity management in the long-term through an adaptive management approach to biodiversity conservation;
- Define management priorities for the City's Bushland staff and volunteers through an adaptive management approach.

While this Biodiversity Action Plan primarily guides the management of our bushland reserves, its principles of conservation, ecological understanding, and adaptive management can be adapted to inform broader biodiversity protection across the City of Hobart. Our ecological considerations extend beyond bushland boundaries, encompassing urban green spaces, park systems, and critical urban ecosystems such as rivulets. Furthermore, though not specifically mentioned here, the City's dedicated Bushcare volunteer program plays a vital role in this broader conservation effort, with community members working alongside staff to protect and restore biodiversity throughout our landscapes. These volunteers are essential partners in our conservation initiatives, bringing local knowledge, passion, and hands-on support to preserve the rich ecological systems that define our city.

#### **Biodiversity Action Plan Project Area**

The Biodiversity Action Plan project area includes the entire municipality of the City of Hobart (all land tenures) plus an additional 1640 hectares (approximate) of bushland reserves in Kingborough and Glenorchy where the City of Hobart is directly responsible for its management.

When originally conceived, there was a total of 1513 vascular plant species (taxa) recorded in the BAP project area. Of these 37% were considered introduced species to Tasmania and 63% were indigenous species.

Within the BAP project area there are:

- twenty-nine vegetation communities (TASVEG).
   This includes one federally listed ecological community, Lowland Native Grasslands of Tasmania\*, listed as Critically Endangered under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 and four vegetation communities that are considered to be threatened and listed on Schedule 3A of Tasmania's Nature Conservation Act 2002;
- ten flora species listed under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999;
- fifty-eight flora species are listed on the state Threatened Species Protection Act 1995.
   This includes four species that are endemic to the BAP project area Forest Fingers (Caladenia sylvicola) Mt Wellington Eyebright (Euphrasia gibbsiae subsp. Wellingtonensis) Stinking Pennywort (Hydrocotyle laxiflora) and Knocklofty leek-orchid (Prasophyllum perangustum);
- thirteen fauna species listed under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999; and
- fifteen fauna species listed on the state Threatened Species Protection Act 1995.
   This includes two species that are endemic to the BAP project area the Ammonite pinwheel snail (Ammoniropa vigens) and the Silky pinwheel snail (Exquisitiropa agnewi).

#### \*Annotation Regarding Lowland Native Grasslands of Tasmania

While the BAP originally noted the presence of Lowland Native Grasslands of Tasmania as a federally listed Critically Endangered ecological community, subsequent ecological assessments have refined our understanding. Current evaluations indicate that the project area's grassland areas have not yet fully met the stringent threshold criteria for classification as a Critically Endangered ecological community.

However, this status reflects an ongoing process of ecological assessment and restoration. The City of Hobart remains committed to:

- · Continuing detailed ecological monitoring of these grassland areas
- · Implementing targeted conservation and restoration strategies
- · Working collaboratively with ecological experts to improve habitat quality
- Progressively enhancing the ecological characteristics that contribute to potential future classification

Our approach recognises that ecological communities are dynamic systems, and we are actively working to improve the ecological integrity and conservation value of these grassland areas.

# Introduction to the Biodiversity Action Plan Review

The City of Hobart's inaugural Biodiversity Action Plan (2019-2024) marked a significant milestone in adopting a strategic, asset management approach to biodiversity protection. The plan concentrated on identifying and prioritising natural areas that offered the most critical ecological interconnections and highest value for biodiversity conservation. While recognising that all natural areas contribute to biodiversity, it emphasised that targeted, thoughtful investment in the most ecologically significant regions would support the broader ecosystem's resilience and integrity.

The Biodiversity Action Plan is designed as a dynamic, adaptive document. Although it outlines specific actions for the next five years, it provides a flexible framework that can respond to changes in

climate, ecological conditions, and national priorities. This adaptability ensures that the plan remains a living document, guiding long-term ecological management strategies rather than reactive interventions. It allows for nuanced adjustments in land management practices to align with evolving ecological research, emerging conservation needs, funding opportunities, and in response to natural disasters, such as fires and floods, which may necessitate post-disaster relief and rehabilitation efforts

The Biodiversity Action Plan consists of two complementary parts:

- This internal-facing document detailing management priorities, ecological values, threats within the City's bushland reserves, and priority conservation actions.
- An external-facing document, "Protecting our Wild Heart: An Action Plan for Hobart's Bushlands," which communicates key ecological threats and the City's commitment to biodiversity conservation.

## Scope of the First Biodiversity Action Plan (2019-2024)

The BAP adopted an asset management approach, focusing on:

- Conducting a comprehensive ecological inventory
- · Mapping significant biodiversity values using advanced geospatial techniques
- Identifying ecological threats based on current scientific knowledge and legislative frameworks
- Developing and prioritising management actions based on ecological feasibility, potential ecosystem impact, and conservation principles
- · Implementing species-specific and site-specific ecological interventions
- · Establishing robust monitoring, evaluation, and reporting mechanisms

#### Key Achievements (2019-2024)

The City of Hobart Fire and Biodiversity team has achieved several milestones:

- · Reintroducing fire as a natural ecological process.
- Collaborating with research institutions to leverage long-term vegetation data.
- · Restoring and supporting grassy woodland ecosystems.
- Managing invasive species to support native ecological communities.
- Protecting and improving critical habitat zones, including little penguin habitats.
- Developing innovative approaches to native vegetation restoration.

Significant accomplishments include:

- Ecological recovery of the Queens Domain and support for threatened species populations.
- Establishing a dedicated Biodiversity Officer role to enhance ecological management.
- Developing strong partnerships with research organisations and conservation groups.
- · Advancing fire management practices that support ecological restoration.

# Scope of the Biodiversity Action Plan Review (2025-2030)

The review aims to build on past achievements and address emerging ecological challenges, focussing on:

- Identifying key priority actions to advance ecological conservation.
- Updating understanding of threats, legislative frameworks, and scientific research.
- Defining overarching management objectives that support bushland reserve ecosystems
- Developing adaptive actions that respond to emerging ecological challenges
- Aligning conservation strategies with evolving state and national ecological priorities

The review emphasises the critical importance of a robust geospatial information system to update BAP mapping, ensuring the City of Hobart can effectively respond to ecological challenges and support comprehensive conservation efforts.

This review represents a critical opportunity to refine ecological strategies, deepen our understanding of biodiversity, and reaffirm the City's commitment to protecting Hobart's natural systems for current and future ecological communities.

# 2. THREATS TO BIODIVERSITY ASSETS AND THEIR MANAGEMENT

Australia's biodiversity is in decline because of the impacts of a range of threats. *Australia's Biodiversity Conservation Strategy 2010-2030* identified the main threats to biodiversity as:

- habitat loss, degradation and fragmentation;
- invasive species;
- unsustainable use and management of natural resources;
- · changes to the aquatic environment and water flows;
- · changing fire regimes; and
- climate change (Natural Resource Management Ministerial Council, 2010).

In addition, protected areas within an urban context have a distinctive set of localised threats including:

- receive large numbers of visitors, including many who visit frequently, even daily; many of
  these visitors lack experience of wilder forms of nature, and they tend to be much more
  diverse ethnically and economically than visitors to non-urban protected areas;
- relate to numerous actors in the urban arena, including government decision-makers, communications, media and opinion leaders, and key educational and cultural institutions;
- are threatened by urban sprawl and intensification of urban development;
- are disproportionately affected by crime, vandalism, littering, rubbish dumping and light and noise pollution; and
- are subject to such urban edge effects as more frequent and more severe fires, air and water pollution, and the introduction of invasive alien species (Worboys and Trzyna, 2015).

The key threatening processes for the biodiversity of the City of Hobart are detailed below. Localised threats will be addressed at a management unit or threatened species level where applicable.

# 2.1 Habitat fragmentation and degradation

Habitat loss, degradation, and fragmentation are viewed as the largest cause of biodiversity loss and the primary factor resulting in species being listed as threatened or endangered.

Direct causes of habitat loss include clearing of native vegetation however it also includes the cumulative effects of human activities such as:

- smaller-scale loss of vegetation;
- · degradation of habitat remnants;
- nutrient runoff:
- damage caused by illegal access for recreation;
- erosion caused by {legal} track formation;
- illegal land clearance and encroachment into bushland reserves;
- · the removal of dead wood (firewood collection) and trees;
- the escape into bushland of garden plants;
- rubbish dumping,
- · light pollution, and
- · increasing noise encroachment from roads, development, and human activities.

On a landscape scale, the bushland of Hobart represents a largely continuous tract of vegetation. However on closer inspection we have a variety of land tenures, major arterial roads, residential roads, powerline easements, a large edge interface with residential areas, residential encroachment, mountain bike trails and walking tracks both formal and informal, authorised and illegal all dissecting our bushland reserves disrupting ecosystem function and providing avenues of entry for invasive species and barriers to native fauna. A number of these elements are established and their impact will require ongoing management in order to protect quality vegetation from degradation, the key is to prevent further fragmentation of intact vegetation units.

#### Fauna Habitat

Hollow-bearing trees provide a critical habitat resource for a range of fauna in Hobart's bushland reserves. There are eight bat species, five arboreal marsupials (possums), about twenty-two endemic bird species, including threatened species such as the Swift parrot and Masked owl, and an unknown number of invertebrates that use hollows to varying degrees (FPA, 2009). While some species readily use isolated hollow-bearing trees, others require hollow-bearing trees in large patches/densities (i.e. some bat species) or close to foraging resources (i.e. Swift parrot).

The availability of tree hollows is declining due to forestry activities, firewood collection, land clearance for agriculture and urbanisation and increasing tree senescence. Trees less than 100 years old are unlikely to contain hollows. Trees with hollows suitable for use by animals are generally more than 150 years old. This is not a resource readily replaced.

Given that hollows take so long to form, ensuring adequate recruitment of eucalypt species is important to ensure trees that may provide a hollow into the future are retained. Good recruitment habitat trees are those from the age cohort younger than the hollow-bearing trees, but that are of reasonable size and have the capacity to survive, grow and develop hollows over time (FPA, 2009)

Knocklofty Reserve, Ridgeway Park, particularly around Waterworks, and Bicentennial Park provide some of the largest extents of mature habitat for fauna in the City of Hobart bushland estate.

## Management Objective

The overarching goal of our biodiversity management strategy is to create a resilient and interconnected ecosystem across Hobart's bushland reserves that supports and enhances the natural environment for future generations. This involves maintaining and restoring large, intact units of native vegetation to prevent further fragmentation and degradation. By protecting critical habitats, such as hollow-bearing trees, and fostering the recruitment of future habitat trees, we aim to sustain diverse and thriving populations of native flora and fauna. Through adaptive management, innovative conservation practices, and community collaboration, we aspire to integrate urban development harmoniously with nature, ensuring that biodiversity flourishes alongside human activities. This vision encompasses a commitment to preserving the ecological integrity of our bushlands, safeguarding the health of our environment, and enriching the lives of all who inhabit and visit Hobart.

Ad	ctions	Focus	Delivery Method
1	Ensure inappropriate disturbance and development of high biodiversity management units is minimised. Where possible maintain large, intact units of native vegetation to prevent fragmentation and restore degraded habitat.	Habitat Protection	Program
2	Management to maintain large hollow bearing and recruitment trees including; avoiding removal, protection from fire, allowing for eucalyptus recruitment and protection of seedlings from fire and other land management practices.	Habitat Protection	Program

4	Ensure the protection of hollow bearing trees and sensitive vegetation from prescribed burning with strategic ignition patterns and direct protection as required.	Habitat Protection	Program	
5	Explore development of assigning a monetary value for natural values and biodiversity assets in the same way we value infrastructure assets.		Project	

# 2.2 Climate Change

Existing pressures on biodiversity continue to be the main causes of biodiversity loss, but climate change will magnify the impact of these threats and directly threaten some species and ecological communities (Natural Resource Management Ministerial Council, 2010).

## What impacts on climate, the environment, species and ecosystems should we expect?

To understand how climate change is likely to affect Tasmania, the internationally regarded Climate Futures for Tasmania project was undertaken by the Antarctic Climate and Ecosystems Cooperative Research Centre, based at the University of Tasmania. Detailed climate models specific to Tasmania at 10 km² intervals across the state were developed providing a 'Local Climate Profile Hobart City Municipality'. This information has been expanded in *Hobart Climate Change information for decision making* (2016) to support decision making across the City of Hobart's strategic, operational, service, adaptation and emergency management planning functions.

## Current climate and recent trends:

- Hobart has a temperate, maritime climate with relatively mild winters. Long-term average temperatures have risen in the decades since the 1950s, at a rate of up to 0.1 °C per decade
- Despite covering a small geographic area Hobart experiences a marked rainfall gradient in average annual rainfall from about 1100 mm on the slopes of Mt Wellington to 615 mm in the city. There has been a decline in average annual rainfall since the mid-1970s, and this decline has been strongest in autumn

# Climatic change that may impact upon terrestrial biodiversity for the City of Hobart:

## Temperature

- Average annual temperatures are projected to increase by 2.6°C 3.3°C.
- The temperature of very hot days to increase by up to 3°C.
- Warm spells (days in a row where temperatures are in the top 5%) currently last around 5 days and may increase by up to 3 – 6 days.

# Rainfall

- Changes in rainfall are expected, with averages, seasonality and inter-annual variability all likely to change in regionally specific ways.
- Rainfall will trend towards heavier events interspersed by longer dry periods.

## Storms

 An increasing proportion of rain is expected to fall in more intense events and large storms and cyclones are expected to be more severe, with higher winds, causing more damage, flooding and coastal inundation. High daily runoff events are likely to increase, including those that may lead to
erosion or flooding. Rainfall volume in a 200-year average recurrence interval (ARI)
event will increase by up to 30-40%.

## Snow and Frost

- There will be marked reductions in snow cover and extent.
- Frosts incidents will reduce by 9 days.

## Fire

 Extended heat waves and more extreme temperatures are likely to increase the frequency and severity of bushfires.

The following table reproduced from *Vulnerability of Tasmania's Natural Environment to Climate Change: An Overview* (2010) summarises the possible impact upon terrestrial ecosystems from these climatic changes.

Physical climate change indicator	Potential impact
	Increases in minimum and maximum temperatures will affect physiology of some plant species
	Increase in altitudinal range of Phytophthora cinnamomi
Increased temperature	Many of the dominant <i>Eucalyptus</i> species in Tasmania's forests have a restricted climatic and geographic range and may be susceptible to increased temperatures
	May lead to an advance in the onset of spring, delay in autumn, and increased out of- season events such as winter flowering
	May lead to increase in treeline
	Reduced flow in rivers, drying of wetlands
Reduced precipitation	Oxidisation of peatlands, reduction in rate of peat accumulation in buttongrass moorlands and Sphagnum peatlands
reduced precipitation	Increased stress of species currently at the limits of climate tolerance, e.g. Eucalyptus gunnii, Sphagnum species
	Decreased regeneration rates in dry eucalypt forests
	Loss of alpine plant species that require frost for germination
Reduced incidence of	Uphill movement of treeline
frosts	Increase in woody species in frost hollows
	Loss of specialised fjaeldmark communities
Reduced snowlie	Loss of specialised snowpatch communities and species
	Widespread dieback of eucalypt species
Changed seasonality of	Breeding seasons of some mammals that are related to spring rainfall may change if rainfall patterns change
rainfall	Changes in the ratio of C3 to C4 plant species
	Changes in the secondary metabolites such as tannins and phenolics will affect palatability and nutrient value of plants to browsers
	Increased productivity in forests
Increased CO2	Changes in phenology of plant species
increased GOZ	Woody "thickening" of vegetation
	Expansion of rainforest into montane grasslands and eucalypt communities
	Alpine ecosystems negatively impacted by increased soil evaporation with increased temperature
	Possible increase in myrtle wilt
Interactive effects	Changes to flowering season with consequent impacts for pollinators and successful pollination
	Increased temperature and increased CO2 may lead to increased growth rates and resultant higher fuel loads
	Increased fire frequency will affect age structure of forests and habitat availability
	Loss of fire-sensitive species from increased number and intensity of bushfires
Extreme events	Increased frequency and severity of bushfires may lead to the loss of major ecosystem types where dominant tree species such as <i>Eucalyptus globulus</i> , <i>Eucalyptus regnans</i> and <i>Athrotaxis</i> are fire-killed

#### Vulnerable biodiversity assets:

## Alpine, subalpine and highland treeless ecosystems

- Australian alpine environments have been identified as one of the most sensitive Australian
  environments to the potential impacts of climate change, with a high risk of biodiversity loss
  predicted by 2020.
- Endemic alpine species have been identified as having a disproportionately high vulnerability
  to climate change, with limited capacity to adapt. In particular the predicted incidence of
  extreme events such as wildfire and drought could have a very significant impact.
- Projected to be warmer with reduced snowlie and depth.
- Changes in temperature and precipitation are likely to impact directly on alpine ecosystems, with increased risk of fire.
- · Increasing temperature is likely to lead to an increase in tree species in the alpine ecosystem.

#### Forest, woodland and associated ecosystems

- Forest ecosystems are slow-growing and do not have the ability to migrate quickly into more favourable climatic zones, thus they potentially have a low capacity to adapt to climate change.
- Over 50% of Australian eucalypts have distributions that span less than 3°C of mean annual temperature, with 25% spanning less than 1°C.
- Changes in the nature of extreme fire events predicted in response to climate change are
  considered to be one of the most significant impacts on Tasmania's forest ecosystems.
   Inappropriate fire frequency has previously been identified as possibly the greatest threat to
  the integrity of eucalypt communities.

#### Lowland grassland ecosystems

- Likely responses include a loss of grasses and an associated expansion of shrubs, with an impact on grass-dependent species.
- The fragmentation and degradation of lowland grasslands reduces their natural resilience, making them more vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.
- Increasing atmospheric CO2 may be contributing to shrub land expansion and to invasion of grasslands by woody plants on a global scale often referred to as "thickening" (DPIPWE, 2010)

## Threatened species

Threatened species are especially at risk because:

- their numbers are already dangerously low, so an extra threat could push them over the edge;
- species with low numbers may have low genetic diversity and therefore be less adaptable to change;
- · many threatened species are specialists, so especially sensitive to change.

Climate change poses a risk to a number of threatened species within the City of Hobart including, but not limited to:

- Euphrasia gibbsiae subsp. wellingtonensis Mt Wellington eyebright, restricted to the alpine and subalpine areas of Mt Wellington:
- Prasophyllum amoenum Dainty leek-orchid, limited to alpine sedgeland and alpine heath on Mt Wellington and Snug Tiers;
- Silky Snail Exquisitiropa agnewi, occupies a narrow altitude band (700–1,000 m) on Mt Wellington;

 Eastern Quoll Dasyurus viverrinus, associated with areas of low rainfall and cold winter minimum temperatures threatened by the frequency and intensity of extreme rainfall events and increases in minimum winter temperatures.

## **Drought-Induced Tree Dieback**

Drought-induced tree dieback, a phenomenon characterised by the deterioration and death of large areas or stands of trees, is increasingly becoming a global concern, particularly in the context of climate change. Dieback represents a significant and growing threat to forests worldwide, particularly as climate change leads to more frequent and severe droughts. Understanding the underlying causes and developing effective management strategies are critical for mitigating the impacts of this phenomenon and ensuring the long-term health and resilience of forest ecosystems.

Tree dieback is a complex process influenced by various biotic and abiotic factors. While wood-boring insects and fungal pathogens are often involved, they are typically secondary factors that exacerbate the effects of primary stressors. Among the primary factors, drought and altered fire regimes are most significant.

## Drought as a Primary Factor:

- Drought-induced dieback is primarily caused by hydraulic failure, where severe drought leads
  to cavitation in the tree's xylem, disrupting water transport. This can result in catastrophic
  levels of xylem embolism, leading to significant canopy loss and eventual tree death.
- Additionally, drought can cause carbon starvation, where prolonged stomatal closure prevents
  adequate carbohydrate supply, impairing the tree's metabolic functions and defence
  mechanisms.

## Fire Regimes:

Altered fire regimes, particularly the reduced application of low-intensity fires, have been
linked to increased vulnerability of forests to dieback. Low-intensity burns historically helped
maintain forest health by reducing soil drying and regulating soil biota. The lack of such fires
can exacerbate the impacts of drought and other stressors.

# Impacts of Climate Change:

The increasing frequency and intensity of droughts due to climate change are expected to worsen tree dieback globally. Forests that experience severe drought events are likely to see more widespread and severe cases of dieback, with significant ecological consequences.

Forest Decline and Tree Mortality:

- The global rise in extreme drought events is leading to widespread forest decline. This
  includes increased canopy disturbance and incomplete or delayed growth recovery, known as
  the drought-legacy effect.
- Studies have shown that after extreme drought events, some trees partially recover, primarily
  through epicormic resprouting. However, many trees do not recover and die, leading to
  permanent changes in forest structure and composition.

## Long-Term Ecosystem Changes:

 The progressive dieback of trees can lead to significant shifts in ecosystem dynamics, including changes in species composition, altered nutrient cycling, and reduced habitat availability for various species. These changes can further increase the vulnerability of forests to future stressors.

# Rethinking our biodiversity conservation goals

Climate change will lead to many cumulative changes to biodiversity. Critically, the abundances and distributions of species will change, the genetics of populations will evolve, species assemblages will change, and ecosystems will change in their structure and function as well as their composition; some known ecosystem types may disappear and novel ones form (Dunlop and Brown, 2008). Planning approaches that include managing for uncertainty will be critical, with greater emphasis on risk management and adaptive management approaches.

Given that changes in abundance and distribution are inevitable, and that different species will respond to climate change in different ways, some conservation aspirations may become conceptually difficult if not practically impossible (in a natural setting). Conserving some characteristics of biodiversity (e.g. maintaining particular species, communities and ecosystems in specified places) will, over time, require more intensive management. There may be a limit to the degree of intervention that is possible, beyond which we are no longer conserving but rather 'gardening' creating an artificial and potentially unsustainable system (Hobbs, 2007).

Deciding what conservation goals are appropriate will be difficult. Deciding which elements of biodiversity are particularly threatened and of high enough value to society to be worth conserving will require input from scientists (what is threatened), managers (cost of conserving) and the general community (the value to society).

## **Management Objectives**

To build and sustain a resilient, adaptable, and thriving natural environment in the face of climate change. This involves preserving and enhancing the ecological integrity of Hobart's bushland reserves, ensuring they remain effective and vibrant ecosystems for future generations. By fostering broad-scale connectivity and managing surrounding lands sympathetically, we aim to facilitate species dispersion and establishment under changing environmental conditions. Our goal is to enhance ecosystem resilience by securing and maintaining critical intact habitats, restoring degraded ecosystems, and promoting ecological connectivity. We strive to protect a diversity of habitats, acting as an insurance policy against the uncertainty of climate change impacts.

We commit to reducing current threats, such as the arrival of new species, altered fire regimes, and altered hydrology, through proactive management and restoration efforts. By monitoring climate change impacts on key natural assets, we will adapt our strategies to ensure the long-term health and sustainability of our natural environment. This vision aligns with the City of Hobart's Climate Change Adaptation Policy, emphasising practical measures to increase resilience and reduce greenhouse gas emissions across all city assets, functions, services, and programs. Our ultimate aspiration is to harmonise urban development with nature, ensuring biodiversity flourishes amidst evolving environmental challenges.

Ac	Actions		Delivery Method
1	Utilise satellite imagery to assess current dieback impacts and predict future areas of stress.	Knowledge Gathering	Collaboration; Project
2	Investigate whether restorative measures, such as selective thinning, may be implemented to reduce resource stress on surviving trees.	Habitat Protection	Program
3	Use low-intensity burns to maintain healthy soil conditions and ecological balance.	Habitat Restoration	Program

# 2.3 Invasive species

Competition from invasive species is one of the most frequently noted threats in formal documentation for national listing and recovery of threatened species and communities (DEWHA, 2009).

## 2.3.1 Weeds

Weed invasion is unarguably a major threat to the floristic values of our bushland reserves. Depletion of the natural values of our bushland reserves is probable without appropriate management of weeds. As discussed in Habitat fragmentation and degradation, with our bushland reserves exposed to a large urban interface in conjunction with a myriad of roads, tracks and trails, the reserves are particularly vulnerable to weed invasion from what is termed 'edge effects'. It is important to recognise that due to the immediate surroundings there will always be exotic weed species in our reserves, with complete eradication a significant challenge and a poor use of resources.

The Loss and degradation of native plant and animal habitat by invasion of escaped garden plants, including aquatic plants is listed as a key threatening process under section 188 of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999. Once a key threatening process is listed under the EPBC Act a threat abatement plan (TAP) can be put into place if it is shown to be 'a feasible, effective and efficient way' to abate the threatening process. A threat abatement plan has not been prepared for this threatening process at this time as it is considered that there are robust national arrangements in place to respond to new incursions of exotic plants with high weed potential and each state and territory has legislation, policy and programs address established and emerging weed issues. The threat abatement advice (2014), aimed to increase awareness of activities relevant to abating this key threatening process, prepared by the Department compiles the State's relevant documents and resources and provides information and guidance for stakeholders at national, state, regional and local levels.

#### Weed Prioritisation

With 564 vascular plant species currently identified as 'introduced' with infestations in the BAP project area (DPIPWE, 2018) and finite resources to control weeds, a method for prioritising weed control programs is essential.

In the determination of which weeds are a higher priority for management the Weeds at Early Stage of Invasion (WESI) environmental weed risk database was used (Blood et al., 2016). The environmental weed risk database was developed to assist those who protect biodiversity values understand the relative risks posed by different invasive plants so they can concentrate efforts on the species that pose the highest risk. In this database, invasive plants are ranked to indicate priority for control or management in native vegetation with the final score based on five key attributes:

- Potential for Invasion
- Impact on natural systems
- · Area of potential distribution
- Range of susceptible habitat types
- Rate of dispersal

In addition to the WESI Ranking Score, the listing of the weed as a Weed of National Significance (WONS), National Environmental Alert List and declared weed under the *Biosecurity Act 2019* is also noted for each species.

There may be weeds not currently recognised as high threat that become more so under climate change. The current weed management strategy appears sound but continued and consistent monitoring should be kept in place to provide early warning of the need to change priorities.

## Management Objectives

To safeguard and enhance the floristic values of our bushland reserves through strategic and adaptive weed management practices. Recognising the intrinsic challenges posed by exotic weed species and their inevitable presence due to surrounding urban interfaces, our aim is to prioritise and effectively manage high-threat weeds to preserve native biodiversity. By fostering collaboration among agencies, private landholders, and communities, we will ensure a cohesive approach to weed control. We aspire to implement advanced GIS technology for comprehensive mapping and monitoring, enabling precise evaluation and adaptive management of weed control measures. Through continuous monitoring and data integration, we can maintain and improve vegetation and habitat quality, ensuring our bushland reserves remain resilient against weed invasion and continue to thrive as vital ecosystems for future generations.

Ac	ctions	Focus	Delivery Method
1	Prioritise for treatment high-threat weeds within high-value biodiversity areas.	Weed Control	Program
2	Ensure weed management and programs are coordinated and cooperative across the City involving all relevant stakeholders, including agencies, volunteer groups and private landholders.	Coordination and Collaboration	Collaboration; Program
3	Ensure that weed data is integrated into our standardised monitoring methodology to record new species arrivals and assess changes in weed species abundance across the City's bushland reserves.	Data Collection	Program
4	Ensure the City of Hobart GIS dataset for weed infestations is up-to-date and shared with the NVA.	Data Collection	Collaboration; Program
5	Investigate ways to improve and implement better hygiene protocols and enforced follow up weed monitoring and treatment for contractor works within our reserves.	Protocols and Enforcement	Collaboration; Program

# 2.3.2 Native Species

Shrub and small-tree invasion or thickening in formerly treeless or woodland vegetation is a common and widespread phenomenon in Australia. In most cases the reduction or elimination of burning has been established as the major cause (Kirkpatrick, 2004) however it has also been attributed to increased CO2 levels from climate change (DPIPWE, 2010).

The Queens Domain has been the subject of one of the most far reaching, long-term studies into the floristic composition of lowland temperate grassy woodlands anywhere in Australia (Kirkpatrick, 2004). This has afforded a clear appreciation of changes in both floristic composition and vegetation structure over that period.

The most striking change that has occurred on the Domain between 1974 and 2000 is the increase in the density, frequency and cover of *Allocasuarina verticillata*. A transition from eucalypt-dominated grassy woodland to low closed-forest dominated by *A. verticillata* appears to be underway (Kirkpatrick, 2004).

This trend, whilst best documented at Queens Domain, is not unique to this site with the potential for a change in vegetation structure with the invasion of *A. verticillata* at Lambert Gully, Bicentennial Park and Porter Hill.

In areas where *A. verticillata* is established frequent burning will not control the spread. The suppression of ground cover and the subsequent reduced fuel load, means a controlled burn is not hot enough to kill *A. verticillata* and specimens will continue to grow. The manual and mechanical thinning of *A. verticillata* is considered the only practical means to achieve a grassy woodland structure. The purpose of the thinning *A. verticillata* to is halt the conversion of grasslands (EPBC listed community) and eucalypt-dominated grassy woodlands (TAS listed and under reserved vegetation communities) to low closed-forest dominated by *A. verticillata*. The implementation of thinning *A. verticillata* has implications under the *Forest Practices Act 1985, Forest Practice Regulations 2017* and the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993* through the applicable statutory planning framework, currently transitioning to the *Tasmanian Planning Scheme*.

#### **Management Objectives**

To restore and maintain the integrity of native grassy woodlands and eucalypt-dominated ecosystems by mitigating the invasive spread of native plant species. Recognising the critical importance of these ecosystems and their vulnerability to structural changes, our goal is to implement sustainable and effective management practices. Through continuous monitoring and adaptive management, we strive to enhance and preserve the floristic diversity and structural composition of our bushland reserves. By leveraging scientific research and collaborative efforts, we seek to halt the transition to low closed-forest and ensure the resilience and vitality of these native habitats for future generations.

Αc	ctions	Focus Delivery	
1	Incorporating TASVEG benchmarks, monitor changes in vegetation structure and species composition at Queens Domain, Lambert Gully, Bicentennial Park and Porter Hill.	Monitoring and Research	Program
2	Continuously assess and adapt management practices based on vegetation condition assessments and current scientific research.	Adaptive Management	Program
3	Support and foster project partnerships with research organisations to undertake projects that assess and inform our management actions.	Research and Collaboration	Collaboration;
4	Organise engaging "walk and talk" educational experiences for students, community and volunteer groups, and other interested parties to inspire and gain their active support for the City's management of our bushland reserves.	Education and Community	Collaboration; Program

## 2.3.3 Pest Animals

#### Cats

Predation by feral cats is considered to be the most significant factor in Australia's recent mammalian extinctions, and is also regarded as the factor affecting the largest number of threatened and near threatened mammal taxa in Australia (Fancourt, 2015).

Feral cats are listed as a known or perceived threatening process for 58 native species under the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act 1999.* 

Predation by feral cats is listed as a key threatening process under section 188 of Australia's national environment law, the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act). The threat abatement plan (TAP) for predation by feral cats establishes a national framework to guide and coordinate Australia's response to the impacts of feral cats (Felis catus) on biodiversity. It identifies the research, management and other actions needed to ensure the long-term survival of native species and ecological communities affected by predation by feral cats.

At the Meeting of Environment Ministers (Melbourne, 15 July 2015), Ministers endorsed the National declaration of feral cats as pests. As part of this declaration, Ministers agreed to consider feral cat management as a priority in threatened species recovery programs, and to pursue the development of a national best practice approach to the keeping of domestic cats.

The Tasmanian Cat Management Plan (2017) is consistent with the federal TAP and adopts an approach consistent with this BAP focusing on 'asset protection' where management priority is to control or eradicate cats in areas containing important conservation values. This plan is currently under review.

Domestic cats (both stray and registered animals) that are free to roam and express their hunting instinct can threaten and kill native birds, lizards and other wildlife. Even well-fed domestic cats will hunt and kill wildlife, effectively hunting at any time of day or night when allowed to roam. The extent of the impact in Hobart is not well conveyed or understood.

## Management Objective

To position the City of Hobart as a leader in comprehensive and innovative cat management, ensuring the protection and preservation of our native wildlife. By prioritising feral cat management in high-value biodiversity areas and integrating scientific research, education, and regulatory measures, we aim to significantly reduce the impact of feral and domestic cats on our ecosystems. Through collaborative efforts with residents, stakeholders, and other agencies, we will develop and implement effective management programs that safeguard threatened species and enhance habitat protection. Our long-term vision is to create a sustainable environment where native species thrive, and the community is actively engaged in responsible cat ownership and wildlife conservation.

Actions		Focus	Delivery Method
1	Investigate the potential to develop and implement stricter cat controls under the City of Hobart by-laws to help prevent harm to wildlife and improve the health and safety of domestic cats.	Regulatory Measures	Collaboration; Program
2	Develop targeted education campaigns that focus on promoting desexing and cat containment for the benefit of healthier, longer-lived cats, as well as the importance of not feeding strays or feral cats.	Education	Collaboration; Project

3	Through collaborations, field surveys and emerging technologies, gather and collate essential scientific data to help us understand the extent of the cat problem within the City of Hobart.	Scientific Research	Collaboration; Project
4	Interrogate future developments and fire practices that may create pathways for feral cats to access previously inaccessible sensitive habitats. Work to improve these practices, through innovation, design, and awareness.	Habitat Protection and Asset Improvements	Program
5	Identify and investigate any improvements that can be made to council assets that may be acting as a source population for cats (e.g. fencing at McRobies tip).	Habitat Protection and Asset Improvements	Program
6	Begin development of a comprehensive, well-informed and collaborative feral cat management program for the City of Hobart, incorporating various prevention, control and eradication strategies.	Feral Cat Management Program	Collaboration; Project

#### Dogs

The interaction of wildlife with domestic dogs (*Canis familiaris*) is poorly documented, despite anecdotal evidence that dogs opportunistically hunt native animals, especially on the urban fringe (Holderness-Roddam and McQuillan, 2014). Though there is a growing body of research that now suggests that the impacts of dogs, globally, has been grossly underestimated and that dogs are now considered the third most damaging invasive mammalian predator behind cats and rodents (Doherty et al., 2017). And while much of the focus is on the lethal impacts of dogs, dogs can harm wildlife in a number of ways including through the spread of disease and by causing disturbances and stress to wildlife by chasing or harassment. Indirect impacts to wildlife, particularly involving animal stress, which can lead to a reduction in wildlife fitness are understudied, one obvious fatal example is myopathy in macropods, a stress-induced condition that atrophies muscles leading to death. Even the simple presence of dogs in sensitive areas can lead to impacts, one study found that dog walking in woodland areas led to a marked reduction in bird diversity and abundance (Banks & Bryant, 2007).

An article by Holderness-Roddam and McQuillan (2014) presents one the first examinations of data to describe the range of animals attacked by dogs in peri-urban natural areas in Tasmania with the aim to obtain and present evidence of disturbance of the natural environment by domestic dogs (*Canis familiaris*) in order to better inform public policy, particularly local government, when considering legislation and regulations regarding dog control and management. It involved the quantitative analysis of four years of state government records that detailed domestic animal attacks on wildlife in Tasmania.

The results were that dogs targeted a wide cross section of vertebrate fauna with macropods (Pademelons, Bennett's wallaby, Potoroos and Bettong n=64), brush tail possums (n=34), echidnas (n=17) and bandicoots (Eastern Barred bandicoot Perameles gunnii (EPBC-listed) and Southern brown bandicoot  $Isoodon \ obesulus \ n$ =39) strongly represented.

The research also examined predation by domestic cats. Cats were more likely to attack smaller mammal species with bandicoots a major target, with the Eastern barred bandicoot and the Southern brown bandicoot being the victim on 33 and 15 occasions respectively plus a further 9 records that did not identify which bandicoot species. This comparison highlights the vulnerability of small mammal fauna such as bandicoots (*Perameles gu*nnii and *Isodoon obesulus*), at high risk of predation from the combined impact of two predators.

These findings underscore the vulnerability of small mammal species like bandicoots, which persist in several bushland reserves across the City of Hobart. Greater awareness of their habitat requirements and proactive management are essential to ensure their protection from the impacts of domestic dogs

and cats. These impacts are likely compounded in Tasmania where native mammals show greater naivety, and thus vulnerability, to dogs than their mainland counterparts due to the absence of dingos in their evolutionary past (Frank et al., 2016).

Coastal development has led to little penguin habitat loss, resulting in smaller, fragmented colonies of little penguins. Recent studies suggest that, perhaps unsurprisingly, frequent and intense dog attacks dramatically increase the probability of colony decline. Of critical note however, for small-sized colonies, like those within the City of Hobart, even low-levels of predator attach could lead to colony collapse within 10-15 years (Blamey et al., 2024).

#### **Management Objective**

Our long-term objective is to become a leading example in mitigating the negative impacts of domestic dogs on wildlife, particularly in areas with high biodiversity value and threatened fauna. We aim to achieve this through a combination of public education, stringent dog control measures, and proactive enforcement. By fostering a culture of responsible pet ownership and community engagement, we seek to significantly reduce the predation and disturbance caused by dogs. Our vision includes the establishment of dog-prohibited and on-lead areas in sensitive habitats, ensuring the protection and recovery of vulnerable species such as bandicoots and little penguins. Through collaborative efforts and ongoing research, we aspire to create a safe and thriving environment for all native wildlife within the City of Hobart's bushland reserves.

Ac	ctions	Focus	Delivery Method
1	Develop educational materials to raise public awareness about the impacts of domestic dogs on wildlife. Emphasise responsible pet ownership, including the importance of keeping dogs on leashes in sensitive areas and ensuring they do not roam freely.	Education and Awareness	Program
2	Engage with local communities to foster support for dog control measures. Encourage residents to report sightings of dogs in prohibited areas and participate in local conservation efforts.	Education and Awareness	Collaboration; Project
3	Advocate and drive support for all bushland reserves, within the City of Hobart, to be dog on-lead only.	Education and Awareness	Program
4	Collaborate with the City's Animal Management and Compliance to review and update Declared Areas within the City of Hobart Dog Management Strategy in accordance with Division 2 of the Dog Control Act 2000.	Compliance and Enforcement	Program
5	Collaborate with Animal Management in the City of Hobart to enforce dog control compliance through proactive enforcement.	Compliance and Enforcement	Program

## Deer

There are six species of introduced deer with established populations in Australia. Fallow Deer *Dama dama* is the only species in Tasmania.

A risk assessment model was developed to provide information and assist government agencies increase public awareness and assess the risks posed by the import and keeping of exotic species in Australia. Using simple quantitative models a risk of establishment can be calculated, and a species can be ranked at four levels: low, moderate, serious or extreme. The Vertebrate Pests Committee (2007) assessed Fallow Deer as being in the Extreme Threat Category. Species placed in the Extreme Threat Category '...should not be allowed to enter, nor be kept in any State or Territory'. Sadly, Fallow Deer were imported into Tasmania from England in 1836 to provide a hunting resource and this species is now well established with feral populations around the midlands and extending throughout the north east of the State.

Herbivory and environmental degradation caused by feral deer has been nominated as a key threatening process under section 188 of the EPBC Act. However, it was determined that this nomination falls fully within the assessment of the broader key threatening process *Novel biota and its impact on biodiversity*. A National Feral Deer Action Plan (2023 – 2028) was established which aims to limit the spread of feral deer into new areas and reduce their impacts on agriculture, communities and the environment. The plan focuses on raising awareness of feral deer's effects and control options to encourage early action on both small isolated populations and large populations in priority areas. It also emphasises the need to develop new tools, conduct trials, and build capacity to detect, cull, and prevent further spread of feral deer (*The Plan - National Feral Deer Action Plan*, 2021).

Feral deer have an unusual and variable legal status throughout Australia. In some states they are accorded protection equivalent to that for native animals; in others they are declared pest species. In Tasmania, frustratingly, the Fallow deer are a partly protected species under the *Wildlife (General) Regulations 2010* and are still legally referred to as 'wild deer' and given status as a game species. As such they are subject to an open season during which they may be taken by shooting by licensed hunters. The regulations also provide for the taking of Fallow deer under permit on specified land for crop protection purposes.

Fallow deer are pests as they can damage the natural environment by eating native vegetation, damaging trees and assisting the spread of weeds and pathogens. As hoofed mammals they also contribute to erosion and degrade the water quality in creeks and rivers through creation of trails and wallows. Deer can cause significant, often irreparable, damage to habitat. Ground dwelling or nesting birds may be threatened by trampling of eggs and/or nests by fallow deer, and ground dwelling marsupials may be threatened by competition for food or trampling of habitat by deer. Particularly susceptible Tasmanian fauna species include:

- Birds: Brown quail, painted button quail, ground parrot, spotted quail-thrush and Richard's pipit.
  - The effects of deer in woodlands are known to result in habitat changes which can be detrimental to small woodland birds. The principal mechanism by which deer may affect habitat quality is through the reduction of low woody vegetation, which forms a key element of the preferred habitat of several species this may be associated with loss of nest sites, increased exposure to predators and reduction of food.
- Mammals: Long-nosed potoroo, bettong, pademelon, red-necked wallaby, eastern-grey kangaroo, common wombat, spotted-tailed quoll, eastern quoll, Tasmanian devil, dusky antechinus, white-footed dunnart, southern brown bandicoot and eastern-barred bandicoot.

Listed threatened plants, invertebrates and vegetation communities are also at risk by trampling, wallowing and grazing of Fallow deer.

## Management Objective

To ensure the City of Hobart's native ecosystems remain free from the impacts of feral deer. By implementing a proactive and collaborative approach, we aim to detect and manage feral deer encroachments swiftly, particularly in areas of high conservation value. Through public education, engagement, and real-time reporting, we will foster community support and involvement in feral deer management. Collaborating with government agencies, we will improve our understanding of deer impacts and assist in targeted control programs to mitigate environmental degradation. Our long-term vision is to create a resilient, deer-free environment where native species and habitats thrive, contributing to the ecological health and sustainability of the region.

Ad	ctions	Focus	Delivery Method
1	Create education campaigns that promote and utilise well- established tools and databases, such as FeralScan, to enhance public education and enable real-time reporting of deer within the City of Hobart. These resources will inform further actions and improve national understanding of deer impacts in Tasmania.	Education	Collaboration; Project
2	Collaborate with government agencies, as necessary, to coordinate targeted control programs to manage emerging satellite populations and those impacting significant conservation areas.	Targeted Control	Collaboration

#### Rabbits

The European rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*) was deliberately released onto the Australian mainland in the mid to late 1800s and within 70 years dominated 70% of the continent. With the exception of the feral cat in Australia, this is considered to be the fastest rate of any colonising mammal anywhere in the <u>world (COA, 2016)</u>.

Competition and land degradation by rabbits is listed as a key threatening process under section 188 of EPBC Act. The threat abatement plan establishes a national framework to guide and coordinate Australia's response to the impacts of European rabbits (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*) on biodiversity. It identifies the research, management and other actions needed to ensure the long-term survival of native species and ecological communities affected by competition and land degradation caused by rabbits.

Rabbits inflict substantial damage upon both agricultural and environmental assets and have been described as Australia's most costly vertebrate pest. Rabbits impact over 300 EPBC Act listed threatened species and nine ecological communities. This includes 44 species of fauna (15 birds, 20 mammals, 6 reptiles, 1 invertebrate, 1 fish and 1 amphibian) and 260 listed plant species (COA, 2016). Direct impacts of rabbits include:

- 1. Competition with native wildlife for resources (food and shelter);
- 2. Preventing plant regeneration;
- 3. Overgrazing and general damage to plant species;
- 4. Reversing the normal processes of plant succession;
- Altering ecological communities and changing soil structure and nutrient cycling leading to significant erosion; and
- Removing critical habitat for mammals and birds, leading to increased predation and reduced reproduction.

Indirect impacts of rabbits include:

- 1. Supporting elevated population densities of pest predators such as foxes and feral cats; and
- 2. Promoting the growth of introduced and unpalatable species such as weeds.

## Management Objective

To significantly reduce the impacts of invasive rabbits within the City of Hobart, ensuring the resilience and recovery of our bushland ecosystems. By informing targeted control programs and fostering collaboration with government agencies and community groups, we aim to mitigate the substantial damage caused by rabbits. Through habitat restoration, innovative research, and community engagement, we will restore native vegetation, improve soil health, and protect critical habitats. Our

long-term vision is to create a resilient environment where native species can thrive, free from the competitive and destructive pressures of invasive rabbits, thereby enhancing the ecological health and sustainability of the region.

Ac	tions	Focus	Delivery Method
1	Advocate and direct efforts for state agency rabbit control, particularly in sites where rabbits pose the greatest threats to biodiversity within the City of Hobart.	Collaboration and Coordination	Collaboration
2	Investigate the need for habitat restoration projects in areas heavily impacted by rabbits. This includes replanting native vegetation, controlling invasive species, and improving soil health to promote the recovery of native ecosystems.	Habitat Restoration	Program
3	Support research into new and innovative methods for controlling rabbit populations and mitigating their impacts. This includes developing more effective exclusion fencing techniques, and investigating habitat management strategies.	Research and Innovation	Collaboration

#### **Mallard Ducks**

The hybridisation between feral Mallard ducks (*Anas platyrhynchos*) and the Australian native Pacific Black Duck (*Anas superciliosa*) poses a significant threat to the biodiversity of wetland ecosystems in the Hobart region. Mallards, introduced from Eurasia in the late 1800s, are known to interbreed with the native Pacific Black Duck, leading to genetic dilution and potential displacement. This hybridisation can result in the loss of genetic integrity, reduced fitness, and altered behaviours in the native Pacific Black Duck population.

## Issues:

- Genetic Dilution: Hybridisation between Mallards and Pacific Black ducks can lead to the
  dilution of the genetic purity of the native species, potentially reducing its ability to adapt to
  changing environmental conditions.
- Competition for Resources: Mallards may outcompete native Pacific Black ducks for food
  and nesting sites, leading to decreased reproductive success and population decline of the
  native species.
- Altered Ecosystem Dynamics: The introduction of hybrid offspring may disrupt the natural
  ecosystem dynamics, affecting other species dependent on wetland habitats.

## Management Objective

To preserve the genetic integrity and ecological health of the native Pacific Black Duck populations within the City of Hobart's waterways. By effectively managing and mitigating the hybridisation threat posed by feral Mallard ducks, we aim to maintain and enhance the biodiversity of our wetland ecosystems. Through collaborative efforts, targeted control measures, habitat restoration, and robust community education, we aspire to foster an engaged and informed public that actively participates in conservation efforts. Our vision is to ensure thriving populations of Pacific Black ducks, supported by well-maintained habitats and protected from the adverse impacts of hybridisation and competition, thus securing the resilience and sustainability of our wetland ecosystems for future generations.

A	ctions	Focus	Delivery Method
1	Through collaboration, assist with regular monitoring programs and research to assess the extent of hybridisation between Mallards and Pacific Black ducks.	Scientific Research	Collaboration
2	Aid and assist with control measures to reduce the population of feral Mallard ducks in waterways. This could include targeted culling and habitat modification to discourage Mallard presence.	Targeted Control	Collaboration
3	Identify areas where restoration and enhancements can be made to waterway habitats to favour native Pacific Black ducks over invasive Mallards. This may involve revegetation efforts, creation of nesting sites, and the removal of invasive species that compete with native waterfowl.	Habitat Restoration	Program
4	Raise awareness among the community about the negative impacts of feral Mallard hybridisation on native Pacific Black Duck populations. Engage residents, schools, and community groups in conservation efforts and encourage responsible pet ownership to prevent the release of Mallards into natural habitats.	Education	Program
5	Collaborate with relevant stakeholders, including wildlife rescue organisations and government agencies, to implement effective policies for Mallard management.	Policy Development	Collaboration
6	Work collaboratively with neighbouring councils, conservation groups, and research institutions to develop coordinated strategies for addressing the issue of feral Mallard hybridisation across broader landscapes.	Collaboration and Partnerships	Collaboration

## 2.3.4 Disease

#### Phytophthora

Phytophthora cinnamomi, though a water mould it is commonly known as Cinnamon Fungus or Dieback. It is an introduced pathogen that invades plant roots, preventing water transport and resulting in plant death or severe drought effects. It is responsible for extensive dieback of native vegetation and is widespread in forests, woodlands, and heathlands across Australia, from Western Australia to Queensland.

Phytophthora cinnamomi requires warm, moist soils to reproduce and spread. In Tasmania, this limits its distribution to areas with a mean annual air temperature greater than 7.5°C (equivalent to an altitude of approximately 600 meters) and a mean annual rainfall greater than 600 mm (Schahinger et al., 2003). Cold soil conditions can also occur at altitudes below 700 meters where a dense forest canopy shades the ground. As a result, wet forest and rainforest communities are not as susceptible to Phytophthora in their undisturbed state. Susceptible vegetation types in Tasmania include heathland, moorland, and dry sclerophyll forest within climatically suitable areas. Phytophthora has lethal effects on various indigenous species, including Banksia, Xanthorrhoea, various pea species, and most plants in the Proteaceae family.

The pathogen is most frequently spread downhill with drainage water, as zoospores swim or are carried in the water. It is also commonly spread through soil, gravel and other road construction materials, on vehicle tyres, horses' hooves, and people's shoes. Large-scale earthworks, such as track maintenance and wildfire suppression activities (e.g., dozer lines), pose the greatest risk for spreading the disease. Once Phytophthora spreads into native vegetation it is irreversible. The only effective strategy for controlling Phytophthora is to prevent healthy areas from becoming infested, primarily through restricting access.

Phosphite, a systemic, non-hazardous, and biodegradable fungicide, is currently the only chemical treatment available for Phytophthora dieback. While it does not kill or eradicate Phytophthora, it suppresses the pathogen and boosts the plant's natural defence responses to infection.

The occurrence of Phytophthora within the BAP Project Area is poorly understood, with ten NVA records dated between 1975 and 2005. The autonomous movement and spread of the pathogen by uncontrolled vectors mean that Phytophthora distribution maps have limited currency of 1-3 years (O'Gara et al., 2005). According to Rudman (2005), Phytophthora is widely distributed throughout most areas of Tasmania that provide suitable conditions, with large areas of susceptible native vegetation believed to be free of Phytophthora remaining only on Maria Island and in the remote moorlands of southwest Tasmania

Detection, diagnosis, and mapping of Phytophthora in Australia lack standard methods. Current practice involves identifying visible symptoms of disease in vegetation, observing significant and abrupt changes in vegetation structure, and confirming the presence of Phytophthora through soil and diseased plant tissue sampling and laboratory analysis (O'Gara et al., 2005).

Dieback caused by *Phytophthora cinnamomi* is listed as a key threatening process under section 188 of the EPBC Act. The national threat abatement plan provides a framework to guide and coordinate Australia's response to Phytophthora. It includes strategies to prevent the spread into disease-free areas, reduce impacts in infested areas, recover biodiversity assets currently impacted, and conduct research to mitigate Phytophthora's impact.

## **Management Objective**

To effectively manage and minimise the spread and impacts of *Phytophthora cinnamomi* within the City of Hobart. Through the implementation of rigorous hygiene protocols, enhancing public awareness, and prioritisation of the protection of high-value biodiversity assets, we aim to prevent the further spread of this devastating pathogen. Through comprehensive mapping, targeted treatments, and restricting access to vulnerable areas, we aspire to create a resilient and protected environment. Our vision includes fostering an informed and engaged community that actively participates in responsible bushland use and conservation efforts, thereby safeguarding our natural heritage for future generations.

Ad	ctions	Focus	Delivery Method
1	Improve surveying, mapping and identification of Phytophthora cinnamomi within our reserves.	Mapping and Identification	Collaboration; Project
2	Where possible, prioritise large tracts of susceptible vegetation with high biodiversity value that are symptom-free of Phytophthora for protection. Ensure these areas are positioned in the landscape to avoid autonomous spread and consider their proximity to free public access.	Prioritise Protection	Program
3	Restrict access and track/trail development in priority areas to prevent Phytophthora infestation.	Prioritise Protection	Program
4	Improve response time and closure of illegal bike tracks and networks to prevent further spread.	Prioritise Protection	Collaboration; Program
5	Improve education and hygiene protocols for contractors and field staff working within bushland areas to understand how Phytophthora spreads, its impacts, and the effective hygiene measures required.	Education and Training	Project
6	Identify bushland areas where the trial application of phosphite may be practicable and effective, explore cost implications and feasibility of this approach.	Treatment Trials	Project
7	Increase public education about the impacts and spread of Phytophthora. Include messaging to reduce the use and establishment of unsanctioned tracks and emphasise the importance of keeping to built tracks and trails.	Public Education	Project

## Chytrid fungus disease (Chytridiomycosis)

Chytridiomycosis is an infectious disease that affects amphibians worldwide. It is caused by the chytrid fungus (*Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis*), a fungus capable of causing sporadic deaths in some amphibian populations and 100 per cent mortality in others. The disease has been implicated in the mass die-offs and species extinctions of frogs since the 1990s. However, its origin and true impact on frog populations remains uncertain and continues to be investigated (COA, 2016).

The movement of infected frogs, tadpoles and water are the known key agents of spread. The fungus (or infected frogs or tadpoles) can be spread by people in water and mud on boots, camping equipment and vehicle tyres, and in water used for drinking, or spraying on gravel roads or fighting fires. Currently there are no proven methods to control this disease in the wild. The main aim of management is to prevent further spread of chytrid fungus from infected to uninfected sites. Remote areas in Tasmania, particularly the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area, are still largely free of disease and it is our challenge to keep it out (DPIPWE, 2010).

Infection of amphibians with chytrid fungus resulting in chytridiomycosis is listed as a key threatening process under section 188 of the EPBC Act. The preparation of a national threat abatement plan establishes a national framework to guide and coordinate Australia's response to chytrid fungus. It identifies the research, management and other actions needed in Australia's response to this pathogen.

## Management Objective

To safeguard the amphibian populations within the City of Hobart from the devastating impacts of chytridiomycosis by preventing the spread of chytrid fungus. Through stringent adherence to hygiene protocols, robust public awareness campaigns, and active collaboration with research organisations, we aim to halt or significantly slow the transmission of this disease. By supporting ongoing research and monitoring of amphibian populations, we aspire to learn and mitigate the effects of chytrid fungus. Our vision includes fostering a coordinated, community-driven response to protect and preserve our native frog species and their habitats.

Actions		Focus	Delivery Method
1	Ensure that anyone involved in the sampling and/or handling of frogs in the field follows hygiene protocols for the control of diseases in Australian frogs (Murray et al., 2011).	Hygiene Protocols	Program
2	Support research efforts and monitoring of amphibian species to better understand the origin, spread, and impacts of chytrid fungus on frog populations.	Scientific Research	Collaboration
3	Where feasible and applicable, contain and reduce the spread of Chytrid fungus through waterbody containment (e.g. fencing)	Habitat Protection	Program

# 2.4 Fire Management

Fire, or its absence, has directly influenced the evolution of the Australian landscape. Many native plant species, including eucalypts and acacias, have evolved in fire-prone environments and are dependent to various degrees on fire events to maintain ecological cycles. In contrast, ecosystems developed in the absence of fire are highly vulnerable when changed conditions such as prolonged drought increase their susceptibility to fire.

Climate change will change the nature of fire risk and increase the need to have effective fire management regimes to protect people and property in a way that recognises the role of fire in biodiversity management. To address this threat, our understanding of fire regimes will need to increase and be incorporated into land management decisions, and biodiversity considerations will need to be incorporated (Natural Resource Management Ministerial Council, 2010).

#### Management Objective

To develop and implement fire management practices that not only protect people and property but also sustain and enhance the ecological integrity of the City's bushland reserves. Recognising the critical role of fire in shaping Australia's landscapes, we aim to integrate fire management with biodiversity conservation, ensuring that fire regimes are carefully calibrated to maintain and support native species and ecosystems.

Through a deepened understanding of local fire ecology and its interaction with climate change, we aspire to establish fire management plans that are scientifically informed, adaptive, and site-specific. These plans will prioritise the protection of ecological values while mitigating the risk of high-intensity wildfires. We commit to ongoing monitoring and research, ensuring that our fire management strategies evolve with new insights and are responsive to the needs of both biodiversity and community safety.

Ac	ctions	Focus	Delivery Method
1	Through collaboration, partner on research that contributes to our understanding and application of planned burn and fire management practices.	Scientific Research and Collaboration	Collaboration; Project
2	Continue to adapt planned burning and fire management practices to align with the latest applicable global fire research.	Best Practice Management	Program
3	Ensure appropriate fire interval thresholds are applied and informed by site-specific data collation.	Best Practice Management	Program
4	Establish flora monitoring protocol for management units subject to prescribed burning and review burning schedule if it is shown that rare and significant species are not persisting with the frequency of burns.	Adaptive Management	Program

# 2.5 Specific threatened species management

Certain species, particularly those at risk of extinction, require focused, species-specific interventions in addition to broader landscape-level efforts. While these lists are not exhaustive, they highlight key priorities.

Although holistic management is generally preferred over single-species conservation, targeted efforts can be valuable. These species can serve as flagship species, drawing funding, attention, and educational opportunities, or as indicator species, signalling the effectiveness of management strategies. When carefully implemented, managing a single threatened species can lead to positive ecological outcomes without harming other species.

# 2.5.1 Key vegetation communities

Of the 29 vegetation communities within the BAP project areas, there is one federally listed vegetation community, Lowland Native Grasslands of Tasmania, listed as Critically Endangered under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* and four vegetation communities that are considered to be threatened and listed on Schedule 3A of Tasmania's *Nature Conservation Act 2002* 

Descriptions of these vegetation communities are provided in Appendix 2 together with conservation status and the location of these vegetation communities on City of Hobart managed land.

DAS Eucalyptus amygdalina forest & woodland on sandstone

DGL Eucalyptus globulus dry forest and woodland

DOV Eucalyptus ovata forest & woodland

DTO Eucalyptus tenuiramis forest & woodland on sediments

GTL Lowland Themeda triandra grassland

## 2.5.2 Key flora species

Based upon the endemism and likelihood of occurrence the following species are considered priority for management (See Appendix 3):

## Forest Fingers (Caladenia sylvicola)

Fore Fingers (Caladenia sylvicola) is listed as Critically Endangered under the Federal Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 and listed as endangered under the Threatened Species Protection Act 1995.

C.sylvicola is endemic to Tasmania and exists wholly on land managed by the City of Hobart known only from two sites approximately 500 m apart at Huon Road in Ridgeway Park. Despite extensive survey of its broader potential habitat, including the wider Huon Road, Knocklofty, Waterworks and Ridgeway Park, no further colonies of the species have been located.

Threats to *C.sylvicola* include habitat loss and fragmentation, inappropriate fire regime and inadvertent destruction. Because of their restricted, localised distribution, a single event can lead to extinction.

# Mt Wellington Eyebright (Euphrasia gibbsiae subsp. wellingtonensis)

Mt Wellington Eyebright (Euphrasia gibbsiae subsp. Wellingtonensis) is listed as rare under the Threatened Species Protection Act 1995.

E. gibbsiae subsp. wellingtonensis is endemic to Tasmania and is thought to be restricted to Mount Wellington.

Threats to *E.gibbsiae subsp. wellingtonensis* include climate change (increased severity and frequency of drought, a possible reduction in snow and ice cover, possible increase in both fire frequency and intensity) and loss of their main pollination vector (native bees).

# Stinking Pennywort (Hydrocotyle laxiflora)

Stinking Pennywort (*Hydrocotyle laxiflora*) is listed as endangered under the *Threatened Species Protection Act 1995*.

*H.laxiflora* is a perennial herb with the only known sites in Tasmania being Queens Domain from where it was first recorded in 1958. Given its relatively late collection in Tasmania in an area subject to botanical activity over a prolonged period, suspicions as to its native status have been raised. However, until evidence is provided to the contrary *H.laxiflora* is considered to be native to Tasmania and is afforded legislative protection under its current listing (Schalinger, 2011).

Threats to *H.laxiflora* include inappropriate fire regime, weed invasion, climate change and inadvertent destruction with the species exposed to a high risk of localised extinction.

#### Grassland Flaxlily (Dianella amoena)

Grassland Flaxlily (Dianella amoena), otherwise known at matted flaxlily, form matted clumps with many isolated individual shoots. In Tasmania *D.amoena* is found mainly in the Midlands where it grows in native grasslands and grassy woodlands. There are no population estimates for Tasmania

Threats to *D.amoena* include weed invasion, habitat destruction through clearing and vehicle damage. The effect of fire on *D.amoena* is unknown, although post-fire weed control may be a critical factor. Fire may be beneficial, particularly as it removes biomass from otherwise dominant native grassland species such as Kangaroo Grass.

## Knocklofty Leek-Orchid (Prasophyllum perangustum)

Knocklofty Leek-orchid (*Prasophyllum perangustum*) is listed as Critically Endangered under the Federal *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act* 1999 and listed as endangered under the *Threatened Species Protection Act* 1995.

*P.perangustum* is endemic to Tasmania and is known only from a 0.2 hectare area at Knocklofty Reserve at an altitude of about 350 m. It is found in grassy *Eucalyptus pulchella* forest on well-drained clay loam and skeletal clay loam derived from dolerite. It only flowers after fire and probably requires a fire at about 10 year intervals, possibly more frequently, to allow it to flower and disperse seed (Threatened Species Unit, 2000).

Threats to *P.perangustum* include weed invasion, recreational activities, utility upgrade (power easement 50m away), inappropriate fire regime and inadvertent destruction. Because of its restricted, localised distribution, a single event can lead to extinction. In addition to the NRE listing statement, management actions are included in the *Threatened Tasmanian Orchids Flora Recovery Plan* (2017) in effect under the EPBC Act.

# Bare Midge-Orchid (Corunastylis nudiscapa)

Bare Midge-orchid (Corunastylis nudiscapa) is listed as endangered under the Threatened Species Protection Act 1995.

*C.nudiscapa* has been recorded from two locations in Tasmania, Oyster Cove and South Hobart. Plants grow in open forests and woodlands dominated by *Eucalyptus tenuiramis* or *Eucalyptus obliqua*, with a heathy ground layer of varying density. Open eucalypt forests in south-eastern Tasmania widely recognised as hotspots, including the wider South Hobart area have been searched repeatedly by orchid enthusiasts with no further populations of *C.nudiscapa* discovered.

Threats to *C.nudiscapa* include weed invasion, inappropriate weed management activities, inappropriate fire regime and inadvertent destruction. Because of its restricted, localised distribution, a single event can lead to extinction.

## Shade Nettle (Australina pusilla subsp. Muelleri)

Shade Nettle (Australina pusilla subsp. Muelleri) is listed as rare under the Threatened Species Protection Act 1995.

This species occurs in New South Wales, the Australian Capital Territory and Victoria, being relatively common in the latter state. In Tasmania, it is known from the southern flanks of Mount Wellington in deeply shaded gullies within wet eucalypt forest, and from King Island where it grows in association with *A.pusilla ssp. pusilla* along stream flats in blackwood swamp forest.

Threats to A. pusilla subsp. muelleri include fire.

## Dainty Leek-Orchid (Prasophyllum amoenum)

Dainty Leek-orchid (*Prasophyllum amoenum*) is listed as Endangered under the Federal *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* and listed as vulnerable under the *Threatened Species Protection Act 1995*.

*P.amoenum* is a terrestrial orchid endemic to Tasmania known only from Snug Tiers and the Wellington Range.

The main threats to *P.amoenum* are associated with climate change (increased severity and frequency of drought, a possible reduction in snow and ice cover, possible increase in both fire frequency and intensity), with the long-term consequence being a decline in the number of plants and reduction of suitable habitat. In addition to the DPIPWE listing statement, management actions are included in the *Threatened Tasmanian Orchids Flora Recovery Plan* (2017) in effect under the EPBC Act.

## **Management Objective**

To safeguard and restore the unique and fragile flora species within Hobart's bushland reserves, ensuring their survival and thriving in perpetuity. We aim to create and maintain optimal conditions for these key flora species, such as the critically endangered *Caladenia sylvicola* and *Prasophyllum perangustum*, through targeted and proactive management practices. This includes protecting existing populations from habitat loss, fragmentation, and other threats, while fostering conditions for successful recruitment and growth.

Through close collaboration with botanical experts, conservation organisations, and community, we aspire to enhance our understanding and stewardship of these species, ensuring that our conservation efforts are informed by the latest research and monitoring data. By implementing adaptive management strategies that address the specific needs and vulnerabilities of each species, we aim to mitigate the impacts of climate change, invasive species, and other environmental challenges.

Ultimately, our goal is to preserve the floristic heritage of Hobart, ensuring that these rare and endemic species continue to be a vital part of our natural landscape.

Ac	tions	Focus	Delivery Method	
OF	RCHIDS			
Fo	rest Fingers (Caladenia sylvicola)			
1	Ensure protection from inadvertent destruction during the development, upgrades and maintenance of tracks and trails.	Habitat Protection	Program	
2	Ensure inappropriate disturbance to key habitat sites is minimised and land management practices are undertaken sensitively and as required.	Habitat Protection	Program	
3	Collaborate with orchid specialists and enthusiasts for up-to-date distribution through survey and monitoring data.	Collaboration and Knowledge Sharing	Collaboration	
Kr	Knocklofty Leek Orchid (Prasophyllum perangustum)			
1	Ensure protection from inadvertent destruction during the development, upgrades and maintenance of tracks and trails.	Habitat Protection	Program	

2	Ensure inappropriate disturbance to key habitat sites is minimised and land management practices are undertaken sensitively and as required.	Habitat Protection	Program		
3	Collaborate with orchid specialists and enthusiasts for up-to-date distribution through survey and monitoring data.	Collaboration and Knowledge Sharing	Collaboration		
4	Ensure an appropriate prescribed burning regime and weed program within orchid habitat.	Habitat Restoration	Program		
Ва	re Midge Orchid (Corunastylis nudiscapa)				
1	Ensure protection from inadvertent destruction during the development, upgrades and maintenance of tracks and trails.	Habitat Protection	Program		
2	Ensure inappropriate disturbance to key habitat sites is minimised and land management practices are undertaken sensitively and as required.	Habitat Protection	Program		
3	Collaborate with orchid specialists and enthusiasts for up-to-date distribution through survey and monitoring data.	Collaboration and Knowledge Sharing	Collaboration		
4	Ensure an appropriate prescribed burning regime and weed program within orchid habitat.	Habitat Restoration	Program		
Da	inty Leek Orchid ( <i>Prasophyllum amoenum</i> )				
1	Ensure protection from inadvertent destruction during the development, upgrades and maintenance of tracks and trails.	Habitat Protection	Program		
2	Ensure inappropriate disturbance to key habitat sites is minimised and land management practices are undertaken sensitively and as required.	Habitat Protection	Program		
3	Collaborate with orchid specialists and enthusiasts for up-to-date distribution through survey and monitoring data.	Collaboration and Knowledge Sharing	Collaboration		
4	Ensure an appropriate prescribed burning regime and weed program within orchid habitat.	Habitat Restoration	Program		
PE	RENNIAL HERBS				
Mt	Wellington Eyebright (Euphrasia gibbsiae subsp. wellingtonensis)				
1	Collaborate with specialists for up-to-date distribution through survey and monitoring data.	Collaboration and Knowledge Sharing	Collaboration		
Sti	nking Pennywort ( <i>Hydrocotyle laxiflora</i> )				
1	Ensure inappropriate disturbance to key habitat sites is minimised and land management practices are undertaken sensitively and as required.	Habitat Protection	Program		
2	Continue ecological restoration of the grassland habitats on the Queens Domain, including the ongoing treatment of invading, dominant, native species (Allocasuarina and Acacia).	Habitat Restoration	Program		
3	Ensure an appropriate prescribed burning regime and weed program within key habitat sites.	Habitat Restoration	Program		
4	Conduct field surveys, using standardised survey techniques, to help determine the current persistence, health and distribution.	Monitoring and Research	Collaboration; Project		
Sh	Shade Nettle (Australina pusilla subsp. muelleri)				

1	Collaborate with specialists for up-to-date distribution through survey and monitoring data.	Collaboration and Knowledge Sharing	Collaboration
Gr	assland flaxlily ( <i>Dianella amoena</i> )		
1	Ensure inappropriate disturbance to key habitat sites is minimised and land management practices are undertaken sensitively and as required.	Habitat Protection	Program
2	Continue ecological restoration of the grassland habitats on the Queens Domain, including the ongoing treatment of invading, dominant, native species (Allocasuarina and Acacia).	Habitat Restoration	Program
3	Ensure an appropriate prescribed burning regime and weed program within key habitat sites.	Habitat Restoration	Program

## 2.5.3 Key fauna species

Based upon the endemism and likelihood of occurrence the following species are considered priority for management (See Appendix 4):

#### Silky Snail (Exquisitiropa agnewi)

The Silky Snail is listed as rare under the Threatened Species Protection Act 1995.

The Silky Snail is a small land snail with a shell 4 to 5 mm wide known only from a number of sites on the eastern and southern slopes of Mt Wellington. All key sites are aligned with tracks and trails on Mt Wellington including Lost World, Miles Track, North South Track, Organ Pipes Track and Upper Lenah Valley Track. They are herbivorous and occur on screes that are sparsely vegetated with wet forest shrubs with a preference to feed on the rare Tasmanian Daisytree (*Centropappus brunonis*) (Bryant and Jackson, 1999).

The Silky snail occupies a narrow altitude band (600–1,000 m). It may exist elsewhere, especially in the same mountain range as very few similar habitats have been searched. The snail is naturally scarce and difficult to find. In suitable habitat, specimens are found by hand searching at a rate of about one specimen per one or two hours of survey (TSS, 2011).

Threats to the Silky Snail include climate change, fire and inadvertent destruction. Because of their restricted, localised distribution, a single event can lead to a significant impact upon the species.

## Ammonite Snail (Ammoniropa vigens)

The Ammonite Snail is listed as Critically Endangered under the Federal *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* and listed as endangered under the *Threatened Species Protection Act 1995*.

The Ammonite Snail is a small terrestrial snail <3mm in size endemic to Hobart. It has been known from just seven locations within the greater Hobart region. However, after careful searching, it is presumed extinct at most of these sites and believed now likely to occur at only two known sites, one on private land in South Hobart below Stoney Steps Road, and the other at a sheltered gully within Knocklofty Reserve.

Threats to the Ammonite Snail include:

- Predation from introduced glass snails (Oxychilus spp) These species are known to hunt and
  consume Ammoniropa vigens. Glass snails are found in Knocklofty Reserve and surrounds.
  They have a preference for disturbed habitat so it is vital to prevent degradation in the Core
  Habitat Area to minimise invasion.
- Fire could physically destroy the population and/or significantly alter site conditions, making it unsuitable as habitat.
- Physical disturbance to exposed dolerite rocks, including dislodging, removal and burial.

· Herbicide spraying - chemicals coming into contact with snails and harming them.

#### Tussock Skink (Pseudemoia pagenstecheri)

The Tussock Skink is listed as vulnerable under the Threatened Species Protection Act 1995.

The Tussock Skink has a disjunct distribution from the highlands of New South Wales to the New England tableland, the lowland basalt plains of southern Victoria, eastern South Australia and central Tasmania. In Tasmania it is known from only seven remnant grassland areas in the midlands, from a single population on the Hobart Domain, and a single population on private property near Ellendale (FPB, 2002).

Habitat for the Tussock Skink includes treeless tussock grassland and grassy open woodland where there is a good cover of medium to tall tussocks and the grassland is dominated by *Poa labillardierei* (Tussock Grass) and species of *Rytidosperma* (Wallaby Grasses), *Themeda triandra* (Kangaroo Grass) and *Microlaena stipoides* (weeping grass) (TSS, 2018). The Tussock Skink shelters inside the bases of tussocks and basks inconspicuously in the spaces between them. Whilst grassy open woodland is listed as habitat of the Tussock Skink, it is a terrestrial skink and does not climb like the similar Southern Grass Skink (*P. entrecasteauxii*). In the presence of trees, it is out competed by this species therefore only occupying the open grassy patches between the woodland trees if they are of a sufficient size (Kathryn Pugh, personal communication, 6 March 2018).

The primary threat to the Tussock Skink is the loss of tussock habitat through over frequent burning, grazing, slashing, weed invasion, the conversion from treeless grassland to woodland/forest and predation from a lack of cover. Management requires the maintenance of open treeless grassland with adequate shelter in the form of dense tussocks, rocks, logs or other, possibly artificial structures.

#### Tasmanian Chaostola Skipper (Antipodia chaostola subsp. Leucophaea)

The Chaostola Skipper is listed as Endangered under the Federal *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* and listed as endangered under the *Threatened Species Protection Act 1995*.

The Tasmanian Chaostola Skipper is endemic to Tasmania. Whilst the potential range of the species includes any area of habitat within the range of the food species *Gahnia radula* and *G. microstachya*, the Chaostola Skipper is known from only five 'colonies' in the east and southeast of Tasmania, including Knocklofty. Adults are rarely seen, but larval colonies can be detected by searching for the distinctive larval shelters.

The species is threatened by any activity which removes or degrades its *Gahnia* habitat, including land clearance and degradation and inappropriate fire regimes.

## Eastern Barred Bandicoot (Perameles gunnii)

The Eastern Barred Bandicoot (Tasmania) is listed as Vulnerable under the Federal *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. The mainland subspecies of Eastern Barred Bandicoot, is listed as extinct in the wild.

The Eastern Barred Bandicoot suffered severe declines in Tasmania between the 1950s and 1990s, with the most significant threats being predation by dogs and cats, and mortality caused by the *Toxoplasma gondii* parasite, for which cats are the primary host. Despite over 200 years of exposure to these predators since European settlement, Tasmanian bandicoots remain naïve to the threats posed by dogs and cats. This contrasts with the mainland, where bandicoots have adapted to avoid areas frequented by dogs, likely due to a much longer evolutionary history with predators like dingoes. The Eastern Barred Bandicoot (Tasmania) has been almost entirely lost from its original range in the native grasslands and grassy woodlands in Tasmania's Midlands. Today small remnant outlying populations of the Eastern Barred Bandicoot (Tasmania) potentially occur on the southern and northern edges of the Tasmanian Midlands in remnant native grassland and grassy woodlands however the range now includes agricultural areas of the state's south-east, north-east and northwest where a mosaic of pasture and remnant native forest, often with a significant amount of cover provided by dense-growing weeds such as gorse, blackberry, rose briar etc.

Interestingly, despite bandicoots in Tasmania being largely unaware of the threat posed by dogs and cats, they have managed to persist in Hobart. This is somewhat surprising given the increasing evidence of pets chasing or killing bandicoots. One possible reason for their survival is the habitat

heterogeneity found in Hobart, where open lawn areas are adjacent to thick, sheltering vegetation. This habitat structure is present not only in the urban bushland fringes and many reserves but also in the gardens of many residents. These environments likely provide safe, shelter-abundant, and good-quality feeding grounds for bandicoots. Therefore, providing ample shelter and maintaining native bushland patches rich in cover are essential strategies for protecting bandicoots in Hobart.

The key threats identified for the Eastern Barred Bandicoot (Tasmania) include clearing of habitat, in particular loss of ground cover, and predation by feral cats (*Felis catus*) and dogs (*Canis familiaris*). Cats are also the primary host of *Toxoplasma gondii*, a highly contagious parasite which can cause death in bandicoots.

#### Grey Goshawk (Accipiter novaehollandiae)

The Grey Goshawk is listed as endangered under the Threatened Species Protection Act 1995.

The Grey Goshawk inhabits forest areas in the eastern, south-eastern and northern parts of Australia ranging from the north east Kimberley, across the top end and down through the forested areas of the east, across the south coast to Adelaide and throughout Tasmania. The Grey Goshawk's preferred habitat is heavily treed and tall, closed eucalypt forest.

The Grey Goshawk is threatened by habitat loss, through reduction of mature wet forest. With a population currently estimated as less than 110 breeding pairs in Tasmania, the species is also at risk from deliberate shooting and accidents with powerlines, collision and poison.

## Swift Parrot (Lathamus discolor)

The Swift Parrot is listed as Critically Endangered under the Federal *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* and listed as endangered under the *Threatened Species Protection Act 1995* 

The Swift Parrot occurs as a single, migratory population that breeds in Tasmania during the summer and migrates north to mainland Australia for the winter. The breeding range of the Swift Parrot is largely restricted to the east and south-east coast of Tasmania where it occupies an area of less than 500 km². Requirements of the breeding range are hollow bearing eucalypt forest for nesting and flowering *Eucalyptus globulus* Blue Gum and *E. ovata* Black Gum for foraging. Outside of the breeding range, in Tasmania, Swift Parrots are most strongly associated with a range of flowering Eucalyptus species including *E. delegatensis*, *E. dalrympleana*, *E. obliqua*, *E. pauciflora* and *E. viminalis* 

## Masked Owl (Tyto novaehollandiae)

The Masked Owl (Tasmanian) is listed as Vulnerable under the Federal *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* and listed as endangered under the *Threatened Species Protection Act 1995*.

The Masked Owl (Tasmanian) is a subspecies of Masked Owl which occurs only in Tasmania. The known range of the Masked Owl (Tasmania) includes the whole of Tasmania excluding the Bass Strait Islands. Its population has been estimated to comprise approximately 500 breeding pairs.

Occupying a permanent territory, the Masked Owl is highly mobile and has large territories in the order of 1000–2000 hectares. It requires a mosaic of forest and open areas for foraging, and large old-growth hollow-bearing trees for nesting. Potential habitat for the Masked Owl is defined as all areas that occur at low elevation (<600msl) and have trees with large hollows (≥15 cm entrance diameter). It can be difficult to detect suitable hollows from the ground, so tree size can be used as a substitute for hollow availability with trees over 100cm dbh have a higher probability of containing hollows suitable for masked owls.

# Eastern Quoll (Dasyurus viverrinus)

The Eastern Quoll is listed as Endangered under the Federal *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999.* 

The Eastern Quoll is widespread in Tasmania and was previously widespread in mainland southeastern Australia, including New South Wales, Victoria and eastern South Australia. The species is now considered restricted to Tasmania and extinct on the mainland. Within Tasmania, the species' distribution is associated with areas of low rainfall and cold winter minimum temperatures. It is found in a range of vegetation types including open grassland (including farmland), tussock grassland, grassy woodland, dry eucalypt forest, coastal scrub and alpine heathland, but is typically absent from large tracts of wet eucalypt forest and rainforest (TSSC, 2015).

However, the species has recently undergone rapid and severe population decline in Tasmania (Fancourt et al., 2013). A combination of trapping and spotlight surveys indicated state-wide declines of more than 50% in the 10 years to 2009 with no sign of recovery (Fancourt et al., 2013). The reasons for this precipitous and ongoing decline are not currently understood.

#### Little Penguin (Eudyptula minor)

A significant fauna species of the Derwent Estuary is the Little penguin (Eudyptula minor).

Little Penguins are a flightless seabird that breeds in colonies across southern Australia and in New Zealand. The primary breeding sites in Australia are on Tasmania's coasts and offshore islands, where they can forage in clear, temperate seas or estuaries and land wherever they are able to climb ashore. Very little is known about their populations, however, Tasmanian estimates range from 110,000 – 190,000 breeding pairs of which less than 5% are found on mainland Tasmania, where ever-increasing human pressure will probably result in their extinction (PWS Tasmania, 2018). The total population in Australia is stable at perhaps a million birds (Birdlife Australia, 2018), hence this species is considered secure and not listed as a threatened species.

Little Penguins are vulnerable to a number of threats during their lifecycle. During their entire breeding season (August to February) and the moult period of two to three weeks (February to March) they are primarily on land and are vulnerable to predation by land-based predators such as cats and dogs. Their fledgling period can also be dangerous, especially when inexperienced they set out for their first extended trips to sea and potentially have to face a range of dangers and predators including gill nets, oil slicks, plastic ingestion, seals and sharks.

The effects of human habitation, such as road kills, direct harassment, loss of habitat and coastal development continues to threaten little penguin colonies.

# Platypus (Ornithorhynchus anatinus)

The platypus's conservation status in Australia was upgraded to "Near Threatened" in 2014 (Zichy-Woinarski et al., 2014). This status was applied on the grounds that an overall decline in numbers has occurred, and though the trend was inconsistent and poorly defined, it was estimated that if current threats were not adequately addressed population size could continue to reduce to 30% of current estimates in just three generations.

In Tasmania, the platypus is still considered 'common' and there is no evidence that platypuses are facing imminent demise (Gust & Griffiths, n.d.). Nonetheless, it is vulnerable to habitat degradation and loss, introduced predators, fishing practices and vehicle strikes. The successful conservation of platypuses and their habitats is dependent on an integrated management approach across land tenures, particularly as the species is highly mobile and requiring kilometres of suitable healthy waterways to thrive. Tasmanian platypuses appear unusual in their use of terrestrial habitats, and it is believed they may spend relatively more time on land than their mainland counterparts, making them particularly susceptible to injury and predation. A Tasmanian Platypus Management Plan (2010) has been developed for the state.

The management plan highlights short-term threats and management actions as:

- Reduce road-kill Platypuses will not travel through some culverts under roads, instead they
  cross the road where they are vulnerable to being hit by vehicles;
- Reduce predation Tasmania is fortunate not to have established foxes, one of the main
  threats to platypuses on the mainland. However, introduced predators, namely, dogs and cats
  have been present in Tasmania for over a century and pose significant threats to platypuses
  moving between waterways;
- Reduce rubbish and pollution Rubbish in waterways often gets caught around platypuses and can cause serious injuries and death;
- Prevention and control of introduced habitat altering species Didymosphenia geminata (Didymo) is a species of diatom (algae) that can affect stream flow, nutrient cycles and

platypus prey diversity and abundance. Introduced willows produce dense regrowth and continuous root mats that can choke small streams and waterways, limiting foraging and burrowing areas;

- Disease management In Tasmania, some platypuses are infected by the fungus *Mucor amphibiorum* which causes an ulcerative disease known as mucormycosis. In 2009, mucormycosis was found to be affecting platypuses in at least four river catchments in the north of the state and also spread to the Huon catchment in the south. However, the proportion of sick animals appears to have dropped off significantly since the mid-1990s, suggesting disease impacts have declined;
- Standardise research methodology and data reporting protocols Differences in the
  methodology of trapping and handling platypuses can lead to difficulties in meaningful data
  comparison and collation.

## Management Objective

To ensure the survival and success of threatened fauna species within the City of Hobart by creating and maintaining habitats that support their specific needs and mitigate the threats they face. This includes preserving the delicate balance of these ecosystems through proactive and sensitive management practices. We aspire to protect and enhance the habitats of species like the Silky Snail, Ammonite Snail, and Tussock Skink by safeguarding their environments from degradation, climate change, and human-induced disturbances.

Through collaboration with stakeholders, rigorous scientific research, and adaptive management strategies, we aim to foster resilient populations of these priority species. This includes ensuring the integrity of critical habitats, minimising risks from fire and invasive species, and maintaining the structural diversity of their environments. Our overarching goal is to protect these species not just as individual entities, but as integral components of Hobart's rich biodiversity, ensuring their continued existence now and into the future.

Actions		Focus	Delivery Method	
INVERTEBRATES				
Sil	ky Snail ( <i>Exquisitiropa agnewi</i> )			
1	Ensure protection from inadvertent destruction during the development, upgrades and maintenance of tracks and trails.	Habitat Protection	Program	
2	Collaboration with stakeholders to mitigate the risk of damaging bushfires on Mt Wellington.	Collaboration and Protection	Collaboration	
Ammonite Snail ( <i>Ammoniropa vigens</i> )				
1	Ensure inappropriate disturbance to key habitat sites is minimised and land management practices are undertaken sensitively and as required.	Habitat Protection	Program	
2	Through collaboration with agenicies and research organisations participate in conservation and research projects that further the knowledge and protection of the species.	Collaboration and Research	Collaboration	
1				

1	Ensure inappropriate disturbance to key habitat sites is minimised and land management practices are undertaken sensitively and as required.	Habitat Protection	Program		
2	Through collaboration with agenicies and research organisations participate in conservation and research projects that further the knowledge and protection of the species.	Collaboration and Research	Collaboration		
3	In consultation with NRE, conduct field surveys using standardised survey techniques to help define the extant and distribution of current populations within City of Hobart reserves.	Monitoring and Research	Collaboration; Program		
RE	EPTILES				
Tu	ssock Skink ( <i>Pseudemoia pagenstecheri</i> )				
1	Ensure inappropriate disturbance to key habitat sites is minimised and land management practices are undertaken sensitively and as required.	Habitat Protection	Program		
2	Continue ecological restoration of the grassland habitats on the Queens Domain, including maintaining structurally diverse treeless grassland vegetation and the ongoing treatment of invading, dominant, native species (Allocasuarina and Acacia).	Habitat Restoration	Program		
3	Conduct field surveys, using standardised survey techniques, to help determine the current persistance, health and distribution.	Monitoring and Research	Collaboration; Project		
MA	AMMALS				
Ea	stern Barred Bandicoot ( <i>Perameles gunnii</i> )				
1	Ensure inappropriate disturbance to key habitat sites is minimised and land management practices are undertaken sensitively and as required.	Habitat Protection	Program		
2	Work to reduce the threats of cats and dogs, at known habitat sites. Including a review of Declared Areas within the City of Hobart Dog Management Strategy and investigating the declaration of Prohibited Areas under the Cat Management Act.	Threat Reduction	Program		
3	Ensure structural diversity is maintained and encouraged at key habitat sites.	Habitat Restoration	Program		
Ea	Eastern Quoll ( <i>Dasyurus viverrinus</i> )				

1	Ensure inappropriate disturbance to key habitat sites is minimised and land management practices are undertaken sensitively and as required.	Habitat Protection	Program		
2	Work to reduce the threats of cats and dogs, at known habitat sites. Including a review of Declared Areas within the City of Hobart Dog Management Strategy and investigating the declaration of Prohibited Areas under the Cat Management Act.	Threat Reduction	Program		
3	Ensure structural diversity is maintained and encouraged at key habitat sites.	Habitat Restoration	Program		
Pla	atypus (Ornithorhynchus anatinus)				
1	Work to reduce the threats of cats and dogs, at known habitat sites. Including a review of Declared Areas within the City of Hobart Dog Management Strategy and investigating the declaration of Prohibited Areas under the Cat Management Act.	Threat Reduction	Program		
2	Develop educational material that encourages responsible pet ownership; including keeping dogs on-lead around waterways and keeping cats indoors.	Education	Program		
3	Clean up litter along waterways, and prevent it entering waterways where possible.	Habitat Protection	Collaboration; Program		
4	Support researchers and platypus experts in monitoring programs and data collection.	Monitoring and Research	Collaboration		
5	Seek to improve waterway habitat through re-vegetation and willow removal projects.	Habitat Restoration	Collaboration; Project		
ві	BIRDS				
Gr	Grey Goshawk (Accipiter novaehollandiae)				
1	Ensure protection and retention of mature native wet forest, and connecting forest corridors.	Habitat Protection	Program		
2	Management to maintain large hollow bearing trees including; avoiding removal, protection from fire, allowing for eucalyptus recruitment and protection of seedlings from fire and slashing.	Habitat Restoration	Program		
Sv	Swift Parrot (Lathamus discolor)				

1	Ensure inappropriate disturbance to key habitat sites is minimised and land management practices are undertaken sensitively and as required.	Habitat Protection	Program
2	Management to maintain large hollow bearing trees including; avoiding removal, protection from fire, allowing for eucalyptus recruitment and protection of seedlings from fire and slashing.	Habitat Restoration	Program
3	Avoid prescribed burning in spring and summer at known breeding sites.	Habitat Protection	Program
4	Ensure the protection of hollow bearing trees from prescribed burning with strategic ignition patterns and direct protection as required.	Habitat Protection	Program
Ma	asked Owl ( <i>Tyto novaehollandiae</i> )		
1	Ensure inappropriate disturbance to key habitat sites is minimised and land management practices are undertaken sensitively and as required.	Habitat Protection	Program
2	Management to maintain large hollow bearing trees including; avoiding removal, protection from fire, allowing for eucalyptus recruitment and protection of seedlings from fire and slashing.	Habitat Restoration	Program
3	Ensure the protection and exclusion of known nest sites from prescribed burning and reduce potential impacts with strategic ignition patterns and direct protection as required.	Habitat Protection	Program
Lit	tle Penguin ( <i>Eudyptula minor</i> )		
1	Protect and maintain known Little penguin sites.	Habitat Protection	Program
2	Work to reduce the threats of cats and dogs, at known habitat sites. Including a review of Declared Areas within the City of Hobart Dog Management Strategy and investigating the declaration of Prohibited Areas under the Cat Management Act.	Threat Reduction	Program
3	Collaborate with the Derwent Estuaries Penguin Advisory Group (PAG), to improve outcomes and protections for Little penguins.	Collaboration and Knowledge Sharing	Collaboration

# 3. MONITORING

Adaptive management needs to underpin all our initiatives. Adaptive management involves:

- closely tracking the outcomes of different management methods, and analysing what works best and why;
- actively communicating and learning from successes and failures, and continually modifying future approaches accordingly;
- the ability to respond to new information and circumstances;
- informed decision making:
- better outcomes for biodiversity;
- is the program effective and achieving outcomes.

Monitoring is often perceived as an expensive, unnecessary component of land management work. Particularly within the weed management field it can often be seen as diverting funds and resources away from the control effort. But if the responses of weeds and native plants and communities to management actions are not monitored then nothing can be learnt about the effectiveness of the actions. This is the underlying reason for all monitoring: to ensure that what you are doing is achieving the outcome you intended. Monitoring provides you with the tools to assess whether your management actions are being effective and, if not, provides information to help you determine what changes you should make. Often, management regimes are implemented and it is assumed that the intended outcome will eventuate. Monitoring is therefore an essential part of adaptive land management that, is an essential way of determining changes over time with precision and when done properly, leads to clear positive outcomes and saves time and money in the future (Hughes 2009). Anecdotal evidence and hearsay cannot be nearly as accurate (Morgan 1995).

With the introduction of regular scheduled prescribed burning, monitoring is particularly important to look at whether or not our management objectives are being met, be alerted to flora responses that we didn't expect, and track vegetation changes over time.

#### **Monitoring Options**

Ultimately, it is important to choose the appropriate monitoring technique that satisfies the aims of the management objectives and is relevant to the available skills and resources. For continued effective management a simplified, easily repeatable monitoring program is required.

Elements of a monitoring program need to provide detailed documentation on the following:

- · vegetation community distribution, composition, structure and quality;
- the presence and extent of known high value assets threatened species and communities;
- the presence and extent of known threats phytophthora, weeds, fire.

# 3.1.1 Vegetation Communities

TASVEG vegetation community benchmark

Vegetation Condition Assessments (VCA) for assessing vegetation condition in Tasmania is based on the 'Habitat Hectares' method of assessing the condition of native vegetation developed in Victoria. The approach involves assessing site-based and landscape components of the vegetation against a defined 'benchmark' for the same vegetation community to arrive at a vegetation condition for the assessed site (Michaels, 2006). The method comprises a scoring system based on the assessment of nine individual habitat components and three landscape components:

- Large Trees
- Tree Canopy Cover
- Dominant Life Form Cover

- · Understorey Life Forms
- Lack of Weeds
- Recruitment
- · Persistence potential
- Organic Litter
- Logs
- Patch Size
- Neighbourhood
- Distance to Core Area

While vegetation quality assessments take time and a level of expertise to implement in the field, these assessments increase the rigour and repeatability of data collection, and reduce the likelihood of different observers collecting different results.

The limitation of the VCA for a monitoring method is its ability to detect change. Only three components can be influenced by on ground works: Lack of Weeds, Understorey life forms and Recruitment. Any changes in these categories must be relatively large to be detected by the VCA assessment method and any improvements that may be made, still has little impact upon the total condition score

#### 3.1.2 Threatened flora and fauna species

The monitoring for threatened flora and fauna species is listed under the Key flora species and Key fauna species in the previous chapter as the extent and methodology is specific to each species.

#### **3.1.3 Weeds**

#### Weed Mapping

Mapping and monitoring of the progress of the weed control measures is integral to the evaluation of the success of the control program. Current practice is the completion of a hard copy Daily Works Form - Vegetation Management (Bush Regeneration) with information remaining in hard copy. The transfer and/or capture of data electronically into GIS layers is fundamental to strategic planning for vegetation management and biodiversity conservation, consultation in burn planning and the development of a pre- and post- burning works program and monitoring the effectiveness of control works

With the initial weed infestations now mapped, updating the map after successive control programs enables mapping to be used for monitoring purposes. Comparisons between the area treated and the area effectively controlled can provide documented evidence of the reduction of a weed species at the site and determine if the control program is working, and if not, provides evidence to support a change in management strategy.

#### Weed Treatment

It is important to document the weed control program, along with the associated costs of implementing control activities and monitoring the vegetation's response. Too often such information is not documented; however, this is just as important as any other data as it underlies the effort required to get the response. Document the activities undertaken each year to control weed species at the site including, at a minimum:

- Site name/area;
- · Control method/technique used;
- · Species treated;

- · Specific area treated;
- · Details of the person/s who actually undertook the control activities.

#### 3.1.4 Prescribed Burning/Biomass

It is recognised that dry eucalypt and grassland vegetation communities require fire to maintain vegetation quality as well as its species diversity. However, significantly lower than average rainfall can have a major effect on the growth and recovery of grassy vegetation. It is recommended that rotational burning regime is maintained with the proviso that burns only occur in those years when growth is deemed sufficient to warrant it. However without any monitoring in place for plant growth there is a lack of scientific validity and repeatable methodology to determine when growth is deemed 'sufficient' for a burn to occur.

#### **Grassland Communities**

It is proposed to monitor the grassland biomass by looking at the inter-tussock spaces within defined quadrats and to use these measurements overtime to determine the need for biomass reduction. Each quadrat should be defined as either being Kangaroo Grass, Spear Grass, Wallaby Grass or exotic species dominated. The cumulative percentage cover of bare ground, bryophytes/lichens and soil crust should be estimated and assigned to one of the following percentage categories.

- < 10%
- 10-30%
- 30-50%
- 50-70%
- 70-100%

This methodology provides a broad overview of the average percentage cover of bare ground, which in terms of grassland ecology similarly refers to the amount of space available for herbs. Once the inter-tussock space reaches less than 30% across grassland areas then a prescribed burn should be implemented as soon as possible even if it hasn't been 2-3 years since the previous burn.

# Grassy Woodland/Forest Communities

Flora monitoring protocol for management units subject to prescribed burning to follow *Flora monitoring protocols for planned burning* developed by the Victorian Department of Sustainability and Environment with support from the Commonwealth Natural Disasters Mitigation Program and other agencies.

The "Flora all-species assessment" within this protocol is the most relevant assessment and looks at the cover and life-stage for all vascular flora species. It involves the establishment of at least three permanent plots per vegetation community (marked so they withstand fire and can be accurately and reliably relocated for repeat assessments) and subject to repeated assessment over a period of years (for example pre-burn, two years post-burn, five years post-burn and ten years post-burn).

# 4. OPERATIONAL PLAN

As described in the Introduction, the identification of biodiversity asset values within this action plan was executed tenure-blind. The identification of these values across the City in this manner has the ability to provide a shared understanding within council for where our biodiversity values are. Within the City of Hobart it can provide guidance for planning decisions, information for land acquisition and divestiture and sharing of priorities with operational teams. It also provides for opportunities for coordinated threat management over broader landscapes with external stakeholders for sympathetic management of land outside of our bushland reserves to secure the greatest benefit for the City's flora and fauna.

This Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) has been chosen as the mechanism to allow bushland staff within the City of Hobart, to holistically plan management actions for our bushland reserves and ensure that management of these areas is in line with biodiversity principles. This will ensure that our bushland reserves are prioritised for management according to their biodiversity values, the threats that may impact upon them and the resources available to achieve the best long-term outcomes.

# 5. BIODIVERSITY UNITS AND GIS MAPPING

A significant part of the inaugural Biodiversity Action Plan was to identify the natural areas that are of greatest value for biodiversity conservation. While all natural areas have some value in conserving biodiversity, determining these values and assessing the condition and viability of each area is the best way to determine the most strategic investment of resources. It is important to establish a clear picture of the biodiversity assets as this will allow a transparent, accountable and defendable position for decisions affecting natural areas.

Several ecological criteria were identified to assess the biodiversity conservation value of natural areas under the following themes:

- Representation of ecological communities –any natural area containing nationally listed ecological communities and/or state listed vegetation communities;
- Diversity detailed criteria for diversity, and in particular species diversity, have not been
  included in the criteria due to the extensive ecological work that is required to document
  diversity in a way that allows comparisons between natural areas. Intermediate measures are
  species counts from City of Hobart flora lists for key reserve areas and TASVEG vegetation
  community benchmarks.
- Rarity threatened flora, threatened fauna, endemic species and natural areas containing significant habitat for protected fauna,
- Maintaining ecological processes or natural systems connectivity size of natural areas to
  ensure the viability of protected areas and natural areas acting as linkages in the landscape;
- Protecting wetland, streamline and estuarine fringing vegetation protection of wetland and
  riparian vegetation is a high priority in natural resource management due to the pivotal role
  healthy waterways play in hydrogeological cycles affecting land and water quality and
  quantity. On many occasions riparian vegetation will also form part of an ecological linkage
  through the landscape.

A biodiversity GIS model, accessible as a layer for all to use within the City's Geocortex mapping, using multi-criteria decision analysis (MCDA) to attribute scores to a polygon grid that covered the entire study area. A vector feature class was created with a grid of 20m x 20m contiguous polygons, or cells, over the extent of the study area.

All geoprocessing was executed using ArcGIS (ESRI).

Each cell was assigned a single class for each of the criteria (See Appendix 5 for more detail). Where a cell did not qualify for any class in a criterion no class was assigned. If a cell qualified for more than one class for a criterion the higher class was assigned. Point values were then assigned to each cell based upon the criteria class values for that cell. Exceptions to point value assignment occurred for the criterion "Actual and potential habitat/range for threatened fauna" where points were assigned to each cell according to the location of each modelled habitat (Appendix 5). For all other criteria, where no class was assigned to a cell for a criterion a point value of zero was assigned to that cell for that criterion. The total value of points assigned to a cell for all criteria provided the biodiversity value for that cell. A high total point value indicates high biodiversity value for that cell and vice versa.

An example of the result generated from the GIS model multi-criteria decision analysis (MCDA) is illustrated in Figure 1.

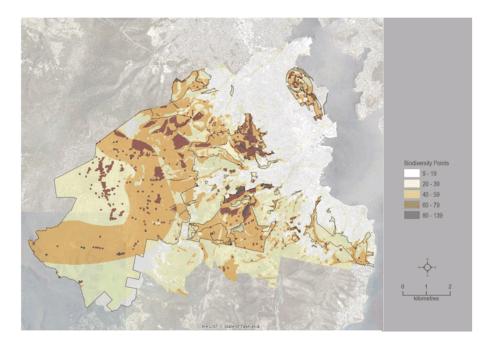


Figure 1. Values Points by 20m x 20m grid square (Left)

This map represents the total value of points assigned to each 20m x 20m grid square for all of the biodiversity criteria. A high total point value indicates high biodiversity value for that grid square and vice versa

For instance, a dark red grid square with a value exceeding 60 represents an area with multiple high biodiversity attributes. These may include the presence of a threatened vegetation community, records of threatened flora or fauna, large old trees, and the potential to provide habitat for various threatened species.

The original intention was to periodically update the GIS model as new data was collected, particularly to incorporate information submitted to state-wide datasets. However, at the time of this review, the City's GIS unit is inadequately resourced, and the original Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) tool was created for software that is no longer supported (ArcMap). At the time of the tool's creation, a dedicated GIS support officer was embedded within the Open Space Unit, providing knowledgeable, real-time support. Now, the tool needs to be redeveloped to ensure compatibility with the City's current spatial software, ArcGIS Pro. The following actions have been identified as critical to addressing the ongoing GIS challenges and restoring the functionality of the BAP tool:

Ac	ctions	Focus	Delivery Method
1	Redevelop the BAP tool to be compatible and integrated with ArcGIS Pro.	Redevelopment	Project
2	Establish a protocol for regularly updating data, and the GIS tool, to capture new data submitted to state-wide datasets and maintain the accuracy and relevance of the biodiversity mapping.	Data Integration	Program

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# Appendix 1. Relevant Policy and Legislation

# **Biosecurity Act 2019**

Until 2019, Tasmania's biosecurity has been managed under seven separate Acts. The Biosecurity Act provides a simpler and more effective legal framework for the management of pests, diseases and invasive species.

- the legal process for declaring a weed species under the Act;
- the preparation of a Weed Management Plan for a declared weed species;
- prohibiting the introduction of declared weeds into Tasmania; and
- action aimed at preventing the spread of declared weeds within Tasmania and the eradication of declared weed species.

#### Cat Management Act 2009

The *Cat Management Act 2009* provides for the control and management of cats, in particular to promote the responsible ownership and welfare of cats, provide for the effective management of cats and reduce the negative effects of cats on the environment.

### **Dog Control Act 2000**

The Dog Control Act 2000 provides the legislative framework for the management of dogs in Tasmania. The Act sets out the responsibilities of dog owners for controlling their dogs and assists general managers of councils to manage ownership and control of dogs in their council area and enforce the provisions of the Act.

# **Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999**

The Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act) is Australia's main environmental legislation. It provides a legal framework to protect and manage nationally and internationally important flora, fauna, ecological communities and heritage places. The EPBC Act provides for the listing of nationally threatened native species and ecological communities, native migratory species and marine species.

This Act is currently undergoing reforms.

# **Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993**

The Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993 is the primary land use planning legislation in Tasmania, providing the legal framework for the development and subsequent operation of planning schemes. Planning Schemes are legal instruments outlining provisions for the use, development and protection of land in each municipality. The Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993 is explicitly based on achieving the contemporary aim of sustainable development.

Tasmania's 29 councils each have a planning scheme, with the exception of the Hobart City Council which has two planning schemes (a separate scheme for the Sullivans Cove area and another for the remainder of the council area).

#### **Local Government Act 1993**

The *Local Government Act 1993* is the principal legislation that provides the legal framework for the establishment and operation of Tasmanian councils. The Act sets out the purpose and functions of councils and councillors and, together with supporting regulations, contains the rules that must be followed when undertaking those functions.

#### **Nature Conservation Act 2002**

The *Nature Conservation Act 2002* was legislated to regulate the conservation and protection of flora, fauna and geological diversity within Tasmania. This Act provides for the following measures:

- Declaration of protected areas, classification of reserved lands and establishment of values and objectives for each reserve class;
- Management plans for protected areas and species that have been declared under the Act;
- · Entering into voluntary conservation covenants and reservation of private land;
- Regulations for taking protected species or introducing restricted species;
- · Provisions and permits for the conservation of flora and fauna; and
- Listing of threatened native vegetation communities (Schedule 3A).

# **Threatened Species Protection Act 1995**

The *Threatened Species Protection Act 1995* (TSPA) sets out special protection measures for native flora and fauna that are considered to be 'threatened' in Tasmania. It provides a number of ways to achieve its objectives including:

- Preparing a statewide strategy for the conservation of threatened species in Tasmania, the Threatened Species Strategy;
- · Listing of threatened flora and fauna;
- Preparing listing statements and implementing species recovery plans and threat abatement plans for threatened species;
- Implementing land management plans (including special agreements with landowners and public bodies);
- Permits to 'take, trade in, keep, move, process or disturb flora or fauna' and may also include the destruction of habitat;
- · Declaring interim protection orders; and
- · Declaring critical habitats.

# Plans, Strategies and Policies

- Threatened Species Strategy (2000), Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania (NRE Tas). Currently under review and redevelopment.
- Natural Heritage Strategy for Tasmania (2013 2030): Securing our Natural Advantage. NRE
- Prioritisation of Threatened Flora and Fauna Recovery Actions for the Tasmanian NRM Regions (2010) Threatened Species Section, Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania (NRE Tas).

# Appendix 2. State or Nationally Threatened Vegetation Communities

VEG CODE	VEG NAME	Conservation Status	General Description	Mapped Distribution on CoH reserve
DAS	Eucalyptus amygdalina forest & woodland on sandstone	Listed Threatened (TAS)	The canopy of this community is usually dominated by uneven-aged stands of <i>Eucalyptus amygdalina</i> , <i>E. obliqua</i> is often codominant or sub-dominant, especially in gullies or on shaded slopes, with <i>E. viminalis</i> generally present as a minor or sub-dominant species. <i>Eucalyptus amygdalina</i> forest and woodland on sandstone is a dry sclerophyll community, generally with a tall, shrub layer and a shrubby, sedgy, heathy or sometimes grassy ground layer. The tall shrub layer is commonly <i>Acacia dealbata</i> , <i>Banksia marginata</i> and <i>Allocasuarina littoralis</i> . The ground layer varies with soil type. On podsol, heath and legumes are dominant, with <i>Lomandra longifolia</i> more common on shallow or clayish soils. <i>Pteridium esculentum</i> can become dominant in areas where grazing or fire is frequent.	Knocklofty Ridgeway/ Waterworks
DGL	Eucalyptus globulus dry forest and woodland	Listed Threatened (TAS)	The community is dominated by a canopy of <i>Eucalyptus globulus</i> that varies in height from about 40 m in productive coastal areas to < 20 m on poor soils in more arid inland areas. <i>E. amygdalina</i> and <i>E. viminalis</i> are sometimes present, with <i>E. obliqua</i> becoming subdominant in wetter situations. <i>E. pulchella</i> can also be present as a sub-dominant in transitional areas.  The sparse tall shrub layer may include <i>Banksia marginata</i> , <i>Acacia dealbata</i> , <i>A. mearnsii</i> , <i>Exocarpos cupressiformis</i> , <i>Allocasuarina verticillata</i> and <i>Bursaria spinosa</i> . These tall shrubs may be absent in very rocky or fire-prone areas, or where grazing is intense or prolonged. The understorey of <i>E. globulus</i> dry forest and woodland is usually grassy or heathy, except in humid or infrequently burnt sites where the understorey becomes shrubby. The low shrub layer and diverse ground layer commonly include <i>Epacris impressa</i> , <i>Hibbertia riparia</i> , <i>Astroloma humifusum</i> , <i>Lissanthe strigosa</i> , native grasses, <i>Lomandra longifolia</i> and native herbs.	Bicentennial Kalang Knocklofty Queens Domain
DOV	Eucalyptus ovata forest & woodland	Listed Threatened (TAS)	The community is dry or damp forest and woodland dominated by <i>Eucalyptus ovata</i> and occasional small local patches dominated by <i>E. viminalis. E. ovata</i> forest and woodland is widespread but local on poorly-drained flats and moderate to poorly-drained fertile soils, where it is most typically characterised by an understorey dominated by shrubs or sedges. On poorly-drained sites the understorey can be scrubby with <i>Melaleuca</i> and <i>Leptospermum</i> species present. In coastal areas a heathy woodland form of the community can be found, characterised by short (5-10 m) mallee-like <i>E. ovata</i> , often over a dense and species-diverse heathy understorey associated with infertile substrates.	Kalang Knocklofty
DTO	Eucalyptus tenuiramis forest & woodland on sediments	Listed Threatened (TAS)	The dominant tree species is usually <i>Eucalyptus</i> tenuiramis, possibly with other eucalypts such as <i>E. viminalis</i> and <i>E. obliqua</i> present in the canopy, and locally dominant patches of <i>E. perriniana</i> . <i>E. rubida</i> can assume dominance over, or co-dominate with <i>E. tenuiramis</i> on broad flats and cold-air drainage basins in the cooler inland areas of the southern Midlands and Derwent	Kalang McRobies Ridgeway/ Waterworks Wellington Park

VEG CODE	VEG NAME	Conservation Status	General Description	Mapped Distribution on CoH reserve
DAS	Eucalyptus amygdalina forest & woodland on sandstone	Listed Threatened (TAS)	The canopy of this community is usually dominated by uneven-aged stands of <i>Eucalyptus amygdalina</i> , <i>E. obliqua</i> is often codominant or sub-dominant, especially in gullies or on shaded slopes, with <i>E. viminalis</i> generally present as a minor or sub-dominant species. <i>Eucalyptus amygdalina</i> forest and woodland on sandstone is a dry sclerophyll community, generally with a tall, shrub layer and a shrubby, sedgy, heathy or sometimes grassy ground layer. The tall shrub layer is commonly <i>Acacia dealbata</i> , <i>Banksia marginata</i> and <i>Allocasuarina littoralis</i> . The ground layer varies with soil type. On podsol, heath and legumes are dominant, with <i>Lomandra longifolia</i> more common on shallow or clayish soils. <i>Pteridium esculentum</i> can become dominant in areas where grazing or fire is frequent.  Valley. In such cases, <i>E. pauciflora</i> is not prominent. <i>Acacia melanoxylon</i> may also be present. Trees of this community rarely reach 25 m in height, and are often much smaller on nutrient poor soils. The shrub layer is generally of low cover and diversity, but may include <i>Banksia marginata</i> , <i>Allocasuarina littoralis</i> , <i>Exocarpos cupressiformis</i> , <i>Acacia</i> spp. and <i>Epacris impressa</i> . A grassy understorey can occur in some areas.	Knocklofty Ridgeway/ Waterworks
GTL	Lowland <i>Themeda</i> triandra grassland	Listed Endangered (EPBC)	Lowland <i>Themeda triandra</i> grassland is dominated by kangaroo grass and typically is floristically diverse. Other common grasses include species of <i>Austrodanthonia</i> , <i>Austrostipa</i> and <i>Poa</i> genera. It is characterised by a rich variety of lilies, orchids, daisies and other herbs in patches between grass tussocks although it can occur where kangaroo grass dominates almost to the exclusion of other species.  The Lowland <i>Themeda triandra</i> Grassland sub-type is generally treeless but scattered, low trees <i>Eucalyptus</i> ovata, <i>E. viminalis</i> , <i>E. pauciflora</i> , <i>E. rubida</i> and <i>E. amygdalina</i> can occur at low densities. <i>Acacia dealbata</i> , <i>A. mearnsii</i> , <i>A. melanoxylon</i> , <i>Allocasuarina</i> spp., <i>Bursaria spinosa</i> and <i>Dodonaea viscosa</i> can form a scattered small-tree or tall shrub layer, especially on slopes.	Queens Domain*  Current Conservation Context: While not ourrently meeting the full criteria for Endangered listing, active conservation efforts are ongoing to preserve and enhance the ecological integrity of this grassland type.

Appendix 3. Threatened Flora Species

	Common Name					t Count	% in BAP		Known distribution on CoH reserve						
Scientific Name		EPBC	TSPA	Last record	Count BAP			Likelihood	Bicentennial	Knocklofty	McRobies	Porter Hill	Queens Domain	Ridgeway	Wellington Park
Caladenia sylvicola	forest fingers	CE	е	26-Oct-2009	7	7	100.00							1	
Euphrasia gibbsiae subsp. wellingtonensis	mt wellington eyebright		г	28-Dec-2015	225	225	100.00	-	•	-	-	•	•	•	✓
Hydrocotyle laxiflora	stinking pennywort		e	24-Oct-2020	51	51	100.00	-				•	✓	•	
Prasophyllum perangustum	knocklofty leek-orchid	CE	е	04-Dec-2009	14	14	100.00			✓	-				
Corunastylis nudiscapa	bare midge-orchid		е	26-Mar-2018	145	148	97.97	•	•	•		•	•	✓	•
Australina pusilia subsp. muelleri	shade nettle	•	r	18-Dec-2015	15	18	83.33	-	•	•	-		•	•	✓
Prasophyllum amoenum	dainty leek-orchid	E	v	10-Jan-2016	204	266	76.69	•	•	•		•	•	•	✓
Brachyscome radicata	spreading daisy		г	01-Apr-1913	3	7	42.86	Unlikely				•	•	•	
Centropappus brunonis	tasmanian daisytree		г	05-Mar-2012	60	159	37.74	•	-	•		•	-	•	✓
Austrostipa bigeniculata	doublejointed speargrass		г	21-Feb-2017	57	170	33.53	•	•	•		•	✓	•	•
Corunastylis nuda	tiny midge-orchid		г	24-Mar-2018	29	90	32.22	-	•	-			•	✓	•
Rytidosperma indutum	tall wallabygrass		DELISTED	31-Jul-2017	139	483	28.78	•		✓				✓	
Senecio squarrosus	leafy fireweed		г	01-Mar-2016	62	247	25.10	•		✓			✓	✓	•
Carex gunniana	mountain sedge		r	19-Aug-2013	15	75	20.00	•	•			•	<b>√</b>	•	•
Veronica notabilis	forest speedwell		е	01-Oct-1892	1	5	20.00	Unlikely							***************************************
Euphrasia scabra	yellow eyebright		e	18-Dec-2009	15	90	16.67	•	*			•		· /	•
Isolepis habra	wispy clubsedge		r	06-Mar-1974	3	18	16.67	•	•	-		•	•	•	✓
Vittadinia muelleri	narrowleaf new-holland-daisy		г	31-Aug-2017	144	1004	14.34	•	•	✓		•	✓	•	•
Scieranthus fasciculatus	spreading knawel		v	31-Aug-2017	70	496	14.11		•	-			✓		•
Lachnagrostis punicea subsp. filifolia	narrowleaf blowngrass		г	01-Jan-1929	1	9	11.11	Unlikely				•	•		•
Allocasuarina duncanii	conical sheoak		г	19-Jan-2016	17	176	9.66	•	•	•		•	•		✓
Thismia rodwayi	fairy lanterns		r	17-Dec-2017	14	147	9.52	•	•			•	•		✓
Prasophyllum castaneum	chestnut leek-orchid	CE	е	01-Feb-1891	1	11	9.09	Unlikely							•
Asperula scoparia subsp. scoparia	prickly woodruff		r	01-Mar-2016	19	239	7.95	•				•	<b>✓</b>		•
Atriplex suberecta	sprawling saltbush		v	01-Jan-1900	1	14	7.14	Unlikely				•	•		
Bolboschoenus caldwellii	sea clubsedge		r	06-Feb-2010	8	113	7.08	•	Not within CoH	estate		•	•		•
Viola hederacea subsp. curtisiae	montane ivyleaf violet		r	11-Jan-2018	1	18	5.56					•	•		· /
Diuris palustris	swamp doubletail		е	01-Jan-1970	4	92	4.35	Unlikely	•	***************************************		•	•	•	*
Pterostylis squamata	ruddy greenhood		v	06-Feb-1967	3	70	4.29	•	•	•		•	•	· -	•
Olearia hookeri	crimsontip daisybush		r	01-Dec-1923	4	108	3.70	Unlikely				•	•		•
Carex longebrachiata	drooping sedge		г	03-Sep-2016	10	282	3.55		•	•	•	•	· -		•
Westringia angustifolia	narrowleaf westringia		г	05-Jul-2009	12	339	3.54	•	Not within CoH	estate	•	•	-	•	•
Austrostipa blackii	crested speargrass		r	20-Dec-2011	1	30	3.33	•	Not within CoH	estate					
Rumex bidens	mud dock		v	01-Dec-1891	1	30	3.33	Unlikely				•			•
Pterostylis wapstrarum	fleshy greenhood	CE	e	07-Nov-1955	1	32	3.13	Unlikely				•			•
Isoetopsis graminifolia	grass cushion		v	01-Jan-1896	6	199	3.02	Unlikely				•			•
Juncus vaginatus	clustered rush		r	14-Mar-2001	1	36	2.78				•	•	•	· ✓	•
Caladenia caudata	tailed spider-orchid	V	v	24-Sep-2017	8	290	2.76	•	•		•	•	•	· /	•
Velleia paradoxa	spur velleia		· v	16-Jan-2014	Δ	147	2.72	•	•			•	•		•

Vittadinia burbidgeae	smooth new-holland-daisy		Г	12-Mar-2011	9	356	2.53		Not within CoH estate				
Vittadinia gracilis	woolly new-holland-daisy		г	27-Mar-2007	19	766	2.48				✓		
Ranunculus pumilio var. pumilio	ferny buttercup		r	04-Jan-1984	2	87	2.30						✓
Prasophyllum apoxychilum	tapered leek-orchid	E	V	29-Jan-1996	2	105	1.90		✓				
Pimelea flava subsp. flava	yellow riceflower	•	r	28-Apr-2007	14	1038	1.35	-	-		•	•	✓
Hyalosperma demissum	moss sunray		е	15-Oct-1898	2	154	1.30	Unlikely					
Caladenia filamentosa	daddy longlegs		г	13-Oct-2016	1	78	1.28				•	✓	
Scieranthus brockiei	mountain knawel		г	06-Dec-2017	4	316	1.27		Not within CoH estate				
Lepidosperma tortuosum	twisting rapiersedge		r	01-Jun-1894	1	80	1.25	Unlikely					
Austrostipa scabra	rough speargrass	•	DELISTED	02-Sep-2016	15	1335	1.12	_	-	•	✓		
Brachyscome perpusilla	tiny daisy		г	12-Oct-1901	1	103	0.97	Unlikely					
Thelymitra bracteata	leafy sun-orchid		е	18-Nov-1970	1	169	0.59	Unlikely	***************************************				***************************************
Lepidium hyssopifolium	soft peppercress	E	е	12-Nov-2002	7	1354	0.52				✓	-	
Vittadinia cuneata var. cuneata	fuzzy new-holland-daisy		г	01-Jan-1993	2	576	0.35				✓		✓
Dianella amoena	grassland flaxlily	E	г	14 Dec 2020	4*	1217*	0.33*	•			<b>✓</b>	•	•
Goodenia geniculata	bent native-primrose		е	01-Jan-1805	1	346	0.29	Unlikely					-
Comesperma defoliatum	leafless milkwort		r	01-Sep-1892	1	395	0.25	Unlikely					***************************************
Epacris virgata (Kettering)	pretty heath		v	20-Oct-1995	2	834	0.24		-	✓	•		
Rhodanthe anthemoides	chamomile sunray		r	15-Jan-1898	1	455	0.22	Unlikely					
Eucalyptus risdonii	risdon peppermint		г	17-Jun-2014	1	531	0.19	-		•	✓		

# Appendix 4. Threatened Fauna Species

								Known distribution on CoH reserve					
Common Name	Scientific Name	EPBC	TSPA	COUNT	COUNT	% in BAP	Likelihood	Bicentennial	Knocklofty	Porter Hill	Queens Domain	Ridgeway	Wellington Park
Silky snail E	Exquisitiropa agnewi		r	24	24	100.00							✓
Ammonite snail A	Ammoniropa vigens	CE	е	6	7	85.71			✓				
Tussock skink F	Pseudemoia pagenstecheri	-	v	4	35	11.43					·	•	
Chaostola skipper A	Antipodia chaostola subsp. leucophaea	E	е	6	75	8.00			✓			•	
Eastern barred bandicoot (Tasmanian)	Perameles gunnii	V		191	2620	7.29			✓	✓	·	✓	
Grey goshawk A	Accipiter novaehollandiae	•	е	44	748	5.88		•	•	•	•	✓	•
Grey-headed flying-fox F	Pteropus poliocephalus	V		1	22	4.55	Unlikely						
Swift parrot L	Lathamus discolor	CE	е	147	3564	4.12	foraging habitat only	✓	•	✓	·	•	•
Blue-winged parrot	Neophema chrysostoma	V		25	3162	0.79			•	•		✓	·
Masked owl 7	Tyto novaehollandiae	V	e	27	733	3.68	-	✓	•	•		✓	•
Forty-spotted pardalote	Pardalotus quadragintus	E	е	10	905	1.10	foraging habitat only	Not within CoH	estate, potentia	I foraging habi	tat	•	***************************************
Mount Mangana stag beetle L	Lissotes menalcas	•	v	3	306	0.98		•	•	•		•	<b>~</b>
Eastern quoll E	Dasyurus viverrinus	E	•	58	7024	0.83	•	•	✓	✓	·	✓	✓
Tasmanian wedge-tailed eagle	Aquila audax subsp. fleayi	E	е	27	7582	0.36	***************************************	No known nest	site within CoH	estate			•
Tasmanian azure kingfisher C	Ceyx azureus subsp. diemenensis	E	е	1	337	0.30		Not within CoH	estate				
White-bellied sea-eagle	Haliaeetus leucogaster	•	v	5	1807	0.28	Unlikely	No known nest:	site within CoH	estate			
Green and gold frog	Litoria raniformis	٧	v	1	385	0.26	Unlikely						
Spotted-tailed quoll (Tasmanian)	Dasyurus maculatus subsp. maculatus	V	r	7	3475	0.20			•	•		-	✓
Tasmanian devil	Sarcophilus harrisii	E	е	48	38410	0.12	•		•	•		✓	·

# Appendix 5. Biodiversity GIS model criteria (2019)

		Criterion Definition and Points I	oy Class		
Criterion	Data and Geoprocessing	Very High	High	Moderate	Low
		18 points	9 points	3 points	1 point
Threatened vegetation communities	Data: Polygon feature classes of vegetation communities (North Barker, TASVEG 3.0) Geoprocessing: Cells were assigned class according to location of a cell's centroid within vegetation communities feature class	High Priority Biodiversity Values as per E10.0 Biodiversity Code for the applicable statutory planning framework, currently the Tasmanian Planning Scheme.  Native vegetation communities listed as threatened under the Nature Conservation Act 2002 excluding wetlands: {DAS, DGL, DOV, DTO, SBR}	Moderate Priority Biodiversity Values as per E10.0 Biodiversity Code for the applicable statutory planning framework, currently the Tasmanian Planning Scheme . {SBR, DAM, WGL, WSU} {DTD, RSH, RMT, RMU (not present in study area)}	Low Priority Biodiversity Values as per E10.0 Biodiversity Code for the applicable statutory planning framework, currently the Tasmanian Planning Scheme. All other native vegetation communities	Class not assigned
Threatened ecological communities	Data: Polygon feature classes of vegetation communities (North Barker, TASVEG 3.0) Geoprocessing: Cells were assigned class according to location of a cell's centroid within vegetation communities feature class	High Priority Biodiversity Values as per E10.0 Biodiversity Code for the applicable statutory planning framework, currently the Tasmanian Planning Scheme.  Ecological communities listed as threatened under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999  Lowland Themeda triandra grassland (GTL) meeting condition thresholds	Moderate Priority Biodiversity Values as per E10.0 Biodiversity Code for the applicable statutory planning framework, currently the Tasmanian Planning Scheme. Lowland Themeda triandra grassland (GTL) not meeting condition thresholds Not present in study area	Low Priority Biodiversity Values as per E10.0  All other ecological communities Not present in study area	Class not assigned
Threatened flora species	Data: Point feature classes of threatened flora and fauna species observations derived from DPIPWE (NVA) data and CoH data.	Present	Class not assigned	Class not assigned	Class not assigned

		Criterion Definition and Points	by Class		
Criterion	Data and Geoprocessing	Very High	High	Moderate	Low
		18 points	9 points	3 points	1 point
Threatened fauna species	Geoprocessing: Cells that intersected with a buffer of 30 metres around threatened species observations were assigned "Very High" class	Present	Class not assigned	Class not assigned	Class not assigned
Endemic flora distribution	Data: Point feature classes of threatened flora and fauna species observations derived from DPIPWE (NVA) data and CoH data. Attribute for percentage distribution for each species observed was based upon ratio of number of observations of that species within study	>=75% distribution is in the study area	50% to <75% distribution in the study area	25 to <50% distribution in the study area	<25% distribution in the study area
Endemic fauna distribution	area to number of observations of that species statewide Geoprocessing: Cells that intersected with a buffer of 30 metres around threatened species observations were assigned a class according to percentage distribution attribute	>=75% distribution is in the study area	50% to <75% distribution in the study area	25 to <50% distribution in the study area	<25% distribution in the study area
Floristic diversity	Data: Polygon feature class of reserves or parks with attribute describing indicative species count within each area Indicative species count by botanical community (TASVEG Vegetation Community Benchmarks) Geoprocessing: Cells were assigned class according to location of a cell's centroid	Species count >= 150	Species count 51-149	Species count 20-50	Species count 0 – 19
Critical habitat	Data: Polygon feature class of vegetation communities comprised of field research within CoH since 2004 (CoH) and DPIPWE data (TASVEG 3.0) for study areas outside of the municipal boundary	Critical habitat as determined under the <i>Threatened Species</i> Protection Act 1995	Class not assigned	Class not assigned	Class not assigned

		Criterion Definition and Points by Class								
Criterion	Data and Geoprocessing	Very High	High	Moderate	Low					
		18 points	9 points	3 points	1 point					
	Geoprocessing:  Cells were assigned class according to location of a cell's centroid									
Actual and potential habitat/range for threatened fauna	Data: Department of the Environment (2015),Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (2008), DPIPWE (2018), DPIW (2006), North Barker, Fancourt (2015), FPA (2010, 2013, 2014)  Geoprocessing: Points were assigned according to the class of each of the modelled habitat within which the cell's centroid occurred	Endemic >=75% distribution is in the study area = Ammonite Snail, Silky Snail	Endemic status, associated with the threatened ecological community (GTL) = Tussock Skink, Eastern barred bandicoot, Eastern Quoll	Endemic status, known foraging habitat in study area = swift parrot, 40- spotted, masked owl, skipper	Widespread elsewhere = grey goshawk, tas wedgie, tas devil, spotted tail quoll, stag beetle					
Mature habitat availability	Data: Mature Habitat Availability polygon feature class (FPA) Geoprocessing: Cells were assigned class according to location of a cell's centroid	High mature habitat availability	Medium mature habitat availability	Low mature habitat availability	Negligible mature habitat availability					
Riparian zone	Data: Hydrographic line data (Land Tasmania) Rivers and creeks (CoH) Geoprocessing: Cells that intersected with a buffer of 20 metres of riparian zone features were assigned class "Moderate"	Class not assigned	Class not assigned	Present	Class not assigned					
The following criteria are "Threats" and not included in value calculations										
Patch Size	Data: Polygon feature class was developed to represent continuous areas of bushland reserves owned by CoH or other	Area >=150ha	Area >=100ha to <150ha	Area >10ha to- <100ha	Area 2ha to 10ha					

	Data and Geoprocessing	Criterion Definition and Points by Class							
Criterion		Very High	High	Moderate	Low				
		18 points	9 points	3 points	1 point				
	Geoprocessing: Cells were assigned class according to location of a cell's centroid								
Connectivity	Data: Polygon feature class was developed by heads up digitising to represent bushland owned by CoH or other, with attribute representing class of connectivity for each polygon Geoprocessing: Cells were assigned class according to location of a cell's centroid	Part of a continuous link - survival habitat corridor – allows wildlife to survive and thrive. Part of the core bushland area	Part of a moderately fragmented link {stepping stone consisting of vegetation patch} – marginal habitat corridor – allows for basic survival. Directly connected to the core bushland area	High fragmented or potential link {stepping stone consisting of canopy only, isolated trees} - transitional habitat corridor – only suitable for movement. Separate but near to the core bushland area	(class not assigned)				

#### Q. REIMBURSEMENT OF LEGAL EXPENSES

This section of the policy specifies the circumstances under which elected members are entitled to reimbursement of legal expenses in accordance with Clause 1(2)(b) of Schedule 5 of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

Clause 1(1) of Schedule 5 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, requires the Council to adopt a policy with respect of payment of expenses incurred by elected members in carrying out the duties of office.

Sub-clause (2) entitles an elected member to be reimbursed for reasonable expenses in accordance with the policy adopted under Sub-clause (1) in relation to any expenses prescribed in the *Local Government (General) Regulations 2015*, and any other expenses the Council determines appropriate.

Pursuant to Clause 1(2)(b) of Schedule 5 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, an elected member will be reimbursed their reasonable legal expenses in the following circumstances:

- (i) Where the elected member is defending or responding to a claim, action or demand made by a third party against the elected member;
- (ii) Where the elected member is acting as a plaintiff in a claim, action or demand against a third party to the extent that the elected member may obtain initial advice regarding the merits of their claim.
- (iii) For the avoidance of doubt, a 'third party' under Clause 1(2)(ii) is taken to include a councillor acting in a private capacity in a legal matter/external complaint brought against an elected member acting in accordance with their functions/duties under *Division 3* of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

Any reimbursement provided in accordance with this policy is subject to:

- (i) The elected member acting in accordance with the functions of an elected member as specified in Section 28 of the *Local Government Act 1993*;
- (ii) The elected member acting in good faith in the performance or exercise, or the purported performance or purported exercise, of any function or power under the Local Government Act 1993 or any other Act or in the administration or execution, or purported administration or purported execution, of the Local Government Act 1993; and
- (iii) The quantum of costs sought to be reimbursed being reasonable.

In determining whether an individual elected member is entitled to reimbursement in accordance with this policy, the Chief Executive Officer is authorised to approve initial legal consultation and to obtain professional external legal advice that the circumstances of an elected member's claim satisfy the criteria listed above.

No reimbursement for legal expenses will be provided to an elected member in relation to any claims, actions or demands made against another elected member or the Council itself unless:

#### Where:

- (i) An elected member is entitled to reimbursement of legal expenses in accordance with this policy;
- (ii) That elected member is successful in the proceedings; and
- (iii) In those proceedings that elected member receives an award of costs and/or damages; Any reimbursement in accordance with this policy is to be discounted by the value of any sum awarded as part of the proceedings.

An elected member is not entitled to access the Council's relevant insurance policy for the purpose of defending a claim, complaint or proceeding brought against them in a personal capacity. The Chief Executive Officer will be the final arbiter on such matters, having sought legal advice prior to making a determination.

#### **Code of Conduct Complaints**

Equally, no reimbursement of legal expenses will be provided to an elected member for defending code of conduct complaints (including complaints commenced by fellow elected members). The costs are to be borne by the elected member as required by s 28ZN of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

No payment of legal fees will be provided for advice, or proceedings which an elected member may personally take against another person.

An elected member is also not entitled to access Council's relevant insurance policy for the purpose of defending a Code of Conduct complaint.

For the purposes of the <u>Code of Conductis policy</u>, the term "third party" excludes another elected member the Council as an organisation and any single or joint authorities that the Council has established pursuant to the provisions of the Local Government Act 1993.

#### Where:

- An elected member is entitled to reimbursement of legal expenses in accordance with this policy;
- (ii) That elected member is successful in the proceedings; and
- (iii)(i) In those proceedings that elected member receives an award of costs and/or damages; Any reimbursement in accordance with this policy is to

be discounted by the value of any sum awarded as part of the proceedings.

The Council is to provide final approval of any reimbursement.