



AGENDA

OPEN PORTION OF THE COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, 27 OCTOBER 2025
AT 4.00PM



THE MISSION

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

OUR VALUES

THE COUNCIL IS:

PEOPLE

We care about people – our community, customers and colleagues

TEAMWORK

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

FOCUS AND DIRECTION

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

CREATIVITY AND INNOVATION

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

ACCOUNTABILITY

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

VISION

OUR VISION, MISSION AND VALUES HOBART: A COMMUNITY VISION FOR OUR ISLAND CAPITAL

Hobart breathes.

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

We are brave and caring.

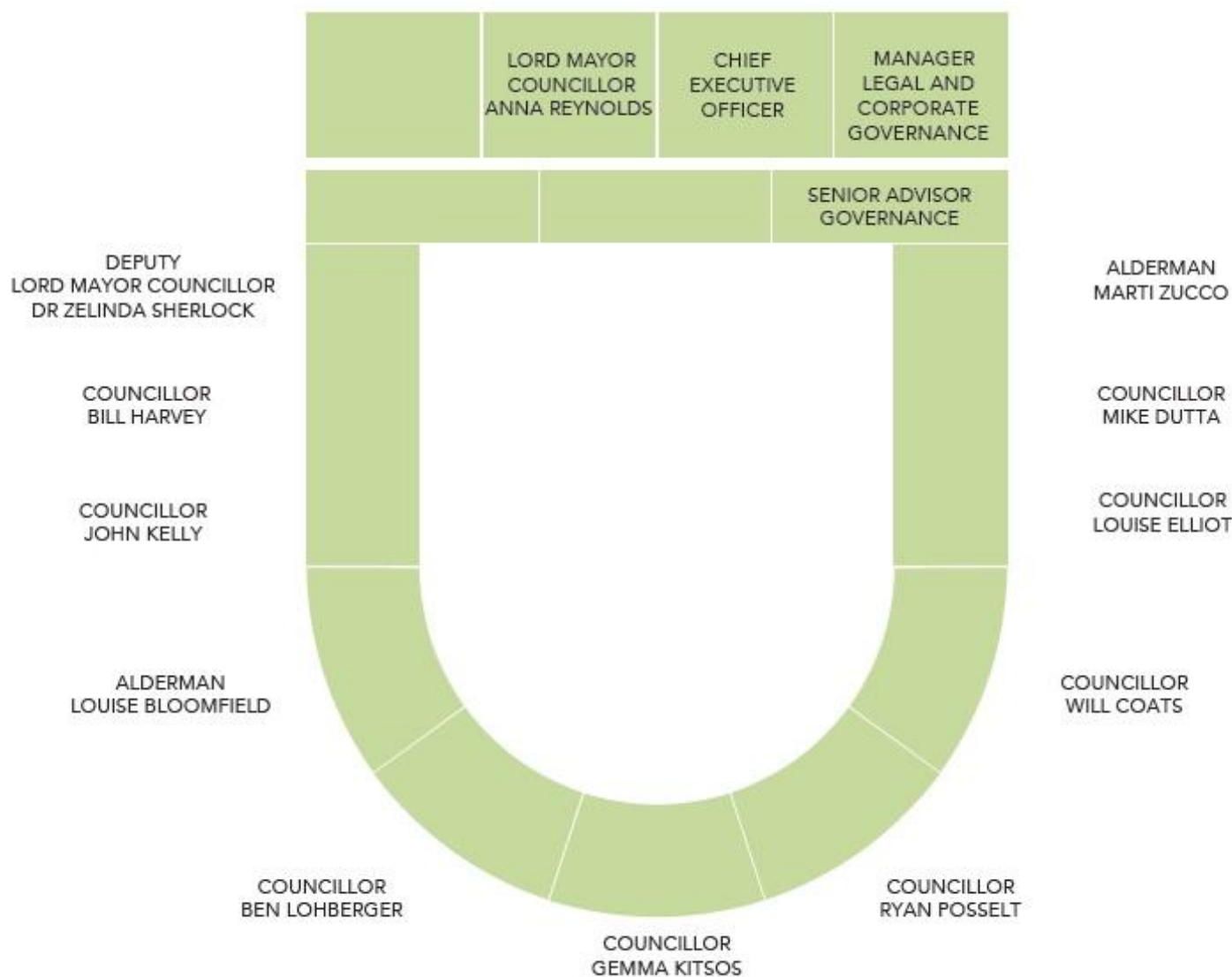
We resist mediocrity and sameness.

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

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



City of **HOBART**



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**A MEETING OF THE OPEN PORTION OF THE COUNCIL WILL BE HELD IN THE
COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL ON MONDAY, 27 OCTOBER 2025 AT
4.00PM.**

Michael Stretton
Chief Executive Officer

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

ELECTED MEMBERS:

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

APOLOGIES:

LEAVE OF ABSENCE: Nil.

1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Chairperson reports that she has perused the minutes of the meeting of the Open Portion of the Council meeting held on [Monday, 29 September 2025](#), finds them to be a true record and recommends that they be taken as read and signed as a correct record.

3. TRANSFER OF AGENDA ITEMS

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

4. COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

5. NOTIFICATION OF COUNCIL WORKSHOPS

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

Date: 13 October 2025
Purpose: TasWater Briefing - Price and Service Plan 5 | Reforms to Councillor Numbers and Allowances | Central Hobart Plan - Annual Update | Future of City Hall

Attendance:

Lord Mayor Councillor A M Reynolds, Councillors W F Harvey, J L Kelly, L M Elliot, Alderman L A Bloomfield, Councillors R J Posselt and G H Kitsos

Apologies:

Deputy Lord Mayor Councillor Dr Z E Sherlock, Alderman M Zucco

Leave of Absence:

Councillor M S C Dutta

Date: 20 October 2025
Purpose: Local Government Amendment (Targeted Reform) Bill 2025 - Exposure Draft Consultation | Safer Hobart Officer - Program Proposal | City of Hobart Unsolicited Proposals Policy | City of Hobart Advocacy Report 2025-2029 | Communications & Engagement Guide - City of Hobart, 2025-2029 | Derwent River Ferry Expansion - Update

Attendance:

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

6. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

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

6.1 Public Questions

6.2 Responses to Public Questions Taken On Notice

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

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

RECOMMENDATION

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

6.2.1 Rates reduction for renters File Ref: F25/73405; 16/119-001

Response of the Chief Executive Officer of 22 October 2025.

Meeting date: 25 August 2025
Raised by: Chris Merridew
Response Author: Michael Stretton
Topic: **RATES REDUCTION FOR RENTERS**

Question:

Can Council consider becoming the fourth party to the rental agreement (for those people receiving rent assistance). Council reduce the rates by \$39 per week to the Landlords (subject to signing the agreement). The Landlord must then reduce the rent payable to renters by \$39 per week?

Response:

The City of Hobart acknowledges the significant pressures facing renters in our community and welcomes ideas that promote housing affordability. Your suggestion—that Council consider becoming a fourth party to rental agreements involving Commonwealth Rent Assistance and offer conditional rates relief to landlords who reduce rent accordingly—raises important points about collaborative solutions.

We have given your proposal serious consideration but have concluded that direct involvement in rental agreements by the Council is not currently feasible. However, the idea of targeted rates and fees incentives for eligible properties may be considered as part of future policy development. The financial and legal implications would require further exploration, including:

- Legislative review of the *Local Government Act 1993 (Tas)*.
- Modelling of potential costs and uptake.
- Engagement with landlords, tenants, and government agencies.

While this concept is not currently within the City's remit, Council officers have been progressing the development of the Hobart Housing Action Plan, which will provide a clear plan for the City to respond to the diverse housing needs of our community.

The Action Plan is being designed to look at ways to address:

- Affordability and supply of housing across the Hobart Local Government Area.
- The limited availability of greenfield land near essential services such as education, employment, health, and public transport.
- The rising cost of home construction in Tasmania, which has contributed to unaffordability in both ownership and rental markets.

7. CONSIDERATION OF SUPPLEMENTARY ITEMS

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

RECOMMENDATION

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

8. INDICATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

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

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

9. PETITIONS

OFFICER REPORTS

10. Memorials Policy
File Ref: F25/74368; 16/119

Report of the Manager Creative City and the Director Community and Economic Development of 22 October 2025 and attachments.

Delegation: Council

REPORT TITLE: MEMORIALS POLICY

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

1. Report Summary and Key Issue

- 1.1. This report proposes that Council adopt the City of Hobart *Memorials Policy* (marked as Attachment A to this report).
 - 1.1.1. This report also proposes that Council rescind the existing *City of Hobart Donation of Park Furniture and Equipment, Memorial Plaques and Tree Plantings in Parks, Bushland and Reserves Policy* (marked as Attachment D to this report).
- 1.2. The Policy has been developed as a single reference point for commemoration in the City, providing a clear and transparent process for decision-making that is aligned with the City's Community Vision and Strategic Plan.
- 1.3. The City receives regular requests from members of the public for new memorials and, with finite public space, requires a clear and transparent process for decision-making, aligned with the community vision and strategic plan.
- 1.4. The proposed Policy has been developed through a process of consultation with Council officers from across the organisation.
 - 1.4.1. The proposed Policy was presented to the Hobart Workshop Committee's meeting of 15 September, with further updates made from feedback received during this meeting and final internal consultation.
 - 1.4.2. The changes included adding the Eligibility Criteria into the Policy document, and updating the Terms of Reference.
- 1.5. The resulting Policy has been developed for use by applicants, the community and Council officers for all proposals for addition or removal of memorials.

2. **Recommendation**

That:

- 1. The Council adopt the 'City of Hobart Memorials Policy', marked as Attachment A, to this report.***
- 2. The Council rescind the 'City of Hobart Donation of Park Furniture and Equipment, Memorial Plaques and Tree Plantings in Parks, Bushland and Reserves Policy', marked as Attachment D to this report.***
- 3. The Chief Executive Officer be authorised to make any minor amendments necessary to finalise the 'City of Hobart Memorials Policy' and arrange for it to be made available from the City's website.***

3. **Discussion and Background**

- 3.1. The City receives regular requests from members of the public for new memorials and, with finite public space, a clear and transparent process is required for decision-making, aligned with the community vision and strategic plan.
- 3.2. At its meeting of 9 March 2021, the Council endorsed that:
 - 3.2.1. *A report be prepared addressing the development of a policy in respect to appropriate ways to commemorate citizens or events that have made a significant impact on the City of Hobart.*
- 3.3. At its meeting of 15 August 2022, the Council approved, that:
 - 3.3.1. *the Council support the development of a Monuments policy to inform future additions or removals to the City's collection.*
- 3.4. The City has broad forms of memorials, with the majority of requests currently assessed by the Open Space, Parks and Waterways Units under the existing Policy (marked as Attachment D to this report). Memorials predominantly take the form of plaques or simple dedications with the planting of new trees.
- 3.5. The proposed Memorials Policy has been prepared in response to the resolutions noted in items 3.2 and 3.3, ensuring a holistic approach to memorials across Council owned land and buildings.
- 3.6. The Policy has been developed through a process of engagement with Council officers through an internal working group and further refined with internal reviews with Legal and Corporate Governance, Open Space and Cultural Heritage advice.

- 3.7. Engagement with Elected Members was undertaken at the Elected Member Workshop of 20 May 2024, and the Hobart Workshop Committee of 14 July 2025.
- 3.8. It is recommended that a Memorials Advisory Group (the Advisory Group) will make recommendations to the Council for decision making and adoption, as set out in the Terms of Reference shown at Attachment B.
- 3.9. The Advisory Group would meet biannually to consider all proposals for establishment, maintenance, removal or relocation of memorials from its collections of memorials in public space, or on public buildings, when submitted in accordance with this Policy.
- 3.10. All decisions made by the Advisory Group would be summarised in a report with a recommendation for Council's consideration twice each year at the conclusion of the biannual assessment process.
- 3.11. The Special Area Schedule denotes special conditions and exemptions for areas within the City of Hobart Open Spaces, including Queens Domain, Cenotaph/Regatta Grounds, Hobart Waterfront, Mawson Place, Franklin Square, Friendship Wall, St David's Park, Salamanca Lawns, St Andrew's Park, and Kunanyi/Mt Wellington Park. This is shown at Attachment C.

4. Legal, Risk and Legislative Considerations

- 4.1. The City requires a transparent and consistent decision-making process for any proposals for additions or removal of memorials.
- 4.2. The proposed Policy will not impact any consequential legislative requirements of an approved addition or removal of a memorial.

5. Strategic Planning and Policy Considerations

- 5.1. The recommendations of this report are consistent with the following Pillars in the *Hobart: A Community Vision For Our Island Capital*:

Pillar 1: Sense of Place.

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

Pillar 2: Community inclusion, participation and belonging.

- 2.2.2 *Support and advocate for all people and communities to celebrate their cultures, histories and identities, encouraging mutual understanding the community.*

Pillar 3: Creativity and culture.

- 3.2 *Creativity services as a platform for raising awareness and promoting understanding of diverse cultures and issues.*

Pillar 8: Governance and civic involvement.

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

- 5.2. Approaches to memorials tend to be localised, with municipal Councils having their own specific policies.
- 5.3. There are no clear regional or State Plans that interact or inform with this policy.
- 5.4. The Wellington Park Management Plan is the only other local plan with a distinct policy regarding memorials. This plan includes the following wording:

“At the discretion of the Trust, the placement of memorials and plaques in the Park will only be approved if they commemorate events or people of outstanding significance to the Park. Approved memorials will only be permitted in The Springs Zone and Recreation Zone. Existing memorials and plaques may remain” (Section 7.5.6, part 5)

6. Financial Viability

- 6.1. Funding Source and Impact on Current Year Operating Result
- 6.1.1. There is no direct financial impact on Current Operating Year as a result of the recommendations of this report.
- 6.2. Impact on Future Years' Financial Result
- 6.2.1. There will be no direct financial impact for future financial years as a result of the recommendations of this report.
- 6.2.2. Any financial impacts resulting from future proposed memorials will be quantified at such time as the proposal is presented to Council.
- 6.3. Asset Related Implications
- 6.3.1. The Memorials Policy Eligibility Criteria establishes that:
- 6.3.1.1. all costs of memorials installation are to be met by the applicant.
- 6.3.1.2. The City will be responsible for ongoing maintenance costs in accordance with standard Council practices for the standard service life of the memorial, but generally for a minimum of ten (10) years.

6.3.1.3. Should a plaque be lost or damaged beyond repair through vandalism or another event, the replacement costs will be the responsibility of the applicant.

6.3.2. Any asset related implications resulting from future proposed memorials will be quantified at such time as the proposal is presented to Council.

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

FTE Impact

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

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

7. Climate and Sustainability Considerations

- 7.1. Environmental elements significantly influence the durability and integrity of memorials and are part of the Eligibility Criteria of the establishment, maintenance, removal or relocation of memorials.
- 7.2. Particular factors such as climate, soil composition, and surrounding vegetation play crucial roles in determining the longevity of memorials sites and are addressed in the Eligibility Criteria as considerations of ongoing maintenance, end of life and removal.

8. Community and Business Engagement and Collaboration

- 8.1. A draft version of the Policy was provided to the community for written comment via the City's Have Your Say page from 1 June – 12 July 2024 with a total of 39 page visits, and 1 survey response.
- 8.2. The Community Engagement team also directly emailed over 70 organisations requesting written feedback and providing five weeks to respond.

- 8.3. These organisations were reminded two weeks prior to the deadline for submissions.
- 8.4. The proposed Policy will not negate the need for community consultation for future proposed memorials.
- 8.5. A communication plan will be drafted with the communications team to advise interested stakeholders and the broader community of the requirements of the Policy.
- 8.5.1. Communications will include internal teams to ensure that all staff are aware of the Policy.
- 8.6. The Policy will be made available on the City of Hobart's website.
- 8.7. The Policy has been developed in collaboration with officers from the following Council areas:
- Arts and Culture
 - Community Engagement
 - Community Programs
 - Open Spaces, Parks and Waterways
 - Heritage committee and officers
 - Legal and Corporate Governance
 - Policy Lab
 - Placemaking
 - Planning
 - Urban Design
- 8.8. It is proposed that future revisions of the Policy would again engage with the above Council areas for their review and input.

9. Innovation and Continuous Improvement

- 9.1. The Policy ensures the City's approach to memorials is contemporary and brings the City's approach in greater alignment with the City's Community Vision and Strategic Plan.
- 9.2. It is proposed that the policy be reviewed periodically, both in accordance with the Council Policy Manual Review and on an as needed basis.

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



Justyne Wilson
MANAGER CREATIVE CITY



Ben Artup
**DIRECTOR COMMUNITY AND
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Date: 22 October 2025
File Reference: F25/74368; 16/119

- Attachment A: City of Hobart Memorials Policy (Supporting information) 
- Attachment B: Memorials Advisory Group - Terms of Reference (Supporting information) 
- Attachment C: Special Area Schedule (Supporting information) 
- Attachment D: Donation of Park Furniture and Equipment, Memorial Plaques and Tree Plantings in Parks, Bushland and Reserves Policy (Supporting information) 

11. Annual Complaints and Compliments 2024-25
File Ref: F25/60599

Report of the Director Community and Economic Development of 20 October 2025 and attachments.

Delegation: Council

REPORT TITLE: ANNUAL COMPLAINTS AND COMPLIMENTS 2024-25

REPORT PROVIDED BY: Director Community and Economic Development

1. Report Summary and Key Issue

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to report on the registered complaints and compliments for the 2024-25 financial year (FY) formally received by the City of Hobart (the City).
- 1.2. Section 339F (5) of the *Local Government Act 1993* requires the General Manager to provide the Council with a report at least once a year on the number and nature of complaints received against the Customer Service Charter.
- 1.3. During the 2024-25 FY, the City received 199 complaints and 140 compliments, in accordance with its Customer Service Charter (the Charter, Attachment A) and Complaints Management Policy (the Policy, Attachment B).
 - 1.3.1. An additional 106 complaints and 13 compliments that were received directly by the Doone Kennedy Hobart Aquatic Centre (DKHAC) have been referenced in this report.
 - 1.3.2. This brings the total number of recorded complaints to 305, and the total number of recorded compliments to 154.
 - 1.3.3. The inclusion of the complaints and compliments by DKHAC provides a more comprehensive reflection of the types and nature of complaints and compliments received by the City.
- 1.4. Previous reporting attributed complaints and compliments to organisational networks (formerly divisions). This report attributes complaints and compliments to the organisation's business groups (refer Attachment C for the business groups and service areas within each).
 - 1.4.1. While this approach limits the ability to compare and contrast the distribution of complaints and compliments across previous financial years, it provides a greater level of transparency and understanding of the issues raised by the community through complaints and compliments.

2. **Recommendations**

That:

- 1. In accordance with Section 339F (5) of the Local Government Act 1993, the Council receives and notes the report titled 'Annual Complaints and Compliments 2024-25'.***
- 2. The Council notes the planned update of the Complaints Management Policy.***
- 3. The Council notes the Customer Interface Project for Complaints and Compliments to be delivered for 2026-27.***
- 4. The Council notes the planned update of the Customer Service Charter for the new Council term, in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993.***

3. **Discussion and Background**

Governance and Reporting Requirements

- 3.1. Section 339F of the Local Government Act 1993 details the legislative requirements for the Council regarding its Customer Service Charter and reporting on complaints.
- 3.2. The City's Customer Service Charter outlines the process for reporting and managing complaints, in accordance with Section 339F (2) (b), and references the City's Complaints Management Policy.
 - 3.2.1. Complaints against the Charter and the Policy can be made:
 - in person, at the Hobart Council Centre
 - by phone, on 6238 2711
 - by mail, addressed to the CEO
 - by email, to coh@hobartcity.com.au
 - online, via the Customer Service Request Form
- 3.3. Section 339F (5) of the *Local Government Act 1993* requires the General Manager to provide the Council with a report at least once a year on the number and nature of complaints received against the Customer Service Charter.
 - 3.3.1. Complaints received in accordance with the Policy are reported on annually to the Council.
 - 3.3.2. The City also reports annually on compliments, to provide an overview of positive community sentiment

3.3.3. It is acknowledged that both complaints and compliments may be received through other avenues and have historically not been reported on.

3.3.3.1. This year, complaints and compliments received at DKHAC have been incorporated into reporting processes, following increased awareness of complaints and compliments being received directly at DKHAC, and the importance of consistent and transparent reporting.

2024-25 Complaints and Compliments Overview

3.4. During the 2024-25 financial year, the City received 199 complaints and 140 compliments in accordance with its Customer Service Charter.

3.5. DKHAC directly received another 106 complaints and 13 compliments.

3.6. The combined complaints total 305 and combined compliments total 153.

3.6.1. Comparatively, the complaints recorded for the 2023-24 FY totalled 140, and the compliments totalled 141.

Type	2023-24 FY (Charter)	2024-25 FY (Charter)	2024-25 FY (Charter & DKHAC)
Complaint	140	199	305
Compliment	141	140	153

3.7. Complaints received against the Charter have increased by 42% during 2024-25 FY.

3.7.1. The increase in the number of complaints received against the Charter may be, in part, attributed to improved processes for capturing, reporting and managing complaints in accordance with the Charter and Policy.

3.8. The total, combined number of recorded complaints, being 305, has increased by 118%.

3.8.1. This increase is reflective of the overall increase in complaints received against the Charter, as well as the integration of the DKHAC complaints into the overall reporting framework, which has not been captured in previous financial year reporting.

3.9. Compliments those received against the Charter are steady, slightly reducing by 0.7% (one (1) compliment) during 2024-25 FY.

3.10. The total, combined number of recorded compliments, being 153, has increased by 8.5%.

3.10.1. This increase is reflective of the integration of the DKHAC compliments.

Complaints

3.11. The complaints management process is defined by the Complaints Management Policy.

3.11.1. Complaints are received via the City's records team and assigned to the relevant Executive Officer or Business Support Group.

3.11.2. An investigation is normally undertaken by the relevant manager or delegate, with feedback or resolution provided to the complainant.

3.11.3. The City's Customer Service Team oversee the complaints to ensure that they are addressed in accordance with the Policy.

3.12. Complaints, under section 4.2 of the Policy, are defined as:

Dissatisfaction with an employee's behaviour, or dissatisfaction with an administrative action of Council and include

a) Failure to respond to a request in a timely manner

b) Failure to provide valid reasons to a decision

c) Failure to act when requested

3.12.1. Complaints are subsequently categorised in this report as:

- Unreasonable delay in response or inaction
- Employee behaviour
- General Council process or handling of a service

3.13. Total complaints received during 2024-25 FY were categorised as per the below table, with a comparison to the complaints received during the 2023-24 FY.

Complaint Category	2023-24 FY (Charter)	2024-25 FY (Charter)	2024-25 FY (Charter & DKHAC)
<i>Unreasonable delay in response or inaction</i>	6%	13%	9%
<i>Employee behaviour</i>	43%	23%	15%
<i>General Council process or handling of a service</i>	51%	61%	76%

3.1. Statistics referred to below are for the combined total complaints, i.e. those received against the Charter and at DKHAC.

3.2. *Unreasonable delay in response or inaction*

- 3.2.1. Overall, there has been a slight increase in complaints of this category of 3% in 2024-25 FY.
- 3.2.2. Complaints of this category were predominantly attributed to the Open Space Group (ten (10) complaints), primarily due to concerns about overgrown vegetation and concerns that the City was inadequately responding to service requests, and the City Compliance Group (ten (10) complaints), primarily due to the introduction of the PlanBuild portal.
- 3.2.3. Both the Open Space and City Compliance Groups have addressed the concerns raised, with noticeable improvements in the levels of complaints received to date in the current (2025-26 FY).

3.3. *Employee behaviour*

- 3.3.1. There has been a significant reduction in complaints of this category, decreasing from 43% in 2023-24 FY to just 15% during the 2024-25 FY.
- 3.3.2. Complaints in this category were predominantly attributed to the Economic Development Group, specifically within the Parking Services Team (nine (9) complaints), followed by DKHAC (six (6) complaints).
- 3.3.3. Complaints related to employee behaviour are referred to line managers or Group Managers, who take appropriate and considered action both on a case-by-case basis and as teams to ensure behaviour and presentation are consistently of an appropriate standard.

3.4. *General Council process or handling of a service*

- 3.4.1. There has been a noticeable increase in complaints of this category, increasing by 25% from 2023-24 FY.
- 3.4.2. Complaints were predominantly attributed to DKHAC (with 126 complaints), followed by the Economic Development Group (with 26 complaints).
- 3.4.3. The most frequently reported issue at DKHAC was parking, which accounted for 69 of their 126 complaints. Customers shared frustration due to the of available spaces during peak times, and called for better monitoring / enforcement of the car park. They additionally requested that access control functions be reinstated.

- 3.4.3.1. The City is currently progressing through a tender process to engage contractors for the installation of access control technology. Installation is scheduled to be completed within the current financial year.
- 3.4.4. The second most reported issue was the one-off operational withdrawal of DKHAC from the Fitness Passport program with 28 complaints.
 - 3.4.4.1. It is noted that there were over 2,450 Fitness Passport members who were affected by this withdrawal.
- 3.4.5. The most reported issue for the Economic Development Group related to the City's Parking Services (13 complaints), including the cost of parking fees, ticketing disputes, limited parking availability and lack of enforcement in certain areas.
 - 3.4.5.1. Additional complaints were received for the City's Grants Team (two (2) complaints) and e-scooter management (two (2) complaints).
- 3.5. Consistent with previous financial years, complaints received by the City during the 2024-25 FY are generally related to the most public-facing roles and services, which are highly visible and directly impact the daily lives of our community.
- 3.6. All 199 complaints received against the Charter have been resolved.
 - 3.6.1. 63% (or 125) of those complaints were closed in ten (10) days or less, in accordance with the Policy, while the remaining 37% took longer to investigate and resolve.
 - 3.6.2. This is an improvement on the previous financial year, with 58% (or 81) of the 140 complaints closed in ten (10) days or less.
- 3.7. All complaints received directly by DKHAC have also been resolved.

Compliments

- 3.8. The total number of compliments recorded for the 2024-25 period was 153.
 - 3.8.1. Compliments were predominantly attributed to the City Infrastructure Group and Open Space Group, with each receiving 14% (22) of the total compliments.
 - 3.8.1.1. Compliments received by the City Infrastructure Group were primarily related to their service delivery, in recognition of their prompt and high-quality cleansing service.

- 3.8.1.2. Compliments received by the Open Space Group were all related to their service delivery, specifically acknowledging the outstanding work of the Arboriculture Team and Parks Maintenance Team.
- 3.8.2. DKHAC received the third-highest number of compliments with 13.7% (21) of the total compliments. Of these, 8 compliments were received against the Charter, and an additional 13 recorded by DKHAC.
 - 3.8.2.1. Compliments received by DKHAC were around exceptional customer service from the café staff, their Customer Service Team, and their Learn to Swim Instructors.
- 3.8.3. High levels of compliments were also received by the City Resilience Group and the City Welcome Group.
 - 3.8.3.1. Compliments received by the City Resilience Group focused on their service delivery, particularly regarding rubbish collection.
 - 3.8.3.2. Compliments received by the City Welcome Group recognised exceptional customer service at both the Tasmanian Travel and Information Centre (TTIC), and by the Customer Service Team.

4. Legal, Risk and Legislative Considerations

- 4.1. Section 339F (5) of the *Local Government Act 1993* states:

(5) The general manager is to provide the council with a report at least once a year of the number and nature of complaints received.

5. Strategic Planning and Policy Considerations

Capital City Strategic Plan 2023

- 5.1. Pillar 8 – *Governance and Civic Involvement*

- 8.1 Hobart is a city that is well governed that recognises the community as an active partner that informs decisions.
 - 8.1.1 Build community trust through the implementation of effective civic leadership, ethical conduct and responsible governance processes that ensure accountability, transparency and compliance with all legislated and statutory requirements.
 - 8.1.4 Ensure communications are clear, consistent, timely and accessible for all.

- 8.2 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.
- 8.2.4 Achieve improved customer service and experiences by enabling a customer-focused approach to service delivery.
- 8.2.9 Make effective use of research, evaluation and data to inform the City's work.

Hobart: A community vision for our island capital

5.2. Identity Statement 7 – *How we engage in Civic Life*

- 7.1 *We are active on issues that are important to us.*
- 7.3 *Government is a big force in city life and we want it to reflect and reinforce what we value about Hobart*

5.3. Pillar 8 – *Governance and Civic Involvement*

- 8.5 *We communicate and engage.*
 - 8.5.1 *We empower community members to have their say. Our governance structures demonstrate listening and acting on public suggestions.*

Customer Service Charter

- 5.4. The detail of this report aligns to the requirements of the City's Customer Service Charter (Attachment B).
 - 5.4.1. Section 339(F) (4) of the Local Government Act 1993 requires that the Customer Service Charter is reviewed "... within 12 months after a council election."
 - 5.4.2. The Council endorsed minor amendments to the Customer Service Charter at its meeting of 30 October 2023.
 - 5.4.2.1. At this time, the Charter was considered adequate and reflective of the City's objectives, values and commitment to customers.
 - 5.4.2.2. Previous to this, the Council endorsed the Charter at its meeting on 15 October 2019, where the Charter was updated to reflect the current City of Hobart Values, provide more commentary about our commitment to customer service and an expansion to the definition of a complaint.

5.4.3. At its meeting of 30 October 2023, the Council noted that “... *current projects underway to improve customer interface and experience will necessitate a full review of the Charter which is expected to take place after mid-2024 and will be reported back to Council*”

5.4.3.1. At the time of report writing, the Customer Interface Project has not been completed and, as such, the Charter has not been further updated.

Complaints Management Policy

5.5. The detail of this report aligns to the requirements of the City’s Complaints Management Policy (refer Attachment C).

5.5.1. This Policy defines the process for management of complaints received against the Charter.

5.5.2. This policy was last reviewed in October 2019 and is currently not included in Council’s Policy Manual.

5.5.3. It is proposed that the Policy be reviewed as part of the upcoming Council Policy Manual review, or by December 2025.

6. Financial Viability

6.1. Financial Considerations:

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

FTE Impact

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

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

- 6.1.1. There are no impacts to the 2025-26 operational or capital budgets as a result of the preparation or recommendations of this report.
- 6.1.2. This report recommends further work be undertaken by officers and presented to Council for future consideration.
 - 6.1.2.1. Any potential impact of these recommendations on financial outcomes in future years will be addressed through subsequent reports to Council.
- 6.2. City Economy Strategy:
 - 6.2.1. This proposal aligns to and supports the following strategic priorities listed in the City of Hobart City Economy Strategy 2023 – 2028:
 - 1. Plan for our collective social, economic, and environmental prosperity.
 - 3. Position Hobart as an enviable place to visit, live and do business.
- 6.3. Economic Impact:
 - 6.3.1. A key benefit of recording and responding to complaints and compliments at an organisational level is that it enables the City to make informed, data-driven decisions.
 - 6.3.2. Feedback from residents, businesses, and visitors helps identify service gaps, inefficiencies, and recurring issues.
 - 6.3.2.1. By systematically reviewing this input, the City can better prioritise resources and focus efforts on addressing the matters that are most important to the community.
 - 6.3.2.2. A recent example of this responsiveness is the City's approach to addressing parking concerns at DKHAC, aimed at restoring confidence among members and patrons in their ability to access the centre and participate in planned activities without disruption.
- 6.4. Consultants
 - 6.4.1. No consultants have been engaged in the preparation of this report and its recommendations.

7. Community and Business Engagement and Collaboration

Internal Collaboration

- 7.1. The City's approach to managing community complaints and compliments is a collaborative effort, with each network across the organisation taking responsibility for reviewing and responding to feedback relevant to their respective business areas.
- 7.2. The recommendations presented in this report have been developed through targeted internal engagement including consultation with the Economic Development Group, responsible for the delivery of the Business Satisfaction Survey, and the Strategy, Planning and Performance Group, responsible for the delivery of the Community Satisfaction Survey.
 - 7.2.1. It is proposed that these groups would play a vital role in the development of the Customer Service Charter, ensuring that feedback from both the community and local businesses meaningfully informs future updates to the Charter, helping to align service standards with evolving expectations and needs.

Officers within the City's Information and Technology Services Group have provided a significant level of support in benchmarking activities, particularly related to the Customer Interface Project and the City's complaints and compliments, as well as facilitating connection to other local councils to gain insights into their successful customer experience initiatives.

Local Government Collaboration

- 7.3. Officers have been actively engaging in online customer sentiment forums and participated in targeted training programs to strengthen internal capability and deepen their understanding of community expectations.
 - 7.3.1. These initiatives are providing officers with precedents and benchmarking, which will contribute to a more informed approach to service delivery. It is expected that these insights will directly influence the Customer Interface Project, and amendments to both the Charter and the Policy.

Community Engagement

- 7.4. The outcomes and recommendations of this report have been directly informed by the complaints and compliments received from Hobart's business, residential, and visitor communities.

8. Innovation and Continuous Improvement

Customer Interface Project

- 8.1. Officers have been progressing the Customer Interface Project (the Project), which focuses on reviewing and enhancing data capture systems and processes, while also refining existing reporting frameworks to support more effective service delivery.
- 8.2. The Project is designed to improve the customer interface, particularly as it relates to complaints and compliments, and overall experience with the City, ensuring that interactions are more streamlined, responsive, and aligned with community expectations.
 - 8.2.1. The Project will also address feedback provided by Elected Members during the Council meeting of 14 October 2024, requesting that the City take a more proactive approach to receiving feedback from the community.
 - 8.2.2. Additional short-term measures to address this request will also be outlined alongside updates to the Complaints Management Policy, proposed for presentation to Council by December 2025.
- 8.3. While progress on the Project has been delayed due to competing organisational priorities, officers remain committed to its delivery, with work scheduled to recommence and the new system expected to be fully operational for the 2026–27 FY.

Complaints Management Policy

- 8.4. As noted in section 5.5. of this report, the Policy has not been updated since 2019 and is proposed to be updated and presented to Council during the next Policy Manual Review, or by December 2025.
- 8.5. As part of the proposed review, it is envisaged that section 4.4 (detailing how a complaint can be lodged) will be expanded to enable better capture, recording and response to complaints and compliments.
 - 8.5.1. This will enable complaints and compliments for the Council's Significant Business Activities and other forward-facing operations, such as at DKHAC, the Tasmanian Travel and Information Centre (TTIC), Mathers House, Youth ARC, Salamanca Market and multi-storey car parks, to be captured under the Charter, and managed in accordance with the Policy.
 - 8.5.2. This broader data capture will support more comprehensive insights into customer feedback across a wider range of services.

- 8.6. It is also proposed that the Policy will be developed to include categorisation of compliments, to align with the complaint categories, to enable more consistent reporting and analysis of customer sentiment.

Customer Service Charter

- 8.7. The next round of local government elections are to be held in October 2026, with a Customer Service Charter to be presented to Council within 12 months of a new term commencing.
- 8.8. Community input plays a vital role in shaping the City's Customer Service Charter, ensuring it reflects the values, expectations and lived experience of the community that we serve.
- 8.8.1. The City's Community Satisfaction Survey and Business Satisfaction Survey are both expected to be delivered before the end of 2025-26 FY, and officers intend to leverage the results of these to provide timely and structured insights for the Charter's development in time for the new term commencing.
- 8.8.2. Officers in the City Welcome Group will work closely with both the Economic Development Group and Strategy, Performance and Planning Group, to ensure that both surveys support this approach.

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



Ben Artup
**DIRECTOR COMMUNITY AND
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Date: 20 October 2025
File Reference: F25/60599

- Attachment A: City of Hobart Customer Service Charter (Supporting information) 
- Attachment B: City of Hobart Complaints Management Policy (Supporting information) 
- Attachment C: City of Hobart Organisational Structure (Supporting information) 

12. South Hobart Oval Change Rooms and Pavilion Development - Funding Request
File Ref: F25/74297

Report of the Director Strategic and Regulatory Services Network of
20 October 2025 and attachments.

Delegation: Council

REPORT TITLE: SOUTH HOBART OVAL CHANGE ROOMS AND PAVILION DEVELOPMENT - FUNDING REQUEST**REPORT PROVIDED BY:** Director Strategic and Regulatory Services Network**1. Report Summary and Key Issue**

- 1.1. This report seeks Council approval of a funding contribution of \$508,560 (exclusive of GST) from the City of Hobart's Capital Works Program towards the development of a new sporting pavilion at South Hobart Oval, led by the South Hobart Football Club (SHFC).
- 1.2. The proposed development will deliver inclusive, accessible, and contemporary facilities that support increased participation in sport and community use, aligning with strategic priorities for inclusion and infrastructure renewal.

2. Recommendation

That the Council approve the funding request of \$508,560 (ex GST) from the South Hobart Football Club to support the completion of the South Hobart Oval Change Rooms and Pavilion development, with this to be allocated across two financial years, as follows:

- (i) \$250,000 (ex GST) to be allocated to the 2025-26 Capital Works Program contingency.***
- (ii) \$258,560 (ex GST) to be allocated to the new Capital Works Program for the 2026-27 financial year.***

3. Discussion and Background

- 3.1. South Hobart Oval is a City-owned and managed facility and Hobart's premier soccer venue.
 - 3.1.1. South Hobart Oval is the only fully fenced rectangular field in the municipality and regularly hosts statewide competitions, including the Men's and U21 National Premier League, Women's Super League, and youth matches for both boys and girls aged 13–18. The oval is a shared community space, used by the South Hobart Football Club (SHFC), South Hobart Primary School, and local residents, including dog owners when sport is not being played.
 - 3.1.2. SHFC has secured \$1.4 million in external funding, \$900,000 from the Australian Government and \$500,000 from the Tasmanian Government, toward the development of a new pavilion. To meet grant conditions, construction must begin by the end of 2025.

- 3.1.3. The proposed development includes a second set of change rooms to support gender equity, a flexible community room with catering facilities, a kiosk, and DDA-compliant public toilets. The design also features durable, low-maintenance materials and a new frontage that improves site access and visibility.
- 3.1.4. The existing infrastructure is outdated and no longer fit for purpose. Facilities are over 50 years old, with inadequate changerooms, particularly for female referees and players, and no accessible amenities.
- 3.1.4.1. Referee and player facilities also do not meet contemporary standards, and there is insufficient storage. The new development will, support increased participation across all age groups and genders, inclusive access for people with disability, and broader community use.
- 3.1.5. With external funding secured, the SHFC is requesting a contribution of \$508,560 to enable the completion of a new sporting facility at South Hobart Oval.
- 3.1.5.1. The development will enhance infrastructure, improve accessibility, and expand opportunities for sporting participation.
- 3.1.6. Due to recent modifications to the building façade aimed at better aligning with the surrounding streetscape, a revised Development Application will still be required if City of Hobart funding is approved.

4. Legal, Risk and Legislative Considerations

- 4.1. The City would enter into a formal agreement with the SHFC to carry out works on City-owned land.
- 4.1.1. Upon completion, the facility will become a City of Hobart asset.
- 4.1.2. Any leasing arrangement for the facility would be considered by Council should the building be completed.
- 4.2. The SHFC has demonstrated effective organisational governance, leadership and good financial management:
- Secured \$1.4 million in funding.
 - Completed planning approvals and detailed design.
 - Engaged Preston Lane Architects and Hutchinson Builders (with the latter providing in-kind support to the Club).
 - Committed to \$5,000 in direct financial contribution to the changerooms project.

- Completed internal fit out of changerooms at Wellesley Park.
- Commenced the delivery of lighting upgrade at Wellesley Park (grant funded).
- Successfully hosted large-scale events such as the Hahn Australia Cup and the recent Hobart Championship game.
- Provided audited financial statements and current bank balances.

5. Strategic Planning and Policy Considerations

- 5.1. The project aligns with the Draft South Hobart Masterplan and Council's strategic priorities 1, 2, 6 and 7.
- 5.2. The project strongly aligns with the following elements of the City of Hobart Capital City Strategic Plan 2023:

Outcome 1.1

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

1.1.2 Create opportunities for people to connect to place and country, supporting community activities, spiritual and cultural customs and practices.

Outcome 2.3

Hobart communities are active, have good health and wellbeing and are engaged in lifelong learning.

2.3.2 Provide and progressively enhance a range of accessible quality places, facilities and infrastructure that support healthy living and where people can enjoy social, education and recreation activities and events.

Outcome 6.1

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

6.1.2 Ensure the open space network across the City is planned for and managed to meet current and future population needs.

Outcome 6.5

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

6.5.2 Ensure recreational use of the City's bushland is managed for the benefit of future generations while minimising impacts on natural values.

6.5.3 Encourage opportunities to activate the City's open space network for events and activities.

Outcome 7.3

Infrastructure and services are planned, managed and maintained to provide for community wellbeing.

7.3.3 Ensure City-owned assets and public spaces are accessible, of high quality and provide a high level of amenity to meet community and visitor requirements.

7.3.5 Measure, manage and support the effective use of city facilities, infrastructure and public spaces

7.3.6 Consider the needs of children and families in all infrastructure design.

6. Financial Viability

6.1. Financial Considerations:

	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Revenue				
Existing Revenue				
Additional Revenue				
Total Revenue				
Expenditure				
Operating				
Capital	250	258.56		
Total Expenditure	250	258.56		
Net Cost	250	258.56		

FTE Impact

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

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

6.1.1. The Club has secured \$1.4 million in external funding—\$900,000 from the Australian Government and \$500,000 from the Tasmanian Government—toward the development of a new pavilion. To meet grant conditions, construction must begin by the end of 2025.

6.1.2. No change in FTE is anticipated because of the proposed funding provision.

- 6.1.3. Annual maintenance costs are estimated at \$1,000, with depreciation of approximately \$40,000 over a 50-year lifespan.

6.2. City Economy Strategy:

- 6.2.1. This proposal aligns to the following strategic priorities listed in the City of Hobart City Economy Strategy 2023 – 2028:
- 6.2.2. Enhancing community infrastructure to support participation and inclusion.
- 6.2.3. Leveraging external investment to deliver high-value public assets.

6.3. Economic Impact:

- 6.3.1. The development will support local contractors, increase visitation to the precinct, and enhance the City's reputation as a host for major sporting events.

6.4. Consultants

- 6.4.1. Preston Lane Architects and Hutchinson Builders have been engaged by SHFC, with Hutchinson Builders providing in-kind support.

7. Climate and Sustainability Considerations

- 7.1. The design incorporates durable, low-maintenance materials suited to public use and the surrounding context.
 - 7.1.1. The project supports sustainable asset management and long-term community benefit.

8. Community and Business Engagement and Collaboration

- 8.1. SHFC has engaged with stakeholders through a formal community engagement plan including South Hobart Primary School, Progress Association, St Michael's Collegiate School and local residents.
 - 8.1.1. The facility will support broader community use and activation of the site.
 - 8.1.2. A copy of the SHFC Community Engagement Report has been provided to the City.
- 8.2. The proposal has been presented at the City's Capital Project Committee.

9. Innovation and Continuous Improvement

- 9.1. The project demonstrates innovative design responses to accessibility, gender equity, and community use.

- 9.1.1. It reflects continuous improvement in the delivery of sport and recreation infrastructure.

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



Philip Holliday

**DIRECTOR STRATEGIC AND
REGULATORY SERVICES NETWORK**

Date: 20 October 2025
File Reference: F25/74297

- Attachment A: Letter of request for funding from South Hobart FC (Supporting information) 
- Attachment B: South Hobart Pavilion Design and 3D Images (Supporting information) 

13. Reforms to Councillor Numbers and Allowances
File Ref: F25/76578

Report of the Chief Executive Officer of 22 October 2025 and attachment.

Delegation: Council

REPORT TITLE: REFORMS TO COUNCILLOR NUMBERS AND ALLOWANCES**REPORT PROVIDED BY:** Chief Executive Officer**1. Report Summary and Key Issue**

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to seek the Council's endorsement to provide a submission to the Tasmanian Government as part of its reforms to Councillor Numbers and Allowances.

2. RECOMMENDATION

That the Council provide the following comments in a submission to The Tasmanian Government in response to the Councillor Numbers and Allowances Discussion Paper:

Reform rationale	Comments
High number of councillors: Tasmania has one of the highest numbers of councillors per person in Australia, which can lead to inefficiencies and, in some cases, undemocratic election outcomes where candidates win with very few votes.	Agreed. There is little doubt that Tasmania has a high number of Local Government Elected Representatives, which is clearly illustrated by the comparison in the discussion paper. It can be quite reasonably argued that this reform is more of a band-aid solution, when a broader Council reform process is warranted.
Inconsistencies in representation: Historical reviews of numbers targeted at a small number of councils, have left councils of similar size with different numbers of councillors, creating inequitable variations.	Agreed Previous reforms have created inequities, for instance the Cities of Glenorchy and Hobart adjoin each other with similar populations, however, Glenorchy has operated with 10 Elected Representatives for many years
Low pay for councillors: Current allowances do not reflect the growing complexity of councillors' roles, discouraging diverse and talented candidates and indirectly limiting the time some councillors can devote to their duties.	While it is agreed that the low pay for councillors is problematic, it not agreed that the proposed 14.25% average increase is enough of a change. The Council considered that a more substantial increase is needed to achieve the ambition of encouraging more talented candidates to stand for and serve as Councillors.

Outdated system: The current method for setting allowances, based on registered voters and operating revenue, has notable flaws - failing to account for population size or council responsibilities, and is susceptible to volatile changes from grant revenue.	Agreed The current methodology for determining Elected Member numbers and allowances is not sophisticated enough to identify the demands of the role. The proposed methodology includes a broader spectrum of metrics which seem appropriate for determining the complexities and demands of the roles. This includes, population size, total approved development applications, asset values, urbanisation and kilometres of sealed road, to measure representational spread. While this range of parameters appears to be representative of the differing natures of the municipal areas, one would have thought that operational and or capital budgets would be an equally good measure of the complexity and scale of elected Member roles, which should also be considered.
Key Consultation Issues	Comments
Quorum management Should we consider any strategies/guidance for council decision making where a quorum cannot be maintained?	This reform process should include measures to address quorum management issues, as it will be a concern for all Councils with a reduction in Elected Members. There should be two focus areas: 1) Flexible/remote participation should be enabled for Council and Committee meetings, 2) Use of delegation to Council Officers as appropriate; 3) The Council has worked with experienced Local Government Solicitors to implement an innovative flexible quorum management approach for Council Committees, which involves the development of terms of reference which enable appointed members and Nominee members. It is suggested that this approach should be considered more broadly to provide for more flexible management of meeting quorum.

Superannuation Should it be mandatory for councillors' existing superannuation equivalent payments to be directed into a nominated superannuation fund?	It is noted that since 2004, Tasmanian councillors have received a 9% superannuation equivalent payment as part of their allowances (increased to 12% from June 2025). However, there is no requirement for this amount to be paid into a superannuation fund (even though councillors can make voluntary contributions). As with the Local Government Industry, the opinions of Councillors are mixed on this issue, and it is recommended that the Government undertake further targeted engagement with the sector on this issue through the Local Government Association of Tasmania. As it stands the Council sees that there are two options: 1) Retain the status quo whereby a superannuation equivalent payment is maintained as part of their allowances, or 2) Determine that Elected Members have a superannuation entitlement, paid in the same way that company directors, at the SGC rate. Such a change could be legislated within the Local Government Act requirements.
Setting the foundation for future reviews Should the methodology and ongoing review framework for councillor allowances and numbers be embedded in legislation?	In order to ensure consistency of approach moving forward it is considered that the review framework for councillor allowances and numbers should be embedded in legislation.

3. Discussion and Background

3.1. On 15 September 2025, the Minister for Local Government, the Hon Kerry Vincent MLC wrote to councils to advise that the Tasmanian Government was undertaking a review of councillor numbers and allowances.

3.1.1. A copy of the discussion paper can be found at attachment A.

- 3.2. The review is a key recommendation of the Future of Local Government Review and proposes a new, fair, and data-driven system to set councillor numbers and allowances using factors like population, development activity, infrastructure, urbanisation, and road networks.
- 3.3. Key changes include:
- Reducing the total number of councillors from 263 to 203, with councils having 9, 7, or 5 councillors based on their size and complexity.
 - Increasing councillor allowances by 14.25% on average, funded by savings from fewer councillors.
 - Aligning councillor numbers and pay to council responsibilities, ensuring equal pay for equal work and consistency across similar councils.
 - Establishing regular, four-yearly reviews to keep the system up-to-date and responsive to community needs.
 - Exploring whether to require councils to pay the 12% superannuation equivalent allowance into councillors' super funds.
- 3.4. It is noted that the Council, in its submission to the Future of Local Government Review, supported the recommendation that, *'the Tasmanian Government should commission an independent review into councillor numbers and allowances.'*
- 3.5. Further detail of the key changes is provided below.

Councillor Numbers and Allowances

- 3.6. Tasmania has the second highest proportion of councillors per head of population in Australia.
- 3.7. Since the establishment of our current system of 29 councils in 1993, there have been several reviews of levels of representation in local government. These have occurred infrequently, have not captured the entire sector and delivered piecemeal change.
- 3.8. The last of these reviews occurred in the early 2010s which were opt-in and saw a small number (9) or participating councils reduce the number of elected representatives by between 1 and 3.
- 3.9. Having a consistent framework for establishing an appropriate representational range which is applied to all councils will help, in the first instance, reset these inconsistencies, while in the future create an enduring, equitable and robust model for the democratic representation of Tasmanian communities.
- 3.10. Reviews of councillor allowances have occurred relatively infrequently over the past 25 years (2000, 2004, 2008 and 2018), and since the introduction of the existing framework for determining councillor

allowances in 2004, there have been only minor changes (annual indexation) to the allowances paid to councillors.

- 3.11. Councils are currently allocated to allowance categories based on a formula of **total voters multiplied by operating revenue divided by 1 million** to derive a score.
- 3.12. The discussion paper identifies a number of weaknesses with this framework, namely:
- Total voters as a metric does not reflect that councillors represent the interests and make decisions impacting all residents of their municipality. Therefore, the use of total population is considered a better indicator of representational need.
 - Operating revenue is impacted by financial assistance and other capital grants paid to councils and is subject to notable year-on-year fluctuations.
 - While not applied annually, the framework uses only data for a given financial year, therefore is vulnerable to sizeable fluctuations in operating revenue.
 - The formula does not recognise the relationship between levels of representation and pay as indicators of the complexity and workload required on individual councils.
- 3.13. The Office of Local Government has developed a proposed formula to determine appropriate councillor numbers and allowances based on key demographic, financial and geographic metrics and broad alignment with levels of representation in other jurisdictions.
- 3.14. Based on their score against the metrics, councils are allocated to one of three categories, with either nine, seven or five elected representatives.
- 3.15. Importantly, the formula recognises not all factors contribute equally to representational need. It adopts a three-tiered approach, recognising population as the primary determinant of representational need, followed by complexity of role, and geographic factors.

Tier	Metric	Source	Rationale
1 (scores 1 – 5)	Metric 1.1 – population size	Australian Bureau of Statistics	Population is the primary factor for determining communities' representational needs. While electors influence the outcomes of elections, councillors are responsible for representing the entire population of their LGAs, justifying population (rather than simply voting age population) as the appropriate metric.
2 (scores 1 – 3)	Metric 2.1 – total value of approved	Councils Consolidated Data	The value of development applications approved by a council acts a proxy measure for the complexity of a

Tier	Metric	Source	Rationale
	development applications (5-year average)	Collection	councillor's role by indicating workload, technical demands, community engagement needs, and strategic oversight required. This figure has been used over the total number of development applications received as the dollar value better reflects complexity, as opposed to workload (e.g. it is a more complex task assessing a smaller number of higher value applications than a higher number of straightforward applications, many of which may in fact be delegated).
	Metric 2.2 – total written down value of infrastructure assets	Councils Consolidated Data Collection	As with development applications, higher infrastructure values signal greater complexity in the role of councillor, indicating a larger asset base to maintain, fund, and plan for. This figure includes property, plant and equipment, roads and bridges, and stormwater infrastructure.
3 (scores 0.5 – 1.5)	Metric 3.1 – urbanisation (based on the Australian Classification of Local Governments	Australian Classification of Local Governments	Captures the blend of population, density, and geographic factors, while ensuring alignment with the ACLG's focus on population, density, and urban/rural character. By integrating these inputs, the model ensures comparability with other Australian jurisdictions while addressing Tasmania's unique geography and small population.
	Metric 3.2 – kilometre of sealed roads (urban and rural)	Councils Consolidated Data Collection	Provides as an indication of the geographic dispersion of communities within an LGA, contributing to a need for representational 'spread'. Length of sealed roads is used as an indicator for population distribution as opposed to simple land area size, which in some geographically large councils can (and in many cases does) include national park, uninhabited and/or un-serviced land. Sealed roads are used to indicate that populations are predominately clustered along sealed roads. From a complexity perspective, the asset values metric (2.2) includes the value of both sealed and non-sealed roads.

- 3.16. The discussion paper advises that nine councillors is a common level of representation for medium sized urban councils like Hobart, Launceston, Clarence, Glenorchy and Kingborough.
- 3.17. It is proposed that allowance categories be determined based on the same score which determines numbers – creating a robust, cohesive and consistent formula for numbers and allowances.
- 3.18. To ensure a smooth transition and maintain fairness, the proposal utilises six allowance categories, aligning them as ‘bands’ within the new councillor number categories.
- 3.19. This approach links allowances to council responsibilities, encouraging sustainable growth in metrics like population and infrastructure, which reflect community strength and development.
- 3.20. In addition to this, Councillor allowances in each band will increase by 14.25%, funded by savings from reducing councillor numbers, to better recognise the growing complexity of elected representative roles. The reform would be implemented immediately after the October 2026 elections.
- 3.21. Based on the scoring formula, the table below shows the proposed councillor numbers and allowances:

Numbers category	Allowance band	Council	Score	Current number of crs	New number of crs	Cr change	New cr allowance rate (\$)
1	1.1	Clarence	14.0	12	9	-3	51,366
		Hobart	14.0	12	9	-3	51,366
		Launceston	14.0	12	9	-3	51,366
	1.2	Glenorchy	13.0	10	9	-1	41,585
		Kingborough	13.0	10	9	-1	41,585
2	2.1	Burnie	10.0	9	7	-2	31,491
		Central Coast	10.0	9	7	-2	31,491
		Devonport	10.0	9	7	-2	31,491
		West Tamar	10.0	9	7	-2	31,491
	2.2	Northern Midlands	9.5	9	7	-2	21,404
		Sorell	9.0	9	7	-2	21,404
		Circular Head	8.5	9	7	-2	21,404
		Meander Valley	8.5	9	7	-2	21,404
		Huon Valley	8.0	9	7	-2	21,404
		Brighton	7.5	9	7	-2	21,404
		Waratah-Wynyard	7.5	8	7	-1	21,404
	2.3	Break O'Day	7.0	9	7	-2	17,888
		Derwent	7.0	8	7	-1	17,888

Numbers category	Allowance band	Council	Score	Current number of crs	New number of crs	Cr change	New cr allowance rate (\$)
		Valley					
		Latrobe	7.0	9	7	-2	17,888
		Dorset	6.5	9	7	-2	17,888
		Kentish	6.5	9	7	-2	17,888
		Glamorgan-Spring Bay	5.5	8	7	-1	17,888
		George Town	5.0	9	7	-2	17,888
		Southern Midlands	5.0	7	7	0	17,888
3	3.1	Central Highlands	4.5	9	5	-4	15,064
		West Coast	4.5	9	5	-4	15,064
		Flinders	4.0	7	5	-2	15,064
		King Island	4.0	9	5	-4	15,064
		Tasman	4.0	7	5	-2	15,064

3.22. There are several other issues relating to the operation of a new numbers and allowances framework that have been identified where specific input is requested. These key consultation issues are outlined in the recommendation of this report and were workshopped with the Elected Members on Monday 13 October 2025.

4. Legal, Risk and Legislative Considerations

4.1. It is proposed that the changes will be implemented through amendments to the *Local Government Act 1993* before the October 2026 local government elections.

4.1.1. Under the Local Government Act, the Minister is permitted to recommend the Governor make changes to councillor numbers by Order in response to a report from the Local Government Board. Similarly, historical reviews of councillor allowances have been undertaken by a Board of Inquiry, with recommendations provided to the Minister for actioning at their discretion.

4.2. Minor legislative amendments will be required to Schedule 3 of the *Local Government Act 1993* and Schedule 4 of the *Local Government (General) Regulations 2025* to implement changes to councillor numbers and allowances resulting from this framework.

4.3. However, it is intended the implementation of the framework – including those to allowances and numbers – will be delivered by an amendment Bill.

5. Strategic Planning and Policy Considerations

- 5.1. Outcome 8.1 of the Capital City Strategic Plan is relevant to the proposal contained within this report:

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

6. Financial Viability

- 6.1. Financial Considerations:

- 6.1.1. The financial impacts of the proposed reform to Elected Member allowances and numbers are included in the following table. The Council would achieve a saving of approximately \$62,766 per annum:

	Current	Proposed (+14.25%) - 9 Elected Members
Councillors	\$43,755	\$51,366
Deputy Lord Mayor	\$28,258	\$28,258
Lord Mayor	\$109,388	\$109,388
Councillors (Total)	\$525,060	\$462,294
Deputy Lord Mayor	\$28,258	\$28,258
Lord Mayor	\$109,388	\$109,388
Total Allowances	\$662,706	\$599,940

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



Michael Stretton
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Date: 22 October 2025
File Reference: F25/76578

Attachment A: Discussion Paper (Supporting information) 

**14. Local Government Amendment (Targeted Reform) Bill 2025 - Exposure
Draft Consultation
File Ref: F25/77787**

Report of the Chief Executive Officer of 22 October 2025 and attachment.

Delegation: Council

REPORT TITLE: LOCAL GOVERNMENT AMENDMENT (TARGETED REFORM) BILL 2025 - EXPOSURE DRAFT CONSULTATION

REPORT PROVIDED BY: Chief Executive Officer

1. Report Summary and Key Issue

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to seek the Council's endorsement to provide a submission on the draft Local Government Amendment (Targeted Reform) Bill 2025 Exposure Draft.

2. Recommendation

That the Council endorse the lodgement of a submission on the draft Local Government Amendment (Targeted Reform) Bill 2025 – Exposure Draft consistent with the comments provided at section 3.9 in this report.

3. Discussion and Background

- 3.1. The Minister for Local Government, the Hon. Kerry Vincent MP has written to all councils inviting comment on the Local Government Amendment (Targeted Reform) Bill 2025 – Exposure Draft.
- 3.2. This is the second phase of consultation for the Tasmanian Government's Local Government Priority Reform Program.
- 3.3. The first stage of consultation was undertaken earlier this year with the release of the Targeted Amendments of the *Local Government Act 1993* discussion paper.
- 3.4. The discussion paper proposed a range of reforms underpinning the Government's Priority Reform Program, including addressing concerns around councillor conduct and improving aspects of council governance.
- 3.4.1. The City provided a submission to the discussion paper in February 2025.
- 3.5. The submissions which were received on the discussion paper were considered and incorporated, where possible, into the draft Bill.
- 3.6. The Exposure Draft is aimed at enhancing the efficiency, transparency, and responsiveness of councils to better serve their communities.
- 3.7. Other proposed reforms being introduced via the draft Bill include amendments to deliver legislative reforms that have previously been introduced by the discussion paper, namely:

- Introducing serious councillor misconduct provisions.
- Broadening performance improvement direction provisions.
- Introducing temporary advisors for councils.
- Mandating council learning and development obligations.
- Introducing a contemporary role statements and charter for local government.
- Improving the strategic planning and reporting framework.
- Improving consistency in data collection and reporting methodologies.
- Enhanced transparency of information in council rates notices.
- Mandating internal audit for councils.

3.8. Several miscellaneous amendments to support the more efficient, effective and transparent operation of the Code of Conduct complaints handling framework, and to ensure confidentiality of closed council meetings where a councillor attends such a meeting remotely, in anticipation that amendments to the Meeting Regulations will soon proceed, to allow for remote meetings in certain circumstances are also included in the draft Bill.

3.9. The items in the table below were workshopped with Elected Members on 20 October and will form the content of the Council's submission if approved:

Provision	Comment
Local Government Charter	The Hobart City Council supported the proposal to develop a Local Government Charter through the Future of Local Government Review and its inclusion in this process is supported. Councils are focussing more than ever on the services that they provide to the community and, specifically on service levels. A well-constructed charter would assist councils and their communities to understand and agree the services that are provided by their respective councils.
New serious councillor misconduct provisions;	It's clear to most in the sector that the current Code of Conduct process has been relatively ineffective in addressing inappropriate behaviour by Elected Members. The process is wieldy, time consuming and the sanctions available do not provide a sufficient deterrent for breaches of the Code, when they occur.

	The provision of an additional ‘layer’ of sanctions for serious misconduct would be welcome as it would provide added incentive for Elected Members not to engage in any such behaviour and would also provide for suitable response in the unfortunate event that an Elected Member is found to have engaged in serious misconduct. Whilst severe misconduct is to be defined as a “serious or significant contravention of the code”, with criteria yet to be developed (by order), it is expected that serious misconduct would relate to examples like: dishonesty (including fraud, theft), physical violence, gross negligence, wilful and/or repeated misconduct, bullying, sexual harassment, disclosure of confidential information, failure to disclose a conflict of interest..(etc).
More flexible and effective early intervention tools to address emerging governance challenges in councils	The proposal to provide an ability for the Minister to issue a performance improvement direction (PID) to a council or councillor in response to a broad range of performance and governance concerns, would provide an agile and timely approach for addressing performance at an individual Elected Member or council level without the need for a Code of Conduct process, or a Board of Inquiry process. A PID would provide an opportunity to quickly address issues that have been identified within a council and would therefore be a welcome reform.
Mandating Internal Audit for Councils	The City of Hobart is supportive of the proposed addition of section 84B regarding internal audit. The City already has a well-established governance framework in place, including a Risk and Audit Panel and a 3-year strategic internal audit program outsourced to an external provider. Each year, the Executive Leadership Team and the Risk and Audit Panel review and approve an annual Internal Audit Plan to ensure alignment with strategic priorities and risk management objectives. While we welcome the intent of the amendment, we seek clarification on several points: the scope of “specify requirements,” whether these will relate to audit topics, processes, or standards; whether requirements will be uniform across all councils or tailored to individual circumstances; and how consultation will incorporate sector feedback.

	We recommend that any requirements be principles-based, allowing councils to maintain risk-based, proportionate internal audit programs that reflect their unique context while meeting minimum standards for independence, frequency, and reporting.
Legislating core councillor learning and development requirements	In recent years the Office of Local Government and LGAT has developed a Local Government Learning and Development Framework which provides a useful resource for Elected Members. In addition to the Framework, councils should be routinely providing learning and development opportunities for their Elected Members, through workshops, conferences, formal and informal training (and the like). The requirement to develop an Elected Member learning and development policy for the council at the start of each term would ensure that the organisation is focused on ensuring that Elected Members do receive an adequate level of learning and development across the sector.
Supporting more consistent data and transparency (including around council rates);	In respect to Council performance reporting, this section is specific to the financial statements in that the Minister may specify performance reporting requirements through an order. The Minister, through an existing order specifies financial management and asset management indicators so this would just be an extension of additional reporting in the future. It's difficult to know the impact as there are no specifics, however, the Council would support increasing transparency. The City of Hobart supports the principle of enhancing transparency in rates notices. Providing clear, easy-to-understand information about how rates are calculated and the drivers for change will help ratepayers better understand how Council invests in services for the community. The City does not object to the proposed wording of section 122A. However, clarification is sought on whether the Minister's order will apply uniformly across all councils or allow for council-specific requirements. Consistency is desirable for ratepayers who own property in multiple municipal areas. The City strongly supports meaningful consultation and recommends that any additional requirements be

	practical, achievable, and informed by sector best practice. The City also provided the following feedback to the earlier discussion paper and includes it here for completeness: • Currently, the City provides explanatory material with annual rates notices, including a flyer outlining how rates are spent and budget context. This information is presented at a municipal area level rather than at the individual property level. While the proposal to provide property-specific information is considered beneficial, it does present practical and resourcing challenges. These include system changes to extract and integrate property-level data, adjustments to outsourced printing and distribution processes, and potential changes to the size and layout of the rates notice to maintain readability and potential cost increases if the rate notice is larger for mailing as a result. • The proposed requirement appears to focus on historical data for the preceding five years. The City recommends that councils also be required to advise ratepayers of future changes that may affect rates liability, such as property revaluations, rating policy changes, or indexation factors. Timely communication of these changes is important for ratepayers, particularly those who lease properties and need to plan for changes in rates liability. • Consistency with the rating categories in the model financial statements is essential to ensure clarity and comparability. Consideration should also extend to service rates and charges, including transparency around Fire Service Rate contributions. Additionally, any historical data provided should include context, such as valuation changes, policy shifts, and economic conditions, rather than presenting raw totals.
Establishing the architecture for improving - over time - council strategic direction-	The proposal for council strategic plans to identify community wellbeing priority and specifying strategies for achieving is an update to the current Strategic Plan section. It is not an additional plan. It highlights identifying community wellbeing priorities as new wording, but this would align to the current

setting and planning, underpinned by a stronger focus on community engagement and wellbeing	pillars and actions. Interesting that wellbeing is only mentioned one other time in the amendment where it has updated the Role of council from Functions and Powers (Section 20 of the current Act). The City already has a Community Engagement Framework (due for review in 2027) and a Community Engagement Policy. At the same time, we are also developing a dedicated Communications & Engagement Guide.
Introducing temporary advisors for councils	There is no doubt that there are times when, for various reasons, a council may lose its way in terms of its focus on the necessary role that it plays for its community. It could be because of poor strategic decision making, relationship breakdowns between key leaders, employee and or Elected Member misconduct (and the like). The ability to appoint a temporary advisor to a council to provide advice and recommend governance improvements to that council would provide a 'light touch' means of addressing the identified problems, rather than resorting to an expensive and time-consuming Board of Inquiry process. Certainly, an inquiry will still have its place for the most serious of circumstances, but the advisor would be a useful tool to work with existing councils to identify and address problems, before more serious interventions are required.
Enhancing the efficiency and transparency of the Code of Conduct complaints handling framework.	As a general overriding statement, the Code of Conduct Panel system needs to have more checks and balances whereby precedents are considered, and consistency is achieved in respect to the handling and determination of complaints. Greater professionalism is required across the board. It is suggested that all complaints could be directed to TASCAT to provide the level of consistency and professionalism that is needed.
Supporting provisions for remote attendance at closed council meetings, aligning with anticipated	In respect to the proposal to allow Elected Members to attend meetings remotely the following comments are offered: • The ability for Elected Members to participated in Council and committee meetings remotely should not be extended to close Council and committee meetings.

updates to the Meeting Regulations.	• The range of circumstances that an individual councillor may attend Council and/or committee meetings remotely should be restricted to: ○ Ill health or incapacity ○ Caregiving responsibilities ○ Localised natural disasters or emergencies ○ Work commitments
Requirement for a Council to develop and maintain a Workplace development strategy	In respect to the requirement for councils to develop a Workforce Development Plan, the City of Hobart operates the One Hobart Program, which aims at building a constructive organisational culture which is consistent with the proposed reform.

4. Legal, Risk and Legislative Considerations

- 4.1. The draft Bill provides heads of power for the making of Ministerial Orders in relation to several matters, and the details of those Orders will need to be developed in close consultation with the sector over the coming months.
- 4.2. This approach is consistent with a broader move towards a more principles-based and less prescriptive Local Government Act.
- 4.3. As an important check on unilateral Ministerial power, all Orders-making provisions proposed under the Bill are subject to mandatory consultation with councils. Where appropriate, provisions will also be subject to Parliamentary oversight and potential intervention as disallowable instruments.
- 4.4. To assist in understanding the full parameters of the legislative changes, the Office of Local Government expects to work with councils in the preparation of key components of the proposed Orders prior to the Targeted Bill being debated in Parliament.

5. Strategic Planning and Policy Considerations

5.1. Pillar 8 of the Capital City Strategic Plan states that:

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.

6. Financial Viability

6.1. Financial Considerations:

6.1.1. None arise from the writing of this report.

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



Michael Stretton
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Date: 22 October 2025
File Reference: F25/77787

Attachment A: Draft Bill 2025 - Exposure Draft (Supporting information) 

15. Proposed Motions - Local Government Association of Tasmania General Meeting
File Ref: F25/76082

Report of the Manager Legal and Corporate Governance and the Director Corporate Services of 20 October 2025 and attachments.

Delegation: Council

**MEMORANDUM: COUNCIL****Proposed Motions - Local Government Association of Tasmania General Meeting**

The Local Government Association of Tasmania's ("LGAT") General Meeting, to be held on 21 November 2025, is set to consider nine motions which have been raised by the Break O'Day, Central Coast, Central Highlands, George Town, Latrobe, Northern Midlands, Waratah-Waratah Wynard Councils for consideration at the meeting. The Council will need to resolve its position in respect of each of these motions to allow delegates to vote accordingly.

A suggested position and supporting comments can be found at **Attachment A**.

Background information and full details of each motion can be found at **Attachment B**.

1. Advancing the Circular Economy Across Tasmania

The Break O'Day Council has submitted a motion seeking:

"1. Recognises the circular economy as a key opportunity for Tasmania to reduce waste, strengthen regional economies, lower emissions, and increase community resilience through smarter use and reuse of materials and resources.

2. Advocates to the Tasmanian Government for the development and implementation of a Statewide Circular Economy Strategy, developed in consultation with local government, regional waste groups, industry, the community sector, and education and research institutions.

3. Encourages continued collaboration among Tasmanian councils and regional waste groups to: Share best practices and resources for circular initiatives (e.g. reuse markets, repair hubs, community composting); Identify and pursue joint procurement and regional partnerships that support circular outcomes; Align local policies (e.g. waste, procurement, planning) with circular economy principles.

4. Calls on the Tasmanian Government to: Provide continued funding, policy support, and incentives for local governments and regional waste

groups to pilot and scale circular economy projects; Ensure state infrastructure investment (e.g. waste and resource recovery facilities) supports circularity and regional equity; Support skills development and community education focused on repair, reuse, sustainable design, and local circular enterprise.

5. Requests LGAT to: Facilitate a working group or forum of interested councils to engage with the Tasmanian Government on the circular economy agenda; Include the circular economy as a standing item in relevant LGAT policy discussions and submissions (e.g. waste, climate, economic development).

6. Request the Tasmanian Government compile and provide a publicly available material flow analysis for the State and each region to provide clear data to support public and private infrastructure investment in locations to maximise diversion and reuse in the Tasmanian economy”

It is recommended Council resolve for its delegates to vote to support this motion.

2. Developing a Statewide Local Government Workforce Renewal Program.

The Break O'Day Council has submitted a motion seeking:

It is recommended that LGAT work with the State and Federal Governments to develop and implement a program similar to the NSW Local Government Apprentice, Trainee, and Cadet Fresh Start Program in order to effectively implement Recommendation 35 of the Future of Local Government Review, addressing workforce shortages, enhancing diversity, and building sustainable local government capacity.

It is recommended Council resolve for its delegates to vote to support this motion.

3. Statewide Waste Levy Reinvestment

The Central Coast Council has submitted a motion seeking:

That LGAT lobby the State Government to reinvest a portion of the State Waste Levy into initiatives that reduce the financial burden on low-income households and communities.

It is recommended Council resolve for its delegates to vote to oppose this motion.

4. Dark Sky Planning Guidelines for Tasmania

The Central Highlands Council has submitted a motion seeking:

That the Local Government Association of Tasmania lobby State government on behalf of all 29 Councils, to create Dark Sky Planning Guidelines, over the whole of Tasmania including the Islands.

It is recommended Council resolve for its delegates to vote to support this motion.

5. Legislative Powers to Local Government under the Boundary Fences Act 1908

The George Town Council has submitted a motion seeking:

1. Councils to require property owners and lessees to install, maintain and repair their property fences to prevent the escape of livestock onto Local Government controlled roads or neighbouring properties within respective local government areas. Further and as part of the provision of such powers, the Act shall clearly define the term livestock.

2. Regulations to be developed provisions for Local Government to issue infringement notices and standardised monetary penalties to enable enforcement of non-compliance with newly legislated powers.

It is recommended Council resolve for its delegates to vote to support this motion.

6. Mandatory online learning for Local Government Election Candidates

The Latrobe Council has submitted a motion seeking:

That on behalf of the sector, the Local Government Association of Tasmania lobby the Tasmanian Government to legislate that intending candidates for the 2026 Local Government elections are required to complete the Learn to Lead online learning modules Learning Pack 1 and Learning Package 2 as current councillors are required, so that intending candidates are educated on the Role of a councillor and have an understanding of the responsibilities of representing the community prior to nominating for election.

It is recommended Council resolve for its delegates to vote to support this motion.

7. Motion to Enhancing Flood Risk Management through Policy Alignment and Local Data Recognition.

The Northern Midlands Council has submitted a motion seeking:

That the Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT) advocate to the Tasmanian Government for the following actions to strengthen flood risk management and planning integrity across the state:

1. The State Planning Office be resourced and directed to urgently coordinate a statewide LPS amendment process to update Flood-prone Areas Hazard Overlays with updated Tasmanian Strategic Flood Maps any detailed studies where requested by a Council, and provide clear guidance on the role of the State Emergency Service (SES) and the information produced by the SES in the planning process.

2. The State Planning Office or Tasmanian Planning Commission be resourced and directed to undertake a review of Hookway v Northern Midlands Council [2025] TASCAT 106 and Au v Glenorchy City Council (No 2) [2024] TASCAT 50 to recommend urgent changes for high-risk flood zones with significant hazard levels that ensure long-term safety of people and property and maintain the autonomy of Councils as planning authorities.

3. The Tasmanian Government review the use of flood risk mapping by insurance companies and engage with insurers to ensure they actively participate in the Land Use Planning and Building Control Policy for Flood Risk Management Project, with the objective of developing policy solutions and recommendations that would address rising costs and declining availability of flood insurance.

It is recommended Council resolve for its delegates to vote to support this motion.

8. Motion to Amend Regulation 47 of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025.

The Northern Midlands Council has submitted a motion seeking:

That the Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT) advocates an amendment to Regulation 47 of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025 to allow councils the discretion to approve a councillor's leave of absence retrospectively in cases of unforeseen circumstances such as illness or work commitments, provided that appropriate documentation is submitted.

It is recommended Council resolve for its delegates to vote to oppose this motion.

9. Public Disclosure Act

The Waratah-Wynyard Council has submitted a motion seeking:

LGAT advocates to the Tasmanian State Government in support of a review of Tasmania's Public Disclosures Act 2002 to strengthen the Act to ensure that the services provided to our communities are not impaired due to ineffective protections for prospective whistleblowers

It is recommended Council resolve for its delegates to vote to support this motion.

RECOMMENDATION

That:

1. **The Council support the motions tabled by the following councils and as contained in Attachment A:**
 - (i) ***Advancing the Circular Economy Across Tasmania (Break O'Day Council)***
 - (ii) ***Developing a Statewide Local Government Workforce Renewal (Break O'Day Council)***
 - (iii) ***Dark Sky Planning Guidelines (Central Highlands Council)***
 - (iv) ***Legislative Powers to Local Government under the Boundary Fences Act 1908 (George Town Council)***
 - (v) ***Mandatory Online Learning for Local Government Election Candidates (Latrobe Council)***
 - (vi) ***Enhancing Flood Risk Mitigation (Northern Midlands Council)***
 - (vii) ***Public Disclosure Act (Waratah-Wynyard Council)***
2. **The Council oppose the motions tabled by the following councils and as contained in Attachment A:**
 - (i) ***Statewide Waste Levy Reinvestment (Central Coast Council)***
 - (ii) ***Amend Regulation 47 of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025 (Northern Midlands Council)***

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



Wes Young
**MANAGER LEGAL AND CORPORATE
GOVERNANCE**



Michael Reynolds
DIRECTOR CORPORATE SERVICES

Date: 20 October 2025
File Reference: F25/76082

Attachment A: Motions to LGAT - Supporting Comments and Suggested
Position (Supporting information) 
Attachment B: Proposed Motions (Supporting information) 

16. Quarterly Financial Report - 30 September 2025
File Ref: F25/76040

Report of the Chief Financial Officer of 20 October 2025 and attachment.

Delegation: Council

REPORT TITLE: QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT - 30 SEPTEMBER 2025**REPORT PROVIDED BY:** Chief Financial Officer**1. Report Summary and Key Issue**

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to provide Council with the quarterly financial report as at 30 September 2025.
- 1.2. As at 30 September 2025:
- 1.2.1. the City is reporting a surplus of \$7.8 million when compared to the year-to-date budget for operating activities;
- 1.2.2. the full year operating budget is forecast to be a surplus of \$3.1 million;
- 1.2.3. the City had spent \$3.5 million, or 0.9 per cent of the full year Budget for capital activities, including plant and equipment.
- 1.3. Operating Activities:

Category	Year to Date				Full Year			Forecast Full Year Result
					Original	Revised	Revised	
	Budget	Actual	Variance	Variance	Budget	Budget	(Pending) Budget	
	(\$,000)	(\$,000)	(\$,000)	%	(\$,000)	(\$,000)	(\$,000)	(\$,000)
Revenue								
Rates and Charges	39,376	40,273	897	2.3	120,034	120,034	0	120,034
Fire Levy Commission	157	0	(157)	(99.7)	655	655	0	655
Fines	2,184	1,449	(735)	(33.7)	8,735	8,735	0	8,735
Fees and Charges - Car Parks	3,790	3,788	(2)	(0.1)	15,162	15,162	0	15,162
Fees and Charges - On Street Parking	2,097	1,898	(199)	(9.5)	8,387	8,387	0	8,387
Other Fees and Charges	5,404	5,279	(125)	(2.3)	19,194	19,194	2,269	21,463
Operating Grants	559	1,317	759	135.7	3,754	3,754	523	4,276
Interest	710	1,188	478	67.3	2,842	2,842	0	2,842
Rents	1,196	1,219	23	1.9	3,548	3,548	28	3,576
Tas Water Distributions	543	597	54	10.0	2,606	2,606	0	2,606
Total Revenue	56,016	57,008	992	1.8	184,916	184,916	2,820	187,736
Expenditure								
Labour	21,516	19,443	2,073	9.6	79,929	79,929	110	80,039
Materials and Services	12,806	10,142	2,664	20.8	44,197	44,197	630	44,827
Energy Costs	653	368	285	43.6	2,457	2,457	0	2,457
Finance Costs	42	22	20	48.7	1,256	1,256	0	1,256
Fire Levy	0	0	0	0.0	15,719	15,719	0	15,719
Depreciation	8,305	7,515	790	9.5	33,219	33,219	0	33,219
Asset Write-offs	375	0	375	100.0	1,500	1,500	0	1,500
Bad Debts	0	0	0	100.0	401	401	0	401
Other Expenses	1,304	686	618	47.4	5,246	5,246	0	5,246
Total Expenditure	45,001	38,176	6,825	15.2	183,923	183,923	740	184,663
Underlying Result	11,015	18,832	7,817	71.0	994	994	2,080	3,074

1.4. Year-to-date Variations:

1.4.1. As at 30 September 2025, Revenue is \$922,000 above budget. This is primarily due to:

1.4.1.1. Rates and Charges is \$897,000 above budget;

1.4.1.2. Interest revenue is \$478,000 above budget, primarily due to current interest rates; and

1.4.1.3. Operating Grants is \$759,000 above budget, due to the carry forward of unspent amounts for the Disaster Ready Funding, for which an adjustment is submitted as part of this report.

1.4.1.4. The increases are partly offset by Fines, which are \$735,000 below budget.

1.4.2. As at 30 September 2025, Expenditure is \$6.8 million below budget. This is primarily due to:

1.4.2.1. \$2.1 million in Labour expenditure reflecting vacancies across the organisation;

1.4.2.2. \$2.7 million in Materials and Services predominately related to lower contractor payments;

1.4.2.3. \$790,000 in Depreciation which is a timing issue; and

1.4.2.4. \$686,000 in Other Expenses which is a timing issue related to grant payments.

1.5. Operating Variation Requests

1.5.1. The following amendments to the 2025-26 Budget Estimates are proposed:

Entry No.	Category	Net Amount	Transfer From	Transfer To	Reason
1.	Operational Revenue Increase	\$33,333		22 Creek Road, Lenah Valley	To record the budget for rental income related to 22 Creek Rd
1.	Operational Expense Increase	\$3,000		22 Creek Road, Lenah Valley	To record additional costs related to the rental
2.	Operational Revenue Decrease	(\$5,000)		6 Washington Street	To remove rental revenue budget attached to 6 Washington Street as approved by Council in October 2023.
3.	Operational Revenue Increase	\$10,000		Hobart Current	To record the budget for Hobart Current Mentoring Grant
3.	Operational Expense Increase	\$10,000		Hobart Current	To record the budget for Hobart Current Mentoring Grant
4.	Operational Revenue Increase	\$2.3 million		Landfill Operation	To record additional clean fill revenue in Waste
4.	Operational Expenditure Increase	\$215,000		Landfill Operation	Adjustment for Waste Levy Charges associated with revenue increase

Entry No.	Category	Net Amount	Transfer From	Transfer To	Reason
5.	Operational Expenditure Reallocation	\$0	City Venues (\$110,000)	City Venues \$110,000	Movement of budget from contractors to external labour hire to better reflect the actual engagement of cleaning staff in Town Hall.
6.	Operational Revenue Increase	\$512,737		Disaster Ready Funding	Budget allocation for 2024-25 unspent grant amounts carried forward.
6.	Operational Expense Increase	\$512,737		Disaster Ready Funding	Budget allocation for 2024-25 unspent grant amounts carried forward.

1.6. Capital Activities:

1.6.1. Revenue and expenditure adjustments:

Capital Category	Budget	Year to Date		Variance	Original Budget	Full Year Revised	Revised
		Actual	Variance			(Approved) Budget	(Pending) Budget
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	%	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Expenditure	6,069	3,457	2,612	43.0	36,786	36,786	3,522
Revenue	(330)	(2,783)	2,453	(743.5)	(15,485)	(15,485)	(3,522)

1.6.2. Capital expenditure adjustments by category:

Capital Category	Budget	Year to Date			Original Budget	Full Year	
		Actual	Variance	Variance		Revised (Approved) Budget	Revised (Pending) Budget
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	%	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
New Assets	732	905	(172)	(23.5)	16,394	16,394	596
Renewal Assets	3,377	1,748	1,629	48.2	14,636	14,636	1,443
Upgrade Assets	1,085	500	585	54.0	2,255	2,255	1,483
Expensed	0	149	(149)	100.0	0	0	0
Plant and Equipment	875	156	719	82.2	3,500	3,500	0
Total	6,069	3,457	2,612	43.0	36,786	36,786	3,522

Note: The above table shows expenditure only by capital category.

1.6.3. As at 30 September 2025, the Capital Works Program expenditure of \$3.5 million was \$2.6 million below the year-to-date budget.

1.6.4. At the end of the September 2025 quarter, 0.9 per cent of the total budget capital budget of \$36.8 million has been expended.

1.7. Capital Variation Requests

1.7.1. The proposed capital variation requests (Attachment A) increase the total revenue and expenditure budgets by \$3.5 million.

1.7.2. Attachment A details the variation requests and the reason for the proposed adjustments.

1.8. Loans and Investments

1.8.1. As at 30 September 2025, the City had:

1.8.1.1. Four loans with an outstanding balance of \$35.2 million;

1.8.1.2. 24 term deposit investments, with the total invested being \$72 million; and

1.8.1.3. \$41.3 million in cash, in addition to the investments, which includes \$2 million in the Heritage Account.

2. Recommendation***That:***

- 1. The Quarterly Financial Report for the period ending 30 September 2025 be noted; and***
- 2. The proposed operational and capital variation requests to the 2024-25 Budget Estimates be approved:***

(i) Operational Variations:

Entry No.	Category	Net Amount	Transfer From	Transfer To	Reason
1.	Operational Revenue Increase	\$33,333		22 Creek Road, Lenah Valley	To record the budget for rental income related to 22 Creek Rd
1.	Operational Expense Increase	\$3,000		22 Creek Road, Lenah Valley	To record additional costs related to the rental
2.	Operational Revenue Decrease	(\$5,000)		6 Washington Street	To remove rental revenue budget attached to 6 Washington Street as approved by Council in October 2023.
3.	Operational Revenue Increase	\$10,000		Hobart Current	To record the budget for Hobart Current Mentoring Grant
3.	Operational Expense Increase	\$10,000		Hobart Current	To record the budget for Hobart Current Mentoring Grant
4.	Operational Revenue Increase	\$2.3 million		Landfill Operation	To record additional clean fill revenue in Waste

Entry No.	Category	Net Amount	Transfer From	Transfer To	Reason
4.	Operational Expenditure Increase	\$215,000		Landfill Operation	Adjustment for Waste Levy Charges associated with revenue increase
5.	Operational Expenditure Reallocation	\$0	City Venues (\$110,000)	City Venues \$110,000	Movement of budget from contractors to external labour hire to better reflect the actual engagement of cleaning staff in Town Hall.
6.	Operational Revenue Increase	\$512,737		Disaster Ready Funding	Budget allocation for 2024-25 unspent grant amounts carried forward.
6.	Operational Expense Increase	\$512,737		Disaster Ready Funding	Budget allocation for 2024-25 unspent grant amounts carried forward.

(ii) Capital Variations:

Entry No.	Category	Net Amount	Transfer From	Transfer To	Reason
1.	Capital Revenue Increase	\$454,679		DKHAC Moveable Bulkhead	Unspent amounts of grant funding carried forward from 2024-25.
1.	Capital Expenditure Increase	\$454,679		DKHAC Moveable Bulkhead	Unspent amounts of grant funding carried forward from 2024-25.

Entry No.	Category	Net Amount	Transfer From	Transfer To	Reason
2.	Capital Revenue Increase	\$116,595		DKHAC Tile 50m Concourse	Unspent amounts of grant funding carried forward from 2024-25.
3.	Capital Revenue Increase	\$24,981		DKHAC Chemical Delivery Area/Vehicle Bay Fitout	Unspent amounts of grant funding carried forward from 2024-25.
3.	Capital Expenditure Increase	\$24,981		DKHAC Chemical Delivery Area/Vehicle Bay Fitout	Unspent amounts of grant funding carried forward from 2024-25.
4.	Capital Revenue Increase	\$40,000		DKHAC Spa, Steam Rm, Sauna amenity-plant upgrade	Unspent amounts of grant funding carried forward from 2024-25.
4.	Capital Expenditure Increase	\$40,000		DKHAC Spa, Steam Rm, Sauna amenity-plant upgrade	Unspent amounts of grant funding carried forward from 2024-25.
5.	Capital Revenue Increase	\$725,697		Domain Athletic Centre - Lighting and PA System	Unspent amounts of grant funding carried forward from 2024-25.
5.	Capital Expenditure Increase	\$725,697		Domain Athletic Centre - Lighting and PA System	Unspent amounts of grant funding carried forward from 2024-25.

Entry No.	Category	Net Amount	Transfer From	Transfer To	Reason
6.	Capital Revenue Increase	\$8,968		Saunders Cres Playground	Unspent amounts of grant funding carried forward from 2024-25.
6.	Capital Expenditure Increase	\$8,968		Saunders Cres Playground	Unspent amounts of grant funding carried forward from 2024-25.
7.	Capital Revenue Increase	\$822,073		Queenborough Oval Changerooms	Unspent amounts of grant funding carried forward from 2024-25.
7.	Capital Expenditure Increase	\$822,073		Queenborough Oval Changerooms	Unspent amounts of grant funding carried forward from 2024-25.
8.	Capital Revenue Increase	\$5,999		Ready for Business Grant	Unspent amounts of grant funding carried forward from 2024-25.
8.	Capital Expenditure Increase	\$5,999		Ready for Business Grant	Unspent amounts of grant funding carried forward from 2024-25.
9.	Capital Revenue Increase	\$17,081		South Hobart Oval Courts Upgrade	Unspent amounts of grant funding carried forward from 2024-25.
9.	Capital Expenditure Increase	\$17,081		South Hobart Oval Courts Upgrade	Unspent amounts of grant funding carried forward from 2024-25.

Entry No.	Category	Net Amount	Transfer From	Transfer To	Reason
10.	Capital Revenue Increase	\$36,800		Better Active Transport - Augusta Rd Protected Bike Lanes	Unspent amounts of grant funding carried forward from 2024-25.
10	Capital Expenditure Increase	\$36,800		Better Active Transport - Augusta Rd Protected Bike Lanes	Unspent amounts of grant funding carried forward from 2024-25.
11.	Capital Revenue Increase	\$75,712		Selfs Point Basketball Stadium	Unspent amounts of grant funding carried forward from 2024-25.
11.	Capital Expenditure Increase	\$75,712		Selfs Point Basketball Stadium	Unspent amounts of grant funding carried forward from 2024-25.
12.	Capital Transfer	\$0	Queens Walk - Risdon Rd to Deadend, Reseal Prep - (\$222,000)	Program Contingency FY25/26 - \$222,000	Project scope reduced due to drainage design not being finalised. Returning unutilised funds to the program contingency until design is ready.
13.	Capital Transfer	\$0	Program Contingency FY25/26 – (\$50,000)	Tiersen Pl - Lipscombe Intersection - Overlay- \$50,000	Following further investigation, the condition of the dead-end section of the road has been found to be significantly deteriorated, this is now included.

Entry No.	Category	Net Amount	Transfer From	Transfer To	Reason
14.	Capital Transfer	\$0	Liverpool Cres - Forest Rd to Liverpool St Overlay – (\$50,000)	Program Contingency FY25/26 - \$50,000	Following a review of the project, it was determined that the original allocated funding exceeded actual requirements. The amount is to be returned to the program contingency.
15.	Capital Transfer	\$0	Argyle to Elizabeth – Inlay – (\$80,000)	Program Contingency FY25/26 - \$80,000	Following refinement of cost estimations for project, it was determined \$80,000 could be returned to the program contingency.
16.	Capital Transfer	\$0	Program Contingency FY25/26 – (\$90,000)	New Town Netball Courts Upgrade - \$90,000	The variation covers additional work completed around the Pavilion entry due to a mismatch between the old paving and the new design, as well as a design oversight at the interface between new and existing infrastructure.
17.	Capital Transfer	\$0	Program Contingency FY25/26 – (\$36,000)	Queenborough Oval Changerooms Redevelopment - \$36,000	This allocation is due to additional issues and poor condition of roof. This amount will cover the contractor costs to replace the roof and prevent future problems.

Entry No.	Category	Net Amount	Transfer From	Transfer To	Reason
18.	Capital Revenue Increase	\$34,161	Funds from Glenorchy City Council	New Town Rivulet Estuary Restoration Project	Additional Revenue from Glenorchy City Council for watering and weeding post commissioning.
18.	Capital Expenditure increase	\$217,026	Program Contingency FY25/26 – (\$182,865)	New Town Rivulet Estuary Restoration Project- \$217,026	\$34,161 to align with the additional revenue increase. The balance of \$182,865 is an adjustment for further works that were deferred from 2024-25.
19.	Capital Revenue Increase	\$503,190	Funds from Grantor	Maryln Bridge	Additional revenue from federal government.
19.	Capital Expenditure Increase	\$633,988	Program Contingency FY25/26 – (\$130,798)	Maryln Bridge - \$633,988	\$503,190 to align with additional revenue increase. The balance of \$130,798 is the associated Hobart City Council contribution for the additional revenue.
20.	Capital Transfer	\$0	Program Contingency FY25/26 – (\$130,000)	Wayne Ave - Sandy Bay to Nile – Inlay- \$130,000	Additional budget as work will require road profiling and application of a new 10mm primer seal, in addition to the 50mm asphalt wearing course.
21.	Capital Transfer	\$0	Program Contingency FY25/26 – (\$200,000)	Transforming Collins Street - Stage 2 - \$200,000	Budget to deliver Stage 2 of the transforming Collins Street project.

Entry No.	Category	Net Amount	Transfer From	Transfer To	Reason
22.	Capital Transfer	\$0	Program Contingency FY25/26 – (\$28,020)	Queenborough Oval Changerooms Redevelopment - \$28,020	The variation is requested to take advantage of contractors already on site to complete essential painting and minor repairs to the grandstand, which were not in the original scope. To undertake these works at a later time will increase the cost.
23.	Grant Funding Increase	\$54,540	Receive funds from grantor	Pipeline Track Extension – City to Mountain	Adjustment to grant budget for final amount to receive on completion of project.
23.	Capital Expenditure Increase	\$54,540	Increase expenditure aligned to revenue	Pipeline Track Extension – City to Mountain -	Adjustment to grant budget for final amount to receive on completion of project.
24.	Grant Funding Increase	\$152,000	Receive funds from grantor	Queens Walk Footpath-	Vulnerable Road User Program 2025 grant revenue.
24.	Capital Expenditure Increase	\$152,000	Increase expenditure aligned to revenue	Queens Walk Footpath-	Vulnerable Road User Program 2025 grant revenue.
25.	Grant Funding Increase	\$100,000	Receive funds from grantor	Dewitt Street - Hampden Road Pedestrian facility improvements	Vulnerable Road User Program 2025 grant revenue.

Entry No.	Category	Net Amount	Transfer From	Transfer To	Reason
25.	Capital Expenditure Increase	\$100,000	Increase expenditure aligned to revenue	Dewitt Street - Hampden Road Pedestrian facility improvements	Vulnerable Road User Program 2025 grant revenue.
26.	Grant Funding Increase	\$350,000	Receive funds from grantor	Burnett Active Transport Connection	Vulnerable Road User Program 2025 grant revenue.
26.	Capital Expenditure Increase	\$350,000	Increase expenditure aligned to revenue	Burnett Active Transport Connection	Vulnerable Road User Program 2025 grant revenue.
27.	Capital Transfer	\$0	Program Contingency FY24/25 – (\$30,000)	Nixon St - Queen to King - Partial LK&C Ash LFP- \$30,000	Additional works were undertaken to repair road intersection on Nixon/Queen St.

3. Discussion and Background

3.1. Noted in the body of the report above.

4. Legal, Risk and Legislative Considerations

4.1. There are no Legal, Risk or Legislative considerations in regard to this report.

5. Strategic Planning and Policy Considerations

5.1. Pillar 8 – Governance and Civic Involvement:

5.1.1. Outcome 8.2 – *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.*

6. Financial Viability

6.1. Financial Considerations:

	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Revenue				
Existing Revenue				
Additional Revenue				
Total Revenue				
Expenditure				
Operating				
Capital				
Total Expenditure				
Net Cost				
FTE Impact				
	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28

Change in FTE

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

6.1.1. The quarterly financials, as at 30 September 2025 are presented in Section 1 – Report Summary and Key Issues.

6.2. City Economy Strategy:

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

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

6.3. Economic Impact:

6.3.1. There are no Economic Impact matters regarding this report.

6.4. Consultants

6.4.1. No consultants were engaged in relation to this report.

7. Climate and Sustainability Considerations

7.1. There are no Climate and Sustainability considerations in relation to this report.

8. Community and Business Engagement and Collaboration

- 8.1. No community or business engagement is required from this report as it is providing an update on the financial performance as at 30 September 2025.

9. Innovation and Continuous Improvement

- 9.1. This report is only providing an update to Council on the financial performance of the City as at 30 September 2025.

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



Michelle Wickham
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

Date: 20 October 2025
File Reference: F25/76040

Attachment A: Capital Works Variations - September 2025 (Supporting information) 

17. Proposed 2026 Governance Calendar
File Ref: F25/76507

Report of the Director Corporate Services of 20 October 2025 and attachment.

Delegation: Council

REPORT TITLE: PROPOSED 2026 GOVERNANCE CALENDAR

REPORT PROVIDED BY: Director Corporate Services

1. Report Summary and Key Issue

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval of the 2026 Governance Calendar (meeting schedule) and a temporary delegation for the Director Strategic and Regulatory Services for the Christmas period.
- 1.2. A meeting schedule is compiled annually which outlines the meeting dates for Council, Council Committees and Special Committees.
- 1.3. The 2026 program has been based on the structure and format of the 2025 program.
- 1.4. This report also recommends a temporary delegation to the Director Strategic and Regulatory Services to determine planning applications to facilitate the processing of planning permit applications during the period 11 December 2025 and 20 January 2026.

2. Recommendation

That:

1. ***The Council adopt the 2026 Governance Calendar (meeting schedule) marked as Attachment A to this report.***
2. ***Should any urgent matters arise, which cannot be accommodated within the 2026 meeting schedule, special meetings of the Council or Council Committee will be convened as required.***
3. ***To facilitate the processing of planning permit applications during the period 11 December 2025 to 20 January 2026, the Director Strategic and Regulatory Services be provided with the following delegation:***
 - (i) ***To determine all planning permit applications which would otherwise be determined by the Planning Authority Committee in circumstances where it would not otherwise be possible to determine the application within the statutory time period required under Sections 57(6), 57(6A), 58(2) or 58(2A) of the Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993, and an extension of time cannot be obtained, unless an Elected Member has requested the convening of a special meeting or meetings of the Planning Authority Committee to determine an application, and there is sufficient time to arrange a special meeting prior to the expiry of the statutory time period required under those***

sections for the period 11 December 2025 to 20 January 2026 inclusive.

3. Discussion and Background

- 3.1. A meeting schedule is compiled annually which outlines the various meeting dates for Council, Council Committees and Special Committees.
- 3.2. The proposed 2026 Governance Calendar (meeting schedule), follows a similar format to 2025 however some adjustments have been made to account for the 2026 Local Government Elections (which have been assumed based on previous election timings):
 - 3.2.1. Council meetings are programmed for the last Monday in each month, with the exception of;
 - 3.2.1.1. January, due to a public holiday;
 - 3.2.1.2. October where it is a week early to account for assumed election timeline; and
 - 3.2.1.3. December where there is a need to hold the meeting earlier.
 - 3.2.2. The Hobart Workshop Committee is programmed for a Monday, twice a month.
 - 3.2.3. Special Committees of Council will continue to be held on a Tuesday, once a quarter.
 - 3.2.4. The Risk and Audit Panel has also been included.
- 3.3. If any urgent matters arise which cannot be accommodated within the 2026 meeting schedule, special meetings of the Council or Council Committee can be convened as required.
- 3.4. The Planning Authority Committee is programmed on a Wednesday, twice a month.
 - 3.4.1. Due to the break in Planning Authority Committee meetings from the last meeting on 10 December 2025 and the first meeting on 21 January 2026, it is recommended that a temporary delegation be given to the Director Strategic and Regulatory Services to determine planning applications to facilitate the processing of planning permit applications during the period 11 December 2025 and 20 January 2026:

To determine all planning permit applications which would otherwise be determined by the Planning Authority Committee in circumstances where it would not otherwise be possible to determine the application within the statutory time period required under Sections 57(6), 57(6A), 58(2) or 58(2A) of the Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993, and an extension of time cannot be obtained, unless an Elected Member has requested the convening of a special meeting or meetings of the Planning Authority Committee to determine an application and there is sufficient time to arrange a special meeting prior to the expiry of the statutory time period required under those sections for the period 11 December 2025 to 20 January 2026 inclusive.

- 3.5. During 2025, some meetings of the Hobart Workshop Committee were programmed at off-site locations. At the completion of the 2025 program, a review of this model will be undertaken and a report returned to the Council in the new year.

4. Legal, Risk and Legislative Considerations

- 4.1. In accordance with Regulation 9(2) of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulation 2025*, the Council's adopted meeting schedule will be advertised in the Mercury newspaper in early January 2026 and also published on the City of Hobart website.

5. Strategic Planning and Policy Considerations

- 5.1. This report aligns with the Capital City Strategic Plan, namely *Pillar 8: Governance and Civic Involvement*, and in particular strategies:
- 8.1.1 *Practise integrity, accountability, strong ethics and transparency in the City's governance, policymaking and operations.*
 - 8.1.2 *Practise and communicate good city governance and decision-making.*
 - 8.3.3 *Support the elected representatives to undertake their role;*
 - 8.3.6 *Ensure City decision-makers are accessible and consider community input; and*
 - 8.4.3 *Embrace opportunities to incorporate participatory community engagement methods.*

6. Financial Viability**6.1. Financial Considerations:**

	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Revenue				
Existing Revenue				
Additional Revenue				
Total Revenue				
Expenditure				
Operating	1			
Capital				
Total Expenditure	1			
Net Cost				
FTE Impact				
	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29
Change in FTE	0			

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

- 6.1.1. In accordance with the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulation 2025*, the 2026 meeting program is required to be advised in a daily newspaper. The cost of this has been accounted for within the operational budget provisions.
- 6.1.2. Additional costs are associated with holding the Hobart Workshop Committee meetings off-site. These will be addressed in a future report to Council as noted at point 3.5.

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



Michael Reynolds
DIRECTOR CORPORATE SERVICES

Date: 20 October 2025
File Reference: F25/76507

Attachment A: Draft 2026 Governance Calendar (Supporting information) 

MOTIONS OF WHICH NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN**IN ACCORDANCE WITH REGULATION 16(5) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT
(MEETING PROCEDURES) REGULATIONS 2015****18. Right to Information - External Reviews and Report Request**
File Ref: F25/77699

Councillor Louise Elliot

Motion

That a report be provided which:

1. Notes that the Council has been subject to 12 *Right to Information Act* related external reviews conducted by the Ombudsman since 2022 and that 11 of these have been at least partly adverse to the Council.
2. Notes that, as part of these external reviews, the Ombudsman has passed comment on a range of matters that indicate issues related to how the Act is being interpreted and applied by the Council.
3. Confirm its commitment to the objects of the *Right to Information Act 2009*, which include increasing the Council's accountability to the community and the community's ability to participate in their governance through the provision of information, and supporting the community's access to information that the Council collects and;
4. requests officers bring to Council for its October meeting a report outlining what actions have or will be taken (and associated timelines) to improve the Council's compliance with the objects, principles and obligations of the Right to Information Act.

Rationale:

The Council has an obligation to comply with the law.

The Ombudsman's external reviews highlight that there are not only issues with complying with the specifics of the Act, but also likely attitudinal issues within the Council towards the use of RTI which are (consciously or subconsciously) likely impacting on processes and decisions. Both of these are unacceptable and must be addressed.

The following are quotes from various External Reviews of Council decisions published by the Ombudsman in recent years:

"I am also concerned at the suggestion that giving effect to the Act amounts to imposing an extra regulatory burden of disclosure of commercial information provided by third parties who may otherwise seek to tender for a Council's planning panel is likely to deter some from doing so. The Act is a push model which encourages the release of government information (s3). I do not consider it appropriate to characterise this intention of parliament to encourage transparency and accountability to be a burden. It is simply the legislative framework that is in place for public authorities and those who engage in business with them, and is standard across all Australian jurisdictions"

"I urge the Council to more closely consider its processes around the management of conflicts of interest in future, to ensure appropriate practices are in place"

"Council has sought to rely on s19 in a manner which does not align with its intended purpose"

"Council's reasoning regarding why it considers the information exempt under s36 is very minimal. It is so brief that it is questionable whether it actually fulfils the requirement of s22 of the Act for reasons for decision to be given and that the relevant public interest considerations relied upon be stated."

"I strongly encourage Council to provide more fulsome reasons in future and provide specific discussion and reasoning in its decisions, which references the actual circumstances regarding relevant third parties and the documents in question. This would provide the applicant with a better understanding of the matters considered, the reasons for the conclusions reached and can reduce the likelihood of further review"

"It is likely that this external review would not have been necessary, had Council kept proper recordsDocuments were not saved correctly, could not be located and much of Council's submissions constituted educated guesses regarding what had occurred due to record keeping issues. This is highly unsatisfactory. Tasmanians have a legislated right to access government held information. This right is frustrated when public authorities fail to demonstrate proper record keeping practices. Council is also reminded that a failure to ensure proper record keeping may constitute a breach of its obligations under the Archives Act 1983 (Tas). I am concerned by Council's poor record keeping processes in this instance and will be monitoring its record keeping practices in the future to try to ensure that obligations under the Act are met."

"I am concerned that it [the Council] considers information contained within the archived email accounts of very senior Council officers who have only recently left Council to be in 'back-up' systems. The implication of such a wide interpretation of back-up systems is that the public's right to information which would be reasonably expected to be in a public authority's possession would be impeded, as s10(2) provides that a person is not entitled to information contained in back-up systems. 27 Section 10(2) should only be used sparingly, otherwise the object and purpose of the Act would not be fulfilled."

"This consultation is mandatory and a public authority is not permitted to refuse an application pursuant to s19 if it has not occurred.....I do not accept that, initially at least, Council provided Ms Sandwell with a reasonable opportunity to consult with it in order to help her frame her assessed disclosure application in a way that would remove the ground for refusal under s19."

"In relation to whether the application is a 'fishing expedition', it is not a requirement of an assessed disclosure request that it be seeking specific known documents or be made for a purpose a public authority considers worthy. Applicants often will not know the precise documents a public authority holds and may seek all information on a topic of interest. Provided the size of the application is not unreasonable or the effort to respond to the request unmanageable, 'fishing' is an entirely permissible use of the right to information system."

"I can see that Council has identified over 500,000 records as being responsive to the individual search terms 'differential', 'resolution', and 'rates'. It seems that this large volume of documents, identified as responsive to these single word search terms, is the primary basis for Council relying on s19 to refuse to process It is not surprising that single word searches on Council's document management system resulted in such vast amounts of documents being identified by Council, especially for terms like 'rates'. I am not satisfied by the lack of further steps taken by Council to try to remove the need for refusal under s19. After the single word searches identified so many documents, I would have expected Council to refine its search....."

Administration Response to Notice of Motion

Discussion

The City's operational capability, statutory compliance and associated cultural behaviours regarding Right to Information Act 2008 has been on a continuous improvement trajectory since mid-2022. These improvements have taken many forms, are ongoing, and are further detailed within this document per the intent of the Motion.

Given the depth and breadth of the detail contained within the Administrative response it is respectfully submitted that a further report to the November ordinary meeting is not required.

The Council has been previously advised as to the operation and oversight for the Right to Information Act. The Act appoints the City's CEO as the 'Principal Officer,' who in turn has a discretion to appoint delegated officers. The Principal Officer's decisions and administrative actions can be the subject of external review by the office of the Tasmanian Ombudsman. Councillors have no express, or implied, function or power to either oversee the administration of the Right to Information Act or to direct the CEO (or a delegate) as to how to exercise their delegations.

Councillors also lack a head of power to seek to review or otherwise critique individual decisions of either the Principal Officer or their delegates, that power is reserved exclusively for the Ombudsman.

Councillors, as a collective, do have a general function via the operation of the Local Government Act 1993 to monitor the performance of the CEO given he is their (sole) employee in accordance with the terms of their employment.

That function stops short of reviewing or otherwise intervening in the operational execution of the CEO's statutory delegation under the Right to Information Act and merely provides a mechanism for councillors to enquire as to generic matters, such as resourcing etc.

Prior to mid-2022 the City's assessment of RTI Applications (an Application) was decentralised (and had been for many years) with each division of the organisation having one or more delegated officers.

This approach was problematic as it did not provide for the centralised oversight and management of Applications, training and development nor inherent conflicts of interest where potential existed for officers to assess materials for release that they had helped to create.

A further issue relates to the City's information and record management systems and an ad hoc approach to the uploading and archiving of council documents. These issues are being addressed as part of a broader Digital Information Strategy, with regular reports to the Council.

In September 2022 the Director of City Enablers (now Corporate Services), Manager of Legal & Corporate Governance and Manager Information & Technology Services set about developing a framework to address these legacy issues and sequentially drive modernise their processes.

In no order, the following improvements were identified:

1. Centralise all RTI collation, assessment, record keeping and decision-making under the Manager of Legal & Corporate Governance – completed.

2. Adopt an organisational 'pro-disclosure' mindset when assessing RTI Applications and wherever possible simply provide the relevant material as a courtesy (an accordance with the objects of the RTI Act) rather than forcing the public, or councillors, to resort to needing to lodge an RTI – ongoing.
3. Adopt an organisational 'pro-disclosure' mindset to the management of the City's EM Requests where all information that is relevant to a councillors' statutory duties and functions is made readily available – ongoing. The City has processed more than 1000 EM requests per year since the system's inception.
4. Modification and amendment of the City's Fees and Charges Schedule to allow for over-the-counter disclosure of uncontroversial administrative records for either an administrative fee (reflective of the cost to ratepayers) or at no cost per the Hardship Policy.
5. Development and approval of an 'Information Disclosure Policy (and procedures)', October 2024.
6. Develop an IT capability to conduct an IT 'scrape' for relevant records from the City's electronic records, such as TRIM, Hub, Outlook and associated systems - completed
7. Deliver training for key staff and councillors as to their obligations under the RTI Act and that all records created and/or stored on a City issued device or system are the property of the City and must be brought forward for collation and assessment – ongoing.
8. Develop an electronic RTI payment gateway where applications, the associated fee, or waiver request can be lodged electronically – about to go live.
9. Create a new centralised 'rti@hobartcity email, linked to the payment gateway to centralise correspondence between applicants and the City – delivered.
10. Migrate the storage of and associated record management for RTIs to SharePoint, which links the @rti email and e-payment portal – delivered.
11. The delegation of two additional RTI officers. The City now has five delegated officers, which is believed to be the most for any Tasmanian council – delivered.
12. All delegated officers have undertaken relevant training with the office of the Ombudsman in the past year – ongoing.
13. The development of a real time RTI 'dashboard' to allow for the collation and exporting of relevant statistics for the DoJ, Ombudsman or officer reports.

Regards some of the quotes and statistics provided in the preamble for the Motion it should be noted that one of the quotes was from a third-party hired to manage an Application pertaining to the cable-car. That Application pre-dates the life of this term of the Council and is by no means a typical application.

The associated comments do not reflect the views of the City's delegated officers.

The Motion also notes that the City has been the subject of 12 external reviews since 2022, with 11 decisions that were at least partly adverse to the City's first instance decision.

The Department of Justice (DoJ) provides annual statistics for such matters. Their 2022-23 Annual Report shows at page 33 that 4 of the City's decisions were received for external review that year with the Ombudsman electing to review two of those decisions. It's further noted that the same report at page 23 shows that the City received 37 Applications that year. Of those 25 saw the 'information provided in full,' a further 9 saw material provided 'in part.' 20 of the Applications were determined within 20 working days (per page 28) a further 15 were concluded more than 20 days, noting that the parties had mutually agreed to 'stop the clock.'

For the 2023-24-year DoJ's Annual Report details (at page 36) that 6 Applications were referred for external review to the Ombudsman, who elected to review 4 of those decisions. The same report notes at page 27 that the City received 41 applications with 25 of those determined. Of those 25 decisions, 8 occurred within 20 business days, 17 occurred outside of 20 working days and a further 3 were determined outside of 20 working days on account of the parties stopping the clock.

It should be noted that several Applications straddle more than one financial year. This is usually on account of either an agreement to 'stop the clock' while the parties seek to refine the search terms or negotiate how to best interrogate a significant number of search results, the 'cable car' Application referenced earlier is one such example.

It's also noted that the Ombudsman can hand down the findings of an external review in a subsequent financial year to the one where the City made a first instance decision. This can skew reporting statistics to elevate the raw numbers of external reviews for the subsequent year. In the event of an inconsistency between the City's statistics and the Ombudsman's it's understood that the DoJ adopts the Ombudsman's statistics.

Officers are presently compiling statistics for the 2024-25 year (this will be the final year where this remains a manual process. Council received 30 Applications for the financial year, which is 11 lower than the year before. Officers also 'triaged' around a further 10 'requests,' which were satisfied via proactive disclosure without the need to invoke the Right to Information Act.

The City is not required to externally report upon matters resolved via mutual agreement outside of the RTI framework, however, it is clear that this has increased over the last six months or so.

Anecdotal evidence, along with the draft 2024-25 DoJ statistics show that the reforms initiated since mid-2022 are starting to bear fruit with a commensurate decline in the number of RTI applications being received.

Officers do not doubt the numbers provided in the preamble for the Motion but they do not readily accord with the published statistics. This may be an accounting discrepancy of calendar years vs financial year.

The CEO and relevant staff are presently working on the delivery of the next aspect of a series of corporate governance improvements, which will most likely take the form of a regular 'governance report' for elected members, this will capture a series of metrics, inclusive of RTI's, exported from the electronic 'dashboards' that are presently under development and will be the subject of a further report in due course.

Strategic, Legislative and Policy Implications

Capital City Strategic 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.
Outcome:	8.2 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
Strategy:	8.2.7 Ensure risks and legal processes are identified and managed effectively to achieve organisational priorities and strategic objectives and legislative requirements.

Legislation and Policy

Legislation:	Right to Information Act 2009 and Local Government Act 1993
Policy:	Information (and Procedures) Policy 2024.

Financial Implications

1. N/A

19. Council Representatives - Wellington Park Management Trust
File Ref: F25/77700

Councillor John Kelly

Motion

"That the decision made by Elected Members at the Council meeting of 25 August 2025 to elect Council's members to the Wellington Park Management Trust (WPMT) be rescinded and that a new vote that elects only Elected Members be conducted at the Council meeting of 27 October 2025."

Rationale:

"Prior to Elected Members voting on the Council's future members on the WPMT in August, important information provided to Elected Members to inform their decision was incorrect and/or misleading, impacting the appropriateness of the decision from a governance perspective.

Firstly, the WPMT's Governance Policy requires members to act in the "best interests of the Trust as a whole" and to "avoid conflicts of interest". When asked by the Lord Mayor during debate at the August meeting who the CEO would be representing if they were to be appointed to the WPMT, the CEO advised that they would "always represent the Council". This response is appropriate given the CEO is employed by the Council and has an obligation through the nature of their employment to always act in the best interests of the Council. This misalignment raises conflict of interest and broader governance issues as the CEO is obligated to act in the best interests of the Council (including its ratepayers). This is particularly the case as the Council is the landlord of the park and spends approximately \$5M per annum on its maintenance.

Secondly, during the meeting it was incorrectly implied that the Glenorchy City Council General Manager is currently a primary member of the WPMT representing the Glenorchy City Council. In reality, the Glenorchy General Manager is the deputy member and rarely in attendance. Whilst it may technically be possible for the CEO to be a Member there will be many instances where there will be clear conflict of interest situations for the CEO, especially given the major reviews that are currently being conducted."

Administration Response to Notice of Motion**Discussion**

The recommendation to include the CEO as one of the representatives on the Trust was supported by the Executive Leadership Team and was purely based upon the operational needs of the Council as there is a great deal of work happening in respect to the future of the mountain and it made sense that the CEO be included on the Trust to provide a full view of these issues.

It is very common for councils in Tasmania to appoint an Elected Member and a Senior Officer to representative roles on organisations, where there are two positions available.

The Trust pointed out to the Council in its correspondence to invite nominations that the Council could nominate a member of staff.

The reality of this situation is that the interests of the Trust and the City of Hobart are strongly aligned, which is to achieve the best possible outcomes for kunanyi/ Mount Wellington and the broader Wellington Park. There would be few matters that would arise whereby the knowledge and experience of the Council's CEO would not be beneficial for the Trust. Any conflicts of interest that may arise due to the CEO's employment at the City of Hobart would also exist for an Elected Member in the same situation. Accordingly, potential conflicts between the City of Hobart and the Trust would not be reason enough to disqualify the CEO from performing as a representative on the committee. Additionally, there are governance processes on the Trust to manage conflicts of interest by either the CEO or Elected Members if they are representatives.

The appointment of the Glenorchy representative is not really a relevant consideration for the City of Hobart, given that we have two representatives and significantly more financial and operational responsibilities on the Mountain. The relevant professional advice was provided in the agenda report. The fact that a question was answered incorrectly during the meeting would not be reason enough to rescind a Council decision on the matter.

Given the motion calls for the Council to rescind its decision of 25 August 2025, an absolute majority vote will be required.

Strategic, Legislative and Policy Implications

Capital City Strategic 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.
Outcome:	8.1 - Hobart is a city that is well governed that recognises the community as an active partner that informs decisions.
Strategy:	8.1.2 - Ensure the needs of the community are well represented through effective advocacy and strong collaborative partnerships with key stakeholders and all levels of government.

Legislation and Policy

Legislation: *Local Government Act 1993*

Policy: Wellington Park Management Trust Governance Policy

Financial Implications

1. There are no financial implications arising as a result of this motion.

20. Plumbing and PlanBuild
File Ref: F25/77701

Councillor Louise Elliot

Motion

“That officers prepare a report for Council's consideration at its November meeting (or before) that outlines:

- the current situation in relation to plumbing permits and service standards, including in relation to processing timeframes and complaints
- the setting of improvement targets and associated timelines for achievement
- a communication and education strategy focused on improving the experience for users of the Council's plumbing services
- the current status of issues associated with PlanBuild and actions that will be taken to improve useability of the system.”

Rationale:

“Issues have been identified in relation to the Council's plumbing service that require attention. Given the seriousness of our City's housing situation, it is imperative that all obstacles and frustrations that the Council contributes to the hindering housing development are addressed.

The current situation requires urgent attention as a recent survey coordinated by Cr Elliot has shown that around 70 percent of plumbers are avoiding work in Hobart local government area or refusing work in Hobart. Around 50 per cent of plumbers are charging extra for plumbing work they perform in Hobart, mostly due to frustrations with working with our Council and PlanBuild.

Cr Elliot has been discussing these issues with the CEO and work to address these issues has started. Given the significance of the issues in relation to not only housing, but also Council's reputation, this is a matter that Council should be informed about and have high level oversight of. ”

Administration Response to Notice of Motion**Discussion**

1. A comprehensive response to the issues raised is provided below and officers are of the view that a further report is not warranted in the circumstances.

The current situation in relation to plumbing permits and service standards, including in relation to processing timeframes and complaints

2. Officers acknowledge that we have not been not meeting all statutory timeframes for plumbing, however, it should be acknowledged that few Councils do.

3. There have been some resource limitations within the team responsible for completing assessments which has impacted on the turnaround time for assessments.
4. Additionally, the transition to PlanBuild late in 2024 has resulted in a backlog of application assessments as officers adjusted to newly introduced processes. The implementation resulted in significant changes to existing workflows, requiring additional time for officers to familiarise themselves with the updated system.
5. To address this, we have:
 - a. recruited another plumbing inspector to assist our capacity to assess applications, which was approved through the organisational realignment in 2024 and he is due to start on 27 October 2025. The need for an additional inspector was identified some 7 months ago, however staff shortages within this field has resulted in a lengthy recruitment and selection period;
 - b. commenced a Developer Forum process which is aimed at bringing the industry stakeholders together to assist the Council to understand and focus on Council processes that require improvements;
 - c. undertaken an innovation-based workshop with staff in April 2025 to identify ways to make our development processes more efficient and effective for us and for applicants;
 - d. identified numerous process changes specific to the plumbing team which were co-designed with that team in early June 2025, and have been implemented since that time; and
 - e. engaged with the Consumer Building and Occupational Services (CBOS) regarding the need for uplift in the capability of the industry.
6. The process changes have made a difference to the assessment times. It is expected that the additional team member will enable the team to improve the percentage of applications determined within statutory timeframes and better meet community expectations.
7. The process improvements have been effective and since July 2025, the assessment timeframes are as follows:
 - (a) 83% of applications were approved within the legislative timeframe; and
 - (b) the average processing time for applications that exceeded the legislative timeframe was 29 days (1 day in excess of the time to issue a certificate of likely compliance and plumbing permit).
8. It is important with plumbing that the regulations are met. City of Hobart officers take pride carrying out their assessments to ensure that the end user, homeowners, are protected, which is ultimately what their role is intended to do.

9. The challenge with working in the Hobart municipality can be that with more infill and more heritage properties, all development can be more complex than a “greenfield” site in other municipalities. This makes applications more complicated and assessments can take more time.
10. While the *Building Act 2016* does provide a prescribed period for determining applications, the Act also requires the Council to be satisfied as to certain matters specified in the Act. While officers aim to assess applications in the time period specified, it is not always possible for officers to undertake the assessment of these matters within the prescribed period. If officers are not satisfied as to the matters in the Act, they must refuse the application. Officers work with applicants to ensure an application can be approved but this often requires time additional to the prescribed period. If an applicant is not willing to wait for officers to complete an application outside the prescribed period, he/she has the option of making an application to the Tasmanian Civil and Administrative Tribunal. It is extremely rare that officers refuse an application and work hard with applicants to ensure an application can be approved, notwithstanding this has impacts on the statutory timeframes.

The setting of improvement targets and associated timelines for achievement

11. The aim is to meet statutory timeframes or, if feasible, to better those timeframes. This depends on resourcing.
12. It is noted that there have been additional resources for both:
 - f. the Stormwater and Waterways Group (noting that there is often a link between the issues dealt with by that team and the plumbing team), which is now at full capacity for the first time in many years; and
 - g. the Permit Team, for a new full-time plumber. The need for an additional plumber was identified as part of the realignment in late 2024. A new plumber has been recruited and is expected to start on 27 October 2025.

A communication and education strategy focused on improving the experience for users of the Council's plumbing services

13. As alluded to above, on 19 March 2025, officers held a developer forum with representative bodies from across the development sector. The focus of that event was to provide updates to the industry and to receive feedback on any changes in our processes that the industry would like to see.
14. On that occasion, the CEO spoke on the need for us to engage with industry so that we could understand what we are doing well and where we need to improve.

15. Updates and feedback opportunities were provided for:

- h. PlanBuild, with representatives from the Department of Justice present;
- i. Stormwater and waterways;
- j. Planning; and
- k. Building and plumbing.

16. Unfortunately, the Master Plumbers Association (MPA) did not send a representative on that occasion.

17. Officers met with the Industry Engagement Officer from MPA in August 2025. This role involves collecting data on issues affecting the Plumbing Industry. At no time were these issues identified or raised, with the focus on ways to support the industry to understand and use PlanBuild.

18. The CEO and Director Strategic and Regulatory Services have a meeting with the MPA on 24 October 2025.

19. A further developer forum is currently being planned in November 2025. This is in addition to other discussions with the CEO, Director, Manager and Program leaders, as requested by any individual or organisation.

20. In terms of education, the City of Hobart has had some discussions with the regulator of the plumbing industry, CBOS. We have raised our concerns about the poor quality of applications we have been receiving for plumbing, which leads to more time being spent by our plumbing inspectors to clarify the scope of works and ensure that they have been appropriately signed off.

21. The common issues include:

1. Failure to comply with Director's Specified List and/or critical details missing and/or very poor quality of documentation including:
 - Not including basic information on plans (eg north points, scale).
 - Inaccurate plans (eg not correctly showing what is to be demolished or the extent of works on the site, labelling plans incorrectly, not showing chimneys, not showing materials / colours / finishes, not ensuring floor plans and elevations match).
 - Site plans that don't show the context, street names or make it clear where on the site the works are proposed.
 - Inconsistencies between application documents and/or simple mistakes that require correcting.
 - Updating plans without updating the revision number or reference; not clearly stating when new information supersedes old; and not properly ensuring new information doesn't include superseded details.

2. Forms not being filled in correctly, for example, form 35 – TasWater Declaration incorrectly completed.
3. Changing the design when lodging for the plumbing permit making it inconsistent with planning permit and not identifying or explaining the change.
4. Changing the design between lodging for building approval and lodging for plumbing approval or vice versa making it inconsistent with the associated approval and not identifying or explaining the changes and/or seeking to amend the associated approval.
5. Licensed building services providers providing certification outside the scope of their accreditation (for example, certifying performance solutions when licence is restricted to deemed to satisfy).
6. Lack of understanding of legislative requirements by licensed building services providers.
7. Failing to satisfy planning permit conditions prior to approvals under *Building Act 2016* being sought.
8. Plumbers failing to book all mandatory inspections listed on permit.
9. Final plumbing inspections booked when works incomplete and relying on Council officers to advise what work is required to be done to receive a completion certificate.
10. Plumbers not lodging a start of works prior to commencing of works (roof plumbers in particular).
11. Works commenced without relevant permits.

22. We will continue to work with CBOS to support the industry on these issues and others. We understand that CBOS is currently undertaking some work in this space.

The current status of issues associated with PlanBuild and actions that will be taken to improve useability of the system

23. PlanBuild is a development portal and assessment system used by the City of Hobart to process its planning, building and plumbing applications, along with related matters. The system has been developed by the Department of Justice (DoJ). It was hoped that it would become a statewide system to create a uniform process for applicants, regardless of which municipality they were working in.
24. City of Hobart went live with PlanBuild in August 2024. Despite working closely with DoJ prior to the adoption of this software and significant testing by our officers, the launch of the software was very difficult for officers and applicants.

We employed a temporary staff member for approximately 6 months just to support the industry. The IT project team was required to provide continual support for much longer than anticipated.

25. In November 2024, representatives of the City of Hobart and DoJ held a meeting so that we could express our significant concerns about the way the system operated and the need for further functionality to be rolled out to allow us to assess applications efficiently and effectively. Those changes have not been made to the system.

26. In the following months, representatives of DoJ and the software developer met with teams at the City of Hobart for “user experience” sessions so that they could better understand what it was like day-to-day using the software and identify changes to improve the operation. Those changes have not been made to the system.

27. In July 2025, representatives of the City of Hobart and DoJ held a meeting so that we could express our ongoing concern at the lack of functionality, inefficient operation and failure to make changes to the system that had been agreed. We reiterated the daily challenges using the system. Other than an exchange of correspondence about potential improvements to the system, no changes have been made following that meeting.

28. There are over 200 changes that have been identified that need to be made to the system, by City of Hobart officers, members of the public and other users. While there have been some changes made since August 2024, those changes have been minimal and do not bring the system to an acceptable standard for our use.

29. This issue is currently under review by our CEO. It is noted that changing to a new system would be costly and take time. While it is tempting to commence this process, we remain of the view that the premise for PlanBuild as a statewide system has merit, but this does require significantly more resources and prioritisation from DoJ in order to succeed.

Strategic, Legislative and Policy Implications

Capital City Strategic Plan

Pillar: 8 Governance and Civic Involvement

Outcome: 8.2 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.

Strategy: 8.2.3 Increase the efficiency and effectiveness of service delivery across the organisation and improve services, project management and asset planning.

Legislation and Policy

Legislation: *Building Act 2016*

Policy: No policies are relevant to this notice of motion.

Financial Implications

1. No financial implications arise from this notice of motion.

21. Friends of Soldiers Memorial Avenue - Letter
File Ref: F25/77702

Councillor John Kelly and Alderman Marti Zucco

Motion

“That the Lord Mayor, on behalf of the Council, write to the Friends of Soldiers Memorial Avenue committee to express our regret for the hurt and disappointment the comments of an individual elected member has caused, and to make clear that those comments do not reflect the views of the collective Council. Further, the letter offers the Council's sincere thanks to the Friends for their enduring leadership, advocacy and stewardship of the Avenue, and advise that officers will be in contact about organising a briefing and tour.”

Rationale:

“The Friends of Soldiers Memorial Avenue have shown remarkable leadership, care and compassion over many years and their disappointment and concern regarding recent comments and inaccuracies is understandable.

The attached correspondence from the President of the Friends of Soldiers Memorial Avenue outlines their concerns and gives the facts as to Council's ownership of the land, the plaques and the trees as well as the being the asset managers.”

Administration Response to Notice of Motion**Discussion**

Prior to receiving this Motion, Council officers responded to the Friends of Soldiers Memorial Avenue (FOSMA) regarding the matters raised in their correspondence dated 13 October 2025. The response acknowledged FOSMA's concerns following the Council meeting held on 29 September 2025 and reaffirmed Council's appreciation for the group's long-standing leadership, advocacy, and stewardship of Soldiers Memorial Avenue.

The response also recommended that Council officers work with FOSMA to coordinate a workshop and briefing session, including a site tour of the Avenue. Contact has already been made with FOSMA to initiate this process. This initiative will provide elected members with a valuable opportunity to engage directly with FOSMA and further strengthen the partnership.

Additionally, the letter highlights the collaborative history between FOSMA and Council, recognising the significant contributions made by volunteers, families, and the broader community over many years.

Strategic, Legislative and Policy Implications**Capital City Strategic Plan**

Pillar: Pillar 1 - Sense of Place

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

Strategy: 1.1.1 - Protect and enhance, core elements of Hobart identity – Kunanyi / Mount Wellington, timtumili minanya / River Derwent, natural areas, green spaces and Hobart's heritage, culture and human scale – so they continue to be valued as central features of Hobart's landscape and social fabric

Legislation and Policy

Legislation: N/A

Policy: N/A

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications arising from this motion.

Attachment A: FOSMA letter to Michael Stretton CoH, 13 October 2025

Friends of Soldiers Memorial Avenue Inc.

Postal Address: GPO Box 1867, Hobart 7001
Telephone: John Wadsley, President - 0417 487 289
Email: wadsley@bigpond.com Web: www.soldiersmemorialvenue.org.au



13 October 2025

Mr Michael Stretton
City of Hobart
Town Hall
HOBART TAS 7000

cc: Lord Mayor and Councillors

Dear Mr Stretton,

SOLDIERS MEMORIAL AVENUE

On behalf of the Committee and membership of FOSMA, I would like to thank Council for its recent decision at their meeting on 29 September 2025 to provide funds towards the restoration of the stolen plaques on Soldiers Memorial Avenue. As well as support from Council, a number of RSL sub-branches and ex-service organisations have made donation commitments as was noted in the Council agenda report. FOSMA will also be contributing funding towards the restoration cost of the plaques via current and previous family donations.

APCO Engineering has been given the go-ahead to proceed with the work to replace/refurbish the plaques/number plates at a cost of \$14,217. The installation of these plaques on existing concrete plinths will be a combined effort by FOSMA volunteers, APCO staff and Council crews. We will be working closely with your Open Space Team.

However, while viewing the recent meeting it seems some councillors have serious misconceptions about FOSMA, the Avenue, and Council's ongoing responsibilities. Of particular concern were comments from Councillor Posselt who stated that '*I feel there is no money here whatsoever from armed services or from the military...*' and '*These are inherently military memorials.*' Councillor Posselt's comments were factually incorrect and a read of the Council Agenda clearly confirmed the contributions provided from other organisations.

The comments that the Avenue is a 'military memorial' highlight a lack of knowledge of the history of the Avenue, its conception by Council, grieving families and the local community 107 years ago, and its restoration over the last 24 years. The Avenue is a living memorial to men from Hobart who made the ultimate sacrifice and it is clear that Councillors Zucco and Kelly understand the value and significance of the Avenue in comments they made at the Council meeting. The Avenue is ultimately a commemorative public space for the citizens of Hobart.

I make the following comments to clear up the misconceptions that were aired both by staff and Councillors at the 29 September 2025 meeting:

Asset Management: The Avenue is on Council land; the trees and plaques are Council assets. FOSMA is a community group and we do not 'own' anything. All our efforts have been under Council supervision with Council permission. The 2004 Management Plan made clear that for the purposes of restoration FOSMA was taking on research and fundraising as part of a partnership in support of a Council asset. Council's Director David Reeve was incorrect stating at the meeting that the plaques are not Council-owned.

In the 1930s, the Council replaced the original name boards (paid for by Council) with zinc name plates which were hung from the trees with chains. Progressively over the decades the Council also replaced dead trees with families also contributing.

Significantly the Council undertook to replace trees destroyed by the creation of the Domain tip in the 1960s. Council accepted that it had the responsibility to replace those trees and identifying name plates. However, that promise was not fulfilled until the restoration works in 2008 around what is now referred to as the Soldiers Memorial Oval.

Shared Stewardship: Over the past 24 years, to my recollection, there has never been a debate over ownership of trees or plaques because FOSMA and Council have always approached this as a shared project, knowing that Council is the ultimate asset manager with FOSMA undertaking the *stewardship* role of researching the Avenue's history and coordinating plaque dedications with many descendants and the local community.

It has been Council that has driven and set the bounds of Management Plans and reviews, as well as setting the physical bounds of the Avenue.

Community Memorial: Councillor Posselt suggested the Avenue was a military memorial and Council should not be required to fund the restoration. These comments were disrespectful as an elected member and disappointing to say the least. The Avenue was created in 1918 and 1919 by the Hobart Council (and also the New Town Council) *who invited residents* in Hobart and New Town to apply for a tree to commemorate a family member who had died in service. It was a project born of the community's deep desire to honour the men from Hobart who died serving Australia in the Great War.

The Avenue also gave expression to the Hobart community's sense of loss. Council contributed the original plaques and trees on the Avenue, not the army, not the government. Further, there was no false boundary between Council and community. The son of a Lord Mayor, the two brothers and cousin of a Deputy Lord Mayor, the brother of the longest serving Town Clerk and four council employees are commemorated on the Avenue.

FOSMA's Contribution: Over 24 years FOSMA has provided much support to Council in restoring the Avenue to its rightful place as Hobart's most significant war memorial alongside the Cenotaph. Countless volunteer hours have been spent by FOSMA members to date: through working bees to clear unwanted vegetation; researching soldiers and tracing descendants; casting and installation of plaques; producing two editions of a brochure and a website; the ongoing cleaning of plaques before every Anzac Day and Remembrance Day; regular tours of the Avenue for school and community groups; presentations to varied groups on the history of the Avenue and its restoration; and acting as an advocate when the Avenue was threatened by inappropriate development.

It has been estimated that FOSMA members and supporters have probably provided between 10,000 and 12,000 hours to the Avenue over the past 24 years. At your meeting, Councillor Kelly commended the efforts of FOSMA and that our contribution significantly benefits Hobart and the local community as well as Council as the land manager. In addition, Council was able to contract both Work for the Dole and Green Corps for basic ground works on the Avenue.

Donations and Grants: Since its formation in 2001, FOSMA has actively sought the financial support of government, local businesses, community organisations and descendants in helping to restore the Avenue and to help pay for the creation and installation of plaques. In fact, FOSMA has obtained significant financial support from the State RSL Branch and various sub-branches, State Government, the Tassal Group, Department of Veterans Affairs, Centenary of Anzac, Tasmanian Community Fund, Saluting Their Service Grants Program, many local business, as well as hundreds of donations from descendants, FOSMA members and the wider community. And the City of Hobart has contributed too, through grants, as well as its ongoing annual commitment to maintenance and upkeep of the Avenue, tree propagation and planting.

ALL THE SUPPORT mentioned above has been directed to the clear purpose of restoring and preserving the Avenue. The totality of that support, both monetary and in-kind, is now probably well over \$1,000,000. That funding directly supports Council in its work as the land and asset manager on the Queens Domain.

Project Leverage: It was acknowledged by Council and bodies such as the Parks Forum that the restoration process was a copybook successful partnership between Council and its community. Further, it should not be forgotten that funding for the Bridge of Remembrance and Legacy Park was leveraged from the restoration of the Avenue as a community partnership.

Don't forget the *Tree Widows* theatrical production on the Avenue in 2016, which received much acclaim. Dark MOFO used the Avenue in 2019 as a key part of its installations on the Domain. In recent years Council has developed its City to Gardens Way project, which utilises the Avenue for a substantial portion. None of those projects would have been possible without a restored Avenue and FOSMA support.

Yet, given all that positive action, it is disappointing to note that the Avenue is not included on the Council website as a significant memorial directly connected to the Cenotaph, or even mentioned as intimately linked to Legacy Park. Once referred to as the 'southern spine of the Domain' from which all else hung, it does not seem to figure in Council's Way Finding promotions apart from a cursory mention. It does not appear in the list of Parks and Reserves, even though it has such multi-use benefits as a walking path, a cycle path, a nature trail, a commuting path, a connection to many sites on the Domain and, most importantly, as a community memorial to the unending sadness that was wrought by the Great War.

The Soldiers Memorial Avenue is one of the largest commemorative avenues planted around Australia and one of the very few located in a park environment, not on a roadway. It is probably the best preserved and restored of those. It should be promoted as a key visitor attraction, not only for its history but as a shining example of a successful multi-use space. It could be rightfully lauded as a substantial jewel in Hobart's heritage crown, yet based on the Council website the average visitor would remain ignorant of its existence.

Given the commentary at the recent meeting, I would like to offer all councillors a briefing on the Avenue and FOSMA's work. It has been suggested that such a briefing could be included as part of your regular councillor/senior managers workshops. It would be appreciated if this could be seriously considered so we can address the issues detailed above in the near future. Such briefings should also be part of inductions for new councillors after the next local government elections in 2026.

I would also like to offer a short tour of the Avenue for councillors and senior managers at a convenient time, so that they can witness first-hand the significance and meaning of this State heritage listed memorial. The timing of such a tour would be to the convenience of the Lord Mayor, councillors and yourself and could be combined with a workshop.

FOSMA has worked hard to develop a close relationship with Council over many years. Yet it is clear we need to engage more with those who have joined Council in recent years. I look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely,



John Wadsley
PRESIDENT

22. Macquarie Point Stadium Project
File Ref: F25/77705

Councillor Mike Dutta

Motion

“That:

1. Given the Tasmanian Planning Commission's unequivocal independent expert advice to not proceed with a stadium at Macquarie Point, the Hobart City Council calls upon the Tasmanian Government and all state MP's:
 - i. To vote against the order for approval of the Macquarie Point Stadium, when it comes before the Parliament;
 - ii. To vote for a motion requesting that the government renegotiate with the AFL Board to explore revised terms and conditions for the project, and;
 - iii. Urge the Tasmanian Government to consider the range of alternative options for building a stadium that better meets the needs of the community and ensures financial sustainability of the state's budget.
2. The Council request the CEO to:
 - i. Investigate Council-owned land that may be suitable for the development of the Aboriginal Culturally Informed Zone, given that the Government's stadium plans have removed the option of this becoming a reality at Mac Point.
3. The Council delegate authority to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to negotiate a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the State Government regarding the Macquarie Point Stadium project and any related projects (i.e- Northern Access Road) subject to:
 - i. Council ratification, should the project proceed to development, and;
 - ii. The CEO providing regular progress updates to elected members.
4. The MOU shall prioritise the protection of the City's interests and ensure tangible benefits to the community.
 - iii. Key points to be addressed in the MOU include:
 - a. Traffic and transportation addressing traffic and transportation concerns, including parking, access, and public transport, with any traffic management plan requiring the approval of Council;
 - b. Whether any Council-owned land is required by the State Government for the Macquarie Point Stadium project;

- c. Steps council may need/ want to take to manage during construction period and the potential impacts on city businesses, decline of visitation on city heritage brand;
 - d. Council's role as an asset owner of local roads, footpaths and carparks, stormwater and lighting
 - e. infrastructure;
 - f. associated costs, including development, and ongoing maintenance;
 - g. as an advocate representing a range of different community views on issues such as Aboriginal cultural values
 - h. And any other points which are appropriate.
5. The Proponents (MPDC) be informed that the City of Hobart has a Good Neighbour Agreement with the residents nearby to the McRobies Gully Waste Management Centre, which seeks to minimise truck movements and noise disturbance to residents. As such, the acceptance of any fill material from the project would be restricted to the amount specified in the current Environmental Protection Notice and would need to be managed on-site to minimise truck movements to the Centre."

Rationale:

"Acknowledging the fact that the Tasmanian Planning Commission's (Report 15 September 2025), unequivocal independent expert advice recommended against proceeding with the Macquarie Point Stadium project.

Noting that the Council's decision is guided by the independent expert advice provided by the Tasmanian Planning Commission, which recommends that the Macquarie Point Stadium project should not proceed due to the significant disadvantages outweighing the benefits.

Highlighting some of the points made by the Panel are indeed damaging, for example:

"The stadium...through its size, scale and form- will be dominant...It will irrevocably change, for the worse ...the way in which the landscape and urban pattern is appreciated and understood ".

"The size, shape and location of the site is ill- suited to a building like the stadium- a singular, large, bulky monolith which will overwhelm those surrounding buildings and setting".

"...the stadium will have very significant adverse impacts on a number of places, the most significant being the Cenotaph, the Royal Engineers Building and buildings along Hunter Street".

"In addition, the Project represents a significant net cost and will diminish the economic welfare of Tasmanians as a whole, and it offers almost no scope for the site to become a vibrant active place that is attractive to visit outside of major event mode"

"In very simple terms, the stadium is too big for the site and the benefits it will bring are significantly outweighed by the disbenefits it creates".

Being aware that the Commission's report highlights concerns regarding the project's impacts, and that it is the Council's responsibility to carefully consider these findings and prioritise the interests of the community

Additionally highlighting that, "The City of Hobart does not support the multi-purpose stadium (The Stadium) being built at this location, as the negative impacts outweigh the positive benefits"

Recognising the various roles the Hobart City Council plays in regards to the Project including:

- as the Council of the municipality in which the proposed development is located;
- as an asset owner of local roads, footpaths and parks, stormwater and lighting infrastructure;
- as an adjoining landowner to the declared project land area;
- as the body this is responsible for the future strategic land use planning agenda for the City;
- as the responsible Agency that has considerable experience in assessing and managing planning applications for major developments including the enforcement of complex permit conditions; and
- as an advocate representing a range of different community views on issues such as Aboriginal cultural values".

Therefore, noting that the City of Hobart Council voted to oppose the stadium project at this location due to the negative impacts outweighing the benefits. And as Council, we have multiple roles: managing local infrastructure, landowner, planner, and advocate for our community, it is incumbent upon us as elected members to oppose the stadium project."

Administration Response to Notice of Motion

Discussion

The Council's current position on the Macquarie Point Stadium is best summed up by its submission to the Tasmanian Planning Commission in response to the draft Integrated Assessment Report for the Macquarie Point Multipurpose Stadium Project of State Significance. At its 28 April 2025 meeting, Council concluded that:

‘... it does not support this project being built at this location, as the negative impacts outweigh the positive benefits. In summary, Council has consistently maintained that the stadium will result in:

- significant damage to places of heritage significance (including the Hunter Street precinct and Cenotaph) and Hobart’s heritage tourism brand;*
- the lost opportunity, of what will be an inactive precinct for most of the year, in a prime and strategic location for the City;*
- significant environmental concerns, as raised by the EPA in their submission to the TPC;*
- the impact of the northern road in cutting off community access to the river;*
- the very poor process that led to this point including the AFL overriding the approved plan for Macquarie Point and the abandonment of the POSS process; and*
- the lack of critical transport infrastructure to support a functional stadium...”*

As such, the Councils current position is generally supportive of the motion.

The motion calls for the investigation of Council-owned land that may be suitable for the development of the Aboriginal Culturally Informed Zone, given that the Government's stadium plans have removed the option of this becoming a reality at Macquarie Point. The Council is advised that this action can be accommodated within existing resources.

The motion also calls for the Council delegate authority to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to negotiate a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the State Government regarding the Macquarie Point Stadium project and any related projects (i.e.- Northern Access Road) subject to Council ratification, should the project proceed to development. The CEO would also be asked to provide regular progress updates to elected members. There are a range of key points that are outlined in the motion to be addressed in the MOU.

As the Council is aware, our City Compliance Group is currently drafting an MOU with the Department of State Growth in respect to the enforcement of conditions in the event that the project is approved by the Parliament. However, this MOU is narrow in focus and does not address the range of points that are included in this motion. Should this motion be successful, Council officers would approach the State Government and request the development of an additional MOU to address the identified matters, however, the Council cannot compel the State Government to enter an MOU and it will therefore depend upon their willingness to do so.

Strategic, Legislative and Policy Implications

Capital City Strategic Plan

Pillar: Pillar 1 – Sense of Place

Pillar 2 – Community Inclusion, Participation and Belonging

	Pillar 7 – Built Environment
	Pillar 8 – Governance and Civic Involvement
Outcome:	1.2 - Hobart's cityscape reflects the heritage, culture and natural environment that make it special. 2.1 - Hobart is a place that recognises and celebrates Tasmanian Aboriginal people, history and culture, working together towards shared goals. 7.4 - Community involvement and an understanding of future needs help guide changes to Hobart's built environment. 8.1 - Hobart is a city that is well governed that recognises the community as an active partner that informs decisions.
Strategy:	1.2.3 - Ensure major project outcomes integrate with Hobart's identity and the community vision. 2.1.3 - Engage with Aboriginal people on how they want the City to work with them. 7.4.2 - Ensure transport and land use planning are integrated to deliver the best economic, social and environmental outcomes into the future. 8.1.2 - Ensure the needs of the community are well represented through effective advocacy and strong collaborative partnerships with key stakeholders and all levels of government.
Legislation and Policy	
Legislation:	N/A
Policy:	N/A
Financial Implications	
N/A	

23. RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Regulation 34(3) *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025*.
File Ref: 13-1-10

The Chief Executive Officer reports:-

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

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

RECOMMENDATION

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

23.1 Plumbing Questions

Memorandum of the Director Strategic and Regulatory Services of 22 October 2025

23.2 Weed Abatement Notice - Southern Outlet

Memorandum of the Director Infrastructure and Assets of 13 October 2025

23.3 Issue a Weed Abatement Notice - Southern Outlet

Memorandum of the Director Infrastructure and Assets of 13 October 2025

23.4 Issue Weed Abatement Notice - Brooker Highway

Memorandum of the Director Infrastructure and Assets of 13 October 2025



MEMORANDUM: LORD MAYOR
DEPUTY LORD MAYOR
ELECTED MEMBERS

PLUMBING QUESTIONS

Meeting: Council

Meeting date: 25 August 2025

Raised by: Councillor Elliot

Question:

Can the Council be advised, with urgency:

- confirmation of the legislated timeframe for granting or refusing Certificate of Likely Compliance Plumbing permits?
- How many plumbing applications have been received during this term of Council?
- How many of these applications have been approved within the legislated timeframe?
- In relation to the applications that exceeded the legislated timeframes, what was the average processing time for these applications?

Response:

The legislative timeframe for granting or refusing a Certificate of Likely Compliance for permit plumbing work is 21 days plus an additional 7 days for a plumbing permit.

Between November 2022 and September 2025, 1,121 applications for plumbing approval were received by the Council.

Due to the implementation of PlanBuild, performance data is no longer able to be generated from our application management system. This is disappointing and is in

the process of being addressed. However, Officers have manually reviewed our performance for the period January 2025 – June 2025, which has identified that:

- (a) 29% of applications were approved within the specified timeframe;
- (b) the average processing time for applications that exceeded the legislative timeframe was 47 days; and
- (c) 53% of plumbing applications lodged were subject to a request for further information.

However, improvements were made to our systems and processing in June 2025 and for the period July 2025 – October 2025, significantly improved performance has been achieved:

- (a) 83% of applications were approved within the specified timeframe;
- (b) the average processing time for applications that exceeded the legislative timeframe was 29 days; and
- (c) 60% of plumbing applications lodged were subject to a request for further information.

Officers acknowledge the need to address timeframes and the need to better meet industry expectations and approximately 7 months ago funded and commenced the process to recruit another plumbing inspector. As a result an additional, highly experienced, plumbing inspector will commence at the end of October and provide Council with more capacity in this area.

As mentioned above, internal improvements were also introduced in June 2025 and include, in particular, the way new applications are assessed. As a result, applications not subject to further information for the period July 2025 – October 2025 were assessed and an approval granted on average within 7 days. The average assessment time period for applications during this time period for all applications was 11 days.

Although officers work hard to process applications within the prescribed timeframe, achieving approval often requires additional time. Refusals are extremely rare, as officers work diligently with applicants to ensure applications can be approved, even if this impacts statutory deadlines.

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Karen'.

Karen Abey
**DIRECTOR STRATEGIC AND
REGULATORY SERVICES**

Date: 22 October 2025
File Reference: F25/65915



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

WEED ABATEMENT NOTICE - SOUTHERN OUTLET

Meeting: Council

**Meeting date: 29 September
2025**

Raised by: Councillor Harvey

Question:

Can the Chief Executive Officer confirm whether or not any abatement notice has been issued to the authorities that are responsible for the edges of the Southern Outlet?

Response:

No weed abatement notice has been issued to the authority responsible for the Southern Outlet corridor. The City's established practice is to manage weed issues on State Growth-managed land through collaborative arrangements rather than regulatory compliance measures, as this approach has proven more effective in achieving shared biosecurity outcomes.

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



David Reeve
**DIRECTOR INFRASTRUCTURE AND
ASSETS**

Date: 13 October 2025
File Reference: F25/74659



City of **HOBART**

MEMORANDUM: LORD MAYOR
DEPUTY LORD MAYOR
ELECTED MEMBERS

ISSUE A WEED ABATEMENT NOTICE - SOUTHERN OUTLET

Meeting: Council

Meeting date: 29 September
2025

Raised by: Councillor Harvey

Question:

Could the Council issue a weed abatement notice for the removal of the wall of weeds that exist on either side of the Southern Outlet?

Response:

Under the relevant Statutory Weed Management Plans, the majority of the declared weeds along the Southern Outlet corridor within the Hobart municipal area are classified as Zone B species, where the statutory objective is containment and the prevention of spread. State Growth manages the spread of these weeds through its annual operational program. For Zone A species, which require eradication, State Growth responds promptly and works cooperatively with the City to implement control measures.

While the weed growth along the Southern Outlet is conspicuous, this corridor has not been identified as a significant pathway for weed incursion into City-managed reserves or verges. Joint management with State Growth therefore focuses on targeted, risk-based interventions that deliver the greatest biosecurity benefit within available resources. The City also acknowledges that significant operational and safety constraints in this high-traffic corridor limit the feasibility of frequent control works. The City will continue to work in close partnership with State Growth to ensure priority infestations posing a biosecurity risk to City land are addressed.

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



David Reeve
**DIRECTOR INFRASTRUCTURE AND
ASSETS**

Date: 13 October 2025
File Reference: F25/74663



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

ISSUE WEED ABATEMENT NOTICE - BROOKER HIGHWAY

Meeting: Council

Meeting date: 29 September
2025

Raised by: Councillor Lohberger

Question:

Can Council issue a weed abatement notice to the managers of the Booker Highway (near the Council Depot) for the Bone Weed infestation that has been there for years?

Response:

The City recently reviewed a number of specific roadside areas within the municipality to clarify management responsibilities between the State and the City. The stretch of Brooker Highway near the Council Depot was identified as an area for which the City will assume management responsibility. The boneseed infestation at this location has been recorded for treatment, and control works will be scheduled when operationally feasible, taking into account budget considerations and the significant safety constraints associated with the site.

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'David Reeve', with a stylized, wavy line extending to the right.

David Reeve
**DIRECTOR INFRASTRUCTURE AND
ASSETS**

Date: 13 October 2025
File Reference: F25/74673

24. QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

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

33. (2) *A question asked at a meeting is to, as far as is practicable -*
- (a) be concise; and*
 - (b) be clear; and*
 - (c) not be a statement; and*
 - (d) have minimal pre-amble*

34. *Questions without notice by a Councillor*

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

25. CLOSED PORTION OF THE MEETING

RECOMMENDATION

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

- Minutes of a closed Council Meeting
- Contracts for renewal
- Information of a commercial nature
- Information of a personal nature
- Legal matters involving the Council

The following items are listed for discussion:-

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| Item No. 1 | Minutes of the last meeting of the Closed Portion of the Council Meeting |
| Item No. 2 | Communication from the Chairperson |
| Item No. 3 | Leave of Absence |
| Item No. 4 | Consideration of supplementary Items to the agenda |
| Item No. 5 | Indications of Conflicts of Interest |
| Item No. 6 | Contract Extension - Shredding Services of Green Waste at McRobies
LG(MP)R 17(2)(e) |
| Item No. 7 | Contract Extensions - Security Services
LG(MP)R 17(2)(e) |
| Item No. 8 | Risk and Audit Panel - Appointment of Independent Member
LG(MP)R 17(2)(e) and (h)(i) |
| Item No. 9 | Response to Questions without Notice |
| Item No. 9.1 | List of Legal Matters
LG(MP)R 17(2)(k) |
| Item No. 9.2 | Information given in a Statutory Declaration
LG(MP)R 17(2)(k) |
| Item No. 10 | Questions without notice |