



ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL

ATTACHMENTS TO REPORTS

17 August 2020

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**DRAFT ICEP 2020-2030****Feedback Received During Consultation**

Project	ICEP
Consultation Purpose	Draft plan for feedback
Consultation Period	05.06.20 – 26.06.20
Consultation Length	3 weeks
Total Feedback Received	25 comments

NO	DATE	TOWNSHIP	COMMENTS
1.	6/6/20	Calder	<p>Interesting exercise. Some comments: Fire management left out of mix, needs to be explicitly addressed Education is missing from Community Adaptation and Resilience If serious about environmental stewardship the game needs to be lifted a hell of a lot with regards to weed management. Past experience in this area is that "too little, too late" is the norm.</p> <p>An observation, climate change is but one aspect of the change we need to be preparing for. Another is a reduced economic prosperity brought about as a result of the slow but inexorable decline in availability of cheap oil. Oil will still be available but the cost will rise and those things we once thought cheap will become expensive and then unaffordable. Not least of those will be well padded seats for local govt officers and employees whose efficiency is less than desirable. Having watched this council squander the opportunity to employ one of the best workers I have ever come across who was already working for it, in favor of employing someone untested who could not reverse a truck and trailer to drive trucks the view that considerable improvement could be made in this area is not unreasonable. Likewise refusing to apologise for stuffing up the receipt of rates payments and then sending out rude and unwarranted demand letters shows a clear lack of understanding of the real relationship between those doing the paying and those receiving the money. If you want to be seen as an example of "sustainable" you need to be relevant and desirable in the eyes of those paying your wages, and those two examples suggest that objective is more ambition than fact. Telling farmers they need to have a plumbing permit to connect an otherwise approved effluent settling pond to their dairy shed drain system is another example of needless and insulting imposition of costs that deliver no benefit for those being imposed upon. No dairy farmer is going to flood their dairy shed with shit and they don't need a piece of paper to prevent them doing it, especially when the effluent pit is going to cost the price of a small to medium sized new car to dig.</p>

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			<p>I moved here in 1996 to address the changes I saw coming, so I am well read in this subject matter. A bit of time working in the field of disaster restoration for the insurance industry helped focus my views on this matter. I am less than impressed by the overly complicated presentation of what should be a simple document. It will be beyond the comprehension of many, if not most, of the residents of the municipality, and needlessly so. The audience is not degree qualified Council managers, it is the average citizen, and the half of the population with less ability than that. Those are the people who will be placed at greatest risk, with the least skills and resources to respond to any crisis that happens.</p> <p>The problems are that it is going to rain harder but less often, that it is going to be hotter and dryer with more wind, that there is going to be more flooding and inundation from higher tides. We will have more weed problems from existing and new species. All of this will happen at an increasing rate and in an environment where there is less money available to pay for expensive solutions. Our buildings, both public and private will need to be stronger, better maintained or they will be damaged and destroyed.</p> <p>The solutions are to tell people who may not be paying attention what is happening and why, and to present actions they can implement themselves alongside those actions that the council on the communities behalf can take to help avoid the various harms that can be predicted. Those actions will need to be taken ahead of the problems arising if disaster is to be avoided, because the economy will be increasingly unable to afford the rebuilding expenses.</p> <p>Looking forward to something a lot less wordy and more to the point as a final draft.</p>
2.	7/6/20	Oldina	<p>A very comprehensive report covering many aspects for consideration, education and further action in relation to the impact of climate change. My only criticism is at the very beginning of the report where a term is used that most will not understand: thermohaline circulation. It is not in your glossary. There is also a typo, which I would need to rediscover, where the opposite is meant to what is written. Also at the beginning there seems to be an important piece of information buried in a tiny addendum within a box which ought to be more prominent in the preamble(footnote "b" p8) Science is still taking a conservative estimate of the impact of climate change and the rapidity with which it is happening has been understated, perhaps for fear of frightening the populace. Just stating an increase in the number of warm days does not fully build the picture of what this rise in temperature really means. It's not just more pleasant days at the beach. Praise where it is due: a good quality, well researched report, clearly written. Thanks to all who contributed. A good beginning to something that must be an ongoing effort on all our parts; community, business and council</p>
3.	8/6/20	Wynyard	<p>The Environmental stewardship section of the ICEP sounds good in principle, but there's no real identification of areas where biodiversity will be considered as a priority. I'd like to see more consideration given to birdlife, particularly shore birds and migratory species. I would like to see council put in an effort to remove (not just spray with round-up),the invasive plant species along the foreshore, and work in partnership more with organisations like landcare, to remove invasive vines and things like banana passionfruit that are having a negative impact upon the native ecosystem of the foreshore. I would also like to see the foreshore area protected from the destruction of private individuals who wish to claim some sort of right to cut down the</p>

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			<p>acacias on the foreshore that are preventing erosion and providing habitat.</p> <p>Likewise, local creeks and streams require attention to rehabilitate, so they can not only promote biodiversity, but also renew the vital role they play in diverting water during flooding events.</p> <p>The coastal pathway project needs to be managed with Environmental Stewardship principles in the forefront of planning and construction decision making, to protect the few areas of remnant wildlife habitat we have</p>
4.	10/6/20	Somerset	<p>I have been thinking on how we get maximum exposure to the whole council population on climate change issues and wondered if we could hold an annual festival on a beach to welcome the penguins back (Aug/Sep)? The penguin population is greatly affected by climate change as their fish food stock moves south with the warming waters. So a festival could help us cover the broader topic and appeal to a wider segment of the population ~ and be a tourist event?</p> <p>I forgot to mention that the main issue for the penguins is the loss of nesting sites with sea level rise and more frequent storms.</p>
5.	13/6/20	Boat Harbour	<p>As a resident, and as a retired environmental and engineering consultant with post graduate qualifications in Natural Resource Management, I view this draft as a positive step in the right direction, but with limitations in scope and focus. Attached is the Draft Plan 1, with comments, omissions, and a few minor spelling/grammar corrections indicated throughout. This should be read in association with this response.</p> <p>Summary</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The document mostly has an anthropological approach, rather than an environmental approach. 2) The principle focus of the document is clearly Climate Change adaptation, which is only a portion of environmental planning. 3) It has been written with a limited understanding of climatic condition in Northwestern Tasmania, as it considers heatwave conditions as of major significance. 4) It has included preservation of Aboriginal heritage as an environmental concern, rather than a cultural heritage concern. 5) It considers that management of runoff is a water supply issue rather than a water quality issue. 6) Climate Change mitigation measures proposed are unlikely to have meaningful or significant impact, but may have a significant cost. <p>Detail</p> <p>1) The document mostly has an anthropological approach, rather than an environmental approach.</p> <p>The prime concept of this plan should ideally be to produce an attitude change throughout Council's workforce which would be reflected in processes. The "flavour" of the plan appears to be "How can we continue doing what we always do but add some things to reduce our environmental harm?". It would be far preferable to approach all of Council's activity with the question of</p>

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			<p>"How can we avoid doing harm to our environment and achieve a good result?". This is exemplified in Action 25.1 where environmental conditions are seen as constraints to our actions rather than something to be valued and preserved.</p> <p>The difference is that harmful activity could be avoided rather than repaired or mitigated. It reduces the old situation of dealing with a problem, as opposed to not having the problem in the first place. Costs are usually reduced, and everything is better all round.</p> <p>To achieve this, it is imperative to "look before you leap", and this is described in Action 1.1, and several other locations, which is excellent. However, the necessary attitude change is scarcely considered.</p> <p>An example is Action 2.1, where it seems more important to be worried about Council's reputation, rather than about what environmental harm is being done.</p> <p>2) The principle focus of the document is clearly Climate Change adaptation, which is only a portion of environmental planning.</p> <p>Climate Change adaptation is one of the main issues that needs to be addressed, as it is environmental conditions that affect our culture's survival. This Plan addresses many of the relevant issues that affect Council and the WW society, but often has neglected the preservation of the existing environment. A typical example (there are many) is Action 29.2, where climate change risk is identified, but not risk to the natural environment in asset management plans. Action 37.1 is typical, as it ignores human impact completely.</p> <p>Action under Priority 22 is entirely focussed on future climate change, whereas the impacts on the environment by Council activity are immediate.</p> <p>3) It has been written with a limited understanding of climatic condition in Northwestern Tasmania, as it considers heatwave conditions as of major significance.</p> <p>This section (and the subject matter) seems to assume that Wynyard and surrounds are similar to Melbourne. It is not, and climate changes are not forecast as becoming so. Extreme high temperatures with associated humidity are likely to occur very rarely in this part of the world, according to Tasmanian forecasts.</p> <p>4) It has included preservation of Aboriginal heritage as an environmental concern, rather than a cultural heritage concern.</p> <p>Whilst many Aboriginal sites of significance are located within parks and reserves, they are not generally considered "environmental" concerns. This section should be included in the general Council policy documents concerning preservation of heritage, but not here.</p> <p>This may be a misunderstanding of "heritage". Aboriginal occupational activity (probably focussed on burning) would have little potential impact on most of WWC area or its operations, except in RC NatPk, which is not WWC responsibility. Almost all of such activity was for access or enhancement of hunting/gathering activity, which is distinctly anthropological in purpose.</p>

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			<p>5) It considers that management of runoff is a water supply issue rather than a water quality issue. The anthropological approach has again been used. Water supply for agriculture or domestic use is a hydrological/hydrogeological engineering issue currently operated and controlled by another agency, and which climate change might affect. There is little proposed action on water quality in our streams and waterways except in Action 42.</p> <p>6) Climate Change mitigation measures proposed are unlikely to have meaningful or significant impact, but may have a significant dollar and environmental cost. Some of the measures suggested (e.g. electric cars, solar cells, etc) may not be cost effective or energy positive for many years, and their adoption could mainly be for political reasons only. Detailed unbiased studies into their effectiveness need to be performed, as is correctly suggested. Their effect on the rate of climate change would be minimal.</p> <p>Because of the concept that "nature wins every time", mitigation of coastal erosion requires a strong specific policy, and should be based on a geographic system rather than isolated property issues. Specifically, it is not really a Council issue, apart from the planning aspect.</p> <p>The inter-connectedness of coastal systems (e.g. beach/river/headland/reef/currents/wind etc.) requires expensive complex modelling PRIOR to design/construction of any physical defence, and defence measures are often only marginally successful in the medium or long term. Costs will be high, and the issue is basically State based –the shoreline is largely not Council-controlled land.</p> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>A number of the proposed measures planned by the Actions may not be addressable, except for advocacy. Many are beyond the financial capacity and/or legislative responsibility of a small mostly rural Council. It is commendable and appropriate that Council should be considering these matters, as they will affect the community. Advocacy to all levels of Government should be the main thrust of Climate Change action.</p> <p>The effects of Climate Change are current but will extend into the future. Council is wise to plan for the future, but must consider current actions as necessary to prevent the future problems becoming worse. This is the main area of the ICEP that is lacking, and it will require training and education, with an attitude change.</p>
6.	15/6/20	Sisters Beach	<p>The preservation of old growth forests is an important factor to be considered in the plan. As these forests are critical to the health of our waterways, flora, fauna, microclimates and soil preservation more emphasis should be put on their preservation. There needs to be a complete moratorium on clearing of old growth forests so we can better assess the impact of climate change on our environment and the creatures we share it with. Forestry needs to be limited to plantations only.</p> <p>Research needs to be undertaken to assess the existing and future financial benefits of these forests. For example, honey and</p>

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			other bee products are increasing in value as each year goes by and the industry employs large numbers of people. So much is at stake to us all, we need to reassess the meaning of "sustainable management of forests". Milkshakes Reserve is a perfect example of how it isn't working. The larger the area of old growth remaining, the less susceptible it is to fire and complete devastation.
7.	19/6/20	Sisters Beach	To whom it may concern. We move here approximately 5 years ago and each year we are losing more and more sand to the extent that we have lost approximately 1 metre deep of sand and now all the rocks are expose. When we expressed our concern the locals said it will come back but as of yet it keeps getting worst to the extent that we will need a rock wall to stop the erosion of our land. I would like to know how are you going to address this problem before we all start losing houses.
8.	22/6/20	Wynyard	PLEASE seriously consider doing the following - 1. Introduce registration for cats. Get rid of the cat factory in Ballad Avenue. Make it compulsory for all cats to be desexed and contained within the cat owner's property, no more roaming cats destroying birds and other precious wildlife. Make it illegal for anyone who isn't a licensed breeder to breed cats. Don't give me anymore twaddle about the bylaws, you can set the trend as a proactive council and enforce it, otherwise you aren't being environmentally responsible for our unique biodiversity. You have a moral obligation to do the aforementioned things. 2. Clean up the unofficial rubbish tip behind the primary school, along the school's back fence and over further near the walkway. Relocate and house the person who is camping less than 50 metres from the walkway, which is also behind the primary school. As well as being an unofficial tip site, it's also a site where hooners in cars and on motorbikes do burnouts and leave ruts galore. That same area could be turned into a stunning arboretum full of native trees and shrubs which would help to save our native species (including the Yellow Tailed Black Cockatoo - which is already endangered). https://australianmuseum.net.au/learn/animals/birds/yellow-tailed-black-cockatoo/ Such an arboretum would be another drawcard for tourists who come here for the Tulip Festival etc. 3. Consider stormwater harvesting from all buildings owned by the council and from businesses in town. Also offer a subsidy for ratepayers for rainwater tanks. 4. Likewise, install solar panels on all council buildings and convert street lights to solar power. 5. You could also combine some of the aforementioned issues by recruiting your own Green Army which would increase jobs in the district, reduce crime rates and minimise environmental vandalism if you gave young people a reason to be proud of the district they live in and the biodiversity which our and their lives depend on. 6. Clean up public areas more frequently, such as the land between the primary school, Ballad Ave and Beamish Ave, doesn't get mowed half as often as the council lawns in the CBD. One of your council employees mows the lawn beside the radio station and

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			<p>beside the council near the Police station, so slowly you'd think he was following a horse drawn hearse, not pushing the mower fast enough means more fuel and more pollution.</p> <p>7. Stop using Roundup (glyphosate), whichever name it's marketed under, just stop using it. Use steam to kill weeds. Several footpaths around here are half overgrown with grass, due to your neglect. Roundup isn't the right solution for a council which cares about environmental stewardship.</p> <p>These things are happening on your watch. It's time for WWC to start making some vital changes. All the best.</p>
9.	23/6/20	Somerset	<p>As a resident of Somerset with a keen interest in conservation and sustainability, I am very pleased to see the Council developing a comprehensive environmental management plan.</p> <p>I do have some concerns about the lack of timelines given in the action plan and hope that momentum for real environmental action and change won't be lost because of a lack of short-term goals and deadlines. I also feel the action plan is short on definitive actions, the words investigate, promote etc are frequently used and whilst they are a good starting point, without follow up action won't result in much positive change. Having more concise and quantitative goals would also make it easier to map progress.</p> <p>I appreciated that many of the proposed actions (investigating solar, electric cars for council etc) shows that Council is keen to lead by example.</p> <p>One of our regions greatest natural assets is the abundance and diversity of wildlife. I was disappointed to see that protecting fauna wasn't given a higher priority in the action plan. Namely point 38; investigate options for reducing amount of wildlife killed on roads (desirable) and participate in policy development for the impacts of domestic pets (desirable). These are two areas where Council could undertake strong action to protect local wildlife with flow on benefits for local tourism and the region's 'green' image. As a volunteer tourist guide, I often have tourists comment on the amount of road kill in Tasmania, and as resident of a rural road I can also attest to this. Utilising new technology on strategic roads could have multiple benefits in reducing road kill numbers and improving the safety of our roads for residents and tourists. Likewise, recent dog attacks on our Little Penguin population also shows that more needs to be done to protect local wildlife from our pets.</p>
10.	24/6/20	Wynyard	<p>Well done WWC I think the ICEP is excellent. It is thorough, it is community lead, it is evidence based. You've set yourself some excellent challenging, but important goals and prioritised them well.</p> <p>I like that you have included local gov, Cradle Coast, State gov, Federal and International Information.</p> <p>I think that your document does show great leadership and that you recognise your important role for us as community members. I look forward to staying informed and this leadership continuing.</p>
11.	24/6/20	Myalla	<p>Comments on Draft ICEP Plan</p> <p>The Waratah-Wynyard Draft Integrated Council Environmental Plan (ICEP) starts with the premise that climate change is happening and will affect our local environment, hence strategies are required to address these changes. The ICEP identifies (1) the natural environment as a most important asset and (2) that involving community volunteers is essential. All this is commendable.</p>

NO	DATE	TOWNSHIP	COMMENTS
			<p>However, the Plan lacks quantitative goals, targets and priorities including budget for good environmental staff positions. These are addressed under the 3 main headings</p> <p>1. Goals and targets</p> <p>The Plan lacks clear goals and targets. Actions like "identify opportunities", "assess the extent", "encourage community volunteerism", "work with agencies", "report on progress" are very vague and unacceptable in a strategic plan. Clearly defined goals and targets are required for each strategic priority. Targets need to be quantified e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • divert 50% waste from landfill by 2024 • provide free energy audit advice on 100 homes per year and in so doing educate the community to be aware of benefits of reducing energy use. • Important to measure targets and inform the community of the results • commit grant funds in annual budget to stimulate community-driven climate action • develop and implement management plans for nature reserves which includes iconic French's Rd Nature reserve and York St reserve by December 2021. <p>2. Priority Themes</p> <p>The five themes outlined in the Plan focus on council assets and finances. Rather, the focus of the Plan should be on the involvement of the whole community. We suggest the following 4 strategic themes i)-iv):</p> <p>i) To enable the community to mitigate and adapt to climate change.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Declare a climate emergency • Facilitate community access to accurate, timely and practical information • Enhance community food security • Plan for the impacts of coastal erosion <p>ii) Accelerate towards zero waste and conscious consumption</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Managing waste sustainably • Assisting the WW community to reduce their carbon footprint • Council's purchases aligned with sustainability principles <p>iii) Transition to zero carbon homes and zero emissions transport</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage sustainable building practises include incentives for energy audits • Upgrade bike paths in Wynyard town area which is flat and ideal for bikes for all ages <p>iv) Protect biodiversity and natural environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish mechanisms for WW community to partner with the council on environmental management • Managing water sustainably • Monitoring flora and fauna -implement management plans for the nature reserves by December 2021 • Working with relevant stakeholders to protect Aboriginal heritage values in the landscape <p>Under section "8. Delivering the ICEP" each Action item in the tables should include details how to resource the activity - either</p>

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			<p>via the annual budget process or via additional external funds or extra staff. As this is a community Plan and not just a Council Plan, the "Leadership" column should also identify community partners.</p> <p>3. Appropriate environmental staff</p> <p>Environmental issues are now a much bigger concern for councils than previously, as evidence by the drafting of this plan. The draft Plan identifies many priority actions to be lead and implemented by the NRM Officer. Has the council determined what staffing levels are required? Can the part-time NRM Officer handle all these requirements, on top of their current role? As documented in the Plan partnering with the community is important. A few volunteer groups such as WLCA and LWT already operate in the Waratah-Wynyard area, each doing their small part to improve biodiversity conservation and/or sustainable living. These groups have small numbers of members but lots of passion and enthusiasm.</p> <p>To facilitate and coordinate volunteers and councils working together three councils in the Tamar region combined their resources to setup Tamar NRM - which by all accounts is very successful.</p> <p>Two staffing recommendations follow:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Waratah-Wynyard Council, in cooperation with neighbouring councils, employ an Environmental Officer to lead the development of policies, strategies, establish targets and implement action plans that address the many environmental issues at the local council and community level. This position to be at the Senior Management Team level, equivalent to the Executive Engineer level. • The Waratah-Wynyard Council, in cooperation with neighbouring councils adopt the Tamar NRM model whereby NRM officers actively go out into communities to facilitate and participate in the running of events, field days and workshops, that align with council strategies to meet their communities' needs and expectation
12.	24/6/20	Unknown	<p>Hi,</p> <p>I've just read the council environmental plan!</p> <p>Firstly, I am surprised how climate focussed it is throughout the introduction, that's really great to see and I wasn't expecting it. I have been seeing so many terrible examples of environmental plans and protections in my environmental law class this semester, so it's nice to know that's not what they're all like. I also like how the introduction sets out the reasons why all this is needed and gives justification on why the plan is being developed, from enviro, social and economic points of view.</p> <p>Throughout the first few sections (1-6) it can get quite repetitive, but I can see how that may, perhaps, be used to simply enforce a point and make it stand out.</p> <p>Throughout section 7, giving all the priorities of the different themes I agreed with most, if not all, of the priorities and would definitely love to see all those things active in a community.</p>

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			<p>I really like the emphasis on evidence-based approaches and doing things based on data and research. I like that it clearly specified that data from places like CSIRO was being used. However, I would like to have seen more direct input from scientific sources in the stakeholders, like working directly with more scientists rather than just using data, or better representing that in the plan if it was done. I can see there are natural resource and risk management teams but that seems pretty light on the science for a data driven environmental plan, compared to the amount of other stakeholders involved.</p> <p>I was honestly excited to get through it and see the actions and what would actually be implemented to make all these 'priorities' happen.</p> <p>The theme of leading by example was great. As the plan points out, local councils are the closest to the community, so showing that you are doing these things for the good of the whole community is great.</p> <p>When I got to the 'actions' (section 8), I was a little disappointed. There are some great actions listed, I particularly liked 9.2, requiring the council to report on progress etc. and 40, working with indigenous communities and traditional landowners.</p> <p>However, what I didn't like was how passive the whole thing was. The language was restricted to words like encourage, support, aim to, advocate for, prioritise and explore. It didn't actually create any enforceable responsibilities for the council or anyone else. There was no way for anyone to be held accountable. The actions were more like aims without actually saying how things will change or when they will change by. They implied thinking about doing things rather than actually doing them. I wanted to see active plans and tasks that would be undertaken to achieve the goals previously set out.</p> <p>One point that stood out to me was 22.3 which said, 'incorporate State Government policy on climate risk into regional and local policies, including planning schemes' and was only marked as important. Shouldn't that already be something that is always done and in an environmental plan shouldn't that be 'essential' and compulsory? Making sure these values are implemented in all future plans would have a significant positive impact and I think that should definitely be a priority, and one which should be easy to achieve.</p> <p>As an environmental plan I think I was expecting a plan with details on what is going to be done, how it will be done and when it should be done by.</p> <p>Comparing this to what I have seen in my Environmental Law class, this seems like an example of all talk, no action. It can be said that all these things will be 'prioritised' but there isn't an obligation for anyone to actually do most of it. That is not to say that they will not do it. They may make progress toward all of these things. But they, or those elected in the future (perhaps with different goals or priorities) also may use this to claim that there are environmental actions in place when in actuality, little is being done.</p>

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			<p>It is very possible I am being overly critical, but this is an environmental plan, it is so important and as time goes on the situation only gets more dire. I think it is important for every new legislation/plan etc being implemented to be effective and productive because who knows how long it will be until we get another one. And who knows what the next lot of elected people will be like. This plan, being a long term plan, and perhaps not being updated or reviewed for ten years (which is a long time environmentally, a lot can change for an environment in ten years) should be aiming higher or at the very least, making the actions proactive and meaningful.</p> <p>For example 33.1, says to encourage forestry operators. Without a requirement to change, forestry operators are not going to change their practices because of 'encouragement' from the local council. Instead, couldn't that be an action requiring them to transition or if that is not possible, at least a requirement to work with them to create change, within the jurisdiction of the council.</p> <p>34.1 says to 'investigate opportunities to partner with relevant stakeholders'. Why is it just to 'investigate opportunities' not actually execute them? Stakeholders have already been recognised in this plan, so surely the investigation has already been undertaken. It needs to be more active and meaningful. This term makes no responsibilities to actually partner with stakeholders at all.</p> <p>8.2 is to 'Ensure Council contractors are informed about Council's sustainability and climate change commitments and policies.' This one confused me a bit. Contractors working for the council should be required to operate in a way consistent with council policies, however, this does not require them to do or change anything about how they operate, just that they know. Could it not be changed to require them to operate in accordance with the policies? This would be especially important for independent contractors who may work by their own policies.</p> <p>A lot of the 'actions' marked as 'essential' are also those which simply say that the council will continue to do something. Great! They should continue to do things which positively affect these issues but it very much feels like the whole thing is set up for a politician in a few years to go "hey look how well we are doing, we've completed so many of these!" when many were already being done and many aren't actually proactive actions at all.</p> <p>I just wish the whole thing was more concise about the actions that will be undertaken to achieve the goals set out. The listed actions read more like goals that need further elaboration as to how they will actually be achieved. Although this is not true for every action listed, it should not be true for any. The point is to create a balanced environmental plan, but this doesn't look like it will actually do that much for the environment, rather for the reputation of the council and that should not be the goal. This should be taken as an opportunity to hold themselves and all future council members to a high standard and do good for the environment and the community.</p>

NO	DATE	TOWNSHIP	COMMENTS
13.	25/6/20	Wynyard	<p>Waratah-Wynyard ICEP—Integrated Council Environmental Plan</p> <p>Pros</p> <p>Council accepts science behind climate change</p> <p>Council accepts obligation to be proactive in its response to climate change</p> <p>Council is committed to getting the balance right between the natural environment and the productive developed environments</p> <p>Icep details council's current responsibilities and legislative requirements</p> <p>Icep outlines where council has a role and capacity to be pro active.</p> <p>Cons</p> <p>It is not an integrated environmental plan – it is no more than:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A statement of council's current statutory obligations ▪ Evidence of council's intent to avoid management of the natural environmental values. ▪ A platform for future policy development <p>Icep is loaded with great phrases – but lacks detail and commitment to any actual outcomes.</p> <p>Icep fails to determine those climate change triggers that will impose major policy change response requirements, commitment to adaptation.</p> <p>Issues arising out of draft ICEP</p> <p>What is the acceptable balance between the natural environment and the productive developed environments council is committed to as being right.</p> <p>Icep should be more than a public relations exercise. There needs to be clearly stated objectives for Waratah-Wynyard rather than borrowed motherhood statements that could be made in reference to any part of the country.</p> <p>Mitigation principle should include as part of the second role – “supporting and facilitating”</p> <p>Management principle should include intent to extend council role beyond the current</p> <p>Adaptation principle fails to make any commitment to adapt</p> <p>Council led sustainability seems to outline its current responsibilities and legislative requirements but fails to make any substantial commitment.</p>

NO	DATE	TOWNSHIP	COMMENTS
			<p>Communities are seeking the means to live a more sustainable, slower natural lifestyle. The draft Icep plan fails to provide encouragement or incentive to choose Waratah-Wynyard as the place to settle in and pursue a more climate change conducive life style.</p> <p>The Feedback Form does not provide for submission of comments other than through the feedback form. This limits detailed comment and trivialises the necessity for feedback. In many ways it reflects the non commitment to the natural environment and climate change issues confronting Waratah-Wynyard.</p>
14.	26/6/20	Boat Harbour	<p>25th June 2020</p> <p>Well done Waratah-Wynyard Council in delivering a thorough and strong response to the challenge of our changing climate, recognising local governments role in reducing its own emissions and providing leadership to help our community to also transition to a low carbon economy.</p> <p>This is a great plan full of clear justification for all of your proposed actions and it needs to be owned by our Councillors, your Council staff and our community. Our only worry is that at almost 80 hefty pages, an obscure title (ICEP) and 'an expectation that many of these actions will be undertaken in partnership with our community and other stakeholders', how do we ensure that all of your Council staff, Councillors and our broader business and residential community know about the important information in this plan and work with you to deliver these actions?</p> <p>We suggest it would be important that all Council staff are provided with a workshop and overview of this plan because there is not a single department which will not be implementing some of the 134 listed actions.</p> <p>Similarly, a workshop and overview of the plan with local businesses and community groups would be important, explaining in the invitation to these groups how they have been incorporated into the plan either through impacts or opportunities for them. Thank you for undertaking the development and implementation of this plan and we look forward to supporting you in the delivery of these actions, including an aggressive emissions reduction target in line with the aims of the Paris Agreement. Please see below a few points on the detail of the plan.</p> <p>***</p> <p>Notes on DRAFT ICEP</p> <p>Action 1.3 think this is 'Essential' as Council staff first and foremost need to be aware of and own this plan</p> <p>Action 2.2 Should be essential</p> <p>Priority 6. (Pg. 55) notes 'energy efficiency and renewables' but makes no mention of auditing greenhouse gas emissions or reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Knowing that Tasmania's energy is almost entirely renewable already, without explicitly mentioning GHG emissions and the aim to reduce them, it does nothing to reduce community 'carbon footprint', as stated "6. Assisting the Waratah-Wynyard community to reduce its resource consumption and carbon footprint"</p> <p>Action 10.2 not just for 'adaptation initiatives', must also be for 'mitigation initiatives'.</p> <p>Action 10.3 Very important that all Council staff understand what the Paris Agreement actually is and aims to do, so that they can actually enact this.</p>

NO	DATE	TOWNSHIP	COMMENTS
			<p>Action 20.1 Should also include 'climate change mitigation' as many community organisations will need support to do this. After defining the word mitigation in the Principles of the document it is then heavily and repeatedly used throughout other parts of the document where simpler words could convey meaning and (more importantly) avoid the implication that adaptation actions are purporting to be climate change mitigation actions.</p> <p>Here is the definition from page 14 of the report – 'Mitigation describes human actions— technologies, processes, behaviours and decisions—that intervene in the processes of climate change, for example, by reducing emissions or enhancing carbon storage. Mitigation is about recognising that if human action has contributed to the problem of climate change, then human action can be part of the solution.'</p> <p>Currently mitigate is used several times in the summary of the Our Themes (page 17) in the following ways:</p> <p>'mitigating risks to council assets',</p> <p>'anticipating and helping people to mitigate the impacts of the changing allergen profile',</p> <p>'supporting owners to mitigate physical risks to private property',</p> <p>'mitigating risks to councils financial assets and investments',</p> <p>'working with other levels of government to mitigate risks to public assets'</p> <p>To not misrepresent actions we request the following constructive changes to be made to the wording in the summary of Our Themes. This would address the above issue without detracting from the meaning or intent of the document:</p> <p>'lessening risks to council assets',</p> <p>'anticipating and helping people to reduce the impacts of the changing allergen profile',</p> <p>'supporting owners to decrease physical risks to private property',</p> <p>'reducing risks to councils financial assets and investments',</p> <p>'working with other levels of government to minimise risks to public assets'</p>

NO	DATE	TOWNSHIP	COMMENTS
15.	26/6/20	Sisters Beach	My only comment will be that I have already had input into the strategy. I now hope that Council use this plan to help them make better decisions that represent the community. They should be referring to this ICEP for every decision they make. I'll also ask the question - how does ICEP fit in with Planning (as when they make planning decisions they must follow the Act...what if a decision fits the Planning Act but goes against ICEP?)
16.	26/6/20	Wynyard	<p>While climate change and other environmental issues pose an 'existential threat', there is value in simultaneously working on mental health the same time as working more directly on mitigation and adaptation to climate change. This is because at the local level, it is our behaviours and attitudes that shape our capacity for mitigation and adaptation. Our mental health also significantly affects how much we can collaborate, which has been identified as a major factor in addressing climate change and other environmental issues. While there are larger forces such as security of employment and housing that have a big influence on mental health currently largely outside the scope of control, what we have immense capacity for at the local level is influencing a major determinant of mental health which is social inclusion. The very definition of communities includes a sense of inclusion/interaction based on the commonality of a particular place. We commend the mention in the ICEP of "Community Based Adaptation" and think this should be a much higher priority.</p> <p>Overall we welcome the comprehensiveness of the plan, but prefer in the short term a more focussed plan on building capacity. Once there is more community cohesion and capacity, then priorities will arise which the community is motivated to address. When presented with a long list of actions it is easy to feel over-whelmed.</p> <p>Tasmania can become a leader in action against climate change because of our higher rate of volunteering and increased potential for councils to work together with community groups and individuals. While over 800 local governments involving more than 140 million people worldwide around the world have declared climate emergencies, this is but one way to highlight the seriousness of climate change. Some councils are aiming for 100 per cent renewable energy and zero net emissions, with others instead pledging to lobby state and federal politicians on climate change action. These are great goals and we encourage Waratah-Wynyard Council to adopt measures such as these which are clearly council led. We however think that at the same time community development, partnering with community organisations towards a vision of resilience, of the meeting of peoples social and economic needs and making Waratah-Wynyard a great place to live then increases people's motivation to work together on 'wicked problems' such as climate change.</p> <p>In other words, while the ICEP has 'integrated' in its title, we recommend a much broader view of integration. The ICEP explicitly should be linked to the Council Health & Wellbeing Plan, and the actions from both merged together. Likewise the Settlement Plan is also relevant, as been acknowledged by Council.</p> <p>It would be good to acknowledge that the actions that can feasibly be taken understandably fall far short of the urgency of action, that is they are constrained by the resources available. It is the capacity of the Council and the capacity of the community as well as State and Federal Government that influence the availability of resources. In an ideal world Waratah-Wynyard Council would have a dedicated Climate Change Officer who was also responsible for more general ecological regeneration, and who would focus on community mobilisation/community development. It is individual behaviour that ultimately can make a substantial difference to combat climate change and help regenerate our environment.</p>

		<p>Comments on particular actions</p> <p>We recommend that the following be made essential, while recognising resources would need to be found in the community so that they could be implemented:</p> <p>2.2 Ensure elected members are provided with accurate and up-to-date information on climate and environment when approving policies and strategies</p> <p>2.3 Progressively review all Council programs and policies (including the 10-Year Strategic Plan) to ensure alignment with the principles and commitments of ICEP.</p> <p>3.4 Develop webpage dedicated to informing the community on living sustainably.</p> <p>4.3 Undertake works to minimise energy consumption and maximise energy efficiency in Council buildings as circumstances allow and upgrades are undertaken.</p> <p>6. Assisting the Waratah-Wynyard community to reduce its resource consumption and carbon footprint. Provide free energy audits for low income families</p> <p>6.5 Support local action for sustainable consumption and lifestyles by supporting local 'champions' / project leaders to be more effective, and by identifying partners and funding opportunities.</p> <p>6.2 Investigate opportunities to encourage schools to transition to solar energy via programs such as the National Solar School Program or 'Solar My School' and/or grant opportunities. (nb could be expanded to encourage Green Teams etc at schools)</p> <p>12.1 Provide accurate and 'readable' information about climate change and sustainable living in New Residents' Kits.</p> <p>12.2 Continue to partner with parents to implement actions from Warawyn Sustainability Plan</p> <p>13.2 Continue to support and foster relationships with new and existing Landcare and Wildcare groups.</p> <p>13.3 Promote participation in localised community-led adaptation initiatives.</p> <p>13.3 Communications is named as taking leadership however how much leadership can they reasonably provide regarding Climate Change adaptation initiatives?</p> <p>18.2 Facilitate individual wellbeing and social connectedness through providing opportunities for volunteers.</p> <p>20.1 Implement a targeted round within Community Activation Grants for climate change adaptation.</p> <p>21. Continuing to emphasise community resilience as an essential aspect of emergency management.</p> <p>22.3 Incorporate State Government policy on climate risk into regional and local policies, including planning schemes.</p> <p>22.4 Develop planning approaches to manage potential conflicts in relation to competing land-use demands for energy production, food production, open space, nature conservation, carbon sequestration and urban development.</p> <p>22.5 Advocate to the State Government to develop land-use planning policies that address climate change.</p> <p>22.6 Drawing on relevant census data and population projections, develop a settlement strategy and/or policy to clarify Council's position on population growth.</p> <p>38.2 As opportunities arise, and where relevant within WWC jurisdiction, undertake research and participate in cooperative initiatives to evaluate and monitor natural areas and ecosystems' vulnerability to climate change and other factors.</p> <p>38.3 Work with appropriate partner agencies to enhance and extend biodiversity corridors throughout Waratah-Wynyard, prioritising those currently at high risk from climate change.</p>
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NO	DATE	TOWNSHIP	COMMENTS
			<p>38.4 Through education and information, support residents and landowners to protect and enhance biodiversity in the local area and on their own property.</p> <p>38.5 Encourage community volunteerism and research to further understand natural populations of wildlife, insects and plants, and to provide practice support in conserving natural areas.</p> <p>38.6 Investigate options for reducing the amount of wildlife killed on Waratah-Wynyard's roads.</p> <p>38.7 Participate in policy development for the impacts of domestic pets through registration requirements, education on de-sexing and limiting breeding, and preventing off-leash activity around vulnerable wildlife.</p> <p>38.9 Increase public awareness about how to appropriately manage problem wildlife. Desirable DEV, NRM, COMMS</p> <p>39.4 Minimise the use of harmful chemicals in Council's weed management practices. Desirable NRM, WORKS</p> <p>42.2 Work with the community to raise awareness about and prevent litter and plastic pollution on the natural environment, particularly for Waratah-Wynyard's river and coastlines.</p> <p>We are particularly happy to help with:</p> <p>17.1 Investigate opportunities to develop a food policy and/or strategy to better understand food supply chains and systems; improve access to healthy food; enhance localised food production; reduce the environmental impacts of food production and consumption; and support sustainable food behaviours.</p> <p>17.2 Facilitate dialogue between producers, distributors and vulnerable community members to strengthen the local food supply.</p> <p>17.3 Promote local participation in community gardens and consumption of local high-quality produce.</p> <p>18.1 Continue to implement the community mental health initiatives of the Waratah-Wynyard Community Health and Wellbeing Plan.</p> <p>18.2 Facilitate individual wellbeing and social connectedness through providing opportunities for volunteers.</p> <p>42.2 Work with the community to raise awareness about and prevent litter and plastic pollution on the natural environment, particularly for Waratah-Wynyard's river and coastlines.</p> <p>38.5 Encourage community volunteerism and research to further understand natural populations of wildlife, insects and plants, and to provide practice support in conserving natural areas</p>
17.	26/6/20	Oldina	<p>I have emailed a submission, but would like to reiterate that the substantial progress that is needed will not occur without mobilisation of the community, and although this does take a while to build community capacity, it is a necessary step with lots of additional benefits in other areas, particularly health and wellbeing to build community capacity, as well as Collective Impact - all sectors working together. It is actually necessary to build health and wellbeing both as a means and as a result of community capacity building, which would then allow quite rapid progress on addressing climate change and other environmental issues.</p>
18.	25/6/20	Wynyard	<p>Comments on the Draft Integrated Council Environmental Plan (ICEP)</p> <p>The Waratah-Wynyard Draft Integrated Council Environmental Plan (ICEP) starts with the premise that climate change is happening and will affect our local environment, hence strategies are required to address these changes. The ICEP identifies (1) the natural environment as a most important asset; and</p>

NO	DATE	TOWNSHIP	COMMENTS
			<p>(2) involving community volunteers is essential. All this is commendable. However, the Plan is sadly lacking in a number of aspects.</p> <p>1. Goals and targets The Plan lacks clear goals and targets. Actions like "identify opportunities", "assess the extent", "encourage community volunteerism", "work with agencies", "report on progress" are very vague and unacceptable in a strategic plan. Clearly defined goals and targets are required for each strategic priority. Possible targets could be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ engage 100 people in the community to take action to conserve biodiversity by 2021 ▪ divert 50% waste from landfill by 2024 ▪ reduce home heating energy use by providing energy audit advice on 100 homes per year ▪ commit grant funds in annual budget to stimulate community-driven climate action ▪ develop and implement management plans for 3 nature reserves by 2022 <p>2. Priority Themes The five themes outlined in the Plan focus on council assets and finances. Rather, the focus of the Plan should be on the involvement of the whole community. I suggest the following five strategic themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mobilise and enable the community to respond to climate change. ▪ Create climate adapted rural and urban sectors ▪ Accelerate towards zero waste and conscious consumption ▪ Transition to zero carbon homes and zero emissions transport ▪ Protect biodiversity and natural environment <p>To explain my thinking, I have re-arranged the ICEP priorities under the 5 suggested themes. I also suggest a few targets: however, I do not have sufficient background knowledge to suggest targets for all ICEP strategic priorities - see Tables 2a to 2e in the attachment.</p> <p>Under section "8. Delivering the ICEP" each Action item in the tables should include details how to resource the activity - either via the annual budget process or via additional external funds or extra staff. As this is a community Plan and not just a Council Plan, the "Leadership" column should also identify community partners. Council, however, remains the leader and should be a role model to the community on addressing climate action.</p> <p>3. Changing life styles since the pandemic The ICEP draft plan needs to be updated to incorporate strategic actions to address life style changes happening since the coronavirus pandemic. Many more people now (1) walk and/or cycle for exercise, (2) work from home rather than commuting by car to work, and (3) there are less overseas tourists. But more importantly, it is now generally acknowledged that loss and destruction of biodiversity and ecosystem services is detrimental to the future health and well-being of Homo sapiens. Whilst the link between biodiversity loss and climate change is a global issue, it can be addressed at the local level and can involve individual citizens all contributing each in their own small way.</p> <p>4. Cooperating with other councils</p>

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			<p>The Waratah-Wynyard Council should join with Local Governments all over Australia and declare a Climate Emergency and set ambitious targets to address the main issues. The Waratah-Wynyard Council should work more closely with other councils in the region via the Cradle Coast Authority to develop strategies on environment natural resource issues just like is happening with economic development issues.</p> <p>5. Appropriate environmental staff</p> <p>Environmental issues are now a much bigger concern for councils than previously, as evidence by the drafting of this plan. The draft Plan identifies many priority actions to be lead and implemented by the NRM Officer. Has the council determined what staffing levels are required? Can the part-time NRM Officer handle all these requirements, on top of their current role?</p> <p>As documented in the Plan partnering with the community is important. A few volunteer groups (landcare, coastcare, field naturalists, sustainable living) already operate in the Waratah-Wynyard area, each doing their small part to improve biodiversity conservation and/or sustainable living. These groups have small numbers of members but lots of passion and enthusiasm. To facilitate and coordinate volunteers and councils working together four councils in the Tamar region combined their resources to setup Tamar NRM - which by all accounts is very successful.</p> <p>Two staffing recommendations follow:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Waratah-Wynyard Council, in cooperation with neighbouring councils, employ an Environmental Officer to lead the development of policies, strategies, establish targets and implement action plans that address the many environmental issues at the local council and community level. This position to be at the Senior Management Team level, equivalent to the Executive Engineer level. • The Waratah-Wynyard Council, in cooperation with neighbouring councils adopt the Tamar NRM model whereby NRM officers actively go out into communities to facilitate and participate in the running of events, field days and workshops, that align with council strategies to meet their communities' needs and expectations.

			<p>2a. Mobilise and enable the community</p> <table><tr><th>No</th><th>ICEP Priorities</th><th>Targets</th></tr><tr><td>1</td><td>Maintaining a high-quality knowledge base</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>3</td><td>Establish mechanisms for partnering with the Waratah-Wynyard community on environmental management and climate action</td><td>Engage 500 people to take action on climate change</td></tr><tr><td>13</td><td>Supporting localised community-led Community Based Adaptation (CBA) initiatives</td><td>Commit substantial grant funds to stimulate community-driven climate action</td></tr><tr><td>10</td><td>Contributing to regional, state, national and international climate initiatives</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>11</td><td>Advocating for effective environmental management and education resources</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>12</td><td>Facilitating community access to accurate, timely and practical information</td><td></td></tr></table>	No	ICEP Priorities	Targets	1	Maintaining a high-quality knowledge base		3	Establish mechanisms for partnering with the Waratah-Wynyard community on environmental management and climate action	Engage 500 people to take action on climate change	13	Supporting localised community-led Community Based Adaptation (CBA) initiatives	Commit substantial grant funds to stimulate community-driven climate action	10	Contributing to regional, state, national and international climate initiatives		11	Advocating for effective environmental management and education resources		12	Facilitating community access to accurate, timely and practical information													
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			<p>2e. Protect biodiversity and natural environment</p> <table><tr><th>No</th><th>ICEP Priorities</th><th>Targets</th></tr><tr><td>33</td><td>Encouraging forestry operators to transition to more sustainable operations</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>34</td><td>Supporting opportunity identification in the carbon market</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>35</td><td>Encouraging tourism operators to understand risks and opportunities</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>38</td><td>Supporting biodiversity</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>39</td><td>Anticipating and mitigating biosecurity risks</td><td>Develop and implement management plans for 3 nature reserves by 2022</td></tr><tr><td>40</td><td>Working with relevant stakeholders to protect Aboriginal heritage values in the landscape</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>41</td><td>Managing water sustainably</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>42</td><td>Monitoring pollution and environmental health</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>43</td><td>Establish mechanisms for partnering with the Waratah-Wynyard community on environmental management and climate action</td><td>Engage 100 people to take action on conserving biodiversity</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>Commit grant funds to stimulate community-driven biodiversity action</td></tr></table>	No	ICEP Priorities	Targets	33	Encouraging forestry operators to transition to more sustainable operations		34	Supporting opportunity identification in the carbon market		35	Encouraging tourism operators to understand risks and opportunities		38	Supporting biodiversity		39	Anticipating and mitigating biosecurity risks	Develop and implement management plans for 3 nature reserves by 2022	40	Working with relevant stakeholders to protect Aboriginal heritage values in the landscape		41	Managing water sustainably		42	Monitoring pollution and environmental health		43	Establish mechanisms for partnering with the Waratah-Wynyard community on environmental management and climate action	Engage 100 people to take action on conserving biodiversity			Commit grant funds to stimulate community-driven biodiversity action
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NO	DATE	TOWNSHIP	COMMENTS
19.	26/6/20	Wynyrd	<p>I attempted to do this via "Have Your Say" and three times lost all I wrote so I hope this gets to the relevant people (Identifying palm trees in tiny unclear photos on a phone may have been some of the problem).</p> <p>In general I appreciate the collection of points of importance, which constitutes the draft ICEP document. It is comprehensive and has an impressive bibliography. Unfortunately the 80 pages meant that all but the intrepid and very patient could read, digest and comment, and thus be part of this discussion.</p> <p>It was disappointing to see a total lack of targets and/or timelines. Without commitments to a timetable it is too easy for good intentions to be shelved.</p> <p>(1) Council should include (in this or the next ICEP draft) clear goals, targets and timelines.</p> <p>Also there was no mention of recognising the seriousness of the implications of climate change locally, by creating a climate change officer in council (not an environment manager, sustainability officer, biodiversity officer, etc all who have been trained to ignore climate change implications, someone who understands and has worked in the area of climate for many years)</p> <p>(2) Council should create a full time Climate specific council officer position (for a suitably qualified person) who would replace other environmental roles.</p> <p>I suggest council allow ratepayers and residents lee-way to be innovative (for an example see low impact building project in Wales allowing low income people to build their own tiny houses) as over-regulation and bureaucratic delays suppress the energy of the community to assist all of us to improve our area for resilience into the future. Community members should not have to feel they need a permit to play music in a public space. Council should be creating community (our greatest asset) by encouraging music in Gutheridge Gardens.</p> <p>(3) Council should create a category in planning that allows the community to act quickly, spontaneously if necessary, in a different, unconventional way as we face uncertainty in the future.</p> <p>Comments on the listed points:</p> <p>I agree with all listed.</p> <p>Extremely important, absolutely essential are:</p> <p>17. Enhancing community food security, and</p> <p>13. Supporting localised community-led Community Based Adaptation (CBA) initiatives</p> <p>Below are improvements I recommend:</p> <p>39.4 Change to 'Essential' and/or replace 'Minimise' with 'Stop'</p> <p>41.1 All aspects mentioned in this ICEP should 'consider climate change'.</p> <p>39.1 Study and understand alternative ideas around 'invasive weed species'.</p> <p>38.5 Recognise and celebrate the huge skill and knowledge base in the community. Particularly taking seriously the ideas of motivated community members.</p> <p>38.3 Change to 'Essential'</p> <p>37.1 Include 'while all involved listen to community experience and expertise'.</p> <p>36.5 Council should celebrate, encourage and support the many environmentally responsible local farms and businesses that already exist.</p>

NO	DATE	TOWNSHIP	COMMENTS
			<p>35.3 Include the need for a specific plan for the style of so-called 'eco-tourism'</p> <p>34.4 Include kelp forests</p> <p>33.1 Change from Desirable to Essential</p> <p>32.3 Essential</p> <p>21.1 Allow residents to enact their strategies without interference from officers untrained in the issues eg 'stay and defend actions' by residents during a fire event.</p> <p>18.2 There is no lack of opportunities for volunteers, council should offer support to organisations that are already active in the community and need volunteers.</p> <p>17.2 Investigate how council can strengthen the local food supply for the uncertain future (eg where no food was coming from the mainland)</p>
20. Lac	26/6/20	Myalla	<p>Submission on the Waratah-Wynyard Draft Integrated Council Environmental Plan (ICEP)</p> <p>The Waratah-Wynyard Draft ICEP acknowledges that climate change impacts are occurring and will continue. Climate change action is essential for the environment, economy and for human wellbeing to prosper. The 2016 bushfires in Tasmania and the recent catastrophic Black Summer 2019-2020 bushfires (unprecedented in intensity and scale) highlight the link between climate change and bushfires. ICEP is a beginning but much more needs to be done. The critical decade for climate change action is 2020 to 2030. Council needs to show leadership and be a role model to the community on climate action.</p> <p>The Waratah-Wynyard Council should join with Local Government all over Australia and declare a Climate Emergency and set an ambitious target for net zero emissions by 2030 or 2040 at the latest.</p> <p>To embed climate change action and community concerns about the environment Council need to elevate the importance of the environment to that of the economy. To do this Council need to appoint an Environment Officer with a senior management role. ICEP acknowledges that Council and citizens need to reduce resource consumption and reduce their carbon footprint. Some ways to achieve this by focussing on mitigation are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set a target for zero emissions and prioritise themes and action • Conduct a Council energy audit to reduce emissions and improve efficiency • Transition vehicle use away from vehicles powered by fossil fuels to vehicles powered by non-fossil fuels, for example electric vehicles run on renewable energy • Accelerate a transition towards zero waste and reduced consumption • Transition toward net zero carbon affordable homes and retrofitting existing homes • Mobilise, enable and reward the community for climate action, such as reduced rates <p>ICEP recognises the need for Council Environmental Stewardship. The window for conservation action is closing fast. Globally and especially in Australia, the State of the Environment is deteriorating and the species and community extinction process is accelerating. The recent Black Summer bushfires had a devastating impact on wildlife and their habitat: over a billion wild animals perished. In north west Tasmania there is growing evidence that not only are threatened species declining, but even some iconic common and uncommon birds are in decline. Recent analysis of population trends shows three endemic birds are declining in north west Tasmania. The primary drivers of species and community decline are habitat loss through the clearance</p>

NO	DATE	TOWNSHIP	COMMENTS
			<p>and fragmentation of native vegetation. As the draft ICEP points out, the rate of clearance of native vegetation in the agricultural and forestry sectors has increased.</p> <p>In general, ICEP undervalues the significant contribution by nature to ecosystem function and human wellbeing. ICEP needs to recognise the immense economic value of free ecosystem services provided by old and mature trees such as carbon sequestration, clean water, oxygen, soil retention, wildlife habitat and pollination services. Accounting systems do not credit the economic value of natural assets.</p> <p>The Plan to 'support biodiversity' is weak. 'Support' needs to be replaced by 'protect, enhance and recover'. Urgent biodiversity conservation actions that Council can implement or support are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total Council protection for Council managed native forest reserves such as Frenchs Road Nature Reserve (FRNR), York St Reserve and the Inglis River riparian zone. • Secure the purchase of a 5 ha riparian buffer zone to protect and improve the health of Seabrook Creek and the fauna of FRNR • Develop a management plan to protect and restore the Inglis River riparian zone • Follow the example of some southern Municipalities, and introduce a biodiversity offset scheme whereby 'developers' that clear native vegetation pay into a Council Biodiversity Fund that helps Covenanted property owners manage their asset for conservation. <p>The ICEP encourages the forestry sector to become more sustainable. Native forest logging and burning is neither ecologically sustainable nor economic. The forestry industry needs to get out of logging native forest and depend on plantation timber. A recent letter to The Advocate on bushfire science by Dr. Jen Sanger supported by four other scientists, claims that logging makes native forest more flammable. Climate change is making Australia more vulnerable to bushfire, and the evidence is that logging is making things worse. Some ways that Council can support a transition to a more sustainable forestry industry are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet the needs of the forestry industry by harvesting timber from plantations • End native forest logging on public land • Immediately halt logging and burning mature and old growth high conservation value native forests. These forests are much more valuable left intact compared to subsidized forestry operations that make a loss • Cease logging rainforest in the Tarkine • Protect more habitat for wildlife on private land through voluntary covenants • Establish Government schemes for the permanent protection of mature trees on private land for at least 100 years so as to provide carbon sequestration and other ecosystem functions. For example, eucalypt species such as Eucalyptus regnans are one of the most carbon-dense tree species in the world. <p>A more ecologically sustainable timber industry would improve public health and improve opportunities for nature-based tourism and tourism in general.</p>

NO	DATE	TOWNSHIP	COMMENTS
21.	26/6/20	Wynyard	<p>I applaud the WWC for the initiative they have taken in working through the ICEP process. The plan appears comprehensive and shows a balance between Council action, community interests and the built environment. However, I am less certain of what commitment is given to planning for the natural environment. How this plan may interact with Government departments for planning and state development or what arrangements might be made with other agencies to draw on external expertise and experience is unclear.</p> <p>The devil is undoubtedly in the detail. As a way forward the draft ICEP has several limitations. The greatest deficiency is the lack of detail provided as to how Council intends to address the issues it has so eloquently defined. Without specific targets or timeframes this plan risks the fate of the "Open Space plan" which promised much but never progressed into operation. The list of tables under heading Item 8, "Delivering the ICEP" is not that instructive. There is no detail on how individual items will be resourced or managed. Items listed under the "leadership" of NRM seem particularly vulnerable. Unless an appointment was made at a senior management level with additional staff to address the multiplicity of environmental needs identified in this plan, it is difficult to see how Council will deliver the outcomes to which it aspires.</p> <p>As a group we recognise that the draft ICEP is part of a process. We note that the document mostly has an anthropological approach, rather than an environmental approach. Its principle focus of the document is clearly Climate Change adaption, which is only a portion of environmental planning.</p> <p>As a Landcare member, I know there are community resources including individuals with expertise and knowledge that could be brought to play to enhance the effectiveness of activities affecting the natural environment. What is not yet clear is what framework Council can provide to access these community resources and deliver on the expectations that this process has engendered.</p> <p>The next stage in the development of this plan will require identification of priorities and actions that focus on how the ICEP might be transitions from a much welcome idea to strategy that can be implemented. The Wynyard Landcare Group is keen to maintain a dialogue with Council over ICEP implementation in relation to the natural environment and is willing and able to assist where we can in this process.</p>
22.	26/6/20	Sisters Beach	<p>Key things I like about the ICEP</p> <p>The ICEP takes a long term view, and it's intention is to base Councils' decisions on environmental planning and management on the best available science and other evidence.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ICEP attempts to integrate environmental planning with other planning documents in Waratah-Wynyard, and across scales from local to international = joined up thinking. - ICEP draws on leading practice from other local government areas in Australia. - ICEP has a strong focus on the need to respond to challenges of climate change, and this lines up with the majority community view that climate change is occurring and Waratah-Wynyard is being impacted by this.

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			<p>- The five themes are a useful over-arching framework.</p> <p>- Supporting community action for adaptation and resilience (CBA initiatives) is also a useful approach.</p> <p>What needs improvement or presents ongoing challenges</p> <p>Coastal Erosion – Suggested Changes to Strengthen the Actions</p> <p>Adaptation and resilience needs to include specific references to coastal erosion and coastal marine change. We have only just glimpsed the start of our coastal erosion problems – it won't just be impacts on infrastructure. There will be significant impacts along coastlines, including river estuaries, and in near-coast marine environments, affecting living conditions, infrastructure, tourist visitation, recreational and commercial fishing, boating, etc.</p> <p>For example for Priority 23. Acknowledging and planning for the impacts of coastal erosion - there is a need to build this strongly into the planning provisions of Council, so that planning permission is not granted to residential locations at risk of inundation, or those that become progressively un-insurable. Also Council needs to ensure that it is not at risk of future litigation for granting planning permissions, or via planning permits for renovation, with the knowledge that there is a significant risk of inundation that renders uninhabitable in the future any residences that are granted planning permission.</p> <p>There are similar needs for including planning regulations in properties subject to flooding or fire as per Priority 26. Anticipating and planning for potential climate impacts on stormwater and drainage.</p> <p>This proposal for including references to future effects of erosion, flooding and fire for specific properties and areas in the planning provisions goes well beyond Priority 27. Supporting owners to mitigate physical risks to private property, and in particular Priority 27.2 Encourage property owners to access third-party information about the potential impacts of climate change on private property.</p> <p>Biodiversity and Environmental Health – suggested changes to change and strengthen the actions</p> <p>Environmental Stewardship should include more than just 'Supporting biodiversity' – this is one of the weakest statements in the overall ICEP. The intact and other high quality biodiversity rich sites in Waratah-Wynyard are a source of regional identity, tourism attraction and community good living and well-being. (e.g. "The natural environment was seen as contributing to the beauty of the area as well as to people's physical and psychological wellbeing.") The WWCouncil region contains a high number</p>

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			<p>of threatened species – plant and animal – across terrestrial and marine ecosystems. e.g. on Pg 48 a key point about biodiversity is made: “The north west region is home to five species declared as critically endangered, as well as 26 species declared as endangered and 23 species declared as vulnerable.”</p> <p>The ICEP should strengthen its existing statements about how WWCouncil is acting to protect our high quality natural environmental areas, including threatened species, as other Councils around Australia do. It is notable that these Councils were consulted for their statements and policies on climate change action, but not in relation to protecting biodiversity. The impacts of climate change on the biodiversity and natural systems within WWCouncil should also be more fully considered, and more specific policies and mechanisms developed whereby the Council can assist protection and maintenance of our unique and valuable biodiversity in the face of climate change.</p> <p>For example, on pg 44: “Respondents to WWC’s community and stakeholder consultation expressed concern about threats to vegetation including form land clearing, removal of native species and failures to adequately revegetate landscapes. Concern was expressed that critically important/older trees were not adequately protected. Respondents said that an ideal Waratah-Wynyard was a place in which revegetation and regeneration of natural bushland are supported.” AND “Respondents felt Council could play a greater role in revegetation and in preventing the loss of trees and wildlife habitat. Respondents felt Council could be doing more through its planning role and via partnerships to ensure habitats and green spaces are preserved and replaced.”</p> <p>This fits with “Encouraging Tourism: Respondents to WWC’s community and stakeholder consultation told us that an ideal Waratah-Wynyard was a place in which tourism (including ecotourism opportunities) was managed sustainably.”</p> <p>For Priority 38. Supporting biodiversity - The ICEP needs to include consideration of biodiversity more actively in the planning process. Access to information regarding biodiversity impacted by planning applications is not easy to find or follow for residents in the WWCouncil region. A one-stop-shop website for residents would assist those interested in planning matters related to biodiversity to understand and make comment on any proposed developments (public and private) that might affect biodiversity.</p> <p>For example, in implementing 38.1 Assess the extent of Waratah-Wynyard’s areas of significant ecological value, and develop biodiversity management plans for high-priority areas not currently addressed by other agencies ... WWC Council should turn the mapping areas of significant ecological value into Environmental Significance Overlays (ESOs) or equivalent. These ESOs (or equivalent) would document how the various land use tenures affect planning in relation to biodiversity, as well as providing protection for threatened biodiversity where this is not addressed by other agencies – and show how other agencies are involved in biodiversity protection. Councils elsewhere in Australia have linked their mapping of sensitive biodiversity with the planning provisions by developing Environmental Significance Overlays for any areas that contain threatened species or</p>

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			<p>ecological communities, and processes and actions for planning have been developed for where land use changes and development are under consideration in these areas.</p> <p>For 38.4 Through education and information, support residents and landowners to protect and enhance biodiversity in the local area and on their own property ... this is very broad and imprecise. Council should develop specific policies and strategies around how the Council can best work with residents, land owners and community groups to implement protection of biodiversity, and mitigation of climate change effects on biodiversity, on private and public land.</p> <p>For 38.6 Investigate options for reducing the amount of wildlife killed on Waratah-Wynyard's roads ... This should be strengthened so that practical support is provided for protecting wildlife, not just investigating options. For example, it could read " Investigate options and support viable proposals for reducing the amount of wildlife killed on WW's roads"</p> <p>For 38.7 Participate in policy development for the impacts of domestic pets through registration requirements, education on de-sexing and limiting breeding, and preventing off-leash activity around vulnerable wild life ... This should be extended to include education (including partnerships with community organisations) around the impacts of dogs-off-leash in areas with vulnerable wildlife, and the requirement for cats to be kept inside at night. Council should also lead discussions around the concept of declaring 'no cat' areas – as is the case now for Councils in other parts of Australia, where vulnerable, threatened wildlife are impacted by cat activity.</p> <p>Under Priority 42. Monitoring pollution and environmental health the section 42.2 Work with the community to raise awareness about and prevent litter and plastic pollution on the natural environment, particularly for Waratah-Wynyard's river and coastlines ... This proposes that the responsibility for this should be shouldered primarily by the community – instead, there should be proper and clear penalties for materials that move off building and other sites, and also from boats and ships.</p> <p>For 42.4 Ensure planning permit conditions constrain materials on site (avoid soil and material runoff during construction) ... This should have added to it the intention to penalize those who contravene these conditions; for example by adding the following: "and set up a clearly understandable penalty system for materials that move off-site"</p> <p>There should also be penalties for spillage of plastic and other solid pollutants from boats and ships, washing up onto our coastline, and into our coastal waters.</p> <p>For Priority 33. Encouraging forestry operators to transition to more sustainable operations ... This has a single, very weak action to 33.1 Encourage forestry operators to consider alternative income streams, e.g. carbon credits.</p> <p>This could be strengthened by adding (or creating an additional point/s): "Encourage and work with forestry operators to shift operations to those that have minimal impact on natural systems and native wildlife, as measured by forestry businesses gaining</p>

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			<p>Forestry Stewardship Certification (FSC) for all of their products" AND also include: "Provide incentives to forestry operators to produce only FSC certified products by moving to a system that requires all forestry products (paper, timber, packaging, etc) used by WWCouncil to be FSC certified".</p> <p>For Priority 35. Encouraging tourism operators to understand risks and opportunities ... Point 35.1 Encourage tourism peak bodies and the Cradle Coast Authority to provide targeted information to assist tourism operators to understand the potential risks of climate change on their business, including factors such as the changing insurance landscape, coastal erosion and extreme weather events ... This should be strengthened by adding "and the potential for newly emerging negative impacts of tourism activities on these natural landscapes in ways that exacerbate the effects of climate change."</p> <p>Climate Change – suggested changes to strengthen actions</p> <p>For Priority 4. Reducing Council's resource consumption and carbon footprint While 4.1 proposes to Develop a Council emissions target to achieve corporate carbon neutrality ... This should be strengthened to include "in line with Tasmania's existing target of achieving (or maintaining) carbon neutrality by 2050, and set interim targets on the pathway to zero carbon or below by 2050 ". The Tasmanian government recently announced that is planning to go further on carbon neutrality, and local councils like WWC could assist this strengthening of targets.</p> <p>Also for Priority 6. Assisting the Waratah-Wynyard community to reduce resource consumption and carbon footprint ... WWC should go beyond more than just 'encouraging' and 'communicating' the need for carbon reduction in communities and resource use, and set targets for these communities, in partnership with each community, in line with reducing Waratah-Wynyard's overall carbon emissions to below or well below zero (considering the large-scale forested areas in WWCouncil Shire) zero by 2050.</p>
23.	26/6/20	Sisters Beach	<p>Dear WW Council</p> <p>I feel that the Waratah Wynyard ICEP misses a once in a decade opportunity to indeed learn from other LGA's and plan to develop a zero carbon future alongside taking ACTION to protect and maintain our unique biodiversity. The urgency of the climate emergency and the corollary biodiversity catastrophe is not targeted effectively in this report.</p> <p>I am biologist and reading the ICEP left me feeling very frustrated that the report is high on rhetoric and low on education and action that will result in serious Community/Council partnerships to preserve and sustainably develop such a unique area. I live at Sisters Beach and currently find the WW Council totally lacking in action to even slow down traffic below 100kph in order to stop the mass slaughter of endangered wildlife on the road into Sisters Beach. Like other ratepayers have commented, there is no effective planting of local plants and vegetation to replace and revegetate lost areas. In addition, the recent failure of the</p>

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			<p>Council to even recognize an appalling planning application at Sisters Beach that ignored the environmental potential to enhance the area and nurture plants and wildlife ALONGSIDE new housing has left me cynical about the WW ICEP challenge. Whilst there is a great Council/Community coastal revegetation project at Sisters Creek that does give me hope, these examples lead me to question how this ICEP report was going to change any of that.</p> <p>I can't see change to the day to day Council practices that currently erode the natural habitat through vegetation clearing, felling of trees, and the killing of birds and animals through habitat destruction.. Even the presence of National Parks and conservation areas and extraordinary aboriginal archeology are not seen as worthy of special partnerships in the future. The WW Council ICEP shows very little acknowledgement or active plans to stop the further erosion of natural systems within WW Council let alone take action and work with residents and local businesses to repair any natural systems.</p> <p>We can do better as a Council and a Community.</p>
24.	26/6/20	Sandy Bay (ex. Somerset area)	<p>Thank you for the opportunity to comment on your Draft ICEP which I have read in full. As Wynyard rate payers for 45 years between 1971 and 2017 we had plenty of time to observe the developments with regard to native forest loss and biodiversity decline, primarily in relation to the Tasmanian Regional Forest Agreement over its 25 years impact on the Waratah-Wynyard natural environment and socio-economic scene. The WWC rubber stamped this impact-to-come, and in its 1997 Prospectus, chose not to inform the community of changes which would be wrought over the majority of private and state land in the municipality. As a result vast areas of land was converted from ecologically sustainable wet and dry native forest habitat to monoculture plantations of either (genetically modified) Eucalytus nitens or of Pinus radiata.</p> <p>Community objection to this conversion grew significantly throughout those years, and up until today, setting local people against the perceived (and in many cases actual vested) interest in the council which supported it. This is made clear by responses throughout your Draft ICEP due to REQUESTS :- to "prevent the loss of trees and wildlife habitat" - to "manage biosecurity" - calling for Waratah-Wynyard to be "a place in which the negative impacts of forestry are minimised and where forestry practices support carbon neutrality/negativity" - to prevent "threats to vegetation including from land-clearing, removal of native species, and failures to adequately revegetate landscapes" and ... "regeneration of natural bushland" - to "achieve a balance between diverse agricultural/horticultural production and forest plantations" - to ensure "natural environments are protected from the impacts of development.."</p> <p>My husband and I agree with ALL of these requests and can bear witness to the need for them.</p> <p>IT IS SAD to read the WWC acknowledgement that "publicly available spatial data sourced from time-series analysis of Landsat images characterising forest extent and change suggest that significant forest coverage loss is evident for the 2000-18 period".</p> <p>IT IS SAD to read that "climate change is already impacting Waratah—Wynyard 's natural systems and landscapes".</p> <p>Many members of the community, particularly at present those in Oldins, Lapoinya and Myalla are struggling to be heard and supported by WWC in asserting that "climate change is ALSO relevant to a company's social licence to operate" ... referring to ... "community and stakeholder perceptions of a company's record of ethical business conduct, community relationships and environmental performances". For too long many Waratah-Wynyard councillors and</p>

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			<p>officers have been prepared to provide support to such companies interests OVER and ABOVE those of their community and ratepayers. I think we know who these companies, past and present, are and the identity of many of these councillors and officers.</p> <p>I would like to make two suggestions:</p> <p>FIRST that WWC records clearly and numerically separates Agriculture and Fishing registered businesses, in their municipality records and publications, from Forestry - so that transparency of the value of these sectors is made clear to all. For too long they have been lumped together in an attempt to hide the true economic and environmental value and impact of Forestry, and especially over Tourism.</p> <p>Second that, in delivering the ICEP by WWC, in attending to the requests listed above (and my suggestion above) these matters are dealt with as ESSENTIAL - not only for the success of the Waratah-Wynyard ICEP delivery, but for the safety and cohesiveness of the community. This will result in WWC being able to attract more climate-aware ratepayers and local business between 2020-30</p>
25.	26/6/20	Sisters Beach	<p>I am glad to see the emphasis on scientific evidence-based strategy. I think that given the increasing number of endangered plant and animal species, even more focus should be allocated to elements of the environmental stewardship section. Some parts (such as 38.6, 38.7, 38.9) should be upgraded to 'important' if not 'Essential'.</p> <p>It is also important to be able to nimbly shift gears as needed in order to carry out the many aims of this plan.</p>



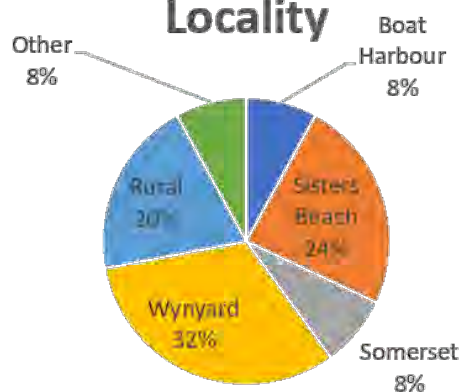
**DISCUSSION PAPER –
DRAFT ICEP CONSULTATION FINDINGS
Monday 27 July 2020**

The following pages provide a summarised version of the public feedback received on the draft Integrated Council Environmental Plan. Where relevant, it provides a high-level proposed response to the key themes of feedback received.

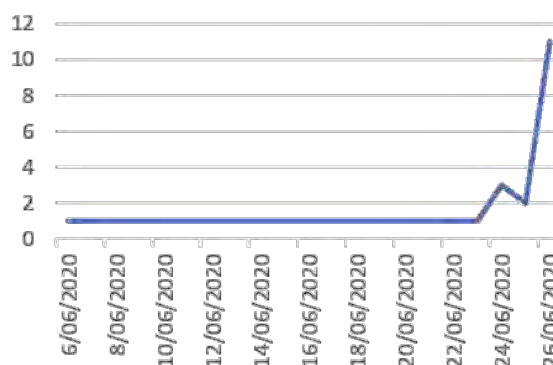
Common Themes

1. The ICEP is comprehensive, thorough and well researched
2. Emphasis should be placed on building community capacity, health and wellbeing
3. Preference for a more concise document that removes repetition
4. Resourcing the ICEP and alternate NRM models should be considered by Council
5. Preference for a commitment to targets, definitive goals and timelines
6. Biodiversity should have a stronger focus
7. The ICEP clearly demonstrates Council's leadership role

**Feedback by
Locality**



Feedback Received



POSITIVE FEEDBACK

- Good quality and well researched
- Clearly written
- Very pleased to see the Council developing a comprehensive environmental management plan
- Well done – I think the ICEP is excellent
- Document shows great leadership
- Climate change is happening and will affect our local environment and strategies are required to address these changes. The ICEP identified the natural environment as its most important asset and that involving community volunteers is essential. All of this is commendable
- Its really great to see how climate focussed ICEP is throughout the introduction
- Really like the emphasis on evidence-based approaches
- Council accepts science behind climate change and an obligation to be proactive in its response to climate change
- ICEP details Council's current responsibilities and legislative requirements and outlines where Council has a role and capacity to be proactive
- Well done Waratah-Wynyard Council in delivering a thorough and strong response to the challenge of our changing climate, recognising local governments role in reducing its own emissions and providing leadership to help our community to also transition to a low carbon economy
- ICEP attempts to integrate environmental planning with other planning documents in Waratah-Wynyard, and across scales from local to international = joined up thinking
- The ICEP takes a long term view, and it's intention is to base Councils' decisions on environmental planning and management on the best available science and other evidence
- The five themes are a useful over-arching framework
- Supporting community action for adaptation and resilience (CBA initiatives) is also a useful approach
- ICEP draws on leading practice from other local government areas in Australia
- Glad to see the emphasis on a scientific evidence-based strategy
- It is comprehensive and has an impressive bibliography
- I applaud the WWC for the initiative they have taken in working through the ICEP process. The plan appears comprehensive and shows a balance between Council action, community interests and the built environment

KEY FEEDBACK THEMES AND OFFICER RESPONSE

THEME	EXAMPLE COMMENTS RECEIVED	PROPOSED RESPONSE
Readability and conciseness of ICEP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complicated presentation Long winded/wordy Sections 1-6 can get repetitive Thermohaline circulation – not a commonly understood term Unfortunately the 80 pages meant that all but the intrepid and very patient could read, digest and comment, and thus be part of this discussion. 	<p>Council will create an abridged version of ICEP, to be made publicly available alongside full version.</p> <p>Amendments to simplify language, particularly in the use of the word 'mitigate'.</p> <p>Add thermohaline circulation (ocean current circulation) to the glossary.</p>
Emphasis should be placed on building community capacity, health and wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overall we welcome the comprehensiveness of the plan, but prefer in the short term a more focussed plan on building capacity Building community capacity as a means of and a result of community health and wellbeing Delivering information and/or ICEP message Exposing community to local climate change issues Suggest holding an annual festival to welcome penguins back – who are affected by climate change as their fish food stock moves south with warming waters, as well as loss of nesting sites due to sea level rise and more frequent storms Creating a local "Green Army" group and encouraging volunteerism and community involvement Each action item in Section 8 should identify community partners under the Leadership column as it is a community plan not just a council plan Partnering with the community is important as documented within the plan and ICEP recognises the need for Council Environmental Stewardship 	<p>Priorities for actions relating to building capacity have been elevated, as appropriate.</p> <p>Add action to Delivery Plan (Priority 6) to work with local schools around opportunities to include green teams.</p> <p>Add action to Delivery Plan (Priority 3) to host an annual festival that helps deliver the message of climate change impacts to wildlife, such as migratory bird species.</p> <p>Green Army was a national program which closed in 2018. The ICEP includes actions (Priority 3) to establish an Environmental Advisory Committee and to continue supporting wild care and land care groups.</p> <p>Key community partners have not been included to the ICEP Delivery Plan to enable flexibility as new community groups emerge over the ten year strategy period. Community groups are recognised within the plan as being fundamental to realising the actions.</p>

THEME	EXAMPLE COMMENTS RECEIVED	PROPOSED RESPONSE
iCEP principles and themes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The principle focus of the document is clearly Climate Change adaptation, which is only a portion of environmental planning. Plan appears to focus on reputation of Council not the environment Council led sustainability seems to outline its current responsibilities and legislative requirements but fails to make any substantial commitment Its principle focus of the document is clearly Climate Change adaption, which is only a portion of environmental planning The five themes outlined in the Plan focus on council assets and finances. Rather, the focus of the Plan should be on the involvement of the whole community. Suggest structural change to the five iCEP themes 	<p>Whilst there are other elements to environmental planning, climate change is the key issue. It has flow-on affects to biodiversity, riparian reserves, lifestyles and community wellbeing. For these reasons it has been selected as the target focus for this version of iCEP.</p> <p>Amendments made to iCEP to reflect the intent of managing all risks that impact on the community.</p> <p>The iCEP's five themes have been designed to ensure actions will deliver meaningful results across a broad range of issues. The themes developed have an aspect relating to council assets and finances, as well as issues such as community lifestyles, health and sustainability principles.</p> <p>Amendments made to the introduction to clearly outline the iCEP's purpose and its limitations.</p>
Integration of iCEP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommend a much broader view of integration. The iCEP explicitly should be linked to the Council Health & Wellbeing Plan and the actions from both merged together. Likewise the Settlement Plan is also relevant, as been acknowledged by Council. iCEP is not an integrated environmental plan. It is no more than a statement of Council's current statutory obligations, evidence of Council's intent to avoid management of the natural environmental values, and a platform for future policy development. Council projects, such as the Coastal Pathway, should be managed with environmental stewardship principles iCEP should be used for future decision making 	<p>The Health and Wellbeing Plan is expressly stated within Section 2 – Context.</p> <p>Once adopted, the principles of iCEP will be used in future decision-making across a broad range of Council and community matters. As a way to demonstrate this commitment, the iCEP proposes several actions in Priority 9 to embed environmental considerations into decision-making and reporting.</p>

THEME	EXAMPLE COMMENTS RECEIVED	PROPOSED RESPONSE
Resourcing the iCEP and alternate NRM models should be considered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental issues are a bigger concern for Councils than previously, as evidenced by the draft plan. Resource requirements, including staffing levels, must be considered The Council and its neighbour councils adopt the Tamar NRM model, whereby NRM officers actively go out into communities to facilitate and participate in the running of events, field days and workshops, that align with council strategies Creating a climate change officer in council (not an environment manager, sustainability officer, biodiversity officer, etc - all who have been trained to ignore climate change implications, someone who understands and has worked in the area of climate for many years Each action under Section 8 should include details on how to resource the activity – either via the annual budget process or via additional external funds or extra staff Ensure that all of your Council staff, Councillors and our broader business and residential community know about the important information in this plan and work with you to deliver these actions Items listed under the “leadership” of NRM seem particularly vulnerable. Unless an appointment was made at a senior management level with additional staff to address the multiplicity of environmental needs identified in this plan, it is difficult to see how Council will deliver the outcomes to which it aspires 	<p>Add action (Priority 10) to consider alternative resourcing and NRM models and prepare transition plans, as appropriate.</p> <p>Funding of iCEP actions will be subject to Council’s annual planning and budgeting period. Amend wording in <i>Section 8 – Delivering the iCEP</i> to reinforce this message.</p> <p>Amend priority level of some actions to reflect community expectations of priority, particularly around education about the iCEP.</p> <p>While the consideration of staffing is appropriate in the setting of a plan or strategy, it is considered an operational matter that isn’t directly addressed within the strategy itself. The feedback received regarding staffing levels and skills have been noted and will be discussed.</p>

THEME	EXAMPLE COMMENTS RECEIVED	PROPOSED RESPONSE
The impacts of climate change need to be clearly defined in terms of the impact to individuals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ICEP has been written with a limited understanding of climatic condition in Northwestern Tasmania, as it considers heatwave conditions as of major significance. Just stating an increase in the number of warm days does not fully build the picture of what this rise in temperature really means. It's not just more pleasant days at the beach. What does more hot days mean? 	<p>Tasmanian Government predictions show that under a high-emissions scenario, the area will experience warmer than average temperatures. Whilst these temperatures are not necessarily comparable to temperatures of other states and countries, it can still present concerns of health for certain segments of the demographic.</p> <p>Include description within Introduction about the possible community health impacts and greater energy use in relation to higher temperatures.</p>
Lack of commitment to targets, definitive goals and timelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lacks detail and commitment to outcomes Actions lack deadlines Use of passive actions – “investigate” and “promote” are a good starting point but do not have follow-up action Language of actions lacked strength and did not create any enforceable responsibilities for the Council or anyone else. There was no way for anyone to be held accountable Lacks measurable targets – there needs to be clearly stated objectives for Waratah-Wynyard 	<p>Amend wording of actions to be more active (rather than passive), where appropriate.</p> <p>As stated within the ICEP, achieving many of the priorities and actions will take much longer than the ten-year period. Amend wording in <i>Section 8 – Delivering the ICEP</i> to reinforce this message and include nominal commencement timeframes (noting that it is subject to the annual planning and budgeting process).</p> <p>As a strategy, the ICEP does not create any additional enforcement powers for the Council.</p> <p>Amend priority level of some actions to reflect community expectations of priority.</p> <p>Add section within plan to discuss monitoring. Specifically, Council will develop a suite of indicators relating to aspects of ICEP, however these will be situated alongside Council's other high-level KPI's to ensure an integrated approach to evaluating progress.</p>

THEME	EXAMPLE COMMENTS RECEIVED	PROPOSED RESPONSE
Council should have a stronger role in reducing the community's resource consumption and carbon footprint	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Priority 6 makes no mention of auditing greenhouse gas emissions or reducing greenhouse gas emissions - ...It does nothing to reduce community 'carbon footprint' WWC should go beyond more than just 'encouraging' and 'communicating' the need for carbon reduction in communities and resource use Upgrade bike paths in the Wynyard area (to reduce transport emissions) 	<p>Councils role in monitoring, auditing and enforcing is limited. The ICEP attempts to strike a balance between these restrictions whilst recognising that it can encourage the community to reduce resource consumption.</p> <p>Add actions (Priority 6) to build viable bike pathways and corridors and encourage their use as an alternate mode of transport.</p>
Improve waste management in the context of illegal dumping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prevent and clean up illegal dumping 	Covered within Council's Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy.
Biodiversity should have a stronger focus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fire management left out of the mix Birdlife – shorebirds, penguins and nesting sites Dog management – protection from penguin attacks Cat management and registration policies Create an arboretum with native trees for the protection of birdlife and for economic opportunities 'Support biodiversity' is weak. 'Support' needs to be replaced by 'protect, enhance and recover' Increasing number of endangered plant and animal species – more focus should be allocated to the environmental stewardship section "Ecosystem services" - ICEP needs to recognise the immense economic value of free ecosystem services provided by old and mature trees such as carbon sequestration, clean water, oxygen, soil retention, wildlife habitat and pollination services. Accounting systems do not credit the economic value of natural assets Suggest strengthening actions for biodiversity and environmental health 	<p>Amend wording in Delivery Plan (Action 38.7) to demonstrate Council's existing lead role in the development of a regional Cat Management Strategy.</p> <p>Add action to Delivery Plan (Priority 38) to describe the current activities with the Sisters Beach Community Association to install virtual fencing at Sisters Beach (minimise road kill).</p> <p>Amend wording of the priority and actions as appropriate, to strengthen the language and intent.</p> <p>Add action to Delivery Plan (Priority 38) to develop and implement natural values management plans which consider fire management.</p> <p>Add action to Delivery Plan (Priority 38) to prepare a plan for the development of an arboretum within the municipal area.</p> <p>Add action to Delivery Plan (Priority 38) to advocate to the state for reconsideration on the amount of native vegetation that can be cleared without a forest practice plan.</p>

THEME	EXAMPLE COMMENTS RECEIVED	PROPOSED RESPONSE
Regulatory matters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The iCEP needs to include consideration of biodiversity more actively in the planning process • Plumbing permits shouldn't be required for dairy farmers connecting to an otherwise approved effluent settling pond • How does iCEP fit with planning scheme decisions? • Suggest council allow ratepayers and residents lee-way to be innovative (for an example see low impact building project in Wales allowing low income people to build their own tiny houses) as over-regulation and bureaucratic delays suppress the energy of the community to assist all of us to improve our area for resilience into the future. Community members should not have to feel they need a permit to play music in a public space 	<p>The <i>Waratah-Wynyard Interim Planning Scheme 2013</i> falls under the Lands Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993. Any changes to planning schemes therefore require amendments to state legislation.</p> <p>Council is currently in the process of introducing the new state-wide planning scheme, which consists of both the State Planning Provisions (SPP) and Local Provisions Schedules (LPS) for each municipal area. It is anticipated that Council will be advertising its LPS in the coming months to allow members of the community to make submissions and to check the zoning recommended for each property in the municipality. However, the SPP have already been finalised by the State government. The SPP contain the rules for each zone as well as various standardised planning regulations.</p> <p>It is also noted that, in terms of planning applications, consistency or compliance with strategic Council documents, including the iCEP, is not a consideration under the Planning Scheme.</p>
Weed management issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate alternatives to herbicides • Stop using glyphosate products • Study and understand alternative ideas around 'invasive weed species'. • Weed management – removal of invasive species in areas such as foreshores 	<p>Add action (Priority 39) to require regular review of herbicide products and adoption of alternate methods if viable options are discovered.</p> <p>Council will undertake an integrated response to weed management, taking into consideration the Weed Management Act. Weeds will be managed accordingly and where feasible in nominated areas, eradicated.</p>

THEME	EXAMPLE COMMENTS RECEIVED	PROPOSED RESPONSE
Sustainable energy use for Council operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Include electric vehicles, solar panels on Council buildings and convert street lights to solar power Strengthen wording around Council emissions targets to reflect state-based targets 	<p>Electric vehicles and solar energy are already reflected within Delivery Plan (Priority 4).</p> <p>Add action (Priority 4) to reflect current 20/21 project for the installation of solar panel system at Council Chambers.</p> <p>Amend wording in Delivery Plan (Action 4.5) to include solar powered lights.</p> <p>Strengthen language (Action 4.1) around setting Council's corporate emissions target to be in line with state targets.</p>
Strengthen the language and enforcement of the forestry industry and its practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protection of old growth forests Limit forestry practices to plantations only Consider alternate economic opportunities to forestry such as honey and other bee products Protect native forests from forestry practices Request municipal records clearly and numerically separate Agriculture and Fishing registered businesses from Forestry A more ecologically sustainable timber industry would improve public health and improve opportunities for nature-based tourism and tourism in general 	<p>Council does not have authority or responsibility in enforcing changes in forestry practices. Add action to convey feedback received to relevant governing bodies for their consideration in order to advocate for the community.</p> <p>Add action to encourage forestry operators to shift operations to those that have minimal impacts to natural systems.</p>
Strengthen the language around coastal erosion and clearly outline Council's role	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How will Council protect private properties from erosion events Strengthen the actions for coastal erosion such as through inclusion of specific references to coastal erosion in adaption and resilience 	<p>Add wording to reflect the DPIPWE's response to managing coastal hazards on private land – Specifically, efforts to repair or reduce the impacts are the full responsibility of the landowner.</p> <p>Add action (Priority 23) to communicate Council's approach and responsibilities for managing the impacts of coastal hazards on private properties.</p> <p>Amend wording of actions (Priority 23) to clearly reflect roles and responsibilities of Council.</p>



WARATAH-WYNYARD COUNCIL

INTEGRATED COUNCIL ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN (iCEP) 2020-2030



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Waratah-Wynyard iCEP 2020-2030

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GLOSSARY

ADAPTATION	In human systems, the process of adjustment to actual or expected climate and its effects, in order to moderate harm or exploit beneficial opportunities. In natural systems, the process of adjustment to actual climate and its effects. (IPCC)
ADAPTIVE CAPACITY	The ability of systems, institutions, humans and other organisms to adjust to potential damage, to take advantage of opportunities, or to respond to consequences. (IPCC)
BIODIVERSITY	The variability among living organisms from all sources including terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part; this includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems. (UN)
BIOSECURITY	A strategic and integrated approach to analysing and managing relevant risks to human, animal and plant life and health and associated risks to the environment. (UN Food and Agriculture Organisation)
BLUE CARBON	The carbon captured by living organisms in coastal (e.g. mangroves, salt marshes, seagrasses) and marine ecosystems, and stored in biomass and sediments. (IPCC)
BUSINESS AS USUAL/ BASELINE SCENARIO	Scenarios based on the assumption that no mitigation policies or measures will be implemented beyond those that are already in force and/or legislated or planned to be adopted. (IPCC)
CARBON FOOTPRINT	The total set of greenhouse gas emissions caused directly and indirectly by an individual, event, organisation or product, expressed as carbon dioxide equivalent. (Adapted from Carbon Trust, UK)
CARBON OFFSET	An emissions reduction which has been sold to compensate for emissions elsewhere. (Adapted from Carbon Trust, UK)
CARBON SEQUESTRATION	The process of storing carbon in a carbon pool. (IPCC)
CLIMATE	The average weather over a period of time, usually calculated over a 30-year period. The relevant quantities are most often surface variables such as temperature, precipitation and wind. (Adapted from IPCC)
CLIMATE ACTION	Efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-induced impacts (UN Development Programme).
CLIMATE CHANGE	A change in the state of the climate that can be identified by changes in the mean and/or the variability of its properties and that persists for an extended period, typically decades or longer. (IPCC)
COMMUNITY-BASED ADAPTATION (CBA)	Local, community-driven adaptation. Community-based adaptation focuses attention on empowering and promoting the adaptive capacity of communities. It is an approach that takes context, culture, knowledge, agency and preferences of community as strengths. (IPCC)
DROUGHT	Acute water shortage. Drought declaration is the responsibility of State and Federal Governments which must consider other factors apart from rainfall. The Bureau of Meteorology's Drought Statement assists by providing rainfall information to all interested parties. (Bureau of Meteorology, Australia).

ECOSYSTEM	A functional unit consisting of living organisms, their non-living environment and the interactions within and between them. (IPCC)
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT	A range of measures to manage risks to communities and the environment; the organisation and management of resources for dealing with all aspects of emergencies. Emergency management involves the plans, structures and arrangements which are established to bring together the normal endeavours of government, voluntary and private agencies in a comprehensive and coordinated way to deal with the whole spectrum of emergency needs including prevention, response and recovery. (Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience)
EMISSION SCENARIO	A plausible representation of the future development of emissions of substances, often used as an input to a climate model and to compute climate projections. (IPCC)
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH	Environmental health addresses all the physical, chemical, and biological factors external to a person, and all the related factors that can potentially affect health. It is targeted towards preventing disease and creating health-supportive environments. (Australian Dept of Health)
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT	See Natural Resource Management.
EXTREME WEATHER EVENT	A weather event that is rare at a particular place and time of year. By definition, the characteristics of what is called extreme weather may vary from place to place in absolute sense. (Adapted from IPCC)
FOOD SECURITY	A situation that exists when all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life. (UN Food and Agriculture Organisation)
FOSSIL FUELS	Carbon-based fuels from fossil hydrocarbon deposits, including coal, oil and natural gas. (IPCC)
GLOBAL WARMING	An increase in the global mean surface temperature averaged over a 30-year period, relative to 1850-1900 unless otherwise specified. (IPCC)
GREENHOUSE GAS	Gases in the atmosphere, both natural and human-made, that absorb and emit radiation at specific wavelengths. This property causes the greenhouse effect, in which the Earth's surface temperature and troposphere warm in response. (Adapted from IPCC)
IMPACTS (OF CLIMATE)	The consequences of realised risks on natural and human systems, where risks result from the interactions of climate-related hazards (including extreme weather and climate events), exposure and vulnerability. Impacts generally refer to effects on lives, livelihoods, health and wellbeing; ecosystems and species; economic, social and cultural assets; services (including ecosystem services); and infrastructure. Impacts may be referred to as consequences or outcomes, and can be adverse or beneficial. (IPCC)
INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE	The understandings, skills and philosophies developed by societies with long histories of interaction with their natural surroundings. Indigenous communities are being increasingly recognized as important source of knowledge for climate change assessment and adaptation. (Adapted from UNESCO)
INTEGRATED PLANNING	In the context of the iCEP, integrated planning means taking a strategic and whole-of-council approach to decision making, in which diverse elements of

	Waratah-Wynyard life (e.g. social, economic, environmental, infrastructure and the built environment, Council governance) are considered as parts of an interrelated system.
INTERGENERATIONAL EQUITY	Equity between generations that acknowledges that the effects of past and present emissions, vulnerabilities and policies impose costs and benefits for people in the future and of different age groups. (IPCC)
INUNDATION	To inundate is to cover with water. Inundation risk is the likelihood of exceeding a given level of tide, surge and flood height over a particular time horizon. (Adapted from Dept Climate Change, Australia)
INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON CLIMATE CHANGE (IPCC)	The United Nations body for assessing the science related to climate change. (IPCC)
KYOTO PROTOCOL	An international treaty that commits industrialised countries (including Australia) to limit and reduce greenhouse gas emissions in accordance with agreed individual targets (UN Climate Change)
LAND-USE PLANNING	The process by which a society, through its institutions, decides where different socioeconomic activities such as agriculture, housing, industry, recreation and commerce should take place. This includes protecting well-defined areas from development due to environmental, cultural, historical, or similar reasons, and establishing provisions that control the nature of development activities. (Adapted from World Bank Group)
LOCAL KNOWLEDGE	The understandings and skills developed by individuals and populations, specific to the places where they live. (Adapted from UNESCO)
MITIGATION (OF CLIMATE CHANGE)	A human intervention to reduce emissions or enhance the sinks of greenhouse gases. In climate policy, mitigation measures are technologies, processes or practices that contribute to mitigation. (IPCC)
NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT (NRM)	The management of all activities that use, develop and/or conserve air, water, land, plants, animals, micro-organisms, and the ecosystems they form. (Waratah-Wynyard Council)
PARIS AGREEMENT	An international agreement to keep global temperature rise this century well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5 degrees Celsius. The agreement requires all parties (including Australia) to put forward their best efforts through 'nationally determined contributions'. (UN Climate Change)
PROJECTION (CLIMATE)	A climate projection is the simulated response of the climate system to a scenario of future emission or concentration of greenhouse gases and aerosols, generally derived using climate models. (IPCC)
RESILIENCE	The capacity of social, economic and environmental systems to cope with a hazardous event or trend or disturbance, responding or reorganising in ways that maintain their essential function, identity and structure, while also maintaining the capacity for adaptation, learning and transformation. (Artic Council/IPCC)
RISK	The potential for adverse consequences where something of value is at stake and where the occurrence and degree of an outcome is uncertain. Climate-related risk results from the interaction of vulnerability (of the affected system), its exposure over time (to the hazard), as well as the (climate-related) hazard and the likelihood of its occurrence. (Adapted from IPCC).

RISK MANAGEMENT	Plans, strategies or policies to reduce the likelihood and/or consequences of risks or to respond to consequences. (IPCC)
SOCIAL LICENCE (TO OPERATE)	The acceptance granted to a company or organisation by the community. The social licence to operate consists of legitimacy, credibility and trust. (Adapted from The Ethics Centre, Australia)
STORM SURGE	Elevated sea level at the coast caused by the combined influence of low pressure and high winds associated with a severe storm. Includes wave run-up and wave set-up. (Dept Climate Change, Australia)
SUSTAINABILITY	Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. (Dept Climate Change, Australia)
THERMOHALINE CIRCULATION	Also referred to as the ocean's 'conveyor belt', thermohaline circulation links major surface and deep-water currents in the Atlantic, Indian, Pacific, and Southern Oceans. Plays an important role in supplying heat to the polar regions and influencing the rate of sea ice formation near the poles, which in turn affects other aspects of the climate system. (Adapted from UCAR Centre for Science Education)
WELLBEING	A state of existence that fulfils various human needs, including material living conditions and quality of life, as well as the ability to pursue one's own goals, to thrive, and feel satisfied with one's life. Ecosystem wellbeing refers to the ability of ecosystems to maintain their diversity and quality. (IPCC)

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Council's vision for Waratah-Wynyard is a place where 'blue meets green', where the natural environment is shared and enhanced. A place where infrastructure is built to last and fit for purpose; and where a sustainable economy delivers long-term regional and local benefits. A place where all people are supported to enjoy improved health and wellbeing.

Today, climate change poses one of the most significant challenges to that collective vision. In June 2019, Waratah-Wynyard Council joined with many other local governments around Australia to develop a strategic response to climate change. Our goal was to show leadership in reducing the risks associated with climate change to help 'future proof' a range of local social, economic and environmental values.

The result of that work is the Waratah-Wynyard Integrated Council Environmental Plan 2020-2030—or iCEP. The iCEP is:

- A shared vision for the future
- An evidence-based integrated strategy
- A platform for future policy development

The iCEP sets out our key priorities across five areas of Council and community life—Council-led sustainability; community adaptation and resilience; future-ready infrastructure; financial and economic sustainability; and environmental stewardship—so that our residents, workers and visitors alike can enjoy the benefits of a more secure future.

We believe that by addressing these elements in an integrated way, we will have greater success in achieving our priorities.

We also recognise the limitations of the iCEP. The iCEP does not create new enforcement powers, nor does it change state or federal policies. But it does provide us with a platform for taking local action, for facilitating partnerships, and for advocating in the interests of the local and global community.

Most importantly, the iCEP is not a standalone strategic document. Rather, the iCEP is intended to support more sustainable decision-making across our organisation and beyond. The long-term success of the iCEP will depend on the strength of our collaboration with diverse stakeholders and community members.

All of us at Waratah-Wynyard are proud to present the inaugural iCEP. We look forward to working with our community to implement the iCEP over the coming months and years.



Cr Robert (Robby) Walsh
Mayor, Waratah-Wynyard Council

1. INTRODUCING THE ICEP

WARATAH-WYNYARD'S ENVIRONMENT

The natural environment is one of Waratah-Wynyard's most important assets. It is central to our local identity, and it is a key element of our visitor economy. Our woodlands, heaths, wetlands and coastlines together support a rich level of animal and plant biodiversity. The natural environment is also highly valued by our community for its role in supporting recreation, health and wellbeing.

Alongside the natural environment are our productive and developed environments: the places where agriculture, aquaculture, forestry, light industry and business operate; and where communities and residences are located. Sometimes, there can be friction between the needs and impacts of our natural, productive and built environments. Council is committed to getting the balance right, both for the current community and for future generations.



A CHANGING CONTEXT

At the same time, Council recognises that Waratah-Wynyard is facing unprecedented challenges, as the impacts of global climate change are felt by ecosystems and communities.

Tasmanian Government projections³ show that under a high-emissions^a scenario, Waratah-Wynyard will experience warmer average temperatures throughout the 21st Century^b, with a rise of between 2.6 to 3.3 degrees Celsius. This means that Waratah-Wynyard will experience an increase in summer days over 25 degrees from less than 10 days a year to more than 20 days of year.

An increase in warmer weather can have flow-on effects for communities and environments. Heat can negatively impact manual workers and older adults. Hotter summer days can lead to increased energy use for air-conditioning. Warmer temperatures may produce a more conducive environment for weed growth and the establishment of new weed species.

The changing global climate is also contributing to rising sea levels. A global sea level rise of 0.82m is predicted by 2100 under the high-emissions scenario. This means, for example, that in nearby Burnie, by the end of

the century the 100-year inundation event is projected to be close to 2.5 metres; and what is currently defined as a 100-year inundation event in will occur more frequently than once every four years.

Rainfall in Waratah-Wynyard is projected to decrease in summer and autumn, and to increase in winter and spring. Importantly, the intensity of this rain will change—we will see fewer days of rain, but falls will be heavier. Drought frequency and severity may stay similar to that of the 20th century. However, pan evaporation is projected to increase by up to 19% by 2100.

OUR OBLIGATION TO RESPOND

Waratah-Wynyard Council accepts the science behind these climate change projections. Council also recognises that as the level of government closest to the community, it has an obligation to respond in a proactive way to the scientific data to help ensure that Waratah-Wynyard plays its part in global efforts to combat climate change and can meet the challenges to come.

The Waratah-Wynyard iCEP represents a significant step towards fulfilling this obligation.

^a The IPCC has issued climate projections based on two scenarios: one in which global emissions plateau and fall, and another in which high emissions are sustained. Recent research on Greenland ice melt rates shows evidence that the world is on track for the high emissions scenario.

^b Important note: These IPCC scenarios do not include the consequences of potential climate 'tipping points' such as the collapse of Greenland and Antarctic ice sheets; disruption of thermohaline circulation; sudden release of methane, or failure of oceanic uptake of carbon.

2. CONTEXT

The Waratah-Wynyard iCEP exists within a context of climate and environmental policy, strategy and legislation that spans the global to the local.

Some of the key documents that intersect with the iCEP include:

LOCAL

The **Waratah-Wynyard Council 10-Year Corporate Strategic Plan** commits Council to supporting community connectedness and wellbeing; enhancing economic prosperity; and sustaining an environment 'where green meets blue'.

The **Waratah-Wynyard Council Environmental Policy** promotes the sustainable development of natural and physical resources, and the maintenance of ecological processes and genetic diversity.

The **Waratah-Wynyard and Circular Head Councils Community Health and Wellbeing Plan** embraces a social-ecological model of health, in which environmental conditions play an important role in wellbeing.

REGIONAL

The strategic and spatial principles of the **Sustainable Murchison 2040 Community Plan** include natural resource management that balances development, production and conservation values.

The **Cradle Coast NRM Strategy** sets out a vision for the north west of Tasmania (Cradle Coast region) in which a sustainable future is achieved through proactive, vibrant communities protecting and advocating for environmental, social and economic progress.

STATE

Climate Action 21: Tasmania's Climate Change Action Plan prioritises understanding Tasmania's future climate; advancing

renewable energy capability; reducing transport emissions; growing a climate-ready economy; building climate resilience; and supporting community action.

Tasmania's NRM activities are guided by the **Tasmanian Natural Resource Management Framework** and the **Natural Resource Management Act 2002**, which promotes the sustainable development of natural and physical resources and the maintenance of ecological processes and genetic diversity.

NATIONAL

The **National Climate Resilience and Adaptation Strategy** aims to support prosperity and wellbeing in Australia and beyond by building the resilience of communities, the economy and the environment to a variable and changing climate.

Australia's **National Emissions Target** is to reduce emissions by to below 2005 levels by 2030.

Australia's **Renewable Energy Target** is designed to ensure at least 33,000 gigawatt-hours of Australia's electricity comes from renewable sources by 2020, with extensions in place to 2030.

INTERNATIONAL

The **Paris Agreement**, to which Australia is a signatory, aims to keep the increase in global average temperatures to 2 degrees Celsius or less.

3. DEVELOPING THE ICEP

STEP 1: ESTABLISH PROJECT GOVERNANCE

Work on the iCEP began on World Environment Day, 2019. Development was overseen by Waratah-Wynyard Council Project Manager, Dana Hicks. Emily Neal, Project Officer, provided high-level support throughout the project, particularly during the engagement and document review phases.

The project was also supported by an internal iCEP Steering Committee. Members were Cr Andrea Courtney; Cr Darren Fairbrother; Cr Allie House; Daniel Summers (Director Infrastructure and Development Services); Bill Walker (Natural Resource Management Officer); Benji Krom (Strategic Planner); and Murray Jamieson (Manager Digital Innovation).

The iCEP Steering Committee provided input to the project at key milestones via regular face-to-face meetings, participation in workshops and via email. Their work has been critical to the success of the iCEP project.

STEP 2: UNDERSTAND THE DATA

Rapid evidence reviews were undertaken for each of the five themes of the iCEP. These reviews surveyed existing data from 'open' or publicly accessible sources.

Sources included but were not limited to: documents provided by Waratah-Wynyard Council; academic and technical research; government reports, discussion papers and position papers; demographic data; local and state government strategies and policies; risk maps; and climate projections data. The focus of the data review was informed by feedback from the iCEP Steering Committee.

STEP 3: UNDERSTAND COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER VIEWS

Consultation for development of the iCEP was undertaken between 1st October and 15th November 2019. The objectives of the community and stakeholder consultation were to understand:

- how the community values the Waratah-Wynyard environment;
- community concerns about the future;
- the preferred role of Council; and
- community hopes for the future.

Consultation opportunities were publicised on social media, ABC radio, *The Advocate*, Council's website (homepage and YourSay page), posters, in person, and at postcard drop-boxes distributed at various locations throughout Waratah-Wynyard local government area.

Consultation was undertaken via the following methods:

- an online survey—140 completed;
- postcards—88 completed;
- a consultative workshop—attended by 11 iCEP 'ambassadors' and two Councillors; and
- written submissions—15 formal submissions received from the 77 invited local, regional and state-level stakeholders. A further five unsolicited community submissions were received.

The full report on the community and stakeholder consultation may be accessed via the Council website: (Council > Strategies and Plans > search 'iCEP')
<https://www.warwyn.tas.gov.au/>

STEP 4: REVIEW GOOD PRACTICE

Waratah-Wynyard Council was keen to learn from and build on the work already being done by other Australian local governments in relation to climate change adaptation, sustainability and environmental management.

A review of good practice in local government was conducted during January and February 2020. Plans and strategies were selected for their relevance to the iCEP. Examples were drawn from local governments that exhibited one or more of the following characteristics: regional/rural; fire-prone; coastal; Tasmanian; progressive/leading; similar population characteristics and/or similar economic characteristics.

We would especially like to acknowledge the climate and environmental strategies of the following Councils: Bayside, Benalla, Burnside, Cairns, Central Coast (NSW), Darebin, Geelong, Glen Eira, Greater Dandenong, Hobart, Joondalup, Kingborough, Kingston, Ku-ring-gai, Macedon Ranges, Melbourne, Monash, Nillumbik, Onkaparinga, Parramatta, Queenscliffe, Wyndham and Yarra, as well as the ACT.

STEP 5: DEVELOP AND SELECT ACTIONS

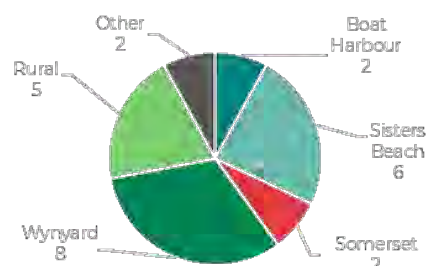
A suite of potential priorities and actions was identified for each iCEP theme. These priorities and actions reflected the issues emerging from the research evidence and from community and stakeholder consultation. They were also informed by Waratah-Wynyard Council policy, existing good practice in local government, and the relevant commitments of regional and Tasmanian Government agencies.

In February 2020, a participatory planning workshop was convened with both the iCEP

Steering Committee and a broad cross-section of Council staff. Participants in this workshop reviewed the identified potential priorities and actions, and identified key inclusions for the iCEP. This draft selection of was reviewed by the iCEP Steering Committee and was further refined in consultation with Council's Executive Management Senior Management Teams.

STEP 6: OBTAIN FEEDBACK ON THE DRAFT ICEP

The Draft iCEP was published on the Council website. Feedback was invited between 5th and 26th June, 2020. Council received 25 submissions from across the Waratah-Wynyard area.



Common themes were as follows:

- The iCEP is comprehensive, thorough and well researched.
- Emphasis should be placed on building community capacity, health and wellbeing.
- Preference for a more concise document.
- Resourcing the iCEP and alternate NRM models should be considered by Council.
- Preference for commitment to targets, definitive goals and timelines.
- Biodiversity should have a stronger focus.
- The iCEP clearly demonstrates Council's leadership role.

Production of the final iCEP has reflected this community feedback.

4. COMMUNITY VIEWS

Development of the iCEP attracted a high level of community participation. The full consultation report may be accessed via the Council website: (Council > Strategies and Plans > search 'iCEP')

<https://www.waratah-wynyard.tas.gov.au/>

Key consultation findings included the following:

- A majority of survey respondents rated as 'very important' the following environmental elements:
 - Aboriginal heritage sites; beaches and coastal areas;
 - rivers and wetlands; native bushlands and grasslands;
 - productive landscapes (including farms and forests);
 - plant and animal biodiversity;
 - clean air;
 - open spaces for recreation (including parks and pathways);
 - and Waratah-Wynyard's 'clean and green' image in the eyes of tourists and visitors.
- A majority of survey respondents said they believed climate change was occurring, and a majority said Waratah-Wynyard is being impacted by climate change right now.
- Only a minority said Waratah-Wynyard Council was currently doing enough to prepare for the impacts of climate change.
- Respondents to the consultation were very concerned about coastal erosion and the threat of inundation, most notably at Sisters Beach.
- Other matters of concern included: insufficient government and stakeholder action; a perceived lack of Council focus on Somerset; the impacts of development and population increase; threats to vegetation; threats to plant and animal biodiversity; biosecurity risks; extreme weather events and bushfires and the impacts of these on infrastructure; the effects of pollution and waste; the impacts of climate change on agriculture; and potential financial impacts.
- Respondents said they valued the accessibility of natural spaces; low population and development; street trees in urban areas; the beauty, diversity and uniqueness of Waratah-Wynyard; the transition between built and natural environments; the natural environment's contribution to wellbeing; opportunities to contribute environmental values; and high levels of community participation.
- Respondents to the consultation said they wanted Council to demonstrate strong leadership, but to do so in partnership with other stakeholders and the community. They emphasised that the iCEP should be an evidence-based plan and should be implemented at the operational level, not simply remain a high-level policy document.
- Respondents said Council could do more to mitigate coastal erosion; ensure careful land-use planning, development and building; help residents and industry to be more sustainable; demonstrate corporate sustainability; manage waste and pollution; prevent the loss of trees and wildlife habitat; manage biosecurity; and mitigate risks to infrastructure.



5. OUR PRINCIPLES

Design of the ICEP has embraced the four principles of **mitigation, management, adaptation** and **integration**:

MITIGATION

Mitigation describes human actions—technologies, processes, behaviours and decisions—that intervene in the processes of climate change, for example, by reducing emissions or enhancing carbon storage. Mitigation is about recognising that if human action has contributed to the problem of climate change, then human action can be part of the solution.

Waratah-Wynyard Council has three main roles to play in mitigation. The first is by demonstrating corporate responsibility—reducing Council's carbon footprint and leading by example. The second is at a municipal scale, supporting the Waratah-Wynyard community to reduce its emissions and to live more sustainably. The third is by partnering with others at the regional and State level to lobby for more effective mitigation measures.

MANAGEMENT

The Waratah-Wynyard area is rich in natural values that contribute strongly to the community's sense of place as well as to Waratah-Wynyard's identity and reputation. Diverse forms of land use—including residential, agricultural and industrial—intersect with Waratah-Wynyard's natural values in complex ways.

Although local governments are not accorded specific NRM responsibilities under NRM

legislation, Council's role in enforcing various related State laws—as well as its day-to-day responsibilities in managing public land and strategic land-use planning—means it is already playing a strong role in managing Waratah-Wynyard's natural environment.

Effective environmental management at the local government level can help preserve biodiversity, enhance community health and wellbeing, enable economic development, contribute to local identity and reputation, enable natural and human adaptation and support biosecurity.

ADAPTATION

Even with current mitigation efforts, the effects of climate change are likely to be with us for the foreseeable future. Where it is not possible to prevent the impacts of climate change, adaptation will be required.

For humans, adaptation is the process of adjustment to the actual or expected climate and its effects. Adaptation can mean avoiding the harms of change, and it can also include benefiting from new opportunities. Within natural systems, adaptation also describes the process of adjustment to a changing climate.

The ability of people to adapt to climate change (their 'adaptive capacity') varies within and across populations. Adaptation responses can be incremental; but sometimes larger-scale, transformative adaptations are needed, even when uncertainties remain about the long term².

Council recognises that the Waratah-Wynyard community has its own unique vulnerabilities and strengths when it comes to climate change adaptation and resilience.

INTEGRATION

At Waratah-Wynyard, we recognise that climate change mitigation, adaptation and environmental management are 'whole-of-Council' issues. We also recognise that each element of community life is closely tied to all others.

By designing the iCEP to address the five themes of: (i) Council-led sustainability; (ii) community adaptation and resilience; (iii) future-ready infrastructure; (iv) economic and financial sustainability; and (v) environmental stewardship; we hope to ensure our actions for and with our community will deliver more meaningful and impactful results.



6. MONITORING

Waratah-Wynyard Council recognises that the path to achieving climate change adaptation and mitigation, and a sustainable local environment, is complex and challenging. In developing our integrated response to these challenges, we have drawn on community input and the best available data and evidence.

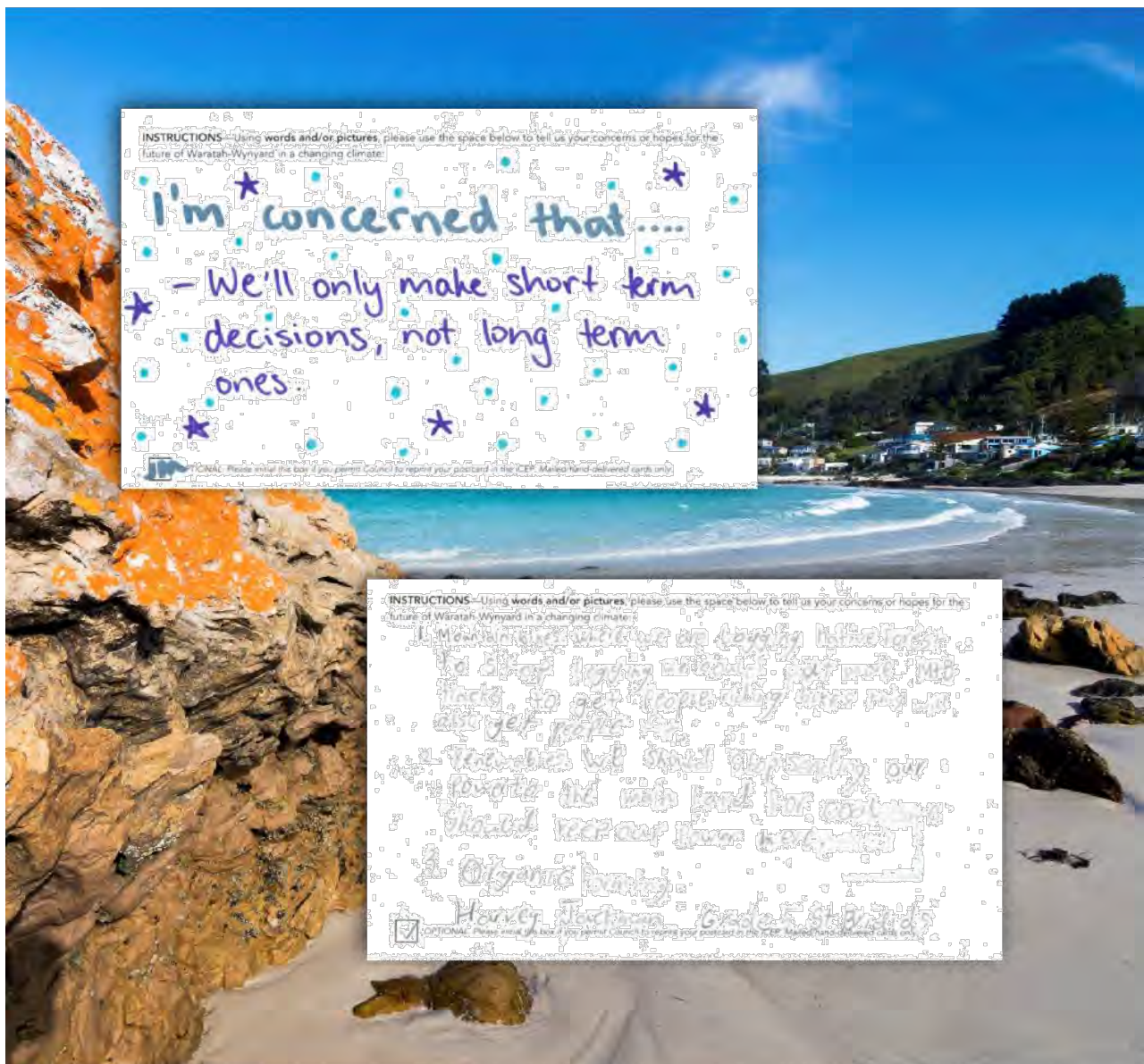
This evidence-based approach will remain essential to implementation. To facilitate ongoing data collection and monitoring, Council will develop a suite of indicators relating to key aspects of the iCEP. These will be situated outside the iCEP document and alongside Council's other high-level KPIs to ensure an integrated, whole-of-Council approach to evaluating progress.



7. ICEP AT A GLANCE

Based on the available evidence, emerging good practice in local government, and feedback from community and stakeholders, we have developed a suite of priorities for action across each of our five themes.

The following pages provide a summary of these themes and priorities, for the iCEP 'at a glance'.



OUR THEMES:

Our priorities:

COUNCIL-LED SUSTAINABILITY

Maintaining a high-quality knowledge base.

Embedding climate and environmental concerns in Council decision-making.

Establish mechanisms for partnering with the Waratah-Wynyard community on environmental management and climate action.

Reducing Council's resource consumption and carbon footprint.

Managing waste sustainably.

Assisting the Waratah-Wynyard community to reduce its resource consumption and carbon footprint.

Embedding climate risk information in Council's emergency planning.

Aligning Council's purchasing with principles of sustainability.

Tracking outcomes, evaluating progress and sharing results.

Contributing to regional, state, national and international climate initiatives.

Advocating for effective environmental management and adaptation resources.

COMMUNITY ADAPTATION & RESILIENCE

Facilitating community access to accurate, timely and practical information.

Supporting localised community-led Community Based Adaptation (CBA) initiatives.

Reducing the impacts of heatwaves for people in their homes, workplaces, schools and care facilities.

Reducing the impacts of bushfire smoke and poor air quality for people in their homes, workplaces, schools and care facilities.

Anticipating and helping people to reduce the impacts of the changing allergen profile.

Enhancing community food security.

Supporting psychological adaptation.

Helping ensure current and future housing stock meets the demands of a changing climate.

Supporting a climate-ready community sector.

Continuing to emphasise community resilience as an essential aspect of emergency management.

FUTURE-READY INFRASTRUCTURE

Applying a risk-management approach to strategic land-use planning and population change.

Acknowledging and planning for the impacts of coastal erosion.

Encouraging sustainable building practices.

Lessening risks to Council assets.

Anticipating and planning for potential climate impacts on stormwater and drainage.

Supporting owners to decrease physical risks to private property.

Working with other levels of government to minimise risks to public assets.

FINANCIAL & ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY

Reducing risks to Council's financial assets and investments.

Helping property owners to understand and plan for financial risks associated with climate change.

Encouraging the agricultural sector to transition to more sustainable operations

Supporting opportunity identification in new agricultural products and markets.

Encouraging forestry operators to transition to more sustainable operations.

Supporting opportunity identification in the carbon market.

Encouraging tourism operators to understand risks and opportunities.

Supporting local businesses to transition to more sustainable operations and to identify risks and opportunities.

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

Planning for change in the physical environment.

Protecting, enhancing and recovering biodiversity.

Anticipating and mitigating biosecurity risks.

Working with relevant stakeholders to protect Aboriginal heritage values in the landscape.

Managing water sustainably.

Monitoring pollution and environmental health.

8. ABOUT OUR PRIORITIES

The following section provides additional background to each of the iCEP's priorities. Our final selection of priorities was based on a combination of community and stakeholder views, evidence from research, good practice in local government, Council policy and responsibilities, and the local knowledge and expertise held by Council staff and elected representatives.



COUNCIL-LED SUSTAINABILITY



Not only are councils the level of government closest to the community, where the effects of climate change will be keenly felt; they are also corporate entities with the capacity to lead by example through positive environmental and sustainability practices.

The Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) states that local government is committed to playing its part to meet the challenges and opportunities of reducing emissions and adapting to climate change.

The Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT) has developed the following Guiding Principles on Climate Change for Local Government³:

- Combining mitigation and adaptation strategies at all levels of government and industry.
- Commitment to long-term and strategic consideration of climate change across local government functions.
- Leadership within the local community in understanding and acting on climate change.
- Flexibility and resilience within local government processes to adapt to climate change impacts upon human and natural environments.
- Recognition of shared responsibility and collaboration across all levels of government, industry and community.

MAINTAINING A HIGH-QUALITY KNOWLEDGE BASE.

Why is this important?

Respondents to our community and stakeholder consultation told us that Council decision-making should take a long-term view of sustainability. They told us Council decision-making should be evidence-based and not distorted by pressure from vested interests.

Research conducted for development of this iCEP has highlighted the quickly changing nature of data concerning climate and the environment. Effective planning and decision-making will need to keep up with this data landscape. In the context of climate change, the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) has named as a key priority improved access to information and scalable data to inform council policy development planning and community engagement⁴:

Similarly, Action 5.2 of Tasmania's Climate Action 21⁵ is to: 'Develop online resources to help communities understand their exposure to natural hazards.'

EMBEDDING CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS IN COUNCIL DECISION-MAKING.

Why is this important?

Respondents to WWC's community and stakeholder consultation told us they were concerned about a lack of government response to climate and environmental issues. Only a minority (17%) of respondents felt Waratah-Wynyard Council was doing enough to prepare for the impacts of climate change. Respondents said they wanted Council to demonstrate strong leadership around sustainability, environmental management and climate change adaptation. They said an ideal Waratah-Wynyard is a place where

Council decision-making applies an environmental 'lens'.

This position is reflected in the policy context. The Australian Intergovernmental Agreement on the Environment (1992)⁶ commits to the integration of environmental considerations into all levels of Government decision-making. The Agreement recognises that local government:

- has a responsibility for the development and implementation of locally relevant and applicable environmental policies within its jurisdiction in co-operation with other levels of Government and the local community;
- has an interest in the environment of their localities and in the environments to which they are linked; and
- has an interest in the development and implementation of regional, Statewide and national policies, programs and mechanisms which affect more than one Local Government unit.

Action 5.3 of Tasmania's Climate Action 21⁷ is to: 'Work with local government and regional bodies to embed climate change adaptation into strategic and financial decision making.'

ESTABLISH MECHANISMS FOR PARTNERING WITH THE WARATAH-WYNYARD COMMUNITY ON ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE ACTION.

Why is this important?

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has emphasised the link between resilience to climate change impacts

and the quality of local governance. It notes that government's capacity and willingness to listen to, work with, support and serve those who lack resilience is fundamental to adaptation⁸.

Respondents to WWC's community and stakeholder consultation told us that an ideal Waratah-Wynyard was a place where a forward-thinking Council works in partnership with an engaged community. They said that Council should not, and cannot, act alone, and that Council's role should foster collaboration with multiple stakeholders.

Australia's National Climate Resilience and Adaptation Strategy⁹ states, 'There are significant benefits when local councils engage in a partnership approach, by bringing in other local councils and/or businesses and community groups. Working together, local councils can achieve economies of scale, share information and pool resources'.

REDUCING COUNCIL'S RESOURCE CONSUMPTION AND CARBON FOOTPRINT

Why is this important?

Australia is a signatory to the 2015 Paris Agreement. This commits Australia to helping keep the global temperature rise this century to below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, with a preferred limit of 1.5 degrees. Signatories agree to rapidly reduce emissions to limit further warming¹⁰.

Local governments own and manage a range of facilities and equipment that offer opportunities for improved energy efficiency and use of renewable energy. Respondents to WWC's community and stakeholder consultation told us there was an opportunity for Council to demonstrate leadership in

corporate sustainability and energy alternatives.

A national survey of local governments in Australia found that reducing emissions creates mutual benefits across the community and council. Positive outcomes include cost savings, environmental benefits and increased profile. Action at the local level contributes to meeting the Paris Agreement and helps prepare communities for a changing climate¹¹.

MANAGING WASTE SUSTAINABLY

Why is this important?

Australia's National Waste Policy states that 2.7 tonnes of waste per capita is generated each year in Australia. While the net amount of waste continues to grow due to an increasing population, Australian attitudes towards waste and resource management have shifted towards a desire to see resources captured and recirculated. The policy notes that better management of waste (including moving to a more circular economy) can deliver financial, economic and environmental benefits. At present, waste is responsible for approximately two percent of Australia's emissions, via methane emitted from the decay of organic material in landfill¹².

In 2018/19, Waratah-Wynyard recorded a total of 5,149 tonnes to landfill. Respondents to WWC's community and stakeholder consultation told us that an ideal Waratah-Wynyard was a place in which people are helped to compost their green waste and to repair, recycle and re-use. Respondents highlighted more sustainable waste management practices as an area for Council action, such as reducing impacts from non-recyclable waste; incentivising sustainable choices; encouraging and supporting

recycling for households and in public spaces; the collection and reuse of green waste.

Cohesive waste management is a priority for all levels of government in Australia. Local governments are accountable for providing waste services to local households and businesses, managing landfill sites and delivering education and awareness campaigns. In Tasmania, these activities are shaped by the National Waste Policy and the Tasmanian Waste and Resource Management Strategy.

WWC aims to continually improve the way it manages waste. Council's strategic objectives for waste management objectives include diverting waste from landfill by partnering with business and the community; building awareness around individual roles in value creation and facilitating community awareness; complying with relevant environmental legislation; and providing a waste service that is both valued by, and affordable for, the local community.¹³

A recent assessment on the state of markets for recycled materials found that the local and global markets for recyclables—paper and cardboard, plastics, glass—were all volatile in 2019. This was largely due to regulatory restrictions on the import of recycled material into China, and then into some Asian nations. The market security and pricing for recyclables is strongly linked to the availability of markets back into the new product, either as packaging or durable goods. It is unlikely that Australia will have the same opportunities to explore recyclable materials in either the quantity or quality that existed previously. There is a recognition that governments and major brands have a role in procuring recycled content product in order to create the market for a healthy circular outcome¹⁴.

Waratah-Wynyard's Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy 2019-2024¹⁵ aims to ensure Council is suitably prepared and resourced to

address the challenges and opportunities of a changing environment. The strategy commits to achieving a 50% diversion of waste from landfill by 2024 as well as continuous improvement in the way Council manages community-generated waste. Key priorities of the strategy include materials recovery, community education, environmental compliance and value-for-money.

ALGA strongly supports programs to recycle, reduce and reuse waste. ALGA also supports product stewardship programs in which manufacturers accept responsibility for managing the end-of-life impact of their products¹⁶.

ASSISTING THE WARATAH-WYNYARD COMMUNITY TO REDUCE ITS RESOURCE CONSUMPTION AND CARBON FOOTPRINT

Why is this important?

A national climate review in 2018 found that community emissions reduction targets and actions were not uniformly supported by local government. It found that strong community support can be harnessed to reduce council and community emissions, and that reducing emissions creates mutual benefit across the community and council.¹⁷

Respondents to WWC's community and stakeholder consultation told us Council could do more to assist residents to live sustainably and have a smaller carbon footprint. Key issues of concern included saving energy, planning for reduced water availability, mitigating the effects of pollution and waste, reducing impacts from non-recyclable waste, incentivising sustainable choices and the collection and reuse of green waste.

EMBEDDING CLIMATE RISK INFORMATION IN COUNCIL'S EMERGENCY PLANNING

Why is this important?

Australian local governments have a central role in coordinating and facilitating a range of emergency management activities for all hazards, as well as for resourcing specific council responsibilities for emergency management. Waratah-Wynyard Council's role in emergency management is detailed in the Western Emergency Management Plan¹⁹, which designates responsibilities against a list of identified hazards. 'Preparedness' is managed collaboratively between the State Government, councils and their emergency management partners.

The emergency management sector is at the frontline of dealing with climate change. Many emergency sector agencies are already feeling the impact of climate change. In a recent open statement¹⁹ to the Prime Minister and all State and Territory Governments, the Emergency Leaders for Climate Action group stated that human-driven climate change is worsening the risks of fires, floods and storms in Australia. Further, climate change is reducing opportunities for risk mitigation (such as hazard reduction burns) and traditional responses (such as seasonal resource-sharing).

ALIGNING COUNCIL'S PURCHASING WITH PRINCIPLES OF SUSTAINABILITY

Why is this important?

The total annual expenditure of the Australian local government sector in 2016-17 was \$35.9 billion. As major procurers, local governments can use their purchasing power to buy

sustainably. Potential benefits of sustainable procurement include reduced costs, the ability to serve as a role model to other major procurers, and the achievement of environmental and social benefits throughout the supply chain.

The Australian Government states that sustainable procurement 'looks beyond the up-front cost to make purchasing decisions based on the entire life cycle of the goods and services, taking into account associated costs, environmental and social risks and benefits, and broader social and environmental implications'²⁰.

TRACKING OUTCOMES, EVALUATING PROGRESS AND SHARING RESULTS

Why is this important?

Many Australian councils have adopted a triple bottom line (TBL) approach to track their progress towards social, environmental and economic sustainability. Put another way, the triple bottom line accounts for 'people, planet and profit'. Reported benefits of TBL include²¹:

- Embedding sound corporate governance and ethics systems throughout all levels of an organisation, i.e. a values-driven culture is integrated at all levels.
- Improved risk management due to enhanced management systems and performance monitoring, potentially leading to better resource allocation decisions and business planning.
- Formalising and enhancing communication with key stakeholders.
- Attracting and retaining competent staff by demonstrating an organisation is focused on values and its long-term viability.

- Ability to benchmark performance within and across industries.

Respondents to WWC's community and stakeholder consultation affirmed that local government actions on climate and sustainability should include monitoring and reporting on environmental matters, and should keep the community informed.

CONTRIBUTING TO REGIONAL, STATE, NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE INITIATIVES

Why is this important?

When asked who should lead action on the causes and effects of climate change, the top three responses from respondents to WWC's community and stakeholder consultation were: the Federal Government; state/territory governments; and local governments.

Respondents affirmed that local government action on climate and sustainability should include partnering with others on environmental initiatives. Several Australian councils have escalated the importance of municipal sustainability and climate change action in response to perceived gaps at the national or state policy level.

In 2016, Australia ratified the Paris Agreement and the Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol, reinforcing Australia's commitment to joining international action on climate change. Australian national policy is set out in the National Climate Resilience and Adaptation Strategy.

At the State level, Climate Action 21 sets the Tasmanian Government's agenda for action on climate change through to 2021. The plan names local government as a key partner for both the development of Climate Action 21 as well as delivery of specific actions.

The first government body in the world to declare a climate emergency, Darebin City Council (Victoria, Australia) has argued that councils cannot take climate action alone. Rather, state, federal and global efforts will have the most powerful impact. Darebin advises that collaborative campaigns—involving partners such as other councils, educational institutions, industry groups and community organisations—must advocate for effective action and significant changes to policy, legislation and funding.²²

ADVOCATING FOR EFFECTIVE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT AND ADAPTATION RESOURCES.

Why is this important?

Many adaptation and environmental management measures require input on a scale that exceeds local government capacity. As the tier of government closest to the community, local councils are ideally placed to understand community perspectives and experiences and to advocate for community needs.

Respondents to WWC's community and stakeholder consultation told us that Council's role should include lobbying other levels of government for more local energy options, on climate action, and for additional resources for adaptation.

COMMUNITY ADAPTATION & RESILIENCE



Adaptation is the process of adjustment to actual or expected climate change and its effects. Ideally, adaptation measures will also deliver benefits for climate change mitigation and sustainability. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) notes that local government is increasingly recognised as critical to progress in adaptation due to its role in managing risk information and in scaling up adaptation²³.

Adaptation is considered well-suited to a collaborative approach. This is because of the long timeframes and wide geographic areas involved, and because successful outcomes depend on stakeholder engagement and a wide range of expertise²⁴.

In this iCEP, community adaptation refers to the process of adjustment made by and with our residents, workers and visitors. It complements other types of adaptation, for example in the local economy or in specific business or industry sectors.

Resilience is the ability to bounce back from, or cope with, adversity or trauma. At a community level, resilience is a community's ability to overcome crises. Resilience is considered a major protective factor in enabling individuals and communities to cope with stress²⁵.

Effective leadership—such as that provided by local government—is an essential component of community resilience²⁶. Social, institutional, economic, infrastructure and community capacities are all important for community resilience²⁷, and some of these factors are addressed in other sections of the iCEP.

Adaptive capacity can vary between and within communities. People who live in rural and regional communities, in coastal areas and with high levels of socio-economic disadvantage are considered especially vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

Disadvantaged households also find it more difficult to cope with extreme weather events

than households without disadvantages; and households with multiple disadvantages are especially likely find heat and floods to be challenging²⁸. In 2016 the median weekly personal income for people aged 15 years and over in Waratah-Wynyard was lower than both the Tasmanian and national average, and socio-economic disadvantage was higher than the national average²⁹. Having fewer financial resources makes it more difficult to cope with extreme weather events, to evacuate or relocate, to adapt to higher costs of food³⁰.

FACILITATING COMMUNITY ACCESS TO ACCURATE, TIMELY AND PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Why is this important?

Good decisions depend on access to high-quality information. Communication and information-sharing for the purposes of community resilience has three key functions: (i) to assist in prevention, preparation and risk mitigation; (ii) to facilitate an emergency response; and (iii) to support the recovery process. At the same time, climate change projections are constantly being reviewed, updated with fresh data, and disseminated through a variety of channels. This can make it more difficult for the everyday citizen to have reliable information at their fingertips.

Community resilience is likely to be higher when municipal information provision is tailored to the community's needs³¹. At the same time, information provision alone should not be regarded as automatically conferring resilience and preparedness, and ideally should be integrated with community development³². Ideally, communities will not just 'receive' information but be empowered to meet their own information needs through a two-way dialogue³³.

Respondents to WWC's community and stakeholder consultation told us Council should educate, consult, involve and engage the community. They said information-sharing could help residents to anticipate change and live more sustainably, and could support the sustainability of local industry.

SUPPORTING LOCALISED COMMUNITY-LED COMMUNITY BASED ADAPTATION (CBA) INITIATIVES

Why is this important?

Australia's Climate Resilience and Adaptation Strategy emphasises shared responsibility for managing climate risks, as well as the importance of making collaborative, values-based choices to address climate change at the local level rather than a one-size-fits-all approach.

Waratah-Wynyard is a home to diverse communities, each with their own social networks, resources and environmental strengths and challenges. Respondents to our community and stakeholder consultation affirmed that Council should help communities adapt. However, they also told us that an ideal Waratah-Wynyard is one in which Council works in partnership with its community, supporting and empowering local people to adapt and make sustainable choices.

Community-based adaptation (CBA) is considered a cost-effective way to help de-risk environmental change on a wider scale³⁴. CBA is a 'community-led process, based on communities' priorities, needs, knowledge and capacities, which should empower people to plan for and cope with the impacts of change³⁵. CBA typically involves:

- focusing on communities most vulnerable to climate change;
- identifying development activities at the local level that bolster adaptive capacity;
- involving local stakeholders in developing strategies; and
- integrating cultural norms and addressing the root causes of vulnerability³⁶.

REDUCING THE IMPACTS OF HEATWAVES FOR PEOPLE IN THEIR HOMES, WORKPLACES, SCHOOLS AND CARE FACILITIES

Why is this important?

Under a high emissions scenario³⁷, by the end of this century Waratah-Wynyard is projected to experience an increase in summer days over 25 degrees from less than 10 days a year to more than 20 days. The temperature of very hot days will increase by 3-4 degrees in some locations in some seasons.

Extreme heat and heatwaves present serious health risks for older adults, babies, young children, pregnant women and those with a chronic health condition. Risks of exposure include dehydration, heatstroke, heat exhaustion, the exacerbation of heart and kidney conditions, and death³⁸.

In Australia, excessive heat has been shown to have an equivalent mental health effect to that of unemployment³⁹. Over the last century, heatwaves have been responsible for more deaths in Australia than any other natural event.⁴⁰ In 2016, compared with other regions in Tasmania, people living in the north west were significantly less likely to use air conditioning at home (36.5%) and were significantly more likely not to use any cooling

method⁴¹. This means homes in the north west may be less well equipped to cope with days of high heat.

REDUCING THE IMPACTS OF BUSHFIRE SMOKE AND POOR AIR QUALITY FOR PEOPLE IN THEIR HOMES, WORKPLACES, SCHOOLS AND CARE FACILITIES

Why is this important?

Bushfires can dramatically worsen air quality for populations, even for those not in direct proximity to the fire. This effect was seen in the 2019-20 bushfire season, in which smoke impacted air quality in the cities of Sydney, Canberra and Melbourne as well as settlements on the north west coast of Tasmania.

Exposure to smoke, most notably particulate matter of 2.5 micrometres (PM2.5µm) or less, has been linked with increased mortality. People with a chronic disease—particularly a heart problem or a lung condition, such as asthma, chronic bronchitis and emphysema—are more susceptible to smoke's health effects⁴². In addition to people with chronic disease, people at higher risk from smoke include babies, young children, the elderly, and those who are socially and economically marginalised and who may not have access to air conditioning or air purifiers⁴³. Emerging research indicates that there may be no safe level of PM2.5µm pollution⁴⁴.

Hourly averages for airborne particulates (PM2.5µm and PM10µm) are currently reported by Tasmania's Environmental Protection Authority (EPA).

ANTICIPATING AND HELPING PEOPLE TO REDUCE THE IMPACTS OF THE CHANGING ALLERGEN PROFILE

Why is this important?

Allergic rhinitis ('hayfever') and asthma are significant chronic diseases in Australia, and the two conditions often occur together. Almost 1 in 5 Australians had allergic rhinitis in 2017-18⁴⁵. Grass pollen is a major trigger for allergic rhinitis. Increases in atmospheric concentration of grass pollen have been associated with significant increases in hospital emergency department visits and admissions for asthma⁴⁶.

In the context of climate change, warmer temperatures are expected to lead to an increase in allergens, such as plant pollens and fungal spores¹. While there is much international research on climate change on allergens and allergic diseases, there is currently little research specific to Australia, a country considered to be especially vulnerable to this issue due to the high prevalence of allergic disease⁴⁷.

Access to information about current and forecast pollen levels is likely to give people with allergic rhinitis and allergic asthma a greater sense of empowerment and control over their symptoms, which may lead to improved use of preventative medication and better health outcomes⁴⁸.

ENHANCING COMMUNITY FOOD SECURITY

Why is this important?

Climate change is already adversely affecting the price, quality and seasonal availability of many foods in Australia⁴⁹. Future climate

change is likely to negatively impact food security through direct damage to crops, lowered crop viability, a reduction in food's nutritional quality (due to increased carbon dioxide), and the rising cost of fresh food⁵⁰. At the time of preparing this report, the price of vegetables and some fruits in Australia was significantly higher than in previous years due to drought and bushfires^{51,52}.

Insufficient healthy food is linked to several chronic conditions and diseases, including malnutrition, obesity, heart disease, diabetes and some cancers. Insufficient healthy food can also impede development and learning in children and can lead to social avoidance and isolation. Low food insecurity and poor nutritional status are also associated with worse mental health⁵³.

Shortages of locally available fresh produce may worsen the north west region's already low rates of consumption of fresh food. In 2016, most residents in Waratah-Wynyard did not meet the guidelines for fruit and vegetable consumption⁵⁴. Compared to the Tasmanian average, Waratah-Wynyard residents also paid more for a standard basket of healthy foods when utilising a minor supermarket or general/convenience shop in 2014⁵⁵. In the North West region in 2016, more than one in twenty (6.4%) of people reported that some time in the past 12 months they had run out of food and had been unable to afford to buy more⁵⁶.

Respondents to WWC's community and stakeholder consultation told us they were concerned about the impacts of climate change on agriculture. This concern extended to the issue of food security and the need to balance food production with other types of vegetation. Respondents said that an ideal Waratah-Wynyard was a place where food security and access to organic produce was

enhanced, supported in part by community gardens and edible landscapes.

Tasmania's agricultural sector feeds not just the local community, but also those on mainland Australia and beyond. This implicates the north west in the food security of other regions.

SUPPORTING PSYCHOLOGICAL ADAPTATION

Why is this important?

Anxiety around threats to the natural environment has been dubbed 'eco-anxiety'. Many respondents to WWC's community and stakeholder consultation told us they felt 'worried' and/or 'concerned' in relation to the changing climate and loss of environmental values.

In addition to generating concerns about the future, environmental change is associated with worse mental wellbeing through such factors as climate-driven unemployment, the rising cost of living, increased pressure on health services (especially in rural/regional areas), resource-use conflicts, and conflicts between newcomers and host communities in the context of climate-driven migration⁵⁷. For rural and regional populations, mental stress from the impacts of extreme weather on agricultural production and viability is also a factor⁵⁸. In addition, trauma events from fires and extreme weather events have negative effects on psychological wellbeing⁵⁹.

Mental health—especially with regards to anxiety, depression and trauma—is already a priority wellbeing issue for the Waratah-Wynyard community. Between 2009 and 2016, the north west region experienced a significant increase in the prevalence of depression/anxiety.⁶⁰ In 2016 just over one in

ten (11.7%) north west respondents reported that they had experienced high/very high psychological distress at some time over the past four weeks⁶¹.

HELPING ENSURE CURRENT AND FUTURE HOUSING STOCK MEETS THE DEMANDS OF A CHANGING CLIMATE

Why is this important?

Respondents to WWC's community and stakeholder consultation told us they felt more could be done to ensure the sustainability of local housing.

Climate change is expected to affect the physical structure of houses and other buildings in three main ways. The first is the impact of changing weather patterns (increased temperature and rainfall) on building materials and foundations; the second is damage from sea level rise; and the third is direct damage or destruction from extreme events⁶².

A lack of home insulation means that people living in low-quality housing tend to be more vulnerable to extreme heat events, with their risk factors for heat-related morbidity twice as prevalent than in mid- to high-income households.⁶³ Older houses in Australia tend to be poorly sealed against airflow (leaking around windows, doors and where fixed ventilation grilles are installed), making residents of these houses more susceptible to heat loss in the colder months as well as ingress by smoke pollution from bushfires. Cities with a high proportion of older homes, such as Hobart, have worse scores for air tightness⁶⁴.

People experiencing homelessness are particularly vulnerable to extreme climate events, such as heatwaves or flooding⁶⁵. The

total number of Tasmanians experiencing homelessness in 2016 was 1,622, with 20% of Tasmania's homeless people located in the west and north west regions.

SUPPORTING A CLIMATE-READY COMMUNITY SECTOR

Why is this important?

Community service organisations act as 'shock absorbers' for vulnerable communities facing the impacts of climate change, both in terms of assisting people to navigate crises and supporting communities to recover from extreme events⁶⁶. This is because community organisations have a close knowledge of the strengths and vulnerabilities of people in their communities, and possess skills in crisis management, outreach and information referral⁶⁷.

Research indicates the Australian community sector may not be uniformly well-prepared to respond to climate change, with sectoral adaptation impeded by factors such as inadequate financial resources, a lack of knowledge and skills for adaptation, and the belief that climate change adaptation is not core business⁶⁸.

Respondents to WWC's community and stakeholder consultation told us they wanted to see strong integration and collaboration between local government and local community and environmental organisations.

CONTINUING TO EMPHASISE COMMUNITY RESILIENCE AS AN ESSENTIAL ASPECT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Why is this important?

The Australian Disaster Resilience Knowledge Hub defines resilience as 'The ability of a system, community or society exposed to hazards to resist, absorb, accommodate, adapt to, transform and recover from the effects of a hazard in a timely and efficient manner, including through the preservation and restoration of its essential basic structures and functions through risk management'⁶⁹. The emergency management sector has become increasingly focused on the importance of building community resilience, both for pre-disaster strengthening and for improving the long-term psycho-social outcomes of communities in the wake of disasters⁷⁰.

Waratah-Wynyard Council maintains a Municipal Risk Management Project through its Emergency Management Planning Committee, and it is a party to the Western Emergency Management Plan. This plan states that responsibilities for recovery rest primarily with Council. It defines recovery as a coordinated process of supporting emergency-affected communities in the reconstruction of physical infrastructure and the restoration of emotional, social economic and physical wellbeing. It notes that individual resilience may be enhanced through psychosocial supports⁷¹.

FUTURE-READY INFRASTRUCTURE



Built infrastructure is vulnerable to both climate-related wear-and-tear and major damage from extreme events. Infrastructure at risk includes facilities under local or state government management and privately owned property.

Australia's 560 Local Governments manage land and fixed assets with a total replacement cost of around \$426 billion. A high proportion of this infrastructure is deemed to be in poor condition, which means the local government sector is moving into a major renewal phase over the next two decades. As of 2018, an estimated \$30 billion was required to renew and replace ageing infrastructure⁷².

While local government is already under pressure to manage and maintain assets within existing budgetary constraints, this challenge is likely to be exacerbated by climate change and extreme weather events⁷³.

Waratah-Wynyard Council is responsible for assets worth in excess of \$207 million. These

include roads, bridges, stormwater drainage, buildings, open space and recreation, footpaths and associated operating assets. Identified risks for these assets include the impact of climate change on development and maintenance of infrastructure in coastal areas. Climate change is also identified as driver of demand for Council services⁷⁴.

Failures of public infrastructure can affect supply chains and result in additional costs for reconstruction and increased insurance premiums⁷⁵.

Respondents to WWC's community and stakeholder consultation expressed concern about the potential impacts of climate change on infrastructure. They noted that infrastructure is vulnerable to the impacts of both fire and inundation. Respondents highlighted the need to mitigate risk to infrastructure through reinforcement and relocation, and through planning for potential infrastructure failures.

APPLYING A RISK-MANAGEMENT APPROACH TO STRATEGIC LAND-USE PLANNING AND POPULATION CHANGE

Why is this important?

Respondents to our community and stakeholder consultation told us they were concerned about the potential for both overdevelopment and inappropriate development. This was especially so in regard to the potential economic and social impacts of building in high-risk locations (e.g. from bushfire, flooding, coastal inundation); the impacts of increased development on water and other resources; maintaining recreation and transport links; keeping the existing small-town amenity; and impacting the quality and extent of natural environments.

Respondents said that careful land-use planning, development and building practices were all potential means to facilitate sustainability, environmental management and climate-change preparedness. Respondents felt that planning, development and building should be undertaken strategically, with a view to preserving the natural environment, encouraging greenery, facilitating energy and water efficiency, and mitigating risk from bushfire and inundation.

In addition, respondents told us that an ideal Waratah-Wynyard was a place in which there is balance between the needs of natural, productive and built environments, where people enjoy nature and greenery within and beyond townships, and where people enjoy good access to natural spaces and national parks. They said they felt Council could do more to support revegetation on both private and public land, including provision of street trees.

Respondents valued Waratah-Wynyard's open spaces for recreation, including parks and

pathways. The natural environment was seen as contributing to the beauty of the area as well as to people's physical and psychological wellbeing.

Waratah-Wynyard's *Open Space, Sport and Recreation Plan 2017-2027* acknowledges an increasing environmental awareness in the local community, including expectations and demand for the pristine environmental settings the region provides. The principle of sustainability—including design, development and management—is embedded within the Plan as a means to deliver open space and recreation opportunities that enhance 'the liveability, health and wellbeing of all residents'⁷⁶.

The position of the national peak body for land-use planning, the Planning Institute of Australia (PIA), is that planners working for different levels of government 'have a responsibility to integrate planning for climate change into their work and be proactive in the development of mitigation and adaptation strategies to avoid harm and negative impacts'⁷⁷.

Consistent with all Tasmanian councils, Waratah-Wynyard is required to transition from its interim planning scheme to the new statewide Tasmanian Planning Scheme. The Tasmanian Government is currently developing a suite of Tasmanian Planning Policies (TPPs) to sit alongside the new scheme. These TPPs 'may relate to: the sustainable use, development, protection or conservation of land; environmental protection; liveability, health and wellbeing of the community; and any other matter that may be included in a planning scheme or a regional land use strategy'⁷⁸.

The regional planning framework applicable to Waratah-Wynyard Council is the Cradle Coast Regional Land Use Planning Framework ('Living on the Coast'). Principles of

the framework include improving the liveability and sustainability of communities, ensuring land and resources are consumed at a sustainable rate, and ensuring decisions and choices are informed by science and expert knowledge. The framework also emphasises the importance of considering inter-generational equity on planning and development decisions⁷⁹.

ACKNOWLEDGING AND PLANNING FOR THE IMPACTS OF COASTAL EROSION

Why is this important?

Coastal hazards can cause considerable damage to communities, industries and infrastructure. These hazards are expected to be magnified by climate change and sea level rise. Tasmanian Climate Futures project a rise in sea level of 0.82m by 2100 under the IPCC high-emissions scenario⁸⁰. Recent research on the Greenland ice sheet⁸¹ indicates the world is on track for the high emissions scenario, with a potential sea-level rise of between 0.61m and 1.1m by 2100⁸².

Respondents to our community and stakeholder consultation told us they were very concerned about coastal erosion and the threat of inundation. Feedback emphasised Sisters Beach, but other at-risk coastal assets included the Somerset foreshore, highway, bridges, coastal reserves, estuaries and Wynyard township. Concerns related both to sea-level rise and storm events. Respondents said that an ideal Waratah-Wynyard was a place in which assets and infrastructure are protected from the effects of coastal erosion.

Mapping of coastal hazards for sea-level rise scenarios in 2016 found that Waratah-Wynyard had a total of 139.5 hectares of land within coastal inundation 'hazard bands', including 43.9 hectares in the low hazard

band, 41.5 hectares in the medium hazard band and 52 hectares in the high hazard band⁸³. A separate technical report from the same timeframe identified 286 Waratah-Wynyard residential building envelopes within coastal erosion hazard bands. Most of these (51%) were located in Wynyard, with a further 23% in Sisters Beach, 11% in Boat Harbour and 9% in Somerset⁸⁴.

As a public land manager, Council faces ongoing decisions regarding the protection and/or retreat of public infrastructure from the threats of coastal erosion. Furthermore, there has been an expectation that all coastal hazard issues within the municipality is the direct responsibility of the Council. The responsibility for protection measures, as outlined by the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment, rests with the landowner. Council does not accept specific future obligations to repair or reduce the impacts of erosion on private property, but will provide a facilitatory role in development of plans to address public infrastructure on council owned and managed land.

ENCOURAGING SUSTAINABLE BUILDING PRACTICES

Why is this important?

Building practices can mitigate risk and contribute to more sustainable and resilient housing. For example, the Build it Back Green guide to home design and construction sets out more than 70 technologies for building to disaster-resilient standards, include building for climate resilience⁸⁵. Green certification programs (such as LEED) may be applied to commercial and residential buildings to determine sustainability.

Waratah-Wynyard Council deems Sisters Beach and Waratah to be at higher risk from

bushfire and/or gorse fire. Boat Harbour is also deemed at risk from flammable vegetation to the west⁸⁶. The National Construction Code (NCC) requires buildings constructed in a designated bushfire prone area to be designed and constructed to reduce the risk of ignition from a bushfire, appropriate to the potential for ignition caused by burning embers, radiant heat or flame generated by a bushfire, and the intensity of the bushfire attack on the building⁸⁷.

Building regulations are also applicable to projected flood-prone areas. CSIRO has stated that setting building floor heights in relation to flood levels and declaring areas subject to flooding are likely to be key issues for local governments⁸⁸. In 2016 CSIRO established sea level rise planning allowances for Tasmania based a high emissions scenario⁸⁹. Sea level rise planning allowances for Waratah-Wynyard Council are 0.22m for 2050, and 0.83m for 2100⁹⁰.

REDUCING RISKS TO COUNCIL ASSETS

Why is this important?

Buildings are vulnerable to the effects of fire, extreme rainfall, wind, lightning and the combination of storm surge and sea-level rise. Degradation of materials, structures and foundations may also increase maintenance costs and cause structural failure⁹¹. There is a potential liability for losses (with the exception of pure economic losses) arising out of Council operational decisions where harms have been reasonably foreseeable⁹².

Waratah-Wynyard Council's Asset Management Policy⁹³ commits Council to best practice in asset management. This includes ensuring that assets are planned, created, operated, maintained, renewed and disposed of in accordance with Council's priorities for

service delivery. Specific requirements include safeguarding assets by implementing appropriate asset management strategies, and ensuring appropriate risk management processes are considered and implemented.

ANTICIPATING AND PLANNING FOR POTENTIAL CLIMATE IMPACTS ON STORMWATER AND DRAINAGE

Why is this important?

Under both emissions scenarios, rainfall in Waratah-Wynyard is projected to decrease in summer and autumn and increase in winter and spring. Rainfall will be slightly increased at the coast and decreased inland. The area is likely to see fewer rain days with >1mm rain, but heavier rain on these days. In the long term, drought frequency and severity may stay similar to what was experienced in the 20th century. However, pan evaporation is projected to increase by up to 19% by the end of the century. Total water runoff is not projected to change markedly, due to a combined increase in winter and spring and decrease in summer and autumn. Likewise, there will be little change in average river flows (peak flows will reflect changing rainfall patterns)⁹⁴.

CSIRO has stated that ongoing drainage management, operations and maintenance is likely to be an issue for local government in the context of climate change. Extreme daily rainfall events may affect the capacity and maintenance of stormwater, drainage and sewer infrastructure. Damage costs and environmental spills may result if water systems are unable to cope with extreme or frequent events. Increased ground movement and groundwater changes may also accelerate material degradation and the structural integrity of water supply, sewer and stormwater pipelines⁹⁵.

SUPPORTING OWNERS TO DECREASE PHYSICAL RISKS TO PRIVATE PROPERTY

Why is this important?

CSIRO notes that the building sector has the most diversity of ownership of all infrastructure sectors. This presents challenges with regard to communicating risks to property owners and ensuring that these risks are incorporated into decision-making⁹⁶.

The Tasmanian *Mitigating Natural Hazards Through Land Use Planning* (MNLUP) Framework states that ideally residential property owners would be aware of the risks from natural hazards and would make a conscious choice in which the benefits of occupying a property outweigh the costs. However, the framework acknowledges that residents are not always aware of the risks associated with the purchase of a property. In addition, those risks might change over time, and there may be barriers for homeowners seeking to shift their investment to manage their risk exposure⁹⁷.

The following principles of the framework have implications for local government in planning for natural hazards⁹⁸.

- The private risks associated with natural hazards are the responsibility of individuals and businesses.
- Governments should encourage public and private risks to be factored into investment decisions.
- Governments can support individuals and businesses to understand and manage private risks through the collection of evidence, provision of information and facilitation of collective action.

- Governments should ensure that private investment minimises unacceptable public risk.
- Governments should avoid investment, regulation or policy that gives rise to unacceptable public or private risks.
- Governments should have regard to, and support individuals and businesses to consider, how natural hazards may change in the future, including through climate change.

WORKING WITH OTHER LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT TO MINIMISE RISKS TO PUBLIC ASSETS

Why is this important?

Public assets that may be at risk from the impacts of climate change include transport, power and telecommunications infrastructure. While these assets are not managed by Council, they are essential to the economic and social life of Waratah-Wynyard.

Extreme rainfall may cause flood damage to transport infrastructure. Ports and coastal infrastructure are vulnerable to storm surges combined to sea-level rise; while extreme wind may damage rail, bridges, airports and ports. In addition to the material and structural degradation that may occur through increased ground movement and changes in groundwater, increased temperature and solar radiation may impact road and runway surfaces, steel construction, concrete joins and protective cladding and coatings⁹⁹.

The Bass Highway is a major transport route for north west Tasmania. A study of the Bass Highway between Wynyard to Marrawah acknowledges that climate change effects may impact highway mitigation works. The

report notes the need for ongoing monitoring. For example, it identifies a 12km section of the highway between Detention River and Black River as an area that is potentially susceptible to climate change impacts¹⁰⁰. Separate studies also indicate areas near the Bass highway that may be subject to flood- and erosion-related risk. At the time of preparing this report, no State Government risk assessment for the entirety of the Bass Highway was identified as pending.

Electricity transmission infrastructure and services are vulnerable to damage from extreme weather events. Coastal electricity infrastructure is also potentially at risk from storm surge, wind, flooding, wave events and sea-level rise. Above-ground fixed line transmission infrastructure is vulnerable to damage from wind, lightning and bushfire events, while rainfall events may impact manholes and pits. An increased frequency of

outages could lead to an increase in the cost of supply¹⁰¹.

Increased ground movement and changes in groundwater may degrade materials and the structural integrity of power generation foundations as well as transmission lines and gas and oil pipelines. Heatwave events are likely to increase demand for electricity and to reduce the efficiency of transmission¹⁰². Tasmania's hydro-electric power supply is also vulnerable to the effects of drought¹⁰³.

Buildings are vulnerable to the effects of extreme rainfall, wind, lightning and the combination of storm surge and sea-level rise. Buildings and facilities close to the coast are especially at risk when storm surges are combined with sea-level rise¹⁰⁴. Industrial facilities and other structures are also at risk from fire events, with several critical industrial infrastructure assets listed within the West Coast Fire Management Area¹⁰⁵.

FINANCIAL & ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY



Local government plays an important economic role. It manages physical assets which contribute to local economic growth and stability; it is one of the largest employers in rural and regional areas; it contributes to the total public sector spend; and it implements policies and strategies at the local level to support economic sustainability.

During the year ending June 2019, the gross regional product of the Waratah-Wynyard local area was \$716 million. This represents an increase of 2.5% over the previous year, as well as an increase of 2.27% in the contribution of Waratah-Wynyard as a component of Tasmania's gross regional product¹⁰⁶.

Respondents to WWC's community and stakeholder consultation told us that an ideal Waratah-Wynyard was a place in which people enjoyed economic prosperity and sustainable jobs in carbon-neutral industries, and where economic prosperity does not come at the expense of the environment and community wellbeing.

Climate change is now regarded as a key risk to global economic prosperity¹⁰⁷. The Australian economy is likely to face short-, mid- and long-term challenges from a changing climate. Potential issues for local economies include rising resource costs and competition, the cost of mitigation measures, the potential for reduced transport capacity, lowered production capacities in the agricultural sector, the changing insurance landscape, emissions policies and regulations and the potential for litigation associated with disclosure failings¹⁰⁸.

A sustainable local economy is one in which climate risks are assessed and mitigated, where negative impacts on the natural environment (including emissions and resource consumption) are minimised, and where strategic advantages are identified and leveraged.

REDUCING RISKS TO COUNCIL'S FINANCIAL ASSETS AND INVESTMENTS

Why is this important?

A business-as-usual approach to climate change is expected to have a major impact on the global economy, equivalent to a loss of between 5% to 11% of global gross domestic product annually. This number may be as high as 14% if amplifying feedbacks accelerate change¹⁰⁹.

Nothing in this document constitutes financial advice. The information in this paragraph is of a general nature. Some research indicates that under a 2 °C scenario, investors could see negative returns from developed market equity and private equity, with potential gains in infrastructure, emerging market equity and low-carbon industry sectors. Under a 4 °C scenario, asset classes such as agriculture, timberland, real estate and emerging market equities may be at risk¹¹⁰.

The Australian Prudential Regulation Authority has highlighted the financial nature of climate change risks to regulated entities. It notes that the awareness of these risks is growing, and as of 2019 a majority of regulated entities surveyed were taking steps to integrate climate risks into risk management frameworks and financial analysis¹¹¹.

Investments affected by the market impacts of climate change may include Council mid- and long-term market investments as well as the superannuation of Council staff.

A further financial risk for Council is the changing insurance landscape, with the coastal zone potentially more vulnerable¹¹². The Australian Insurance Council has highlighted the link between appropriate mitigation efforts and climate insurability and has noted the importance of information provision to stakeholders about future risks¹¹³.

HELPING PROPERTY OWNERS TO UNDERSTAND AND PLAN FOR FINANCIAL RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH CLIMATE CHANGE

Why is this important?

The property sector in Australia is valued at \$6.6 trillion—more than any other industry. At June 2018, Waratah-Wynyard had a median house valuation of \$269,846. The value of residential building approvals in Waratah-Wynyard was \$14.5 million in the 2018-19 financial year¹¹⁴.

Australia-wide, climate change and extreme weather are expected to cause damage-related loss in property values of \$571 billion by 2030, and \$661 billion by 2050, figures that exclude costs associated with disruptions to productivity or replacement costs of buildings¹¹⁵. Climate change is also expected to affect property values indirectly, with the value of at-risk homes declining. The converse is also likely to be true. For example, in some parts of the United States, value increases have already been recorded for properties at higher elevations¹¹⁶.

In addition, the impacts of climate change mean that by 2030, one in 19 property owners in Australia will potentially face unaffordable insurance premiums (i.e. costing 1% or more of the property value annually), as the proportion of properties over the 1% 'risk cost threshold' grows over time. Based on existing Australian housing stock, the impacts of these increased costs will be concentrated on 5-6% of properties (estimated to be 3% in Tasmania). Building new properties in hazardous areas could increase this proportion¹¹⁷.

The impacts of the changing insurance landscape are already being felt in disaster-prone areas of northern Australia, where premium rises have seen the average rate of

non-insurance grow to 20%, twice the national average¹⁹⁸.

Respondents to WWC's community and stakeholder consultation told us they were concerned about the impacts of overdevelopment and inappropriate development, especially in terms of the potential economic and social impacts of building in high-risk locations. The potential financial impacts of climate change, especially regarding insurance, were also named as a concern.

ENCOURAGING THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR TO TRANSITION TO MORE SUSTAINABLE OPERATIONS

Why is this important?

Respondents to WWC's community and stakeholder consultation told us they valued Waratah-Wynyard's productive landscapes. Respondents were concerned about the impacts of climate change on agriculture and food security. They said that an ideal Waratah-Wynyard was a place in which agricultural practices support carbon neutrality/negativity; and they valued a balance between the needs of natural, productive and built environments. Respondents wanted Council to support the sustainability of farming through information-sharing and support for innovation.

Waratah-Wynyard's Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing industry sector generated \$107.5 million in 2017-8. The majority of this (\$87.4 million) was generated by agriculture, followed by support services for agriculture, forestry and fishing; forestry and logging; fishing, hunting and trapping, and aquaculture¹⁹⁹. In 2017-18, the total value of agricultural output in Waratah-Wynyard was \$87 million. Data for 2015-16 shows that the largest agricultural commodity produced was milk, which accounted for 37.9% of Waratah-

Wynyard's total agricultural outputs for that year in value terms²⁰⁰.

Globally, climate change is expected to negatively impact food production and food prices, quality and distribution systems, including crops, livestock and fish production²⁰¹. In north west Tasmania, a business-as-usual approach to agriculture and forestry may expose these industries to the risks of changing temperatures, increased bushfire prevalence and changing rainfall patterns and. Under a high-emissions scenario, by the end of the century Waratah-Wynyard is projected to experience greater frequency of drought²⁰². Warmer temperatures will impact on crop types, crop duration (i.e. time to flowering and maturity), crop yields, crop quality, and pest incidence and severity²⁰³.

CSIRO notes that the expected impacts of climate change on agricultural production in Australia are compounded by legacies of farming practices that have resulted in impoverished soils, low soil carbon levels and erosion²⁰⁴. Australia-wide, climate change is expected to cause significant economic loss to agricultural heartlands such as the Murray-Darling Basin and the Western Australian wheat belt²⁰⁵.

Emissions also impact agriculture's 'social licence' to operate. Components of agricultural emissions in Australia include enteric fermentation (methane emitted from animal digestion); manure (methane and sometimes nitrous oxide emissions from decomposition); rice cultivation; agricultural soils (emissions of nitrous oxide from microbial and chemical transformations in the soil, due in part to nitrogen fertilisers); and field burning of agricultural residues²⁰⁶. In 2017, Tasmanian agriculture emitted 2.31 megatonnes of CO₂ equivalent, 1% less than in 1990²⁰⁷.

SUPPORTING OPPORTUNITY IDENTIFICATION IN NEW AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS AND MARKETS

Why is this important?

Agricultural producers can adapt to climate change in many ways. These include diversifying crops, conditioning soils, implementing technological development, and changing the timing of farm practices¹²⁸. As the major growing regions of the mainland experience warmer conditions and decreased production, there may be an opportunity for north west Tasmania to address this gap, with further opportunities for irrigated production identified¹²⁹.

The Cradle Coast region is projected to experience an increase in growing degree days suitable for growing and ripening crops. A warming climate is likely to provide opportunities for agriculture to utilise land at higher altitudes. This is especially so for areas with ferrosols (red soils). In these areas, today's cropping zone of 300m above sea level may extend to 450m by 2030 and above 500m by 2050¹³⁰.

Dryland pasture production is projected to increase in Tasmania over the century, while irrigated drygrass yields are projected to increase to 2040 and then decline, due to hotter summer temperatures¹³¹. Dairy cattle are susceptible to hot conditions. By the middle of this century and under a mid-range climate scenario, dairy production is projected to decline in all regions of Australia except Tasmania, indicating potential local advantages¹³².

Viticulture is a key indicator industry for the impacts of climate change. At present, wine growers all over the world are noting changes due to warming. By 2050, up to 70% of Australia's wine-growing regions with a

Mediterranean climate (e.g. Barossa Valley and Margaret River) will see a decline in suitability for grape growing¹³³. At the same time, in Tasmania these warming temperatures are expected to create new areas of the state with suitability for viticulture¹³⁴. Modelling has shown that by 2070, northern Tasmania may offer a climate for wine production similar to the Coonawarra region of South Australia¹³⁵.

The Cradle Coast Authority has published information about potential adaptation strategies for the following products and sectors:

- Pome fruit
- Stone fruit
- Canola
- Beef and sheep
- Cereal
- Alkaloid poppy
- Potato
- Pyrethrum
- Vegetables
- Dairy
- Horticulture
- Legumes
- Nuts
- Olives
- Viticulture
- Farms and climate readiness

ENCOURAGING FORESTRY OPERATORS TO TRANSITION TO MORE SUSTAINABLE OPERATIONS

Why is this important?

The Tasmanian Climate Change Office cites research indicating that reduced rainfall and increased temperatures are likely to affect the growth rates of forest plantation species. On average, growth rates for radiata pine are projected to decline (against the 2005

baseline growth rates), while blue gum growth rates are projected to increase. It states that increases in atmospheric carbon dioxide may compensate for declines in growth rates by providing a fertilisation effect to some extent. However, these gains may be offset by changes in the distribution, incidence and severity of pests, diseases and invasive species¹³⁵.

Adaptation measures to support plantation forests in Australia include¹³⁷:

- Within-rotation silviculture: thinning, fertilising, weed and pest control, fire hazard management, using seasonal climate forecasting to assess risks;
- Climate-ready germplasm, diversification and risk management, new establishment and management procedures; and
- Transformation of land use or distributional change, new products e.g. biofuels, C-forests, new species.

Research on Tasmanian forest adaptation notes that the productivity and protection of forest plantations can be improved by a range of silvicultural and other measures. For example, species that are more tolerant of warmer and drier climatic conditions could be planted as existing strands are harvested, and thinning regimes could be adjusted to reduce competition for water within stands.

A carbon dioxide fertilisation effect may partially or fully offset modelled declines in tree growth with future warmer and drier conditions¹³⁸.

Respondents to our community and stakeholder consultation said they valued Waratah-Wynyard's productive landscapes. They told us that an ideal Waratah-Wynyard was a place in which the negative impacts of forestry are minimised; and where forestry

practices support carbon neutrality/negativity. Respondents also valued a balance between the needs of natural, productive and built environments.

SUPPORTING OPPORTUNITY IDENTIFICATION IN THE CARBON MARKET

Why is this important?

Carbon sequestration is the capture of carbon dioxide from the air and storing it in plants, soils and oceans. Carbon sinks are long-term stores of carbon, and are important for reducing overall greenhouse gas emissions¹³⁹. The Tasmanian Climate Change Office states that climate change policy may provide some opportunities for the forestry industry to benefit from emerging carbon sequestration markets¹⁴⁰.

As of 2012, the total carbon stock in live vegetation in Tasmania's forests was estimated at 1,400-1,900 million tonnes (Mt) of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e). A further 1,000-1,500 Mt CO₂e was contained in forest debris and dead trees, with 600-900 Mt CO₂e contained in soil (<30cm). The total amount of carbon stored in vegetation, debris and soil of native forests and plantations is estimated to be 3,000-4,400 Mt CO₂e. An estimated 97% of the total carbon is contained in native forests, with hardwood and softwood plantations containing 3%. Carbon densities were highest in the more productive forests in the southern, central, north west and north east regions of the state¹⁴¹.

A full feasibility study of the potential benefits of the carbon economy to Waratah-Wynyard was beyond the scope of the iCEP. However, a recent Senate inquiry into future employment into regional areas of Australia has heard that carbon storage management could play a role

in replacing declining traditional forestry jobs³⁴².

Examples of carbon offset projects include reforestation, investing in renewable energy and more efficient agricultural processes. A survey of Tasmanian farmers in 2010 found that farmers had a medium to low level of awareness of carbon storage and greenhouse gas emissions issues on their farm. Carbon storage and emissions were regarded as low priorities. Low levels of engagement were associated with uncertainties about future carbon markets, the low price of carbon and the existing financial challenges of commodity production. At the same time, most respondents had a medium to very high interest in learning more about the carbon economy³⁴³.

In part, progress on increasing carbon sinks will depend on managing the rate of land-clearing. The current Tasmanian legislation offers few controls for preventing landowners from clearing their bushland. Broad scale clearance and conversion of bushland (i.e. more than 20 hectares of native forest in any period for five consecutive years) is not permitted in Tasmania. However, several exemptions exist, including for the construction and maintenance of infrastructure, in the case of routine management activities, facilitating development with a substantial public benefit, or for limited agricultural purposes³⁴⁴.

Respondents to our community and stakeholder consultation expressed concern about threats to vegetation including form land clearing, removal of native species and failures to adequately revegetate landscapes. Concern was expressed that critically important/older trees were not adequately protected. Respondents said that an ideal Waratah-Wynyard was a place in which revegetation and regeneration of natural bushland are supported.

Respondents felt Council could play a greater role in revegetation and in preventing the loss of trees and wildlife habitat. Respondents felt Council could be doing more through its planning role and via partnerships to ensure habitats and green spaces are preserved and replaced. For respondents, this included achieving a balance between diverse agricultural/horticultural production and forest plantations. It was also felt that Council could do more to support revegetation on both private and public land, including provision of street trees.

Council does not at present have conclusive data around local land-clearing trends. However, publicly available spatial data sourced from time-series analysis of Landsat images characterising forest extent and change suggest that significant forest coverage loss is evident for the 2000-18 period. This loss could be attributed to various factors including forestry activity, private land clearing and fires. The gains represented are likely to be attributed to natural regrowth and forestry activities. Further investigation and data analysis will be needed to establish the exact numbers and causes of these changes.

ENCOURAGING TOURISM OPERATORS TO UNDERSTAND RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Why is this important?

1.26 million visitors travelled to Tasmania in 2017, up 2% from the previous year, with a total visitor expenditure of \$2.33 billion³⁴⁵. In 2017-18, tourism and hospitality sales in Waratah-Wynyard totalled \$9.3 million, with a total value-add of \$4.8 million³⁴⁶.

Respondents to our community and stakeholder consultation told us that an ideal Waratah-Wynyard was a place in which tourism (including ecotourism opportunities)

was managed sustainably. Respondents valued Waratah-Wynyard's 'clean and green' image in the eyes of tourists and visitors. They highlighted the uniqueness of Waratah-Wynyard in a global context.

The Australian tourism industry is considered both the most vulnerable (because of its reliance on nature-based attractions) and the least prepared to manage climate risks. The United Nations has named the Australia/NZ region as one of five Climate Change Vulnerable Hotspots for the global tourism industry. Australia's most significant tourist destinations (including its beaches) are already feeling the effects of climate change¹⁴⁷.

Tourism is vulnerable to extreme events such as bushfires and floods, both in terms of their direct effects and their long-term impacts on how a location is perceived. This was seen in the wake of the 2016 Tasmanian bushfires, when Tourism operators in the Tarkine region experienced a downturn in business¹⁴⁸.

Tourism may also be affected by changes to the cost of travel in the context of emission reduction initiatives and pricing¹⁴⁹. In addition, the high tourism values of marine and coastal environments are vulnerable to the impacts of inundation. This risk may make it more difficult for tourism operators in shoreline environments to obtain property insurance¹⁵⁰.

At the same time, the Tasmanian Government notes that Tasmania's comparatively mild climate may increase its attractiveness as a tourism destination¹⁵¹. In addition, the region may possess untapped opportunities in the ecotourism sector. Tourism Tasmania positions the region surrounding Waratah-Wynyard as a destination rich in natural resources¹⁵². Community consultation undertaken in 2016 for *Sustainable Murchison 2040* confirmed that the community regards natural resources as the lynchpin of the

region's reputation, especially in the eyes of tourists and visitors¹⁵³.

The national peak industry body Ecotourism Australia notes that Australia's natural environment is rated as the most important attraction for international visitors in all major source markets, and that ecotourism can be a major economic generator for regional communities¹⁵⁴. Analysis by the Australian Bureau of Statistics from 2002 found that Tasmania is in a sound position to advance its nature-based tourism sector, with significant growth in participation by the international market an important trend¹⁵⁵. Recent consultation with the Wynyard community has also identified ecotourism as an opportunity for economic development¹⁵⁶.

SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESSES TO TRANSITION TO MORE SUSTAINABLE OPERATIONS AND TO IDENTIFY RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Why is this important?

In 2018, Waratah-Wynyard's businesses were most heavily concentrated in Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing (237 businesses, or 27.7% of all registered businesses in Waratah-Wynyard); Construction (131 businesses, or 15.3%); Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services (79, or 9.2%); Retail Trade (59, or 6.9%) and Transport, Postal and Warehousing (53, or 6.2%)¹⁵⁷.

Climate change is expected to have variable impacts on Australian business and industry. Businesses with short-term planning cycles will be more affected by climate variability (e.g. flooding of premises, impact on workers from heat stress, interrupted supply chains) as well as compliance with adaptation policy and regulation. Those on longer-term planning cycles (especially those in the infrastructure-

related sector) will be more exposed to risk from long-term climate change¹⁵⁸.

According to the PwC annual CEO survey, business concern about climate change has been escalating since 2016. In 2019, 65% of CEOs saw climate change and environmental damage as a threat to business¹⁵⁹.

ASIC considers climate change a 'foreseeable risk' for Australia's listed companies. It recommends that companies adopt a probative and proactive approach to emerging risks, including climate risk¹⁶⁰.

While the need to mitigate the impacts of climate change is accepted across much of the Australian business community, levels of awareness vary. Protecting business operations in a changing climate requires an

assessment of the implications of climate change on business systems and processes (e.g. productivity, resource supply, infrastructure damage, supply chain disruptions), workplace environment (e.g. worker health, long-term liabilities) and external effects (e.g. operational restrictions, government regulation)¹⁶¹.

Climate change is also relevant to a company's 'social licence' to operate, which refers to community and stakeholder perceptions of a company and reflects a company's record of ethical business conduct, community relationships, workers' rights and safety, and environmental performance. A 'social licence' is not given in law but is necessary for a company's financial survival¹⁶².

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP



Consultation respondents told us that an ideal Waratah-Wynyard was a place in which existing environmental values are maintained and where natural environments are protected from the impacts of development, tourism and pollution. Yet climate change is already impacting Waratah-Wynyard's natural systems and landscapes. This change presents a challenge for natural resource management, including biodiversity conservation and biosecurity.

CSIRO notes that a flexible, iterative approach to natural resource management offers a way to cope with changing conditions and a moving baseline. It recommends that natural resource management planning adopts an 'adaptation lens' in order to: (i) make decisions for multiple possible futures; (ii) employ flexible and adaptive planning processes; (iii) identify and prepare for likely future decisions; and (iv) strengthen the adaptive capacity of people and organisations⁶³.

Australia takes a regional approach to natural resource management. NRM Cradle Coast is named as the natural resource management

division of the Cradle Coast Authority. The Cradle Coast Natural Resource Management Strategy 2015-2020⁶⁴ names five priority areas common to each of the three dimensions of land (natural, productive and urban landscapes), water (rivers, wetlands and groundwater) and coasts (including estuaries and oceans). These are:

1. Atmosphere: Our air and climate
2. Biodiversity: Our native plants and animals
3. Community: Our people
4. Cultural heritage: Our history
5. Geology: Our soils and geoheritage

The State Government's *Natural Heritage Strategy for Tasmania (2013-2030)* states that local governments are key stakeholders and partners in natural resource management. Council's legislated responsibilities for natural resource management are set out in a range of legislation, such as the *Weed Management Act 1999*; the *Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994*; and the *Litter Act 2007*.

PLANNING FOR CHANGE IN THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

Why is this important?

Climate change is projected to have a range of physical impacts on Tasmania's terrestrial, freshwater and marine environments.

Geomorphic processes, landforms and soil systems may be affected by both direct and indirect change impacts, with the most severe impacts affecting fluvial (rivers, lakes and wetlands) and coastal/estuarine systems.

Changes to rainfall intensity, vegetation cover, fire frequency and intensity and windstorm intensity may impact soil hydrology, soil organic carbon, salinity, erosion and sedimentation. Highly vulnerable terrestrial ecosystems (especially to fire) are likely to include alpine areas, moorlands and peatlands¹⁶⁵.

In addition to the above, warmer temperatures, increased wind and changing rainfall patterns are likely to impact freshwater ecosystems. Coastal erosion from sea-level rise and storm surge are projected to affect significant areas of Tasmania's coast¹⁶⁶.

PROTECTING, ENHANCING AND RECOVERING BIODIVERSITY

Why is this important?

Waratah-Wynyard is rich in biodiversity. Compared to the rest of Australia, parts of the North West Tasmanian Natural Resource Management region show a high level of richness (i.e. number of different species in a given area) for a range of aquatic (both fish and mammal), insect, mollusc and plant families. Part of the region also show a high level of endemism (i.e. the degree to which species have a small geographic range) for several fish, animal, bird, mollusc, insect and plant families. The north west region is home

to five species declared as critically endangered, as well as 26 species declared as endangered and 23 species declared as vulnerable¹⁶⁷.

Respondents to WWC's community and stakeholder consultation told us that an ideal Waratah-Wynyard was a place in which biodiversity and diverse ecologies are protected and enhanced, and where native wildlife and flora are valued and protected within sustainable habitats.

Respondents expressed concern about threats to plant and animal biodiversity through land clearing, habitat loss, increased impacts from humans and dogs/cats, and poor understanding of the value of biodiversity. They were concerned that critically important/older trees (which are more likely to provide habitat) were not adequately protected. Respondents also expressed concern about threats to biodiversity due to the pollution of waterways and species change in marine environments.

Australia is party to international agreements designed to protect global biodiversity. The outlook for Australian biodiversity is considered generally poor, given its current status, deteriorating trends and increasing environmental pressures¹⁶⁸. Tasmania's commitment to protecting biodiversity is outlined in the *Natural Heritage Strategy for Tasmania 2012-2030*¹⁶⁹.

ANTICIPATING AND MITIGATING BIOSECURITY RISKS

Why is this important?

Biosecurity is the protection of industries, the environment and public wellbeing, health, amenity and safety from the negative effects of pests, diseases and weeds. DPIPW's Biosecurity Tasmania is responsible for

leading the biosecurity effort in Tasmania in partnership with the community and industry.

A recent report on Australia's biosecurity system highlighted the importance of local government in protecting Australia from pests, weeds and diseases. It noted that this local government role could be exercised by applying disaster management capacities to biosecurity emergency response management; and strengthening citizen awareness and participation in biosecurity⁷⁷⁰.

A majority of respondents to our community and stakeholder consultation agreed that climate change was already causing an increase biosecurity hazards. Respondent concerns about biosecurity included the risks of invasive weeds and pests, diseases and disease vectors. Respondents said Council has a role to play in managing biosecurity, including the management of invasive weeds (both by planting alternative native species and by reducing weeds), pests and disease. Respondents were concerned about the potential for roadside management (such as the removal of vegetation) to allow invasive weeds to take hold. They noted that weed management controls can have negative health and environmental impacts.

In Tasmania, biosecurity risks associated with climate change have the potential to impact natural systems, food availability for local communities (e.g. the removal of contaminated produce from stores), and productive enterprises such as agriculture, aquaculture and forestry⁷⁷¹. Tasmania currently implements an Appropriate Level of Protection that accepts only a 'very low risk' in relation to biosecurity, making it comparatively very conservative⁷⁷².

Biosecurity risks and threats have increased in recent years due to the greater global movement of people and goods and as a

result of changing environmental conditions⁷⁷³. Climate change is expected to impact on introduced and indigenous diseases, parasites, predators and competitors. South eastern Australia has been identified as one of the regions most at risk from invasive weeds⁷⁷⁴.

The Cradle Coast Authority notes that preventing the introduction of pests and diseases will be important for preserving Tasmania's biodiversity and productivity in the face of climate change. Other biosecurity measures include eradication and containment, and asset-based protection such as managing spread into alpine areas. Cradle Coast NRM has named the investigation of emerging weed threats under the effects of climate change as a priority action⁷⁷⁵.

A key issue for Tasmania is the southward migration of species. For example, warming sea temperatures have already seen the long-spined sea urchin extend its range from NSW into Tasmanian coastal waters. A combination of warming water temperatures and invasive species may adversely impact Tasmania's fisheries industry⁷⁷⁶. On land, cool temperate species such as gorse, broom and blackberry are all expected to expand their range in Tasmania⁷⁷⁷.

WORKING WITH RELEVANT STAKEHOLDERS TO PROTECT ABORIGINAL HERITAGE VALUES IN THE LANDSCAPE

Why is this important?

Natural resource management has a potential role to play in facilitating the continuation of Aboriginal land management traditions and in recognising, protecting and managing Tasmania's Aboriginal cultural heritage.

Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania administers the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1975*¹⁷⁸, which provides for the management and protection of identified sites of heritage significance. Aboriginal cultural heritage includes landscapes with tangible evidence of Aboriginal life pre-dating colonisation (e.g. burials sites, shell middens, rock carvings, rock shelters, hut depressions); intangible places where there may be no physical evidence of past cultural activities, such as places of spiritual or ceremonial significance or trade and travel routes; as well as post-colonisation heritage values such as Aboriginal settlement sites¹⁷⁹.

In the Cradle Coast, the Tasmanian Aboriginal community is represented by several organisations: Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre, Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania, Tasmanian Land and Sea Council, Indigenous Coordination Centre, Aboriginal Land Council of Tasmania, Six Rivers Aboriginal Corporation and Circular Head Aboriginal Corporation. Cradle Coast Authority NRM actively supports their work.

Waratah-Wynyard is home to a relatively high proportion of people who identify as Indigenous. In the 2016 Census, there were 1,033 Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people living in Waratah-Wynyard, making up 7.6% of the total population. By comparison, the percentage of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people in 2016 was 4.6% in Tasmania and 2.85% in Australia¹⁸⁰.

A majority of respondents to our consultation rated Aboriginal heritage sites as 'very important' environmental values. Mapping and protection of Aboriginal heritage sites and places of significance was named as a key focus for action in regional community feedback for coastal priorities in the Cradle Coast NRM Strategy¹⁸¹.

MANAGING WATER SUSTAINABLY

Why is this important?

Provision of services that support the sustainable use and management of Tasmania's water resources is the responsibility of the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment. These services include the design of policy and regulatory frameworks to ensure the equitable, efficient and sustainable allocation and use of surface and groundwater resources and the safety of dams; monitoring and assessment of the condition of the State's freshwater resources; and supporting the development of new irrigation schemes.

TasWater—owned jointly by Tasmania's 29 local governments—sources, treats and delivers potable water; and provides services for the return of wastewater to the environment. While it does not specify climate-related risks, TasWater's Long Term Strategic Plan states a commitment to managing risk in Tasmania's drinking water systems, from the source waters and catchments to the treatment plants and distribution networks¹⁸².

A little under half of the respondents to our community and stakeholder consultation (49%) agreed climate change was 'likely to cause' water shortages in Waratah-Wynyard's towns. Respondents told us they were concerned about the potential impacts of increased residential development on water, and they said water efficiency should be a consideration in planning and development. They said that an ideal Waratah-Wynyard was one in which air and water quality was maintained.

In Tasmania, water catchments cross and exceed municipal borders. Waratah-Wynyard Council acknowledges that activities at the

municipal level may have downstream impacts on catchment water quality.

MONITORING POLLUTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Why is this important?

Respondents to WWC's community and stakeholder consultation told us that an ideal Waratah-Wynyard was a place in which air and water quality was maintained and where natural spaces, flora and fauna were free from the impacts of plastics, contamination and other waste.

Respondents named pollution and waste as key concerns, particularly regarding pollution and agricultural run-off into waterways, vehicle emissions, and the impacts of plastics in rivers and marine environments. Respondents also highlighted the need for more sustainable pollution management by

Council, including working closely with industry to ensure system compliance.

Waratah-Wynyard Council actions are governed in part by its *Environmental Policy*¹⁸³. The policy has a focus on environmental protection through such means as monitoring, prevention, enforcement, education and risk assessment.

The main organisations with responsibilities under Tasmania's environmental management and pollution control legislation are the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) and local governments. Local governments assess and manage the impact of activities and developments as part of Tasmania's Integrated Resource Management and Planning System. Local government are the environmental regulator for activities not listed as Level 2 activities in Schedule 2 of the *Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act*¹⁸⁴.

9. DELIVERING THE ICEP

The iCEP sets our strategic direction for the next ten years. Council acknowledges that achieving many of the priorities of the iCEP will take much longer. However, our aim was to create a plan that could be fully revised at ten-year intervals to enable us to adapt to emerging data and new challenges.

Each action listed in the following delivery plan has been given a designation of Essential, Important or Desirable. The success of the iCEP depends most heavily on those actions designated as 'Essential'—where resources are limited, our focus will start here. Actions designated as 'Important' will have a major impact on realising the priorities of the iCEP. If these Important actions are not put in place, it will be difficult to realise the iCEP priorities. Actions designated 'Desirable' have benefits to the community and the realisation of the iCEP priorities.

While we acknowledge that achieving many of the priorities will take longer than the proposed ten-year period, we also recognise that the community values clarity on the intended timeframes and resourcing for the actions. Council will consider the actions, timing and funding sources of works during its annual planning and budgeting process. Nominal timing is suggested as follows:

- Essential - Nominally commenced within the first four years of the plan
- Important - Nominally commenced in years five to seven of the plan (or sooner, as resources allow)
- Desirable - Nominally commenced in years seven to ten of the plan (or sooner, as resources allow)

It is our expectation that many of these actions will be undertaken in partnership with our community and other stakeholders, as the realisation of many of the actions contained within the plan is reliant upon community involvement. Each action also has a designated leader or leaders within Council. These designations are abbreviated as follows:

ASSET	Asset Services	GOV	Governance
CHILD	Children's Services	IT	Information Technology
COUNCIL	Elected Representatives	GIS	Geographic Information Systems
COMMA	Community Activation	NRM	Natural Resource Management
COMMS	Communications	RISK	Risk Management
DEV	Development and Regulatory Services	SMT	Senior Management Team
ENG	Engineering	WORKS	Works and Services
EMT	Executive Management Team		

COUNCIL-LED SUSTAINABILITY

PRIORITY	ACTION	LEVEL	LEADERSHIP
1. Maintaining a high-quality knowledge base	1.1 Work with relevant data custodians (e.g. CSIRO, DPIPWE) to ensure Council has access to high quality data related to environmental management and climate change.	Essential	NRM, GIS
	1.2 Continue to capture spatial data relating to land-use and management in Waratah-Wynyard.	Essential	IT, GIS
	1.3 Develop tools and training to help Council staff to increase their understanding and knowledge of the impacts of climate change on Council's assets, services and customers.	Essential	NRM
	1.4 Explore opportunities to create a centralised climate change adaptation risk database and knowledge portal, linked to Council's existing risk management system.	Desirable	IT, RISK
	1.5 Improve local information sharing (e.g. between business owners, farmers, citizen scientists) about effective environmental management and climate change.	Desirable	IT, GIS
2. Embedding climate and environmental concerns in Council decision-making	2.1 Ensure elected members are provided with accurate and up-to-date information on climate and environment when approving policies and strategies	Essential	EMT, SMT
	2.2 Establish a suite of indicators relevant to the iCEP.	Essential	EMT, SMT, Council
	2.3 Progressively review all Council programs and policies (including the 10-Year Strategic Plan) to ensure alignment with the principles and commitments of iCEP.	Essential	EMT, SMT, COUNCIL

	2.4 Acknowledge the risks to the community and environment in failing to address the issues identified in the iCEP.	Important	RISK
3. Establish mechanisms for partnering with the Waratah-Wynyard community on environmental management and climate action	3.1 Establish and support a Waratah-Wynyard Environmental Advisory Committee.	Essential	NRM
	3.2 Enable community members to contribute ideas for ongoing improvements to the iCEP and other relevant environmental initiatives via digital and other platforms.	Essential	NRM, COMMS
	3.3 Coordinate community events and opportunities that enable the community to come together to learn, discuss, plan and provide meaningful input on adaptation measures, Council initiatives and community actions to respond to a changing climate.	Essential	COMM.A.
	3.4 Develop webpage dedicated to informing the community on living sustainably.	Essential	NRM, COMMS
	3.5 Host an annual festival to deliver the message of climate change impacts to wildlife, such as migratory bird species.	Desirable	COMM.A, NRM
4. Reducing Council's resource consumption and carbon footprint	4.1 Develop a Council emissions target to achieve corporate carbon neutrality, in line with Tasmania's existing target of achieving (or maintaining) carbon neutrality by 2050; and in doing so, set interim targets on the pathway to this goal	Essential	NRM
	4.2 Track Council's carbon emissions and conduct energy audits of Council facilities as appropriate to assess opportunities for improvement.	Essential	ASSET
	4.3 Undertake works to minimise energy consumption and maximise energy efficiency in Council buildings as circumstances allow and upgrades are undertaken.	Important	ASSET

	4.4 Continue to transition from fluorescent to LED lighting in all Council buildings.	Important	ASSET
	4.5 Install solar panel system at the Wynyard Council Chambers building.	Important	ASSET
	4.6 Undertake a cost-benefit analysis to assess the viability of installing solar power on Council-owned land, buildings and lighting infrastructure, including through partnerships with other agencies.	Desirable	ASSET
	4.7 Trial electric passenger vehicles in Council fleet.	Desirable	ASSET, WORKS
	4.8 Investigate opportunities for bulk-buying an electric vehicle fleet with other councils.	Desirable	ASSET, WORKS
	4.9 Investigate opportunities to implement additional charging stations in the Waratah-Wynyard area.	Desirable	ASSET
	4.10 Complete a water-saving feasibility study that identifies water saving and non-potable water recommendations for Council's facilities and operations with a view to setting targets; and develop a Sustainable Water Use Plan.	Desirable	WORKS
5. Managing waste sustainably	5.1 Continue to implement the initiatives and recommendations from the Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy 2019-2024.	Essential	ENG, ASSET, WORKS

6. Assisting the Waratah-Wynyard community to reduce its resource consumption and carbon footprint	6.1 Support local action for sustainable consumption and lifestyles by supporting local 'champions'/ project leaders to be more effective, and by identifying partners and funding opportunities.	Essential	NRM
	6.2 Draw on existing communications resources to implement a communication campaign to inform the community, industry and business about energy efficiency and renewable energy.	Important	COMMS
	6.3 To provide opportunities to reduce emissions from transport, deliver shared-use pathways at Cam River and along the coast, and investigate linkages from these pathways to main townships.	Important	ENG
	6.4 Investigate opportunities to encourage schools to transition to solar energy via programs such as the National Solar School Program or 'Solar My School' and/or grant opportunities.	Important	COMMA.
	6.5 Work with local schools to explore opportunities for, and support the creation of, 'green teams'.	Important	COMMA.
	6.6 Partner with relevant government departments to identify and promote incentives to reduce carbon emissions	Important	NRM, COMMS
	6.7 Investigate opportunities to promote and support bulk purchasing of sustainable technologies for community and business use.	Desirable	COMMA.
	6.8 Promote methods to improve water efficiency and harvesting rainwater around the home.	Desirable	COMMS
	6.9 Promote the use of bike paths within the municipality for use as an alternative mode of travel	Desirable	COMMS

7. Embedding climate risk information in Council's emergency planning	7.1 Ensure information on climate change projections and risks are embedded into Emergency Management Plan.	Essential	RISK
	7.2 Proactively engage with secondary agencies and review their capacity to assist Council in collectively responding to climate change risks.	Important	NRM
8. Aligning Council's purchasing with principles of sustainability.	8.1 Develop a Sustainable Purchasing Strategy and/or policy to ensure purchasing decisions consider quality and sustainability (incl. carbon footprint) as well as price.	Essential	GOV
	8.2 Ensure Council contractors are informed about Council's sustainability and climate change commitments and policies, and comply with them.	Important	SMT
	8.3 Through Council's contracting and procurement processes, seek ongoing innovation from suppliers to minimise waste going to landfill.	Desirable	SMT
9. Tracking outcomes, evaluating progress and sharing results	9.1 Report on progress made on the priorities and actions of the iCEP in Council's Annual Reports.	Essential	SMT, NRM
	9.2 Require all Council reports to include a section addressing environmental considerations.	Essential	SMT
	9.3 Continue to monitor waste and emissions from Council operations.	Important	WORKS

10. Contributing to regional, state, national and international climate initiatives	10.1 In the context of existing Council priorities, support implementation of the Tasmanian Climate Change Action Plan (Climate Action 21) and participate in the 'Climate Resilient Councils' project of the Tasmanian Climate Change Office.	Essential	NRM
	10.2 Advocate for and support regional collaborations that increase community resilience, share knowledge, and provide economies of scale for adaptation and mitigation initiatives.	Essential	NRM
	10.3 Consider alternative NRM models employed successfully by other local governments and regions (such as the Tamar NRM model); and if there are demonstrable benefits, prepare transition plans as appropriate	Essential	COUNCIL, NRM
	10.4 Where relevant to local government, reflect the goals and principles of the Paris Climate Agreement within Council decision-making.	Important	SMT
	10.5 Where opportunities arise, and in the context of existing Council priorities, foster partnerships with governments and non-government organisations locally and nationally to promote climate action and increased ambition.	Desirable	NRM
11. Advocating for effective environmental management and adaptation resources	11.1 In partnership with CCA and LGAT, advocate to the Tasmanian Government to clarify roles and responsibilities of state and local governments for climate change adaptation.	Essential	COUNCIL
	11.2 In partnership with CCA and LGAT, identify and pursue external funding opportunities for collaborative adaptation, mitigation and environmental management projects.	Important	NRM

COMMUNITY ADAPTATION & RESILIENCE

PRIORITY	ACTION	LEVEL	LEADERSHIP
12. Facilitating community access to accurate, timely and practical information	12.1 Provide accurate and 'readable' information about climate change and sustainable living in New Residents' Kits.	Important	COMM.A.
	12.2 Continue to partner with parents to implement actions from Warawyn Sustainability Plan	Essential	CHILD.
	12.3 Partner with community groups to assist with the communication of climate change information to members of the community.	Essential	COMM.A.
13. Supporting localised community-led Community Based Adaptation (CBA) initiatives	13.1 Develop place-based climate change action plans in partnership with the community that establish regional targets for mitigation and prioritise local adaptation planning.	Essential	NRM, COMM.A.
	13.2 Continue to support and foster relationships with new and existing Landcare and Wildcare groups.	Essential	NRM
	13.3 Promote participation in localised community-led adaptation initiatives.	Important	COMMS
14. Reducing the impacts of heatwaves for people in their homes, workplaces, schools and care facilities.	14.1 Continue to provide public health information on hydration, air quality keeping cool during extreme heat, including pet care.	Essential	DEV, COMMS
	14.2 Promote existing public spaces for respite from extreme heat.	Important	COMMS

	14.3 Encourage residential aged care facilities and other at-risk groups or organisations to apply the 'Heatwave-Ready' checklist (DHHS).	Desirable	DEV
15. Reducing the impacts of bushfire smoke and poor air quality for people in their homes, workplaces, schools and care facilities.	15.1 Promote existing public spaces for respite from poor air quality.	Essential	DEV
	15.2 Promote awareness of air quality smartphone apps (such as Air Rater) and local monitoring.	Important	COMMS, DEV
	15.3 Continue to provide public health information on air quality mitigation strategies.	Desirable	DEV, COMMS
16. Anticipating and helping people to reduce the impacts of the changing allergen profile.	16.1 Continue to provide asthma and anaphylactic first aid training to early childhood educators and parents.	Essential	COMMA.
	16.2 Promote the use of the Asthma Australia 'Asthma First Aid' smartphone app.	Important	COMMS
17. Enhancing community food security	17.1 Investigate opportunities to develop a food policy and/or strategy to better understand food supply chains and systems; improve access to healthy food; enhance localised food production; reduce the environmental impacts of food production and consumption; and support sustainable food behaviours.	Essential	DEV, NRM
	17.2 Facilitate dialogue between producers, distributors and vulnerable community members to strengthen the local food supply.	Essential	NRM, COMMA.
	17.3 Promote local participation in community gardens and consumption of local high-quality produce.	Important	COMMA., COMMS

18. Supporting psychological adaptation	18.1 Continue to implement the community mental health initiatives of the Waratah-Wynyard Community Health and Wellbeing Plan.	Essential	COMMA.
	18.2 Facilitate individual wellbeing and social connectedness through providing opportunities for volunteers, and by connecting the community with organisations who are seeking volunteers.	Essential	COMMA., COMMS
19. Helping ensure current and future housing stock meets the demands of a changing climate	19.1 Lobby Tasmanian Government Housing to build or retrofit public housing stock to meet changing climate needs.	Desirable	COUNCIL
	19.2 Continue to provide and promote energy monitoring equipment to the community.	Important	COMMA.
20. Supporting a climate-ready community sector	20.1 Implement a targeted round/s within Community Activation Grants for climate change adaptation and mitigation.	Essential	COMMA.
	20.2 Create a World Environment Day award to recognise the work of organisations and individuals in supporting community-based climate change initiatives.	Important	COMMA., GOV, NRM
21. Continuing to emphasise community resilience as an essential aspect of emergency management.	21.1 Promote emergency management planning to the community and encourage residents and businesses to develop their own emergency management plans.	Important	RISK, COMMS
	21.2 Encourage community members to utilise relevant smartphone apps, such as the Red Cross 'Get Prepared' app and the TasALERT app.	Desirable	RISK, COMMS

FUTURE-READY INFRASTRUCTURE

PRIORITY	ACTION	LEVEL	LEADERSHIP
22. Applying a risk-management approach to strategic land-use planning and population change.	22.1 Ensure all future Council land-use planning policies and strategies consider the relevance of changing environmental factors.	Essential	DEV
	22.2 Continue to ensure Council's planning and development approval processes account for climate-related risks.	Essential	DEV
	22.3 Incorporate State Government policy on climate risk into regional and local policies, including planning schemes.	Essential	DEV
	22.4 Advocate to the State Government to develop land-use planning policies that address climate change.	Essential	COUNCIL
	22.5 Drawing on relevant census data and population projections, develop a settlement strategy and/or policy to clarify Council's position on population growth.	Essential	DEV
	22.6 Develop planning approaches to manage potential conflicts in relation to competing land-use demands for energy production, food production, open space, nature conservation, carbon sequestration and urban development.	Important	NRM, DEV

23. Acknowledging and planning for the impacts of coastal erosion.	23.1 In consultation with the community, develop a long-term plan for management of Council owned and managed land that considers avoiding (e.g. setbacks from the coast), adapting (e.g. raising building and infrastructure floor heights), defending (e.g. beach stabilisation, nourishment, restoration, groynes) and retreat (e.g. shifting development back from the shoreline).	Essential	NRM
	23.2 Review state mapping to understand the potential impacts of coastal erosion on Council assets.	Essential	NRM, WORKS, ENG
	23.3 Communicate Council's approach and responsibilities as to the management of coastal land and the impact of coastal hazards on private properties.	Essential	NRM
	23.4 Investigate opportunities to involve private landowners in the prevention of coastal erosion.	Important	NRM, ENG
	23.5 Continue to liaise with the Tasmanian Coastal Adaptation Pathways project.	Desirable	ENG
24. Encouraging sustainable building practices	24.1 Encourage potential permit applicants and developers to access third-party information on Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD) principles.	Desirable	DEV
	24.2 Investigate options for designating areas of Waratah-Wynyard for the development and showcasing of sustainable housing examples.	Desirable	ENG, DEV, NRM
	24.3 Advocate for stronger ESD policy and regulations throughout the Tasmanian planning system and building code.	Desirable	DEV

25. Lessening risks to Council assets.	25.1 Continue to develop and implement asset management plans that consider all risks.	Essential	ASSET
	25.2 Account for environmental restraints within infrastructure design.	Important	ENG
26. Anticipating and planning for potential climate impacts on stormwater and drainage	26.1 Assess stormwater infrastructure capacity and potential future capacity requirements under various climate future scenarios to identify vulnerabilities, and incorporate findings into Council's Stormwater Management Plan	Essential	ENG
27. Supporting owners to decrease physical risks to private property.	27.1 Continue fire abatement program.	Essential	DEV
	27.2 Investigate adequacy of current fire hazard reduction practices using modern scientific findings.	Important	DEV
	27.3 Encourage property owners to access third-party information about the potential impacts of climate change on private property, including the risks posed by bushfire and coastal erosion.	Important	DEV
28. Working with other levels of government to minimise risks to public assets.	28.1 Advocate to State and Federal Governments to develop policies, regulations and standards to reflect changing needs to all forms of infrastructure to withstand the impacts of weather extremes.	Desirable	COUNCIL
	28.2 Advocate for a statewide assessment of the vulnerability of Tasmania's key infrastructure to the impacts of climate change.	Desirable	COUNCIL
	28.3 Investigate Commonwealth and State Government funding opportunities to support Council initiatives around sustainable asset management.	Desirable	SMT

FINANCIAL & ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY

PRIORITY	ACTION	LEVEL	LEADERSHIP
29. Reducing risks to Council's financial assets and investments.	29.1 Maintain flexibility in budgets and long-term planning for unanticipated events (i.e. extreme weather events).	Essential	COUNCIL, GOV
	29.2 Continue to assess climate and environmental risk within Council's asset management plans.	Essential	SMT, ASSET
30. Helping property owners to understand and plan for financial risks associated with climate change.	30.1 Explore opportunities to work with LGAT to educate property owners on, and provide consistent messaging about, climate risk and the different roles of local government/property owners.	Important	NRM
	30.2 Disseminate information about Council's ongoing actions in relation to risk mitigation.	Desirable	COMMS, RISK
31. Encouraging the agricultural sector to transition to more sustainable operations.	31.1 Facilitate dialogue between local agricultural producers to help minimise the adverse effects of one type of production on another.	Important	COMMS, NRM
	31.2 Support agricultural adaptation summits with information provided by peak industry bodies re. sustainable practices and climate challenges.	Desirable	NRM
32. Supporting opportunity identification in new agricultural products and markets	32.1 Encourage agricultural producers to supply local markets and support local food security.	Essential	GOV, NRM

	32.2 Encourage agricultural producers to access Cradle Coast NRM factsheets and related data on climate change challenges and opportunities for the agricultural sector.	Important	GOV, NRM
	32.3 Explore opportunities to support agricultural industry and facilitate collaboration on climate change adaptation.	Desirable	GOV, NRM
33. Encouraging forestry operators to transition to more sustainable operations.	33.1 Convey community feedback received regarding changes to forestry management practices to the relevant governing bodies	Essential	NRM
	33.2 Encourage and work with forestry operators to shift operations to those that have minimal impact on natural systems and native wildlife.	Desirable	NRM
	33.3 Encourage forestry operators to consider alternative income streams, e.g. carbon credits.	Desirable	NRM
34. Supporting opportunity identification in the carbon market	34.1 Partner with relevant stakeholders to conduct a carbon audit for Waratah-Wynyard, and to identify Waratah-Wynyard's unique advantages for carbon sequestration, including wetlands and blue carbon.	Important	NRM
	34.2 Foster improved data collection about land clearing, and advocate for improved State Government policy and planning controls.	Important	GIS, DEV
	34.3 Develop a strategy that identifies potential locations for carbon offsetting projects that entail minimal conflict with nearby land uses.	Important	NRM

	34.4 Investigate and encourage an integrated process for identifying and maintaining existing carbon sinks that may currently be overlooked (e.g. bushland, pasture, cropping areas, wetlands, etc).	Important	NRM
	34.5 Foster sustainable levels of vegetation systems conversion.	Important	NRM
	34.6 Encourage primary producers to access third-party information about opportunities to practice carbon sequestration.	Desirable	GOV, NRM
35. Encouraging tourism operators to understand risks and opportunities.	35.1 Encourage tourism peak bodies and the Cradle Coast Authority to provide targeted information to assist tourism operators to understand the potential risks of climate change on their business, including factors such as the changing insurance landscape, coastal erosion and extreme weather events.	Essential	NRM
	35.2 Investigate Waratah-Wynyard's natural competitive advantages for eco-tourism.	Desirable	TOURISM
	35.3 In collaboration with operators and tourism peak bodies, identify opportunities and develop plans for specific eco-tourism activities and destinations in Waratah-Wynyard.	Desirable	TOURISM
36. Supporting local businesses to transition to more sustainable operations and to identify risks and opportunities.	36.1 Encourage local/regional business associations and Business Tasmania to provide targeted information to assist local business-owners to understand the potential risks of climate change, including from factors such as the changing insurance landscape, coastal erosion and extreme weather events.	Essential	GOV
	36.2 Continue to attract new business to the area, particularly those that are aligned to Waratah-Wynyard's sustainability goals and its 'clean and green' identity.	Important	GOV, COMMS

	36.3 Facilitate partnerships to deliver business training that includes reviewing risk exposure as a result of climate change.	Desirable	GOV, RISK, NRM
	36.4 Identify opportunities to assist business associations and networks to facilitate adaptation strategies for the business community.	Desirable	GOV, COMM.A.
	36.5 Develop example business cases that demonstrate the benefits of alternative/reduced energy use.	Desirable	ENG, ASSET, COMMS

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

PRIORITY	ACTION	LEVEL	LEADERSHIP
37. Planning for change in the physical environment	37.1 Identify opportunities to increase resilience of terrestrial and aquatic habitats at risk and implement land management changes and on-ground works with delivery partners.	Essential	NRM
	37.2 Conduct regular staff skills development to promote innovation in land management and protection practices.	Important	SMT
38. Protecting, enhancing and recovering biodiversity	38.1 Assess the extent of Waratah-Wynyard's areas of significant ecological value, and develop biodiversity management plans for high-priority areas not currently addressed by other agencies.	Essential	NRM
	38.2 As opportunities arise, and where relevant within WWC jurisdiction, undertake research and participate in cooperative initiatives to evaluate and monitor natural areas and ecosystems' vulnerability to climate change and other factors.	Essential	NRM
	38.3 Work with appropriate partner agencies to enhance and extend biodiversity corridors throughout Waratah-Wynyard, prioritising those currently at high risk.	Essential	NRM
	38.4 Through providing education and information, work with residents, landowners and community groups to mitigate climate change effects on biodiversity, for both private and public land.	Essential	NRM

	38.5 Encourage community volunteerism and research to further understand natural populations of wildlife, insects and plants, and to provide practice support in conserving natural areas.	Essential	NRM, WORKS
	38.6 Work with the relevant stakeholders to develop and implement natural values management plans, including fire management considerations, for the areas of French's Road Nature Reserve, Fossil Bluff and York Street Reserve	Essential	NRM
	38.7 Investigate options and support viable proposals for reducing the amount of wildlife killed on Waratah-Wynyard's roads.	Essential	ENG, NRM
	38.8 Partner with the Sisters Beach Community Association to source funding for the installation of virtual fencing devices on the Sisters Beach Road for installation prior to Summer 2020	Essential	NRM
	38.9 Increase public awareness about how to appropriately manage problem wildlife.	Essential	DEV, NRM, COMMS
	38.10 Work with landowners to encourage best practice with respect to remnant bush conversion on agricultural land	Important	NRM
	38.11 Take a lead role in the regional policy development for cat management, through registration requirements, limiting breeding, education on de-sexing and the benefits of keeping cats indoors.	Important	NRM
	38.12 Prevent off-leash activity around vulnerable wildlife through education and enforcement.	Important	DEV

	38.13 Consider an appropriate location and prepare plan for the development of an arboretum that contains native plant species, provides protection for birdlife and considers economic opportunities.	Desirable	WORKS, NRM
	38.14 Advocate for revisions to the <i>Tasmanian Forest Practices Act 1985</i> and <i>Policy for Maintaining a Permanent Forest Estate</i> to re-consider the amount of native forest that can be cleared without a forest practice plan, and to consider limitations to clearing of land for agricultural purposes in certain regions where the retention of native vegetation is a regional priority.	Important	Council, NRM
39. Anticipating and mitigating biosecurity risks	39.1 Continue to work towards eradication of invasive weed species (e.g. gorse and sea spurge).	Essential	NRM
	39.2 Work with relevant agencies to monitor weeds and pests and adjust control and management approaches in response to climate change.	Essential	NRM
	39.3 Regularly review the use of herbicides and minimise the use of harmful chemicals in Council's weed management practices.	Essential	NRM, WORKS
	39.4 Apply landscape restoration methods for the elimination of weeds in terrestrial and riparian environments.	Desirable	NRM
40. Working with relevant stakeholders to protect Aboriginal heritage values in the landscape	40.1 Work with the local Traditional Custodians and the Indigenous community to integrate traditional knowledge into landscape management where relevant.	Desirable	NRM
	40.2 Facilitate Indigenous input into Council's natural resource management practices and policies.	Desirable	NRM

41. Managing water sustainably	41.1 Ensure action plans for water security and quality consider climate change.	Essential	NRM, DEV
	41.2 Encourage a collaborative approach to catchment management by working with neighbouring councils, diverse stakeholders and State Government.	Important	GOV, NRM
	41.3 Pursue an MOU between all governing bodies to support regional catchment management, including riparian management.	Important	GOV, NRM
42. Monitoring pollution and environmental health	42.1 Continue to administer and enforce relevant legislation to the extent of the delegation provided for the prevention of pollution of air, water and soil.	Essential	DEV
	42.2 Work with the community to raise awareness about and prevent litter and plastic pollution on the natural environment, particularly for Waratah-Wynyard's river and coastlines.	Essential	NRM, COMMS
	42.3 Continue to work with the agricultural sector to raise awareness about and prevent contaminated runoff entering river systems.	Important	NRM
	42.4 Ensure planning permit conditions constrain materials on site (avoid soil and material runoff during construction).	Important	DEV, ENG

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WARATAH-WYNYARD COUNCIL

INTEGRATED COUNCIL ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN (iCEP) 2020-2030 – SUMMARY VERSION



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This document has been prepared for Waratah-Wynyard Council on the basis of open-access third-party research, community consultation outcomes, input from the iCEP Steering Committee, and input from Waratah-Wynyard Council staff and Councillors. The Social Yield Pty Ltd has taken all due care in the preparation of this report. However, The Social Yield Pty Ltd is not liable to any person or entity for any loss or damage which has occurred, or which may occur, in relation to that person or entity taking or not taking action in respect of any representation, statement, opinion or advice referred to herein.

Waratah-Wynyard iCEP 2020-2030—Summary Version

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Council's vision for Waratah-Wynyard is a place where 'blue meets green', where the natural environment is shared and enhanced. A place where infrastructure is built to last and fit for purpose; and where a sustainable economy delivers long-term regional and local benefits. A place where all people are supported to enjoy improved health and wellbeing.

Today, climate change poses one of the most significant challenges to that collective vision. In June 2019, Waratah-Wynyard Council joined with many other local governments around Australia to develop a strategic response to climate change. Our goal was to show leadership in reducing the risks associated with climate change to help 'future proof' a range of local social, economic and environmental values.

The result of that work is the Waratah-Wynyard Integrated Council Environmental Plan 2020-2030—or iCEP. The iCEP is:

- A shared vision for the future
- An evidence-based integrated strategy
- A platform for future policy development

The iCEP sets out our key priorities across five areas of Council and community life—Council-led sustainability; community adaptation and resilience; future-ready infrastructure; financial and economic sustainability; and environmental stewardship—so that our residents, workers and visitors alike can enjoy the benefits of a more secure future.

We believe that by addressing these elements in an integrated way, we will have greater success in achieving our priorities.

We also recognise the limitations of the iCEP. The iCEP does not create new enforcement powers, nor does it change state or federal policies. But it does provide us with a platform for taking local action, for facilitating partnerships, and for advocating in the interests of the local and global community.

Most importantly, the iCEP is not a standalone strategic document. Rather, the iCEP is intended to support more sustainable decision-making across our organisation and beyond. The long-term success of the iCEP will depend on the strength of our collaboration with diverse stakeholders and community members.

All of us at Waratah-Wynyard are proud to present the inaugural iCEP. We look forward to working with our community to implement the iCEP over the coming months and years.



Cr Robert (Robby) Walsh
Mayor, Waratah-Wynyard Council

1. OUR PRINCIPLES

Design of the iCEP has embraced the four principles of **mitigation, management, adaptation** and **Integration**:

MITIGATION

Mitigation describes human actions—technologies, processes, behaviours and decisions—that intervene in the processes of climate change, for example, by reducing emissions or enhancing carbon storage. Mitigation is about recognising that if human action has contributed to the problem of climate change, then human action can be part of the solution.

Waratah-Wynyard Council has three main roles to play in mitigation. The first is by demonstrating corporate responsibility—reducing Council's carbon footprint and leading by example. The second is at a municipal scale, supporting the Waratah-Wynyard community to reduce its emissions and to live more sustainably. The third is by partnering with others at the regional and State level to lobby for more effective mitigation measures.

MANAGEMENT

The Waratah-Wynyard area is rich in natural values that contribute strongly to the community's sense of place as well as to Waratah-Wynyard's identity and reputation. Diverse forms of land use—including residential, agricultural and industrial—intersect with Waratah-Wynyard's natural values in complex ways.

Although local governments are not accorded specific NRM responsibilities under NRM

legislation, Council's role in enforcing various related State laws—as well as its day-to-day responsibilities in managing public land and strategic land-use planning—means it is already playing a strong role in managing Waratah-Wynyard's natural environment.

Effective environmental management at the local government level can help preserve biodiversity, enhance community health and wellbeing, enable economic development, contribute to local identity and reputation, enable natural and human adaptation and support biosecurity.

ADAPTATION

Even with current mitigation efforts, the effects of climate change are likely to be with us for the foreseeable future. Where it is not possible to prevent the impacts of climate change, adaptation will be required.

For humans, adaptation is the process of adjustment to the actual or expected climate and its effects. Adaptation can mean avoiding the harms of change, and it can also include benefiting from new opportunities. Within natural systems, adaptation also describes the process of adjustment to a changing climate.

The ability of people to adapt to climate change (their 'adaptive capacity') varies within and across populations. Adaptation responses can be incremental; but sometimes larger-scale, transformative adaptations are needed, even when uncertainties remain about the long term.

Council recognises that the Waratah-Wynyard community has its own unique vulnerabilities and strengths when it comes to climate change adaptation and resilience.

INTEGRATION

At Waratah-Wynyard, we recognise that climate change mitigation, adaptation and environmental management are 'whole-of-Council' issues. We also recognise that each element of community life is closely tied to all others.

By designing the iCEP to address the five themes of: (i) Council-led sustainability; (ii) community adaptation and resilience; (iii) future-ready infrastructure; (iv) economic and financial sustainability; and (v) environmental stewardship; we hope to ensure our actions for and with our community will deliver more meaningful and impactful results.



2. MONITORING

Waratah-Wynyard Council recognises that the path to achieving climate change adaptation and mitigation, and a sustainable local environment, is complex and challenging. In developing our integrated response to these challenges, we have drawn on community input and the best available data and evidence.

This evidence-based approach will remain essential to implementation. To facilitate ongoing data collection and monitoring, Council will develop a suite of indicators relating to key aspects of the iCEP. These will be situated outside the iCEP document and alongside Council's other high-level KPIs to ensure an integrated, whole-of-Council approach to evaluating progress.



3. DELIVERING THE ICEP

The iCEP sets our strategic direction for the next ten years. Council acknowledges that achieving many of the priorities of the iCEP will take much longer. However, our aim was to create a plan that could be fully revised at ten-year intervals to enable us to adapt to emerging data and new challenges.

Each action listed in the following delivery plan has been given a designation of Essential, Important or Desirable. The success of the iCEP depends most heavily on those actions designated as 'Essential'—where resources are limited, our focus will start here. Actions designated as 'Important' will have a major impact on realising the priorities of the iCEP. If these Important actions are not put in place, it will be difficult to realise the iCEP priorities. Actions designated 'Desirable' have benefits to the community and the realisation of the iCEP priorities.

While we acknowledge that achieving many of the priorities will take longer than the proposed ten-year period, we also recognise that the community values clarity on the intended timeframes and resourcing for the actions. Council will consider the actions, timing and funding sources of works during its annual planning and budgeting process. Nominal timing is suggested as follows:

- Essential - Nominally commenced within the first four years of the plan
- Important - Nominally commenced in years five to seven of the plan (or sooner, as resources allow)
- Desirable - Nominally commenced in years seven to ten of the plan (or sooner, as resources allow)

It is our expectation that many of these actions will be undertaken in partnership with our community and other stakeholders, as the realisation of many of the actions contained within the plan is reliant upon community involvement. Each action also has a designated leader or leaders within Council. These designations are abbreviated as follows:

ASSET	Asset Services	GOV	Governance
CHILD	Children's Services	IT	Information Technology
COUNCIL	Elected Representatives	GIS	Geographic Information Systems
COMMA.	Community Activation	NRM	Natural Resource Management
COMMS	Communications	RISK	Risk Management
DEV	Development and Regulatory Services	SMT	Senior Management Team
ENG	Engineering	WORKS	Works and Services
EMT	Executive Management Team		

COUNCIL-LED SUSTAINABILITY

PRIORITY	ACTION	LEVEL	LEADERSHIP
1. Maintaining a high-quality knowledge base	1.1 Work with relevant data custodians (e.g. CSIRO, DPIPWE) to ensure Council has access to high quality data related to environmental management and climate change.	Essential	NRM, GIS
	1.2 Continue to capture spatial data relating to land-use and management in Waratah-Wynyard.	Essential	IT, GIS
	1.3 Develop tools and training to help Council staff to increase their understanding and knowledge of the impacts of climate change on Council's assets, services and customers.	Essential	NRM
	1.4 Explore opportunities to create a centralised climate change adaptation risk database and knowledge portal, linked to Council's existing risk management system.	Desirable	IT, RISK
	1.5 Improve local information sharing (e.g. between business owners, farmers, citizen scientists) about effective environmental management and climate change.	Desirable	IT, GIS
2. Embedding climate and environmental concerns in Council decision-making	2.1 Ensure elected members are provided with accurate and up-to-date information on climate and environment when approving policies and strategies	Essential	EMT, SMT
	2.2 Establish a suite of indicators relevant to the iCEP.	Essential	EMT, SMT, Council
	2.3 Progressively review all Council programs and policies (including the 10-Year Strategic Plan) to ensure alignment with the principles and commitments of iCEP.	Essential	EMT, SMT, COUNCIL

	2.4 Acknowledge the risks to the community and environment in failing to address the issues identified in the iCEP.	Important	RISK
3. Establish mechanisms for partnering with the Waratah-Wynyard community on environmental management and climate action	3.1 Establish and support a Waratah-Wynyard Environmental Advisory Committee.	Essential	NRM
	3.2 Enable community members to contribute ideas for ongoing improvements to the iCEP and other relevant environmental initiatives via digital and other platforms.	Essential	NRM, COMMS
	3.3 Coordinate community events and opportunities that enable the community to come together to learn, discuss, plan and provide meaningful input on adaptation measures, Council initiatives and community actions to respond to a changing climate.	Essential	COMM.A.
	3.4 Develop webpage dedicated to informing the community on living sustainably.	Essential	NRM, COMMS
	3.5 Host an annual festival to deliver the message of climate change impacts to wildlife, such as migratory bird species.	Desirable	COMM.A, NRM
4. Reducing Council's resource consumption and carbon footprint	4.1 Develop a Council emissions target to achieve corporate carbon neutrality, in line with Tasmania's existing target of achieving (or maintaining) carbon neutrality by 2050; and in doing so, set interim targets on the pathway to this goal	Essential	NRM
	4.2 Track Council's carbon emissions and conduct energy audits of Council facilities as appropriate to assess opportunities for improvement.	Essential	ASSET
	4.3 Undertake works to minimise energy consumption and maximise energy efficiency in Council buildings as circumstances allow and upgrades are undertaken.	Important	ASSET

	4.4 Continue to transition from fluorescent to LED lighting in all Council buildings.	Important	ASSET
	4.5 Install solar panel system at the Wynyard Council Chambers building.	Important	ASSET
	4.6 Undertake a cost-benefit analysis to assess the viability of installing solar power on Council-owned land, buildings and lighting infrastructure, including through partnerships with other agencies.	Desirable	ASSET
	4.7 Trial electric passenger vehicles in Council fleet.	Desirable	ASSET, WORKS
	4.8 Investigate opportunities for bulk-buying an electric vehicle fleet with other councils.	Desirable	ASSET, WORKS
	4.9 Investigate opportunities to implement additional charging stations in the Waratah-Wynyard area.	Desirable	ASSET
	4.10 Complete a water-saving feasibility study that identifies water saving and non-potable water recommendations for Council's facilities and operations with a view to setting targets; and develop a Sustainable Water Use Plan.	Desirable	WORKS
5. Managing waste sustainably	5.1 Continue to implement the initiatives and recommendations from the Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy 2019-2024.	Essential	ENG, ASSET, WORKS

6. Assisting the Waratah-Wynyard community to reduce its resource consumption and carbon footprint	6.1 Support local action for sustainable consumption and lifestyles by supporting local 'champions'/ project leaders to be more effective, and by identifying partners and funding opportunities.	Essential	NRM
	6.2 Draw on existing communications resources to implement a communication campaign to inform the community, industry and business about energy efficiency and renewable energy.	Important	COMMS
	6.3 To provide opportunities to reduce emissions from transport, deliver shared-use pathways at Cam River and along the coast, and investigate linkages from these pathways to main townships.	Important	ENG
	6.4 Investigate opportunities to encourage schools to transition to solar energy via programs such as the National Solar School Program or 'Solar My School' and/or grant opportunities.	Important	COMMA.
	6.5 Work with local schools to explore opportunities for, and support the creation of, 'green teams'.	Important	COMMA.
	6.6 Partner with relevant government departments to identify and promote incentives to reduce carbon emissions	Important	NRM, COMMS
	6.7 Investigate opportunities to promote and support bulk purchasing of sustainable technologies for community and business use.	Desirable	COMMA.
	6.8 Promote methods to improve water efficiency and harvesting rainwater around the home.	Desirable	COMMS
	6.9 Promote the use of bike paths within the municipality for use as an alternative mode of travel	Desirable	COMMS

7. Embedding climate risk information in Council's emergency planning	7.1 Ensure information on climate change projections and risks are embedded into Emergency Management Plan.	Essential	RISK
	7.2 Proactively engage with secondary agencies and review their capacity to assist Council in collectively responding to climate change risks.	Important	NRM
8. Aligning Council's purchasing with principles of sustainability.	8.1 Develop a Sustainable Purchasing Strategy and/or policy to ensure purchasing decisions consider quality and sustainability (incl. carbon footprint) as well as price.	Essential	GOV
	8.2 Ensure Council contractors are informed about Council's sustainability and climate change commitments and policies, and comply with them.	Important	SMT
	8.3 Through Council's contracting and procurement processes, seek ongoing innovation from suppliers to minimise waste going to landfill.	Desirable	SMT
9. Tracking outcomes, evaluating progress and sharing results	9.1 Report on progress made on the priorities and actions of the iCEP in Council's Annual Reports.	Essential	SMT, NRM
	9.2 Require all Council reports to include a section addressing environmental considerations.	Essential	SMT
	9.3 Continue to monitor waste and emissions from Council operations.	Important	WORKS

10. Contributing to regional, state, national and international climate initiatives	10.1 In the context of existing Council priorities, support implementation of the Tasmanian Climate Change Action Plan (Climate Action 21) and participate in the 'Climate Resilient Councils' project of the Tasmanian Climate Change Office.	Essential	NRM
	10.2 Advocate for and support regional collaborations that increase community resilience, share knowledge, and provide economies of scale for adaptation and mitigation initiatives.	Essential	NRM
	10.3 Consider alternative NRM models employed successfully by other local governments and regions (such as the Tamar NRM model); and if there are demonstrable benefits, prepare transition plans as appropriate	Essential	COUNCIL, NRM
	10.4 Where relevant to local government, reflect the goals and principles of the Paris Climate Agreement within Council decision-making.	Important	SMT
	10.5 Where opportunities arise, and in the context of existing Council priorities, foster partnerships with governments and non-government organisations locally and nationally to promote climate action and increased ambition.	Desirable	NRM
11. Advocating for effective environmental management and adaptation resources	11.1 In partnership with CCA and LGAT, advocate to the Tasmanian Government to clarify roles and responsibilities of state and local governments for climate change adaptation.	Essential	COUNCIL
	11.2 In partnership with CCA and LGAT, identify and pursue external funding opportunities for collaborative adaptation, mitigation and environmental management projects.	Important	NRM

COMMUNITY ADAPTATION & RESILIENCE

PRIORITY	ACTION	LEVEL	LEADERSHIP
12. Facilitating community access to accurate, timely and practical information	12.1 Provide accurate and 'readable' information about climate change and sustainable living in New Residents' Kits.	Important	COMM.A.
	12.2 Continue to partner with parents to implement actions from Warawyn Sustainability Plan	Essential	CHILD.
	12.3 Partner with community groups to assist with the communication of climate change information to members of the community.	Essential	COMM.A.
13. Supporting localised community-led Community Based Adaptation (CBA) initiatives	13.1 Develop place-based climate change action plans in partnership with the community that establish regional targets for mitigation and prioritise local adaptation planning.	Essential	NRM, COMM.A.
	13.2 Continue to support and foster relationships with new and existing Landcare and Wildcare groups.	Essential	NRM
	13.3 Promote participation in localised community-led adaptation initiatives.	Important	COMMS
14. Reducing the impacts of heatwaves for people in their homes, workplaces, schools and care facilities.	14.1 Continue to provide public health information on hydration, air quality keeping cool during extreme heat, including pet care.	Essential	DEV, COMMS
	14.2 Promote existing public spaces for respite from extreme heat.	Important	COMMS

	14.3 Encourage residential aged care facilities and other at-risk groups or organisations to apply the 'Heatwave-Ready' checklist (DHHS).	Desirable	DEV
15. Reducing the impacts of bushfire smoke and poor air quality for people in their homes, workplaces, schools and care facilities.	15.1 Promote existing public spaces for respite from poor air quality.	Essential	DEV
	15.2 Promote awareness of air quality smartphone apps (such as Air Rater) and local monitoring.	Important	COMMS, DEV
	15.3 Continue to provide public health information on air quality mitigation strategies.	Desirable	DEV, COMMS
16. Anticipating and helping people to reduce the impacts of the changing allergen profile.	16.1 Continue to provide asthma and anaphylactic first aid training to early childhood educators and parents.	Essential	COMMA.
	16.2 Promote the use of the Asthma Australia 'Asthma First Aid' smartphone app.	Important	COMMS
17. Enhancing community food security	17.1 Investigate opportunities to develop a food policy and/or strategy to better understand food supply chains and systems; improve access to healthy food; enhance localised food production; reduce the environmental impacts of food production and consumption; and support sustainable food behaviours.	Essential	DEV, NRM
	17.2 Facilitate dialogue between producers, distributors and vulnerable community members to strengthen the local food supply.	Essential	NRM, COMMA.
	17.3 Promote local participation in community gardens and consumption of local high-quality produce.	Important	COMMA., COMMS

18. Supporting psychological adaptation	18.1 Continue to implement the community mental health initiatives of the Waratah-Wynyard Community Health and Wellbeing Plan.	Essential	COMMA.
	18.2 Facilitate individual wellbeing and social connectedness through providing opportunities for volunteers, and by connecting the community with organisations who are seeking volunteers.	Essential	COMMA., COMMS
19. Helping ensure current and future housing stock meets the demands of a changing climate	19.1 Lobby Tasmanian Government Housing to build or retrofit public housing stock to meet changing climate needs.	Desirable	COUNCIL
	19.2 Continue to provide and promote energy monitoring equipment to the community.	Important	COMMA.
20. Supporting a climate-ready community sector	20.1 Implement a targeted round/s within Community Activation Grants for climate change adaptation and mitigation.	Essential	COMMA.
	20.2 Create a World Environment Day award to recognise the work of organisations and individuals in supporting community-based climate change initiatives.	Important	COMMA., GOV, NRM
21. Continuing to emphasise community resilience as an essential aspect of emergency management.	21.1 Promote emergency management planning to the community and encourage residents and businesses to develop their own emergency management plans.	Important	RISK, COMMS
	21.2 Encourage community members to utilise relevant smartphone apps, such as the Red Cross 'Get Prepared' app and the TasALERT app.	Desirable	RISK, COMMS

FUTURE-READY INFRASTRUCTURE

PRIORITY	ACTION	LEVEL	LEADERSHIP
22. Applying a risk-management approach to strategic land-use planning and population change.	22.1 Ensure all future Council land-use planning policies and strategies consider the relevance of changing environmental factors.	Essential	DEV
	22.2 Continue to ensure Council's planning and development approval processes account for climate-related risks.	Essential	DEV
	22.3 Incorporate State Government policy on climate risk into regional and local policies, including planning schemes.	Essential	DEV
	22.4 Advocate to the State Government to develop land-use planning policies that address climate change.	Essential	COUNCIL
	22.5 Drawing on relevant census data and population projections, develop a settlement strategy and/or policy to clarify Council's position on population growth.	Essential	DEV
	22.6 Develop planning approaches to manage potential conflicts in relation to competing land-use demands for energy production, food production, open space, nature conservation, carbon sequestration and urban development.	Important	NRM, DEV

23. Acknowledging and planning for the impacts of coastal erosion.	23.1 In consultation with the community, develop a long-term plan for management of Council owned and managed land that considers avoiding (e.g. setbacks from the coast), adapting (e.g. raising building and infrastructure floor heights), defending (e.g. beach stabilisation, nourishment, restoration, groynes) and retreat (e.g. shifting development back from the shoreline).	Essential	NRM
	23.2 Review state mapping to understand the potential impacts of coastal erosion on Council assets.	Essential	NRM, WORKS, ENG
	23.3 Communicate Council's approach and responsibilities as to the management of coastal land and the impact of coastal hazards on private properties.	Essential	NRM
	23.4 Investigate opportunities to involve private landowners in the prevention of coastal erosion.	Important	NRM, ENG
	23.5 Continue to liaise with the Tasmanian Coastal Adaptation Pathways project.	Desirable	ENG
24. Encouraging sustainable building practices	24.1 Encourage potential permit applicants and developers to access third-party information on Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD) principles.	Desirable	DEV
	24.2 Investigate options for designating areas of Waratah-Wynyard for the development and showcasing of sustainable housing examples.	Desirable	ENG, DEV, NRM
	24.3 Advocate for stronger ESD policy and regulations throughout the Tasmanian planning system and building code.	Desirable	DEV

25. Lessening risks to Council assets.	25.1 Continue to develop and implement asset management plans that consider all risks.	Essential	ASSET
	25.2 Account for environmental restraints within infrastructure design.	Important	ENG
26. Anticipating and planning for potential climate impacts on stormwater and drainage	26.1 Assess stormwater infrastructure capacity and potential future capacity requirements under various climate future scenarios to identify vulnerabilities, and incorporate findings into Council's Stormwater Management Plan	Essential	ENG
27. Supporting owners to decrease physical risks to private property.	27.1 Continue fire abatement program.	Essential	DEV
	27.2 Investigate adequacy of current fire hazard reduction practices using modern scientific findings.	Important	DEV
	27.3 Encourage property owners to access third-party information about the potential impacts of climate change on private property, including the risks posed by bushfire and coastal erosion.	Important	DEV
28. Working with other levels of government to minimise risks to public assets.	28.1 Advocate to State and Federal Governments to develop policies, regulations and standards to reflect changing needs to all forms of infrastructure to withstand the impacts of weather extremes.	Desirable	COUNCIL
	28.2 Advocate for a statewide assessment of the vulnerability of Tasmania's key infrastructure to the impacts of climate change.	Desirable	COUNCIL
	28.3 Investigate Commonwealth and State Government funding opportunities to support Council initiatives around sustainable asset management.	Desirable	SMT

FINANCIAL & ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY

PRIORITY	ACTION	LEVEL	LEADERSHIP
29. Reducing risks to Council's financial assets and investments.	29.1 Maintain flexibility in budgets and long-term planning for unanticipated events (i.e. extreme weather events).	Essential	COUNCIL, GOV
	29.2 Continue to assess climate and environmental risk within Council's asset management plans.	Essential	SMT, ASSET
30. Helping property owners to understand and plan for financial risks associated with climate change.	30.1 Explore opportunities to work with LGAT to educate property owners on, and provide consistent messaging about, climate risk and the different roles of local government/property owners.	Important	NRM
	30.2 Disseminate information about Council's ongoing actions in relation to risk mitigation.	Desirable	COMMS, RISK
31. Encouraging the agricultural sector to transition to more sustainable operations.	31.1 Facilitate dialogue between local agricultural producers to help minimise the adverse effects of one type of production on another.	Important	COMMS, NRM
	31.2 Support agricultural adaptation summits with information provided by peak industry bodies re. sustainable practices and climate challenges.	Desirable	NRM
32. Supporting opportunity identification in new agricultural products and markets	32.1 Encourage agricultural producers to supply local markets and support local food security.	Essential	GOV, NRM

	32.2 Encourage agricultural producers to access Cradle Coast NRM factsheets and related data on climate change challenges and opportunities for the agricultural sector.	Important	GOV, NRM
	32.3 Explore opportunities to support agricultural industry and facilitate collaboration on climate change adaptation.	Desirable	GOV, NRM
33. Encouraging forestry operators to transition to more sustainable operations.	33.1 Convey community feedback received regarding changes to forestry management practices to the relevant governing bodies	Essential	NRM
	33.2 Encourage and work with forestry operators to shift operations to those that have minimal impact on natural systems and native wildlife.	Desirable	NRM
	33.3 Encourage forestry operators to consider alternative income streams, e.g. carbon credits.	Desirable	NRM
34. Supporting opportunity identification in the carbon market	34.1 Partner with relevant stakeholders to conduct a carbon audit for Waratah-Wynyard, and to identify Waratah-Wynyard's unique advantages for carbon sequestration, including wetlands and blue carbon.	Important	NRM
	34.2 Foster improved data collection about land clearing, and advocate for improved State Government policy and planning controls.	Important	GIS, DEV
	34.3 Develop a strategy that identifies potential locations for carbon offsetting projects that entail minimal conflict with nearby land uses.	Important	NRM

	34.4 Investigate and encourage an integrated process for identifying and maintaining existing carbon sinks that may currently be overlooked (e.g. bushland, pasture, cropping areas, wetlands, etc).	Important	NRM
	34.5 Foster sustainable levels of vegetation systems conversion.	Important	NRM
	34.6 Encourage primary producers to access third-party information about opportunities to practice carbon sequestration.	Desirable	GOV, NRM
35. Encouraging tourism operators to understand risks and opportunities.	35.1 Encourage tourism peak bodies and the Cradle Coast Authority to provide targeted information to assist tourism operators to understand the potential risks of climate change on their business, including factors such as the changing insurance landscape, coastal erosion and extreme weather events.	Essential	NRM
	35.2 Investigate Waratah-Wynyard's natural competitive advantages for eco-tourism.	Desirable	TOURISM
	35.3 In collaboration with operators and tourism peak bodies, identify opportunities and develop plans for specific eco-tourism activities and destinations in Waratah-Wynyard.	Desirable	TOURISM
36. Supporting local businesses to transition to more sustainable operations and to identify risks and opportunities.	36.1 Encourage local/regional business associations and Business Tasmania to provide targeted information to assist local business-owners to understand the potential risks of climate change, including from factors such as the changing insurance landscape, coastal erosion and extreme weather events.	Essential	GOV
	36.2 Continue to attract new business to the area, particularly those that are aligned to Waratah-Wynyard's sustainability goals and its 'clean and green' identity.	Important	GOV, COMMS

	36.3 Facilitate partnerships to deliver business training that includes reviewing risk exposure as a result of climate change.	Desirable	GOV, RISK, NRM
	36.4 Identify opportunities to assist business associations and networks to facilitate adaptation strategies for the business community.	Desirable	GOV, COMM.A.
	36.5 Develop example business cases that demonstrate the benefits of alternative/reduced energy use.	Desirable	ENG, ASSET, COMMS

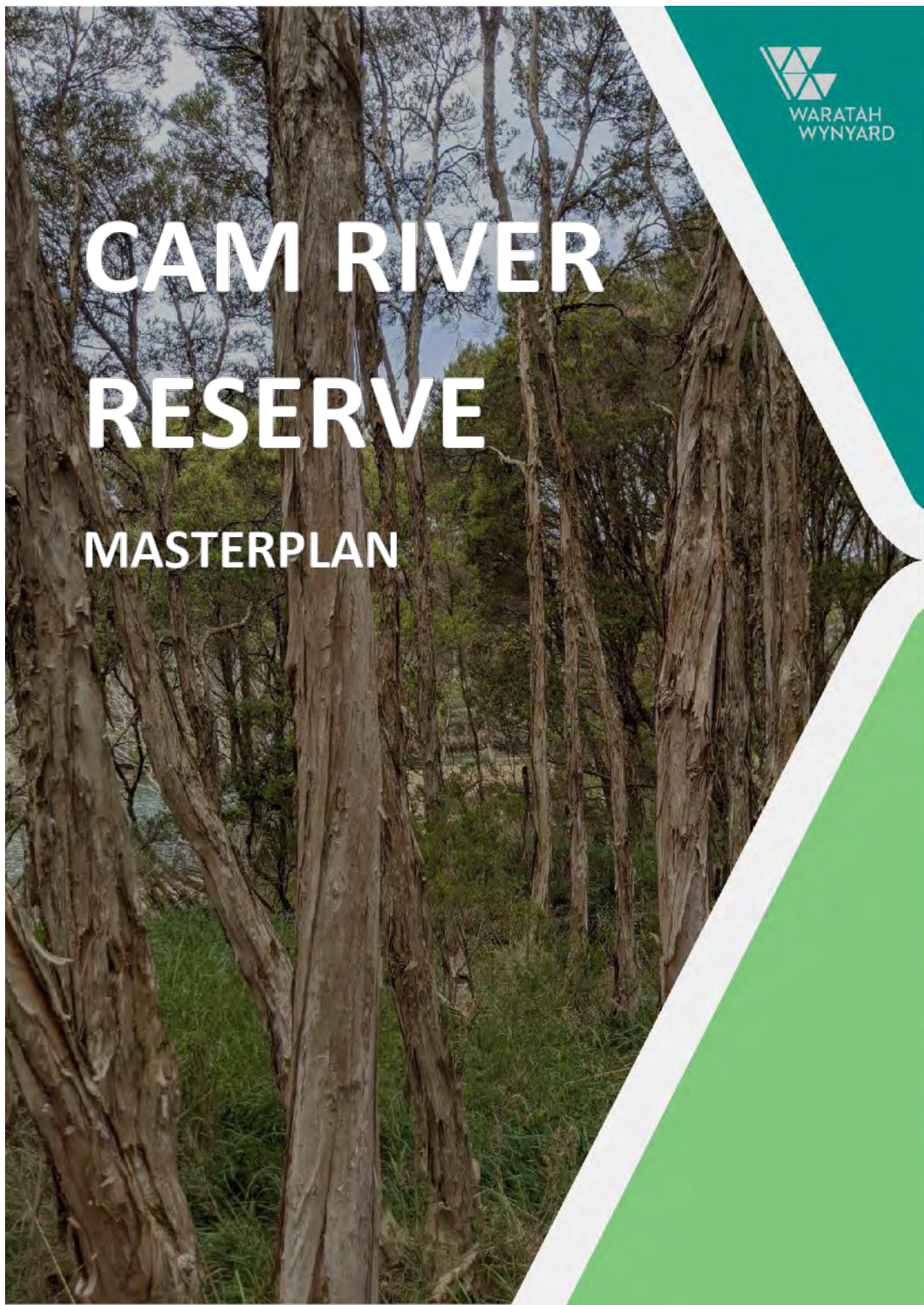
ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

PRIORITY	ACTION	LEVEL	LEADERSHIP
37. Planning for change in the physical environment	37.1 Identify opportunities to increase resilience of terrestrial and aquatic habitats at risk and implement land management changes and on-ground works with delivery partners.	Essential	NRM
	37.2 Conduct regular staff skills development to promote innovation in land management and protection practices.	Important	SMT
38. Protecting, enhancing and recovering biodiversity	38.1 Assess the extent of Waratah-Wynyard's areas of significant ecological value, and develop biodiversity management plans for high-priority areas not currently addressed by other agencies.	Essential	NRM
	38.2 As opportunities arise, and where relevant within WWC jurisdiction, undertake research and participate in cooperative initiatives to evaluate and monitor natural areas and ecosystems' vulnerability to climate change and other factors.	Essential	NRM
	38.3 Work with appropriate partner agencies to enhance and extend biodiversity corridors throughout Waratah-Wynyard, prioritising those currently at high risk.	Essential	NRM
	38.4 Through providing education and information, work with residents, landowners and community groups to mitigate climate change effects on biodiversity, for both private and public land.	Essential	NRM


	38.5 Encourage community volunteerism and research to further understand natural populations of wildlife, insects and plants, and to provide practice support in conserving natural areas.	Essential	NRM, WORKS
	38.6 Work with the relevant stakeholders to develop and implement natural values management plans, including fire management considerations, for the areas of French's Road Nature Reserve, Fossil Bluff and York Street Reserve	Essential	NRM
	38.7 Investigate options and support viable proposals for reducing the amount of wildlife killed on Waratah-Wynyard's roads.	Essential	ENG, NRM
	38.8 Partner with the Sisters Beach Community Association to source funding for the installation of virtual fencing devices on the Sisters Beach Road for installation prior to Summer 2020	Essential	NRM
	38.9 Increase public awareness about how to appropriately manage problem wildlife.	Essential	DEV, NRM, COMMS
	38.10 Work with landowners to encourage best practice with respect to remnant bush conversion on agricultural land	Important	NRM
	38.11 Take a lead role in the regional policy development for cat management, through registration requirements, limiting breeding, education on de-sexing and the benefits of keeping cats indoors.	Important	NRM
	38.12 Prevent off-leash activity around vulnerable wildlife through education and enforcement.	Important	DEV

	38.13 Consider an appropriate location and prepare plan for the development of an arboretum that contains native plant species, provides protection for birdlife and considers economic opportunities.	Desirable	WORKS, NRM
	38.14 Advocate for revisions to the <i>Tasmanian Forest Practices Act 1985</i> and <i>Policy for Maintaining a Permanent Forest Estate</i> to re-consider the amount of native forest that can be cleared without a forest practice plan, and to consider limitations to clearing of land for agricultural purposes in certain regions where the retention of native vegetation is a regional priority.	Important	Council, NRM
39. Anticipating and mitigating biosecurity risks	39.1 Continue to work towards eradication of invasive weed species (e.g. gorse and sea spurge).	Essential	NRM
	39.2 Work with relevant agencies to monitor weeds and pests and adjust control and management approaches in response to climate change.	Essential	NRM
	39.3 Regularly review the use of herbicides and minimise the use of harmful chemicals in Council's weed management practices.	Essential	NRM, WORKS
	39.4 Apply landscape restoration methods for the elimination of weeds in terrestrial and riparian environments.	Desirable	NRM
40. Working with relevant stakeholders to protect Aboriginal heritage values in the landscape	40.1 Work with the local Traditional Custodians and the Indigenous community to integrate traditional knowledge into landscape management where relevant.	Desirable	NRM
	40.2 Facilitate Indigenous input into Council's natural resource management practices and policies.	Desirable	NRM

41. Managing water sustainably	41.1 Ensure action plans for water security and quality consider climate change.	Essential	NRM, DEV
	41.2 Encourage a collaborative approach to catchment management by working with neighbouring councils, diverse stakeholders and State Government.	Important	GOV, NRM
	41.3 Pursue an MOU between all governing bodies to support regional catchment management, including riparian management.	Important	GOV, NRM
42. Monitoring pollution and environmental health	42.1 Continue to administer and enforce relevant legislation to the extent of the delegation provided for the prevention of pollution of air, water and soil.	Essential	DEV
	42.2 Work with the community to raise awareness about and prevent litter and plastic pollution on the natural environment, particularly for Waratah-Wynyard's river and coastlines.	Essential	NRM, COMMS
	42.3 Continue to work with the agricultural sector to raise awareness about and prevent contaminated runoff entering river systems.	Important	NRM
	42.4 Ensure planning permit conditions constrain materials on site (avoid soil and material runoff during construction).	Important	DEV, ENG



2020 FINAL Cam River Reserve Masterplan v1

2020 Cam River Reserve Masterplan					
Rev No	Date	Section(s) Affected (amendments)	Author	Reviewer	Approver
1	March 2020	All sections – full review	DH	DS	SC

This Masterplan has been prepared by the Waratah-Wynyard Council.

The Council would like to thank all those members of the community, industry and council staff who kindly gave their time to provide input into the development of this Plan.

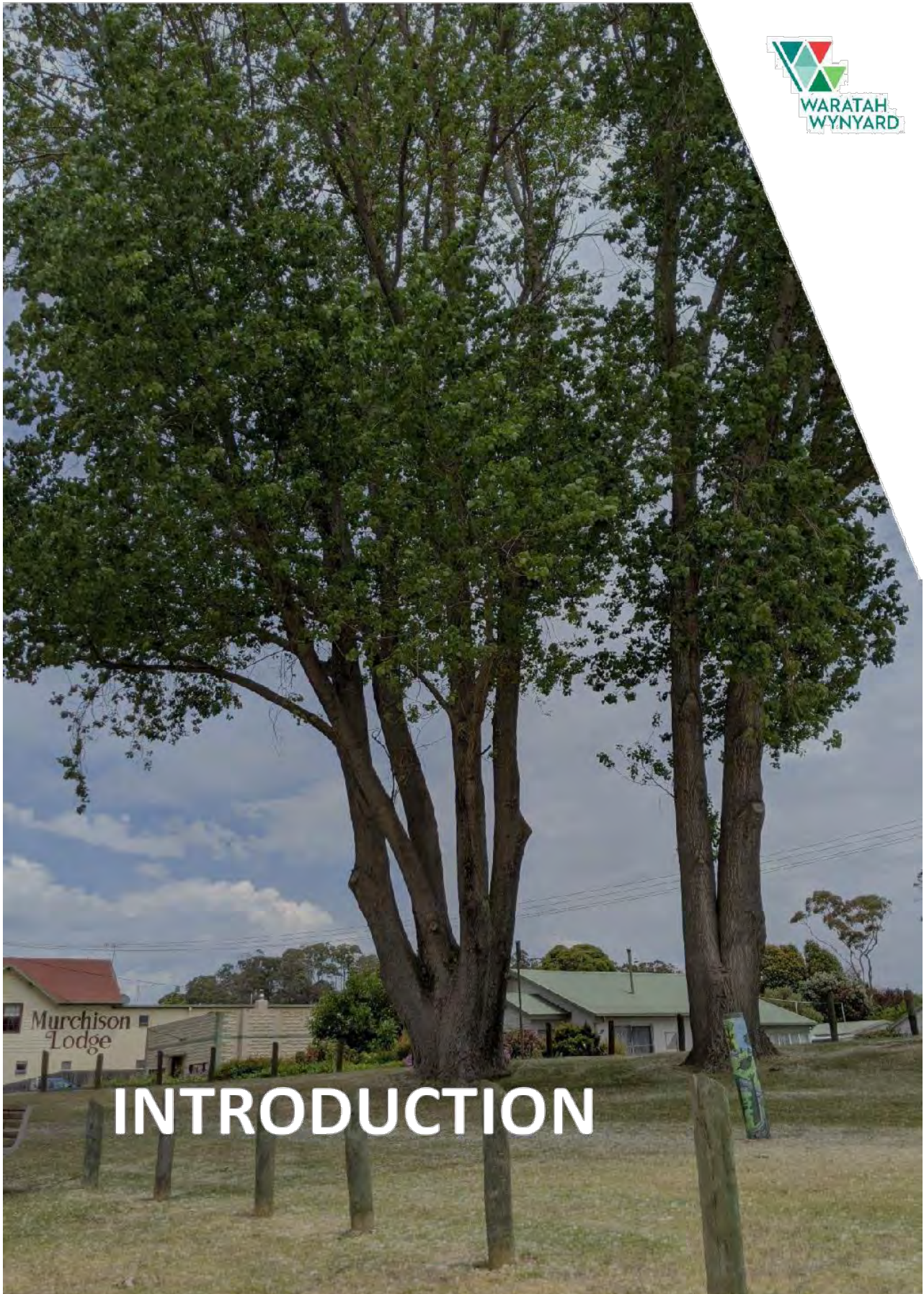
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INTRODUCTION

2020 FINAL Cam River Reserve Masterplan v1

1. Introduction

Cam River Reserve (The Reserve) is a ribbon of open space alongside the western banks of Cam River, Somerset. It is located in northwest Tasmania at the eastern entry to the Waratah-Wynyard municipal area.

The Reserve varies in width from approximately 15m to 70m and the council-maintained section runs north to south for an estimated 500m, starting at the Bass Highway and Murchison Highway junction. The Reserve is bounded by the Cam River on the eastern side and Murchison Highway on the western.

The land is owned by the Crown and a section is leased to the Waratah-Wynyard Council (Council) who are recognised as the reserve manager. All developments on the land are to be approved by Crown Land Services and the Council.

The natural riparian reserve is a mixture of grassed open space and built infrastructure, hosting public toilets, a walking track, shelters and other amenities. Towards the south of the Council-leased area the reserve winds through a cluster of Swamp Paperbark trees.

The Reserve is well-utilised throughout the year for general leisure, such as walking along the river. During the warmer months, locals and visitors flock to the area to picnic, swim and fish, amongst other activities.



Figure 1 - Map of Council Maintained Area

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3. The Vision

The Cam River Reserve will be recognised as a significant parkland feature of Waratah-Wynyard. The Reserve will continue to grow into a naturally beautiful riparian reserve which offers a unique experience for locals and visitors – for relaxation, leisurely activity and social interaction.

4. The Objectives

The objectives of this Master Plan are to:

1. Improve pedestrian safety in the reserve and enhance pedestrian access to the reserve
2. Improve the landscape character of the reserve and its presentation as the eastern entry to the municipality
3. Protect and enhance the visual amenity and natural values of the reserve
4. Develop guidelines for the type and style of infrastructure and landscaping for the Cam River Reserve
5. Determine a selection of value-for-money projects that delivers the outcomes set out within these objectives
6. Deliver a forward-plan for activities within the master plan which can be embedded into future annual budgets and works programming

A large photograph of the Cam River Reserve. In the foreground, a grassy area with a large tree on the left and a paved path leads towards a sandy beach. The beach is bordered by a low stone wall. In the background, there are more trees, parked cars, and a body of water under a clear blue sky. The text "BACKGROUND & CONTEXT" is overlaid in large white letters on the lower part of the image.

BACKGROUND & CONTEXT

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5. Demographic Profile

Waratah-Wynyard is located on the north-west coast of Tasmania and has a population of 13,578. Factors relating to gross weekly income, property mortgages and unemployment impact on the way the community may prioritise improvements within the municipalities reserve and their ability to afford the associated costs.

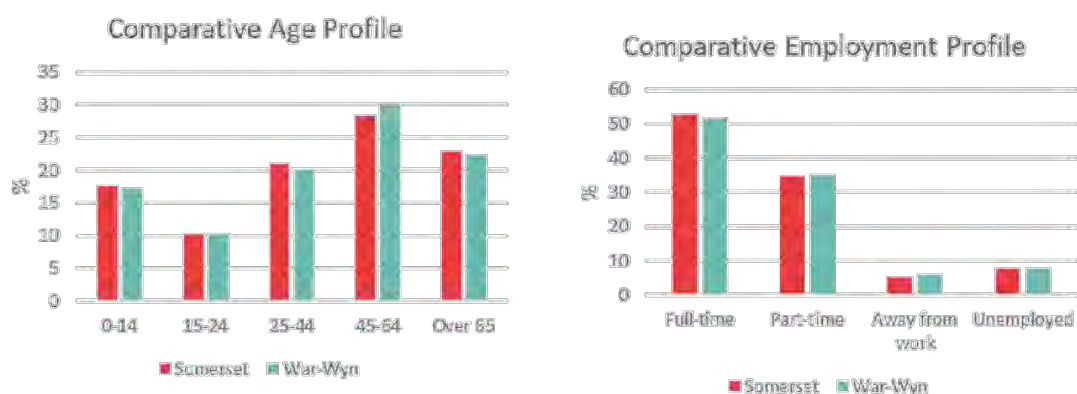


Figure 3 - Comparative Profiles Somerset

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6. Location

The Cam River Reserve is a long and lineal section of parkland on the eastern boundary of the Waratah-Wynyard municipality, located in the township of Somerset. It is bounded by the Murchison Highway on the western side of the reserve and the Cam River on the eastern side. The Bass Highway and Cam River bridge is located at the northern point of the reserve. The Council-managed portion of the reserve continues down to the junction of Wragg Street and the Murchison Highway. Both the Bass Highway and Murchison Highway are approved heavy vehicle routes.

7. Land Ownership

The Crown holds tenure over the public reserve space. It is leased to the Waratah-Wynyard Council who are recognised as the managers of the land and hold responsibility for its upkeep.

The construction of buildings and structures or improvements to existing structures will require consent from The Crown prior to works commencing.

8. Historical Conditions

The Reserve has been long utilised by the community for passive recreation activities, including walking, fishing and picnicking. Historically and more broadly, the Cam River was used to build ships and host wharves for industry.



Figure 4 - Cam River Picnic Area, October 1976

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Site Photos: Historical Conditions



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9. Planning Scheme Context

At the time of developing this master plan, the Waratah-Wynyard Interim Planning Scheme 2013 was declared and in effect. The Reserve is classified as Zone 29.0 Environmental Management. The predominant area around the reserve and largely for Somerset as a whole is Zone 10.0 General Residential.

10. Corporate Planning Context

Council's corporate planning is determined through the 10-Year Corporate Strategic Plan. At the time of developing this master plan, the *Waratah-Wynyard Council Corporate Strategic Plan 2017-2027* applied, which is formed around seven themed goals: 1 – Leadership and Governance; 2 – Organisational Support; 3 – Connected Communities; 4 – Community Recreation and Wellbeing; 5 – Economic Prosperity; 6 – Transport and Access; 7 – Environment.

The specific strategic plan implications relevant to this master plan are contained in the table below.

Goal 3: Connected Communities	
Desired Outcomes	
Our natural and built environment aids the community with an active and healthy lifestyle	
Our Priorities	
3.3	Deliver planning for activation through effective urban design and planning that promotes liveability, social gathering and connectedness, and which recognises and celebrates local history
3.7	Promote and strengthen community safety to retain and attract families to live and recreate in Waratah-Wynyard
Goal 4: Community Recreation and Wellbeing	
Desired Outcomes	
We provide recreational opportunities to the community for all ages and abilities	
Our community enjoys access to visually appealing safe spaces and facilities for recreation	
Our Priorities	
4.1	Commit to ongoing recreation and open space planning to ensure evidence-based decisions are made about the role of Council and its partners in recreation
4.4	Provide and maintain quality and safe places and spaces for physical, social and cultural activities, including shared and multi-use facilities where possible
4.5	Collaborate with community organisations that provide recreation opportunities to our community

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11. Current Use and Infrastructure

The reserve is frequented by both visitors and locals for the main activities of walking, barbequing, picnicking and fishing. Due to its location, it is a convenient meeting place to stage recreational activities such as running and bike riding. Alongside the Somerset Foreshore Reserve and Anzac Park, the Cam River area is the primary parcel of open space used for passive recreation in Somerset. Active recreational activities, such as water sports, also use the reserve as a launch site.

Currently, there is no standard of infrastructure provision for the reserve, which has led to a mixture of both treated timber and metal-style furniture being installed. Major infrastructure within the park includes a bitumen walkway, car park facilities, public amenities block, timber play boat, shelters and ancillary furniture such as park benches and picnic tables. Some of the existing infrastructure is beginning to age and is nearing the end of its functional life.

Adjacent the reserves northern boundary lies the Bass Highway and the vehicular bridge over the Cam River. Both the highway and the bridge are maintained by the Tasmanian State Government through the Department of State Growth (DSG). In 2019, the DSG conducted a study over the Bass Highway between Cooe and Wynyard. The study included a risk assessment which highlighted the use of a wider and higher bridge may mitigate some risks associated with predicted traffic increases and flooding. Being responsible for the bridge replacement, the DSG have been developing a design that meets the recommendations contained within the report. A possible outcome of this work includes the absorption of some of the Cam River reserve to aid in road realignment.

This masterplan has been developed based on the above assumptions and includes timing factored into the works plan for bridge construction. Works plans may be revised should significant changes occur to the DSG bridge design.

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Site Photos: Existing Conditions



A photograph of a grassy reserve with several large, mature trees. A wooden fence runs along the left side of the image. In the background, a white car is parked on a path. The text "COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OUTCOMES" is overlaid in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OUTCOMES

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12. Consultation Method

The Reserve is recognised as a part of the entrance to the municipality and utilised by visitors and locals for activities such as walking and picnicking. In order to understand the broader communities' experiences of the reserve, a community engagement process was undertaken to inform the development of the master plan.

Community consultation commenced on the 16th October 2019 and was finalised on the 3rd November 2019. Consultation was undertaken through the following methods:

- Consultative workshop
- An online survey
- Written submissions
- A quick poll on Facebook

The aforementioned methods were advertised on Council's website, social media and via a media release.

Upon the development of the draft master plan, a second engagement period will be available to the community for review of the plan and to provide feedback prior to its finalisation.

Consultative Workshop

A workshop was held on the 16th October 2019 at the Somerset Surf Life Saving Clubrooms. Representatives from Building Somerset Futures, Somerset Rotary and Cradle Coast Outriggers were invited to attend alongside Waratah-Wynyard councillors and staff. The first part of the workshop was based on providing information about the project and anticipated timelines. The second part of the workshop enabled individuals, and then groups, to identify strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats for the reserve.

Online Survey

An online survey was available for the community for the period 21st October to 3rd November 2019. A copy of the questions can be found in Appendix A. A total of 81 survey responses were received during this period.

Written submissions

During the engagement period, three written submissions were received via the Council's online feedback form located on the YourSay page.

Quick Poll

A quick poll was listed on the Council's Facebook page on the 28th October 2019. The quick poll asked individuals to vote on whether they believed the Cam River Reserve needed improvement. At the close of the poll 674 votes had been received, with 21% of the respondents believing no work was required and 79% believing it required major work.

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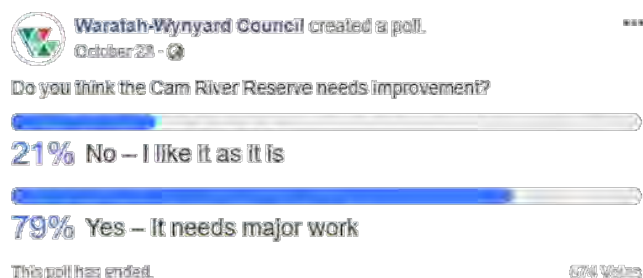


Figure 5 - Facebook Quick Poll

13. Main Themes from Consultation

Current Concerns

The priorities illustrated from the community survey highlighted safety as being amongst the highest concerns in the current format of the reserve. This included the moving of vehicles in and around the grassed area where users with children and pets were at risk, as well as the proximity to the highway. Similarly, parking was listed by survey participants as a concern, particularly in the sense of limited parking over the summer period and the damage to the reserve due to vehicle access. Survey respondents also disliked the current condition of the reserve.

These sentiments were also reflected within the workshop with community organisations and sporting clubs, alongside the concern for unsafe swimming and the consistency and type of infrastructure. Frustrations were also raised regarding the lineal shape and small size of the reserve, and the apparent lack of inaction during similar landscape planning exercises.

When asked in the survey what concerns them the most about the future of the reserve, the majority of individuals raised lack of maintenance, losing its character and losing open space as the top three issues.

Future Aspirations

During the survey, many respondents voted to increase shelters, tables and benches as their top priority for change within the reserve. Improving access to the river and creating better connectivity between the reserve and other areas were also mentioned as a high priority.

A significant number of survey participants flagged the desire to use a walking track that is part of a network or loop as the main activity they'd like to undertake in the reserve which isn't currently offered. This was also mentioned by attending representatives at the workshop with community organisations and clubs.

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In addition, survey respondents were also hoping to enjoy more public gardens within the reserve and to attend more public events.

Strengths of the Reserve

The main area for agreement was the look and feel of the reserve, with almost 80% of survey respondents preferring the reserve to maintain its natural aesthetic. Another strength of the reserve was identified as its family friendly nature (including pets and children), as well as the river being a major asset for observing, swimming and fishing. Individuals also quoted the reserve as being a place for relaxation and admiration of the tall trees. Other favourite activities included using the existing walking track and picnicking.

At the workshop with community organisations and sporting club representatives, the strengths of the reserve included its prime location, the visual aspect and environment, and the usability of the reserve including the mention of sports usage and free parking.



THE MASTERPLAN

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14. The Masterplan

The results of the community consultation and the internal audit identified many actions for resolution into the future. Actions were assessed for the ability to address safety concerns and manage risk, the potential to address the objectives contained within this masterplan and the Council's available resources.

Whilst many priorities complimented one another, where a conflict arose the priority that was best able to mitigate the level of risk was the one selected for progressing further.

The actions identified through the community consultation and internal audit can be categorised broadly into one of four themes. The themes are:



1 - Safe Access and Circulation



2 - Relaxation and Amenities



3 - Nature, Art and Design



4 - Passive Recreation

The key actions for each theme that have been taken forwards within the masterplan have been included on the following pages. A summary of the actions to address these priorities are included in Section 16, alongside estimated costs for each action. Where costs have been provided, they are based on a level of research achievable through the development of the plan but may require adjusting upon a detailed scope of works. The costs do not include inflation or conditions placed on the works by other authorities.

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14.1. Theme 1 - Safe Access and Circulation

KEY ACTIONS TAKEN FORWARD IN MASTERPLAN

- **IMPROVE ACCESS TO AND FROM THE RESERVE:** There is currently no DDA compliant access to the reserve or identified safe crossing points across the highway. The reserve is disconnected from the surrounding key areas, such as the CBD, Anzac Park and the beach.
- **PROVIDE SUITABLE PARKING:** Whilst some parking areas are sealed, others are left with a gravel wearing surface. The desire for adequate parking was mentioned throughout the community feedback process.
- **RENEWAL OF VEHICULAR ACCESS BRIDGE:** The Department of State Growth are working towards the replacement and upgrade of the vehicular bridge along the Bass Highway. Whilst no design has been finalised at the time of writing the masterplan, it is likely the new design will encroach on current public open space, which was a major concern for those participating in the consultation period.
IMPROVE ACCESS WITHIN THE RESERVE FOR MULTIPLE USERS: It has been identified during observation and through the community engagement process that the Cam River Reserve is frequently used for walking and similar leisurely activities. The nearby coastal pathway, scheduled for construction in the coming years, is expected to increase the use of the reserve's pathway as people use Cam River as a meeting/relaxation point. The width of the existing path is not conducive to shared pathways and is beginning to show signs of disrepair.
- **REDUCE POTENTIAL CONFLICT BETWEEN VEHICLES AND PEDESTRIANS:** The current arrangement allows vehicles to access and park within the grassed open space of the reserve, which is adjacent to the beach area that is often frequented by families. This practice introduces a possible risk of injury for users. The movement of vehicles in the area has also created a maintenance issue which was identified both from community consultation and inspections of the reserve.

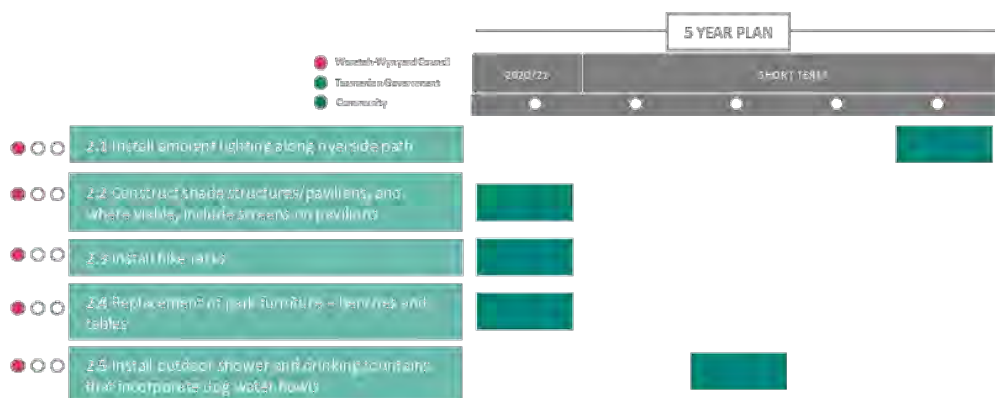


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14.2. Theme 2 - Relaxation and Amenities

KEY ACTIONS TAKEN FORWARD IN MASTERPLAN

- **PROVIDE AMENITIES TO SUPPORT RELAXATION:** It was clear from the community consultation period that the main use of the reserve is for relaxation and picnicking to enjoy the natural surroundings. The types of infrastructure that may support this type of relaxation includes park benches, tables and shade pavilions (with views of the river). Where viable, screens shall be included on shade pavilions to aid with sun and wind protection.
- **PROVIDE AMENITIES THAT SUPPORT PASSIVE RECREATION:** In addition to relaxation and observation, the reserve is also used for informal or passive recreation. Activities include bicycling and water activities. The types of infrastructure that may support this type of recreation includes bike storage, drinking fountain/s and an outdoor rinse area to aid in removing sand from feet and clothing.
- **REFRESH AMENITIES INFRASTRUCTURE AND PROVIDE CONSISTENCY:** A concern that was raised during the community consultation period was the apparent lack of general maintenance of the reserve. An important consideration in the installation of these amenities is the finishing style so that it is in line with the natural surroundings of the reserve. In this way, the use of timber, timber-style products or appropriate colour choices for structures and furnishings is preferred over other finishes to compliment the natural aspects of the reserve.

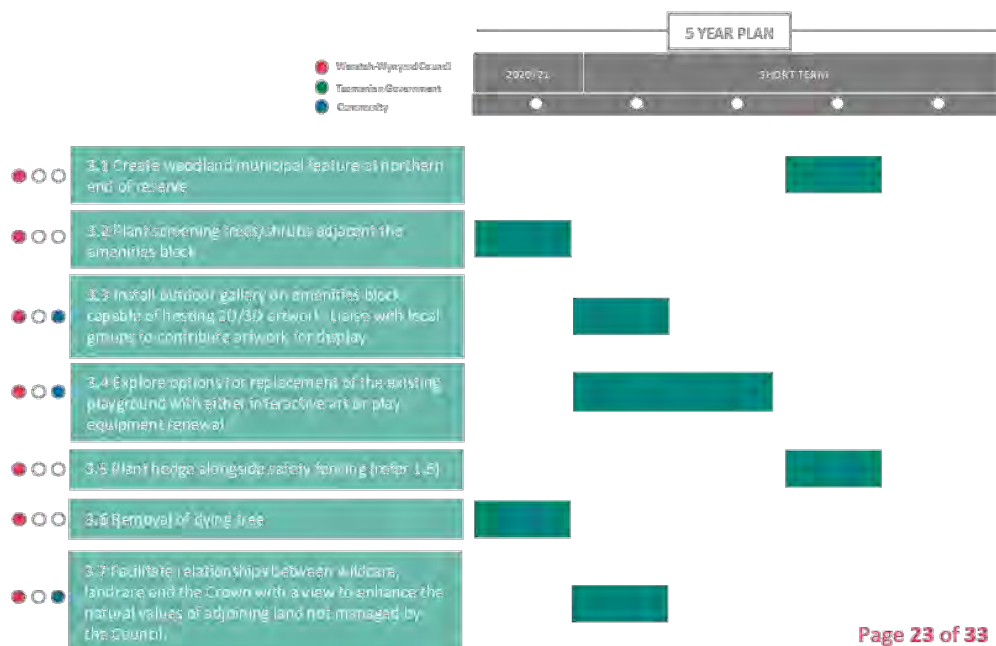


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14.3. Theme 3 - Nature, Art and Design

KEY ACTIONS TAKEN FORWARD IN MASTERPLAN

- **CREATE A WELCOMING ENTRY TO THE MUNICIPALITY:** The reserve sits as a prominent feature on the banks of the Cam River and is one of the first reserves for locals and visitors coming from outside of the municipality. This level of visibility lends itself towards an entry feature for the municipal area. Consideration would be required for the type of feature, given the natural qualities discussed briefly above and the likely design of the new vehicular bridge being slightly elevated.
- **ENHANCE NATURAL AMENITY OF RESERVE:** Response from the community consultation process was overwhelming in terms of maintaining a natural space at Cam River, through careful selection of materials used in construction as well as the planting species chosen. Introducing new plantings to the reserve, especially to manage sound and visual movements from the highways, is particularly important.
- **CREATE AN INTERACTIVE SPACE:** The existing playground at the Cam River Reserve is acknowledged as being an important community asset and particularly the wooden boat has been a popular piece of equipment for many children. After many years of enjoyment, the boat is now deteriorating past the point of repair and is in need of replacement. Additionally, the development of the nearby Anzac Park to include a large all-ability playground creates an opportunity for the existing play space at Cam River Reserve to be recreated, through incorporating art that is founded in the principles of the area's history and the natural amenity of the reserve.



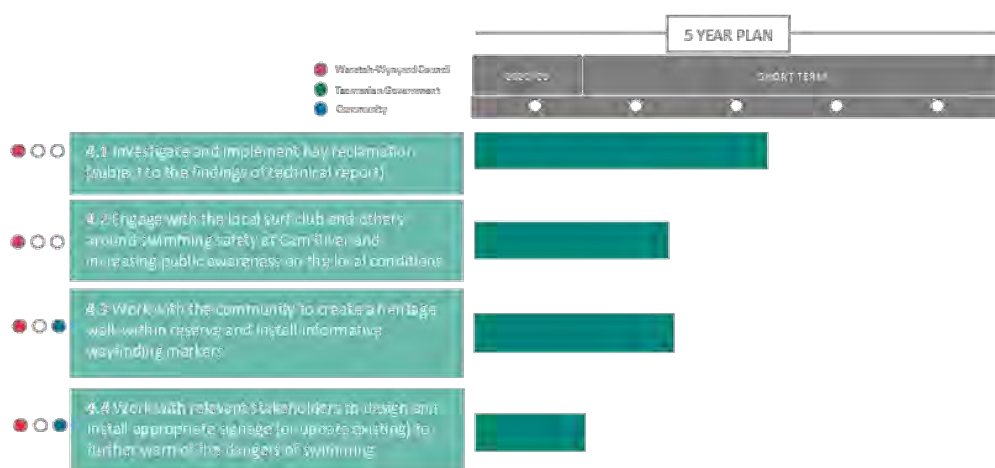
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14.4. Theme 4 - Passive Recreation

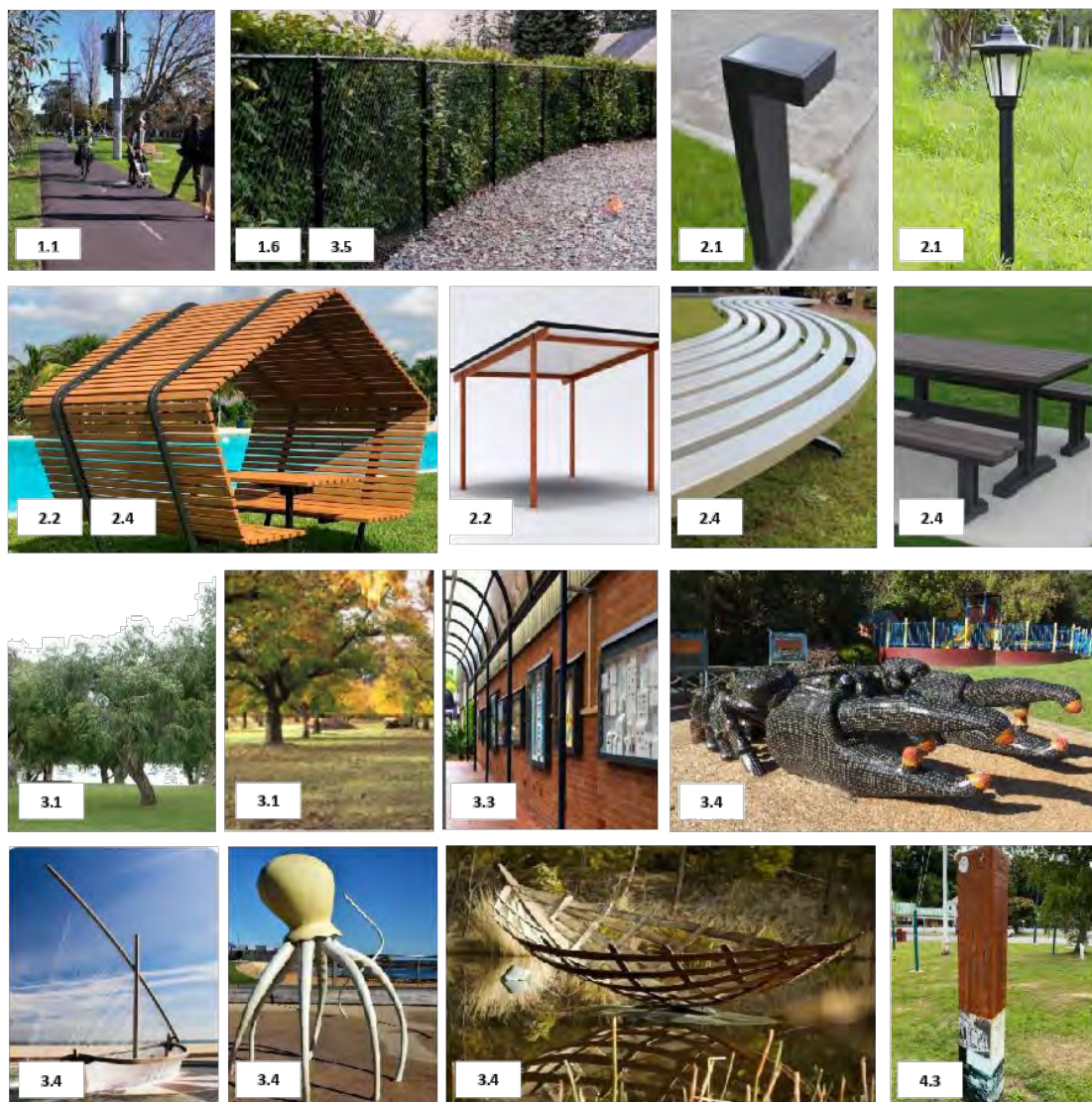
KEY ACTIONS TAKEN FORWARD IN MASTERPLAN

- **MANAGE THE FUTURE CONSUMPTION OF OPEN SPACE:** It is likely the design of the replacement DSG vehicular bridge will consume a portion of the grassed open space area at the northern tip of the reserve. This is the widest section of open space in the reserve. The community consultation period highlighted the reduction of open space would be considered a great loss to the community and users of the reserve. There are two ways to manage the consumption of this area. The first, discussed in Theme 1, is to advocate for minimal impact to the reserve space. The second, considered under this Theme, is to investigate the viability of reclaiming land in the existing bay area to create additional usable open space. This work could also consider tiered access to the beach to enhance the use of the reserve. Reclamation works will require a qualified assessment before works occur and a design investigation to include possible flood risk. The report shall be considered by Council before a decision is made regarding the reclamation.
- **WATER SAFETY:** The results of the consultation period highlighted swimming as both important to users but also highlighted a concern for the safety of the swimmers. The area is currently not patrolled by life savers and there appears to be little knowledge about the dangers of tidal movements within the river. In addition, concerns have been raised historically regarding the safe access to the river for water activities such as canoeing, and this will be considered as part of the land reclamation investigation.
- **CELEBRATE THE HISTORICAL VALUES OF THE AREA:** The Cam River has played an essential role in the establishment of Somerset, Burnie and other areas abroad. The river hosted wharves and a shipyard to construct ships. The historical points of the Cam River and the Somerset area are recognised as important community knowledge and should be respected and valued in the future development of the area. The historical elements of the reserve can be incorporated into future design and art installations, including the use of wayfinding markers for key landmarks.



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15. Inspiration and Concepts



Note: These images are relevant for inspiration only and do not suggest or guarantee exact replicas to be utilised in the Cam River Reserve.

1.1 Renew and upgrade riverside path to shared pathway standards

1.6 Construct safety fence adjacent highway

2.1 Install ambient lighting along riverside path

2.2 Construct shade structures/pavilions

2.4 Replacement of park furniture – benches and tables

3.1 Create woodland municipal feature at northern end of reserve

3.3 Install outdoor gallery on amenities block capable of hosting 2D/3D artwork. Liaise with local groups to contribute artwork for display

3.4 Design and install interactive public art feature that is reminiscent of the area's history

3.5 Plant hedge alongside safety fencing (refer 1.6)

4.3 Work with the community to create a heritage walk within reserve and install informative wayfinding markers

2020 FINAL Cam River Reserve Masterplan v1

16. Actions Summary

Note: The five-year plan is a prediction of completion time only and is subject to change.

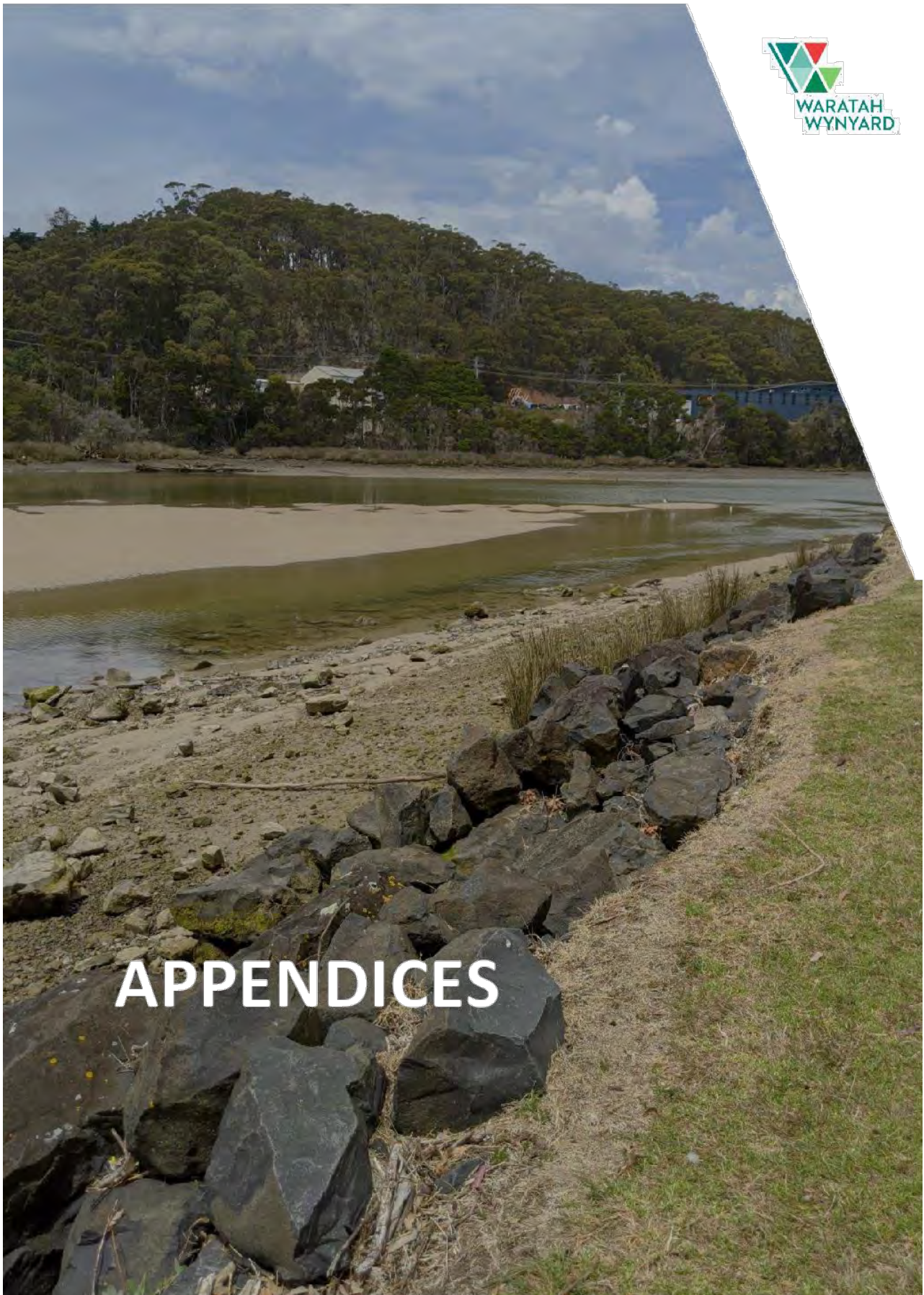
Actions	Year 1 20/21	Year 2 21/22	Year 3 22/23	Year 4 23/24	Year 5 24/25	ESTIMATED TOTAL COST	ESTIMATED ONGOING ANNUAL COSTS	Comments
1. SAFE ACCESS AND CIRCULATION								
1.1 Renew and upgrade riverside path to shared pathway standards	Stage 1				Stage 2	\$105,800	\$4,500	Stage 1 – Path south of existing play boat Stage 2 – Remaining path north of play area, reliant upon DSG bridge works
1.2 Seal existing gravel parking areas						\$44,113	\$2,940	
1.3 Advocate for minimised impact to reserve during the renewal and upgrade of vehicular bridge and convey bridge design concerns from community feedback						-	-	Bridge renewal DSG project
1.4 Lobby for DSG contribution to improved pedestrian access to Anzac Park and the beach						-	-	
1.5 Create a DDA compliant pedestrian connection from the reserve to Simpson Street						\$13,420	\$166	
1.6 Construct safety fence adjacent highway junctions						\$22,000	\$1,300	Commencement pending completion of DSG bridge works
1.7 Liaise with relevant stakeholders to restrict vehicular access to reserve through the temporary installation of bollards						\$7,673	-	Area will likely be consumed during bridge renewal. Bollards to be removed and re-used elsewhere upon installation of safety fence (1.6)
2. RELAXATION AND AMENITIES								
2.1 Install ambient lighting along riverside path						\$67,500	\$2,688	
2.2 Construct shade structures/pavilions, and where viable, include screens on pavilions						\$62,000	\$3,100	
2.3 Install bike racks						\$1,500	\$150	
2.4 Replacement of park furniture – benches, tables and dog bag dispensers						\$60,000	\$4,000	

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	Actions	Year 1 20/21	Year 2 21/22	Year 3 22/23	Year 4 23/24	Year 5 24/25	ESTIMATED TOTAL COST	ESTIMATED ONGOING ANNUAL COSTS	Comments
2.5	Install outdoor shower and drinking fountains that incorporate dog water bowls						\$22,250	\$2,700	Commencement pending completion of bay reclamation
3. NATURE, ART & DESIGN									
3.1	Create woodland municipal entrance feature at northern end of reserve						\$9,000	\$200	Commencement pending completion of DSG bridge works
3.2	Plant screening trees/shrubs adjacent the amenities block						\$4,000	\$200	
3.3	Install outdoor gallery on amenities block capable of hosting 2D/3D artwork. Liaise with local groups to contribute artwork for display						\$10,000	\$1,100	
3.4	Explore options for replacement of the existing playground with either interactive art or play equipment renewal: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2021/22 – Investigate market options for interactive art and/or equipment and understand social and financial implications of each 2022/23 – Design and install based on decision made in 2021/22 						TBA	TBA	Price dependent upon option selected. Initial estimate for interactive art proposed budget of \$30,000 - \$50,000
3.5	Plant hedge alongside safety fence (refer 1.6)						\$5,000	\$500	Commencement pending completion of DSG bridge works
3.6	Removal of dying tree						\$6,000	-	
3.7	Facilitate relationships between wildcare, landcare and the Crown with a view to enhance the natural values of adjoining land not managed by the Council.						-	-	
4. PASSIVE RECREATION									
4.1	Bay reclamation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2020/21 – Investigate viability of reclamation 2021/22 and 2022/23 – Consider recommendations from investigation and determine next steps 						\$25,000 (investigation only)	-	Design investigation to include consideration of possible flood risk

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	Actions	Year 1 20/21	Year 2 21/22	Year 3 22/23	Year 4 23/24	Year 5 24/25	ESTIMATED TOTAL COST	ESTIMATED ONGOING ANNUAL COSTS	Comments
4.2	Engage with the local surf club and others around swimming safety at Cam River and increasing public awareness on the local conditions						-	-	
4.3	Work with the community to create a heritage walk within the reserve and install informative wayfinding markers						\$15,000	\$500	
4.4	Work with relevant stakeholders to design and install appropriate signage (or upgrade existing) to further warn of the dangers of swimming						TBA		Cost to be determine upon scope after liaison with stakeholders
							\$480,256	\$24,044	



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Appendix A – Survey Questions

Have your say - Cam River Reserve Master Plan

The Waratah-Wynyard Council is seeking input into its Cam River Reserve Master Plan, which will set a clear vision for the future development and management of the area.

The reserve is recognised as a part of the entrance to the municipality and is currently frequented by many people for leisure and sporting activities.

The feedback received from the community will be used to develop a master plan for the area that builds upon the Landscape Development Plan, which was adopted in 2012. The consultation will help Council understand if community needs and aspirations have shifted since the Landscape Development Plan was endorsed.

The master plan will provide Council a chance to plan for future infrastructure provision and the impacts regarding the replacement of the Cam River bridge.

To develop the master plan, Council would like to understand the experiences of locals, families and visitors who use the reserve, particularly what works, what doesn't work and how they'd like to use the area in the coming years.

All survey submissions will be considered in the development of the master plan and reviewed against safety, community priority, value-for-money and community affordability.

1. What do you like about the reserve?

2. What don't you like about the reserve?

3. If you could change one thing about the reserve, what would you do?

- ☐ Create more parking for vehicles
- ☐ Have more shelters, tables and benches
- ☐ Create better connectivity to the reserve from other areas
- ☐ Improve access to the river
- ☐ Other - Describe

4. What would you prefer the look and feel of the reserve to be?

- ☐ Natural - Where possible, infrastructure provided blends into its surroundings and native landscaping

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☐ Vibrant/Modern - Infrastructure choices are bright and contemporary, and the plants selected for the area include colour

☐ Other - Describe

5. What concerns you the most about the future of the reserve?

☐ Safety

☐ Losing open space

☐ Lack of connection to other places and spaces in Somerset

☐ Maintenance (lack thereof)

☐ Losing its character

☐ Other - Describe

6. What is your favourite activity in the reserve currently?

☐ Picknicking/using the provided BBQ's

☐ Relaxing

☐ Using the walking track

☐ Using the play equipment

☐ Fishing

☐ Swimming

☐ Other - Describe

7. What would you like to be able to do in the reserve that isn't currently offered?

☐ Enjoy more public gardens

☐ Use a walking track that is part of a loop or network

☐ Enjoy art, history or sculptures

☐ Attend more public events

☐ Other - Describe

8. What is your age?

9. Where do you live relative to the reserve?

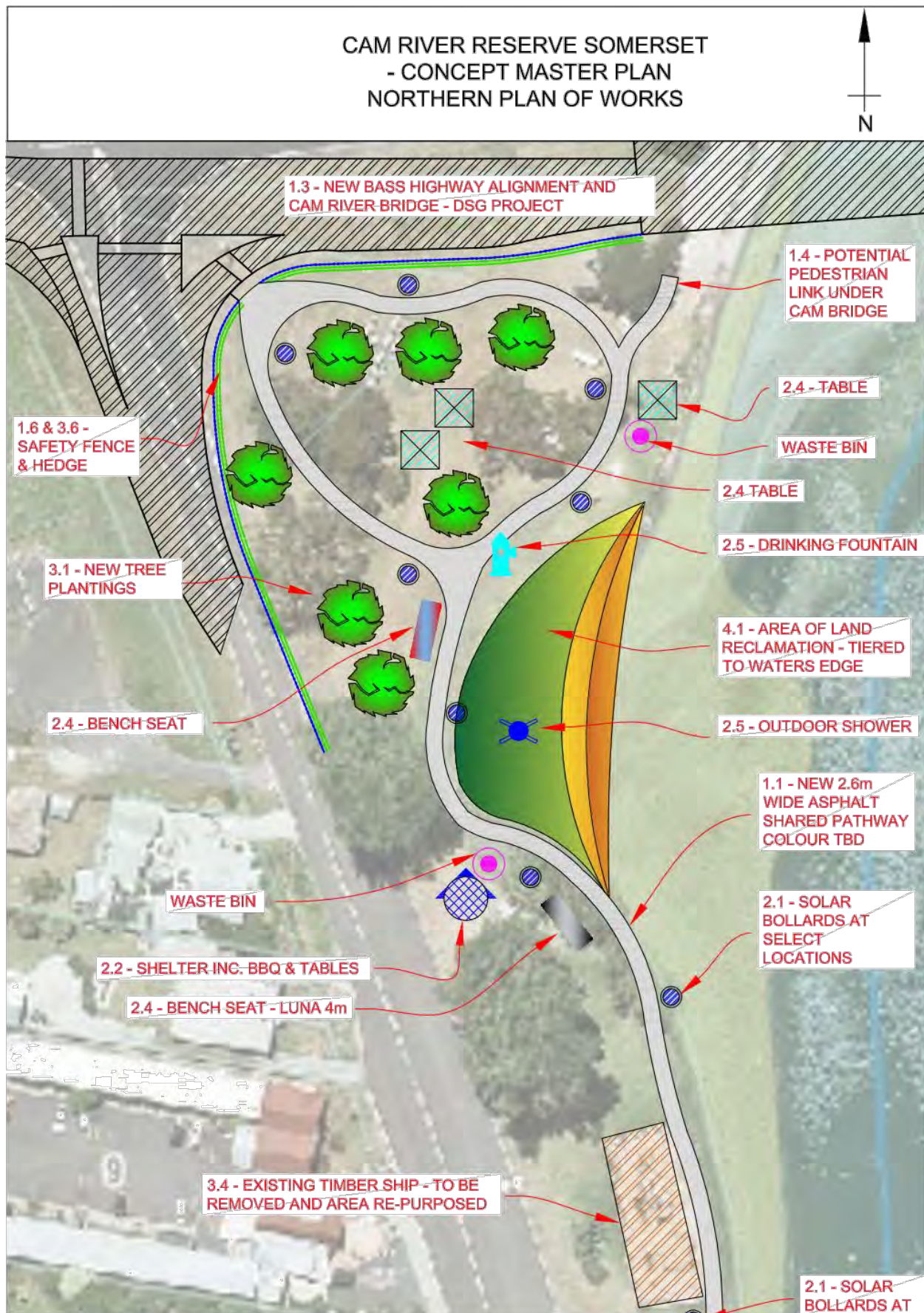
2020 FINAL Cam River Reserve Masterplan v1

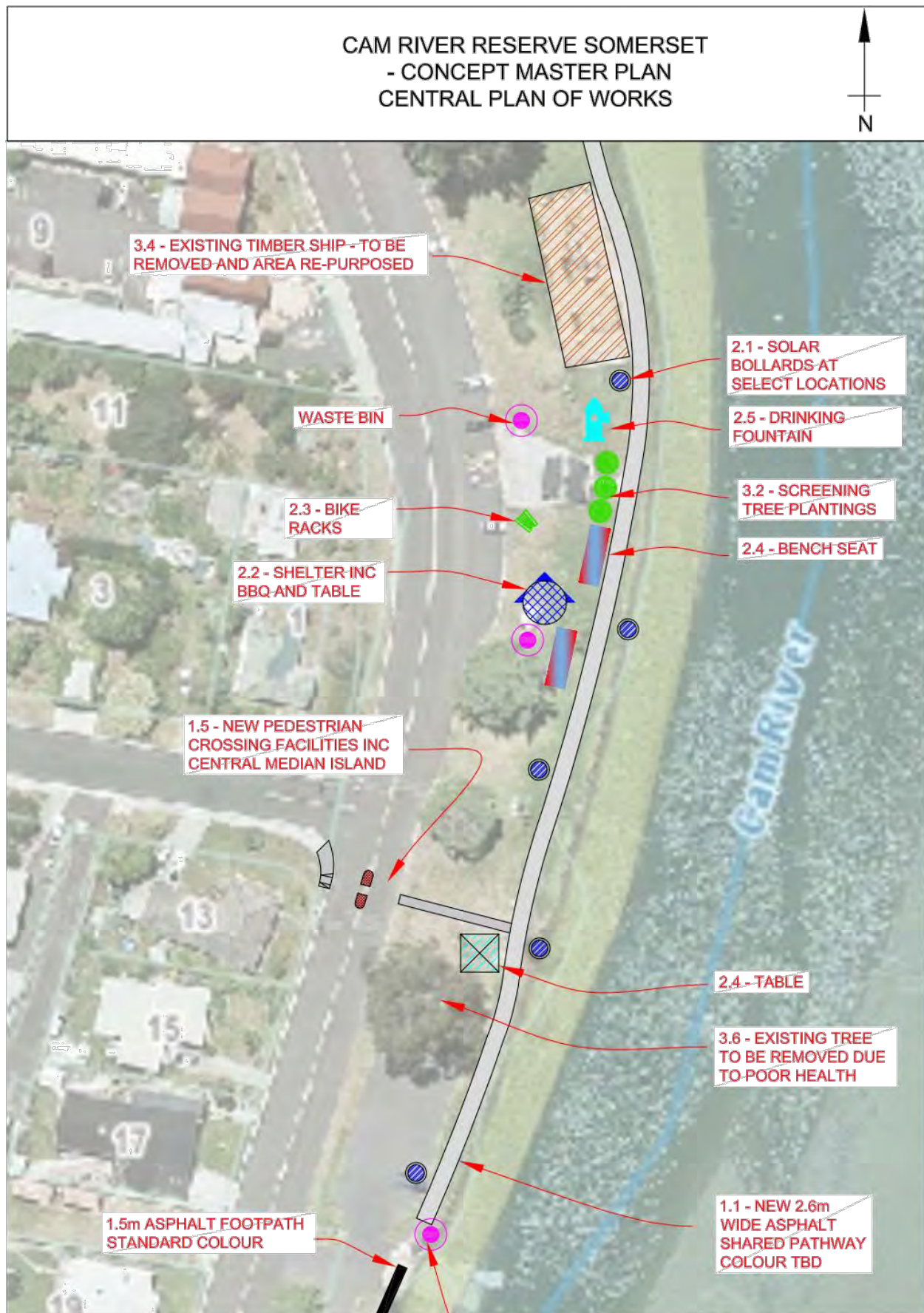
Appendix B – Possible Plant Species for Cam River Reserve

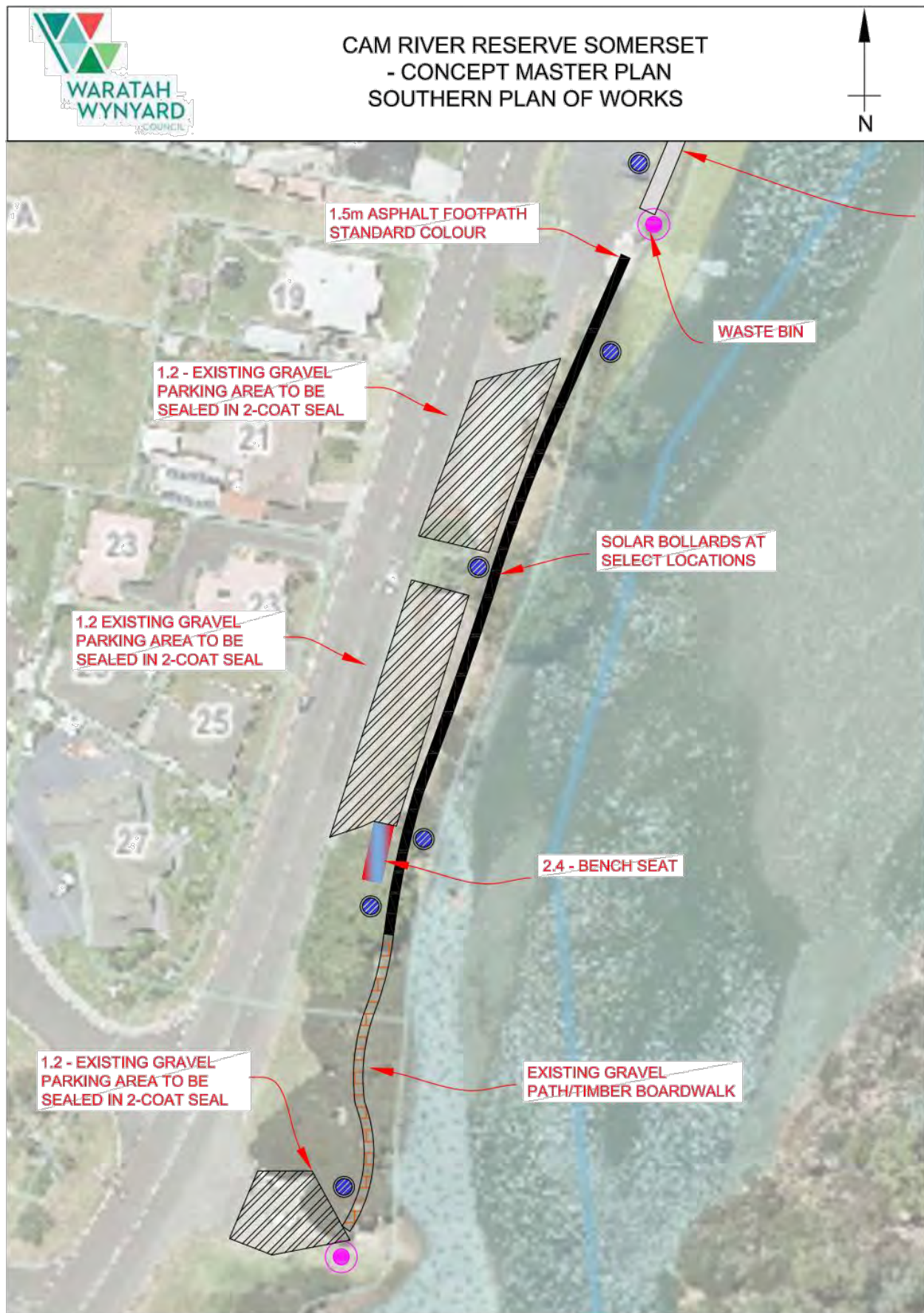
Common Name	Botanical Name	Endemic to Tasmania
Angled Lobelia	<i>Lobelia anceps</i>	
Australian Clematis	<i>Clematis aristata</i>	
Black Peppermint	<i>Eucalyptus amygdalina</i>	Yes
Blackwood	<i>Acacia melanoxylon</i>	
Blunt Caterpillar Wattle	<i>Acacia mucronata</i> subsp. <i>dependens</i>	Yes
Boobyalla	<i>Myoporum insulare</i>	
Broom Spurge	<i>Amperea xiphioclada</i> var. <i>xiphioclada</i>	
Brown-top Stringy Bark	<i>Eucalyptus obliqua</i>	
Cheesewood	<i>Pittosporum bicolor</i>	
Coarse Twine-rush	<i>Apodasmia brownii</i>	
Silver Banksia	<i>Banksia marginata</i>	
Coastal Beardheath	<i>Leucopogon parviflorus</i>	
Coastal Wattle	<i>Acacia longifolia</i> subsp. <i>sophorae</i>	
Common Dogwood	<i>Pomaderris apetala</i> subsp. <i>apetala</i>	
Common Heath	<i>Epacris impressa</i>	
Common Tea-tree	<i>Leptospermum scoparium</i>	
Cranberry Heath	<i>Astroloma humifusum</i>	
Creeping Brookweed	<i>Samolus repens</i>	
Devil's Twine	<i>Cassytha pubescens</i>	
Dolly Bush	<i>Cassinia aculeata</i> subsp. <i>aculeata</i>	
Erect Caterpillar Wattle	<i>Acacia mucronata</i> subsp. <i>mucronata</i>	Yes
Erect Currant Bush	<i>Leptomeria drupacea</i>	
Fireweed Groundsel	<i>Senecio linearifolius</i> var. <i>linearifolius</i>	
Fish-bone Water Fern	<i>Blechnum nudum</i>	
Fleshy Cotula/Coast Buttons	<i>Leptinella longipes</i>	
Forest Appleberry	<i>Billardiera macrantha</i>	
Forest Daisybush	<i>Olearia lirata</i>	
Germander Raspwort	<i>Gonocarpus teucrioides</i>	
Golden Pea	<i>Aotus ericoides</i>	
Goldey Wood	<i>Monotoca glauca</i>	
Guitar Plant	<i>Lomatia tinctoria</i>	
Hard Water Fern	<i>Blechnum wattsii</i>	
Heart-leaf Bush Pea	<i>Pultanea daphnoides</i> var. <i>obcordata</i>	
Hop Native Primrose	<i>Goodenia ovata</i>	
Jagged Fireweed	<i>Senecio biserratus</i>	
Love Creeper	<i>Comesperma volubile</i>	
Manfern	<i>Dicksonia antarctica</i>	
Native Current	<i>Coprosma quadrifida</i>	
Native Olive	<i>Notelaea ligustrina</i>	
Prickly Box	<i>Bursaria spinosa</i>	
Prickly Moses	<i>Acacia verticillata</i> subsp. <i>verticillata</i>	
Rush	<i>Juncus</i> sp.	
Sagg	<i>Lomandra longifolia</i>	
Satinwood	<i>Nematolepis squamea</i> subsp. <i>squamea</i>	
Scrambling Coral-fern	<i>Gleichenia microphylla</i>	
Silver Tussock Grass	<i>Poa labillardieri</i>	
Silver Wattle	<i>Acacia dealbata</i> subsp. <i>dealbata</i>	
Slender Rice Flower	<i>Pimelia linifolia</i>	
Smithton Peppermint	<i>Eucalyptus nitida</i>	Yes
Smooth Parrot-pea	<i>Dillwynia glaberrima</i>	
Sunshine Wattle	<i>Acacia terminalis</i> subsp. <i>angustifolia</i>	
Swamp Gum	<i>Eucalyptus ovata</i>	
Swamp Paperbark	<i>Melaleuca ericifolia</i>	
Tall Sword-sedge	<i>Lepidosperma elatius</i>	
Tasman Flax Lily	<i>Dianella tasmanica</i>	
Variable Sword Sedge	<i>Lepidosperma laterale</i>	
White Flag Iris	<i>Diplarrena morae</i>	
White Marianth	<i>Rhytidosporum procumbens</i>	
Willow Leaf Dusty Daisybush	<i>Olearia phlogopappa</i> subsp. <i>salicina</i>	

2020 FINAL Cam River Reserve Masterplan v1

Appendix C – Concept Plan









DRAFT Cam River Reserve Master Plan

Feedback Received During Consultation

Project	Cam River Reserve Master Plan
Consultation Purpose	Draft plan for feedback
Consultation Period	12.06.20 – 03.07.20
Consultation Length	3 weeks
Total Feedback Received	39 comments

NO	DATE	COMMENTS
1.	13/06/2020	What about a longer walking track up the river
2.	13/06/2020	A pedestrian/cyclepath underpass connecting Cam Reserve to the beachside of Highway under the new bridge. Could be concrete tunnel if it has to go lower. Dredging some of the accumulated sand.
3.	13/06/2020	The only thing you need is a pedestrian walkway UNDER the bridge. So that cyclists, walkers, joggers, dog walkers DONT HAVE TO CROSS THE HIGHWAY.
4.	13/06/2020	Although I have left, my grandmother and older aunties still live in Somerset. I would love to see access to the parks facilities and beach are of the river be accessible for those with limited mobility. Taking into consideration wheelchairs and walking frames.
5.	13/06/2020	My only concern is the mention of encouraging more people to swim or access the river. I hope you hav taking into the outgoing tides that Can be quite dangerous as I have assisted in rescues in the river over many years. The surf club was formed due to a drowning in the river ion a school picnic some 50 Years ago. We all need to keep safe
6.	14/06/2020	Prominent topics are great start. Access from cam to surfclub near bridge should be considered. Usually park seating, rubbish bins extra BBQ facilities, another set of toilets at the bridge end, fully fenced preschool playground? Pushbike road map track? Set of swings? Thanks for taking the time to consider the upgrade. It is a highly used area all year round by all.

7.	17/6/20	<p>1. I think it is a good idea to stop the parking in the Main Area ,since it was allowed the track-road becomes muddy and the vehicles take up the space along side the waters edge.</p> <p>2.make sure that the plantings along side proposed fenced sections do not grow to tall to stop views associated with drivingsafely.</p> <p>3 That the new shade trees dont become homes for the Starling population.</p> <p>4.The out rigger canoes should find a new home,heaps of public money spent in Burnie on them and they still use this the area.Very untidy around the canoes and kids climb and play around them.Who is liable if some one gets hurt.</p> <p>5 Make the shower area for swimmers a work of art.</p> <p>6.Provide a area for a couple of food-drink-ice cream vendors</p>
8.	16/6/20	<p>I like the idea of covered picnic tables, and some land reclamation. However I also like being able to bring car right to where i plan to spend the day. Its easy to get picnic gear out, no long trek back to car if forget something. Can leave valuables in the car with no risk of theft when its parked in my sight, and can park in the shade of the trees. Thats why i go to this particular area and not others which have been "improved" and are no longer user friendly. Please leave somewhere available for people who want to be able to drive in, and use the area as we currently do? Unstructured is part of the appeal of the area. Not everyone who is unable (or unwilling) to walk for ages to get to the beach, is eligible for disability parking permits, so a couple of disabled spots is not a solution. I also sincerely hope you dont cut down a single existing tree during the renovations please. (If a tree shold be prone to dropping branches, put up a warning sign and leave it at that.)</p>
9.	16/6/20	<p>Hello Council,</p> <p>Upon viewing the Cam River Master Plan Overview map sent via mail to area residents, I see a list of nine components mentioned, and I will comment on them from top to bottom.</p> <p>1. Cam River Bridge. A crucial aspect of the project. Right now the bridge is a tragedy waiting to happen. The pedestrian footpath is narrow, with no safety barrier, and only about a metre from the highway traffic itself, which includes multi-trailer logging trucks, large container trucks, etc. travelling past at quite rapid speeds. A person slipping from the footpath doesn't stand a chance in the wrong circumstances. The bicycle lanes are very small, again with little distance or safety margin from the large volumes of poorly maneuverable traffic. A serious accident seems only a matter of time.</p> <p>3. Pedestrian Linkage between Cam River Reserve and Anzac Park. Another important aspect of the plan. Crossing the Bass Highway in this area currently involves either walking a long block down to the light at Falmouth Street, crossing under the bridge when the tide is low enough, or darting across the highway when (hopefully) the traffic allows. None of the three options is optimal, and one is outright dangerous. A connection to Anzac Park would enhance the use of both areas, and open up the beach front area near the Surf Lifesaving Club for Reserve visitors. The connection could be either an underpass or overpass relating to the new bridge.</p> <p>6. Safe Pedestrian Crossing over Murchison Highway. Much needed, as again, traffic speeds and large truck traffic are common down the Highway. A second crossing closer to the Bass Highway, in the area of the Best Western Lodge and Jetty Restaurant, would also be useful. In addition, a footpath on the west side of the Murchison Highway in this area is also a safety requirement, as right now one must walk on the edge of the road or in the grass along the highway if wanting to walk from Bass Highway to the area around the Jetty Restaurant on the west side of the road.</p>

		<p>7. Land Reclamation along the waters edge. This area, and in fact the larger area of the mouth of the river, changes constantly with the tidal and river flows moving large amounts of sand from one area to another. A great idea to engineer this area to make it user friendly and less subject to constant shifting, but looks like it will require significant engineering input.</p> <p>8. Nature Walk Pedestrian Pathway. Wonderful idea, especially if it can be continued for as far as possible along the Cam River, such as the River Nature Trail in Wynyard. If there is a safe Bass Highway Pedestrian Crossing in the area of the Bridge, then this Cam River Nature Walk can be directly connected to the footpath that goes along Anzac Park, past the SLClub, and west along the water front. Such a longer connected pathway along the Cam River to the ocean front pathway would attract large numbers of users, as the ocean front pathway usage has risen greatly during the recent travel restrictions.</p> <p>9. Pedestrian Protection Fencing and Planting to provide screening between Murchison Highway and Reserve. Lovely idea. Please make the fencing as natural and attractive as possible. For example, a chain link or corrugated sheet metal fence would be not very pleasant. Trees, Ferns, flowering bushes, etc. throughout the Reserve would always be pleasing and fitting with the overall idea of the project.</p> <p>I realize this project will not be done rapidly, but if the Council is serious, then making it a priority to obtain expert construction advice and funding would allow it to come to fruition to the benefit of a large number of area residents in a timely manner, and may even prevent accidents in the above mentioned dangerous areas that this plan would rectify.</p> <p>Thank you for your efforts</p>
10.	17/6/20	<p>The Surf Club has concerns regarding the Cam River Redevelopment. It appears the council is encouraging extended use of the river by the public. We had three near drownings at the river this year, with potentially five lives being lost. As a matter of fact last year we celebrated 50 years of the Clubs inception following a double drowning in the river. We urge caution in regards to additional use of river by the public.</p>
11.	17/6/20	<p>It is all very positive and welcome, however the number 1 priority should be ACCESS to the reserve from the heavily used walking path from ANZAC Park (which, of course feeds to Somerset Beach).</p> <p>Crossing the railway line and highway with children and prams (which I've done too many times) or dragging a pram through the sand under the bridge to get to ANZAC Park is even more difficult, but potentially less dangerous.</p> <p>I think that beautification and increased utility of the area is important, but the safety of residents and visitors should be without exception the most important priority. Get that right, then focus on all the other works.</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity for feedback. I would be happy to be contacted if you require further information or me to speak at a council meeting.</p> <p>The last thing I want is to see is a fatality of a child or parent crossing the highway to get to the Cam River Reserve, no matter how wonderful the transformation is</p>

12.	17/6/20	I think this is a great idea to add more tree's, seating and bbq area's to the reserse area. I do however think that adding some timber screening around these area's will also provide two important functions, a/ to provide a shelter to wind given the location and could have the ability to see these facilities being used more frequently and b/ to provide some privacy between gatherings so everyone can enjoy there outing... obviously situated in a way to serve these purposes without affecting the view of the river. I also really like the idea of pedestrian crossing to Anzac park to make access safer.
13.	18/6/20	I would like you to consider extending the storm water outlet that currently drains into the Cam River near the BBQ's by burying and extending it to the low tide water level. This would clean up that corner of the river which is used heavily for swimming, particularly by small children, currently it is a muddy and dirty area as the runoff at low tide drains onto the sand and stays in place until high tide, by extending the piping it would drain out to sea at all tides resulting in the area self cleaning over time.
14.	19/06/20	I personally would love to see a new boat built near the Can River for all children to play on. The old boat has been a very special and different piece for all children to play on. We have so many new types of climbing and play equipment for our children being built all around Tasmania but it would be great for our little town to have a special piece to bring people to our area.
15.	19/06/20	Would be good to remove old kid boat .. and put new rebuild better one for kids boat upgrade please would be looks great let's kids have fun . My kids loves that boat . Why not upgrade better one
16.	19/06/20	One of my very first visits to Tasmania before moving here 16yrs ago was to the boat at Cam River where i celebrated a very special Birthday with my grandparents and parents and living in Tas it has always been a special place to meet up with family for a picnic, Birthday celebrations play on the boat and a swim, please dont take mine or my kids memories of the special times had there as my grandparents and mother are no longer around but their presence is always with us when we are there "please save the boat"
17.	19/06/20	Please, if the boat has to be removed due to safety issues please replace it with another one. Its iconic to the area and the kids of so many generations love it!! Just the other day I was playing on it with my daughter. It's great to have something they can play on to enhance/create such amazing imaginative play! Standard play equipment can be found in lots of other locations, please keep/repair/replace this icon and keep this a special spot for kids and families for many more generations.
18.	19/06/20	Do not remove the iconic boat at cam river. so many people take their kids just to play on that boat. I played on that boat my entire childhood days every summer growing up. Cam river wont be the same without it there
19.	19/06/20	My son and now my grand daughter played/use that boat. Can it not be up after?Will some play equipment be put there? We are there around once a month to have a play on the boat, it's good cause grandparents Can get on there too. Please don't t take it away just for change sake
20.	19/06/20	I think it would be a shame to remove the wooden boat. all my kids loved playing on that ship. It invoked their imagination of being pirates and sailors. If anything something needs to be done with the smelly toilet block that is always filthy and an extra toilet could be added close to the bridge.
21.	19/06/20	There is no reason to take away the boat. Kids love to play pirates on it. My kids did when they were younger. It's an iconic part of the Cam River park area and should be fixed up or replaced with another boat
22.	19/06/20	I would like to object to the proposed removal of the WOODEN Boat at the Cam River reserve.

23.	19/06/20	Just heard that the boat at the Cam River is being removed and is interested in purchasing it.
24.	19/06/20	I think the boat should be revamped!! Much loved and iconic!
25.	19/06/20	Save the boat as it represents the history of the Cam River and my ancestors who built sailing ships in the river. It is an icon of Somerset and should be rejuvenated rather than scrapped. Children love playing on the boat while their parents have a BBQ or relax on the banks of the river. The recreational area should be enhanced with statues and plaques telling the history of the area like the Campbell Town park.
26.	20/06/20	<p>I think that of the boat / ship can not be repaired. Then it should be replaced, but to remove the entire playground area absolutely ridiculous, Children need play equipment. Just because there is some at Anzac park, does not mean parent visiting the cam river reserve will allow their young children to cross the highway unattended to go to Anzac park.</p> <p>Also in removing the play equipment, and I'm assuming also the bbq area also, you are letting people know that this reserve is only for a select few who do NOT have family's or children</p> <p>It will not make it more family friendly. It will do the opposite.</p> <p>Also you will cause accidents because children or teens of the families visiting the cam reserve will cross the highway, to go to a play area, in turn this will cause many vehicle and pedestrian accidents.</p> <p>Not a good move.</p> <p>You have removed too many play equipment areas for children and not replaced anything with worthwhile play equipment to entertain the children, both of whom live in the area, and who visit.</p> <p>It is about time you stop removing things and think, about encouraging ALL CHILDREN to enjoy the outdoors, not just those with disabilities.</p>
27.	20/06/20	Please keep the boat at the Cam river, it's a point of difference to other playgrounds, just needs some other play equipment added to the area.
28.	22/06/20	<p>*Newspaper article*</p> <p>The fast, deadly currents of the Cam River have been raised as a major safety issue for the upgrade of the reserve along the river bank.</p> <p>Somerset Surf Life Saving Club president Leigh Glover said some club members felt the council was encouraging people to swim in the river.</p> <p>"We did have concerns about encouraging the public to use the river more, because we've had quite a few incidents there and there have been some deaths in the river."</p> <p>He was commenting on the release of the draft Cam River Reserve Masterplan, which the Waratah-Wynyard Council wants final public comment on before it is adopted.</p> <p>The masterplan includes the proposal to upgrade amenities which would support activities like swimming and biking.</p>

		<p>It also addresses swimming safety, which it said was highlighted in the community feedback it had received to date.</p> <p>"The area is currently not patrolled by life savers and there appears to be little knowledge about the dangers of tidal movements within the river.</p> <p>"In addition, concerns have been raised historically regarding the safe access to the river for swimmers and this will be considered as part of the land reclamation investigation," the plan says.</p> <p>Mr Glover noted there had been an incident just months ago.</p> <p>"On a patrol this year, a couple of the young guys fished a couple of people from under the bridge.</p> <p>"Most of the trouble happens on the outgoing tide, where the water does get quite a current out to sea."</p> <p>He said ideally people could swim in the river but would not be able to go past a spot about 50 metres upriver from the bridge.</p> <p>"In the past there were signs on the bridge warning of fast currents and not to swim. We don't know who took them away.</p> <p>"We will be looking at putting some more detailed recommendations to the council about safety. There needs to be some highly visible signage there."</p> <p>Club life member Eric Smith said he didn't want to discourage people from swimming in the river, but there needed to be very visible warnings.</p> <p>"I would love to have more people enjoying aquatic activities in Somerset. My main concern is the rips that are in the river on the change of tides.</p> <p>"We all need to work together to enjoy our community, but most importantly, it must be done to keep us all safe," Mr Smith said.</p> <p>The draft masterplan includes other actions such as upgrading facilities, access and safety on and around the roads, and the proposed replacement of the road bridge.</p>
29.	21/06/20	<p>I like the plan, the idea of making the cam river better is awesome. Creating a more user friendly, family friendly space is always a win. However the idea of getting rid of the ship is in my opinion dumb. I don't know what it is going to be replaced with but I hope that it wont be some clinical plastic non imaginative piece of rubbish. Sorry if I sound negative on this but I have spoken to many of my friends from Somerset and Burnie who's children play on the ship and they love it. It encourages children to play and play act, they become pirates or ship captains. It would be a shame if the reason for claiming that it doesn't meet safety standards is really someone who is an out with the old in with the new type of person</p>

30.	23/06/20	<p>The initiative is welcome. The Cam River Reserve does need something of a makeover and attention to pedestrian access and parking. However, some elements of the Plan are not well explained.</p> <p>1. Loss of the playground is regrettable. It is well used. Suggestions that the Anzac Park development can be a replacement is fanciful without ready access across the highway. How the undefined interactive installation will replace the existing playground is unclear.</p> <p>2. Installation of additional drinking fountains and bike racks is welcome. Will these upgrades include dog drinkers and dog bag dispensers? Existing facilities in Anzac Park are too far away and not readily accessed via the highway.</p> <p>3. Will the proposed paving of areas along the Murchison Highway reduce parking options for long vehicles (trucks, caravans, boat trailers)? The current arrangements are highly flexible and allow for easy offstreet parking.</p> <p>4. Access to the river for families and canoes is not clearly explained. Description of the reclaimed frontage to the river doesn't make clear whether any beach area will be retained or whether the intention is to remove the river as an option for swimming. A diversity of river access is one of the unique features of the existing park.</p> <p>Development of the improved access from the CDB, the upgrade to the pathway, historical walk and associated installations should proceed at the earliest opportunity.</p> <p>Development at the northern end of the park seems dependent on the alignment of the new bridge and should be viewed as a lesser priority.</p>
31.	26/06/20	<p>I like the proposed Cam river development- especially the continuation of pathway for walking and riding, added points to access the river for swimming, planting to screen the highway.</p> <p>The interactive sculptures sound interesting- it would be nice if they were made of natural materials and reflected both the history and natural values of the site- perhaps including some interpretation of Aboriginal history or plant and animal species found near the reserve. I think sculptures too modern or abstract could clash with the feel of the site.</p> <p>Where is the new all abilities playground to be built?</p> <p>Look forward to seeing this development. Thank you</p>
32.	26/06/20	<p>Since a lot of families use the Cam River Parents watch their kids or they get in the water near the Highway end I feel there should be toilets , taps and shower heads to be able to rinse off. higher bridge sides that are not climbable to jump off. a pass over access from Cam River to Anzac Park and return</p>
33.	01/07/20	<p>1 – Timber boat – too old – need something more attractive.</p> <p>2 – Path to Anzac Park – no access due to high tide – road too dangerous to cross</p> <p>3 – Better lighting all along river. Often groups of young people hang around late at night – noisy</p> <p>4 – BBQ's and seating and shelter needed near beach – river bank</p> <p>5 – Native trees have been planted before and vandalised – needs better protection</p> <p>6 – Pedestrian crossing obscured by bend in road from bridge</p> <p>7 – Reclamation needs to be done properly. Present work a disaster falling away</p> <p>8 – Fencing of entire park with no car access. Dangerous when cars are on grass and small children play on grass. Fence needs to start at bridge and go past toilets.</p> <p>9 – Needs some life saver presence. Lots swim and play in the river</p>

34.	03/07/20	<p>The Cam River reserve is an important community space, used daily by a range of Somerset locals and visitors. It is used for a variety of purposes by a diverse population, at different times of the day, and used differently by different groups, and even differently on weekdays to weekends, and differently depending on season. The reserve's capacity to be attractive, community-building, recreational and useful are all reasons this reserve is enjoyable.</p> <p>The reserve has some problems. In Summer, people and cars share space for on the grass near the bridge, which is dangerous and creates problems associated with competing needs: people want to sit on their rugs on the grass and see the river, others want to drive their car close to the river to be able to get their gear to and from their vehicle more easily. These needs are not compatible and it would be good to have clearly delineates spaces for parking close to the river and for use of the grass area, with cars restricted to only a small area for access, perhaps also with a parking time limit in order to unload kayaks etc.</p> <p>In my 17 years living in Somerset I have seen a number of expensive attempts to control the river mouth to accommodate recreational access to the river. None of these attempts have been successful long term and have caused some problems, including the cracking of concrete and paths, and the moving of large rocks when the river swells or is in flood, as it was in 2016. To invest further in trying to control the river mouth seems unwise, and learning from historical interventions, a natural approach that works in harmony with the river's movement rather than erecting an inflexible structure would seem to give a longer lasting and better result for recreation.</p> <p>If I could change one thing about the reserve it would be the walking path. The walking path extending to the corner of Pelissier Street does not go far enough to maintain community safety for those accessing the reserve. When that path stops on the Murchison Highway, pedestrians are forced to walk on the road further up the highway, where they usually turn on to Old Cam Road. A safe foot path from the existing path to the Back Cam Road intersection would allow safer access for people wanting to use the existing path.</p> <p>If I could change one other thing about the reserve it would be the playground. The playground is a much loved part of the reserve and its importance to the reserve cannot be underestimated. It is what makes the reserve an enjoyable place for the 68% of families using the reserve in the area, and what attracts families to living on the Eastern side of Somerset. Without this playground, there is nowhere for children to play in the community on the Southern side of the Bass Highway. Somerset Primary used to provide a play space for children in the area, with this community space gone, it is essential that a playground remain at the Cam River reserve. A playground provides parents with a community space to meet, where they can have their children with them in safety to learn social skills, risk taking, develop physical skills, and have fun. An art installation cannot replace this important space for children. A naturalistic playground that uses wood, stone, and pays tribute to the historical value of the area by incorporating a ship or boat as part of its play structure would be appropriate and helpful for children and families in the area.</p> <p>Like many others, I would prefer the look and feel of the reserve to be natural and fitting with the landscape. If priorities include promoting the natural value of the reserve and celebrating its beauty, a vibrant colour scheme or infrastructure will detract and distract from this natural</p>
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		<p>aspect. A natural harmonising colour scheme and infrastructure will work with the landscape and features and harmonise with these.</p> <p>What concerns me most about the future of the reserve is that the reserve will lose its character as a place that supports diverse play, connectedness, recreation, and community. I am concerned that if people who don't regularly use and visit the reserve make decisions about its development, the reserve will be changed to make it less appealing to its current users.</p> <p>My favourite activities in the reserve are picnicking, relaxing, using the walking track, using the play equipment and swimming. I am at the reserve daily doing one of these activities with my children, friends, neighbours. I understand why people would like more tables and chairs, shelters, and a shower - there is always a lot happening at the reserve and it is lovely to see so many people enjoying it.</p> <p>I would like to enjoy more walking in the reserve, ensure that there is a playground to use so I can go to the reserve with children and know they will enjoy it as much as I do, and see historically interesting plantings that teach us about edible plants in our area, perhaps with plaques or a key on the amenities block. I would like to see that the history of the place is acknowledged through the design of the playground, so generations to come can understand and appreciate its history and enjoy learning about it.</p>
35.	03/07/20	<p>Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback. The Cam River reserve is integral to the community and is a popular and well utilised destination for people.</p> <p>Please can the beach be cleaned up from debris, which has been there since the floods.</p> <p>The "Pirate Ship" is a much loved piece of history and play equipment. Young people are able to imagine they are captain and they sail the seas and down the river, as a parent seeing my children and others join together for adventures on the ship is wonderful.</p> <p>Please don't remove this icon, invest in the maintenance.</p> <p>The River has taken a few lives and swimming is a risk, more education is needed of the risks</p> <p>Thank you</p>

36.	03/07/20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Safety concerns for swimmers and recreational bathers with 50m inland of the current highway bridge ▪ Memorial plaque – suggest installation of respectfully worded memorial plaque for those who have perished at the mouth area of the Cam River ▪ Claiming the natural estuarine zone – Wish to object to the proposed land reclamation ▪ Maintaining, conserving and enhancing the natural value of the reserve: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Provided a list of native species that could be considered for future plantings to enhance natural values and aesthetic ○ Would also like to request that Council seeks to extend its Crown licence south of the old bridge car park. The area includes a diverse range of native flora, including fungi and orchids. It also forms crucial habitat for many bird species. <p>Refer to attached document for further detail.</p> <p>Note the following amendment to the attachment – An image was incorrectly referenced in the last paragraph. It should read: <i>"I would like to recommend that the current crown licence (Cadastral ID 723520) held by council is extended to include the highlighted section of the main public reserve (CID 1191173) referenced in fig. 6 for management as part of the 10-Year Corporate Strategic Plan. It is currently under threat from weeds and requires infrastructure upgrades to address public access and safety issues. A copy of my previous submission is available for reference if required in determination of the credibility of this concept."</i></p>
37.	05/07/20	<p>As a frequent visitor to the Cam River Reserve, I am looking forward to seeing some of these great ideas implemented in the not to distant future! I am pleased to see access to the reserve is being addressed - an 'island' crossing at the end of Simpson St is long over due, as a mother crossing with young children it is currently dangerous as it is hard to see cars approaching from the north/Bass Hwy due to the bend in the road. I think the idea of a historical walk, with interpretative signage about the history and ecology of the area is a wonderful idea and could be a great asset to the Somerset community. I will be sad to see the 'pirate ship' playground go. This is something of an icon/landmark in Somerset. The playground is well used, and whilst I appreciate there is going to be a 'bigger and better' playground in Anzac Park, I still feel there is a place for a small playground in the Cam River Reserve. Children often play on it whilst families have a bbq/picnic nearby or after school as several school buses stop there. After the installation of those funny wave bumps (trip hazards? art?) in the Somerset Mall I am a bit nervous when I see the words ' art installation' !!</p> <p>Last but not least I would like to reiterate the importance of the Cam River as a natural environment - I see the management plan focuses on the main reserve/park space and it's associated human-uses but I think it is imperative that these uses don't negatively impact the natural environment. It is an important ecosystem and I hope the planned plantings and engineering works are sympathetic to this.</p>
38.	10/07/20	The plans you have sent are great we totally agree with them all
39.	15/07/20	All of the details shown in the master plan for the Cam River are wonderful and would improve that lovely area so much. The beach is beautiful but needs clearing of all the logs and dead trees and debris sticking out of the sand. I think Somerset residents would be grateful if this could be done. I certainly would be. It would make walking along that lovely beach and river so much safer. With many thanks.

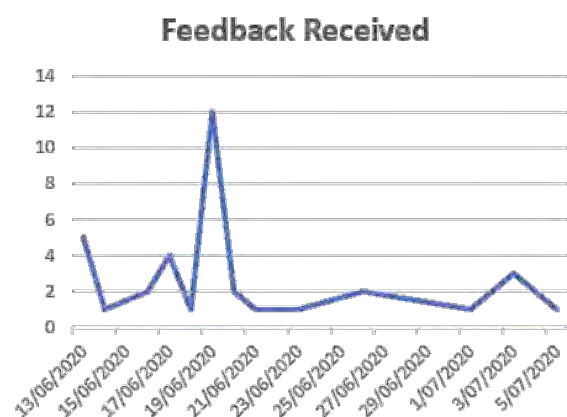
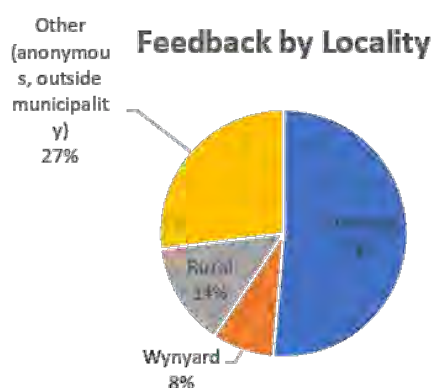


**DISCUSSION PAPER –
DRAFT CAM RIVER MASTER PLAN CONSULTATION FINDINGS
Tuesday 28 July 2020**

The following pages provide a summarised version of the public feedback received on the draft Integrated Council Environmental Plan. Where relevant, it provides a high-level proposed response to the key themes of feedback received.

Common Themes

1. Swimming safety
2. Pedestrian access to the reserve – Considering mobility access and safe crossing to Anzac Park and the beach
3. Beautification of the area whilst maintaining its natural qualities
4. Desire to keep play equipment in the reserve
5. Infrastructure to support family use, including park shelters and furniture



KEY FEEDBACK THEMES

THEME	EXAMPLE COMMENTS RECEIVED	PROPOSED RESPONSE
Connectivity to and from Cam River, including pathways and tracks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number 1 priority should be ACCESS to the reserve from the heavily used walking path from ANZAC Park (which, of course feeds to Somerset Beach). Pedestrian/cyclepath underpass connecting Cam Reserve to the beachside of Highway The walking path extending to the corner of Pelissier Street does not go far enough to maintain community safety for those accessing the reserve. When that path stops on the Murchison Highway, pedestrians are forced to walk on the road further up the highway, where they usually turn on to Old Cam Road. A safe foot path from the existing path to the Back Cam Road intersection would allow safer access for people wanting to use the existing path What about a longer walking track up the river Wonderful idea, especially if it can be continued for as far as possible along the Cam River, such as the River Nature Trail in Wynyard Access to the park and beach etc. need to be accessible for those with limited mobility 	<p>The current master plan considers access from the reserve to Anzac Park and the beach through advocating to the bridge and highway owner (Department of State Growth).</p> <p>An informal walking track continues for some distance, alongside Murchison Hwy rather than the river. This track is not on Council owned or managed land and therefore is not a Council maintained asset. Extension to the walking track within Cam River Reserve is outside of the scope of this master plan.</p> <p>All amenities and access provisions within the current master plan will meet current DDA requirements.</p>
Shelters and furniture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Include timber screening around park furniture BBQ's and seating and shelter needed near beach Will these upgrades include dog drinkers and dog bag dispensers 	<p>The plan incorporates additional seating and shelters. Amendments have been made to the plan to ensure wording clearly explains the use of screening on furniture, as appropriate.</p> <p>To include in the plan: dog water bowl and dog bag dispensers.</p>
Plant species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provided a list of native species that could be considered for future plantings to enhance natural values and aesthetic 	<p>Add plant species list to plan as appendix.</p>

THEME	EXAMPLE COMMENTS RECEIVED	PROPOSED RESPONSE
Parking and fencing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I like the convenience of bringing the car right to where I plan to spend the day. Unstructured is part of the appeal of the area. • It would be good to have clearly delineated spaces for parking close to the river and for use of the grass area, with cars restricted to only a small area for access, perhaps also with a parking time limit in order to unload kayaks etc. • It is a good idea to stop the parking in the Main Area, since it was allowed the track-road becomes muddy and the vehicles take up the space alongside the water's edge • Fencing of entire park with no car access – Its currently dangerous Fence needs to start at bridge and go past toilets Will the proposed paving of areas along the Murchison Highway reduce parking options for long vehicles (trucks, caravans, boat trailers)? The current arrangements are highly flexible and allow for easy offstreet parking 	<p>The safety of the public using the space takes priority and was one of the key objectives of the plan. The mixed use of the space between pedestrians and vehicles is considered a safety risk and has been raised as a concern during community feedback. An additional car park close to the river was considered during the development of the plan, however this would absorb open space that was also a priority during community consultation. The current plan has been developed on the basis of these priorities. We acknowledge that these changes will impact users and the convenience of the site.</p> <p>A fence is proposed in the plan at the corner of the Bass Highway and Murchison Highway and softened with plantings. Bollards will be installed in other areas to restrict vehicular access.</p> <p>The proposed paving areas in the current plan is not intended to change functionality.</p>
Stormwater management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider extending stormwater outlet that currently drains into the Cam River near the BBQ's by burying and extending to the low tide water level, in order to clean up the river for swimming 	<p>The existing stormwater outlet is fit for purpose and functioning adequately. Whilst it may create a muddy appearance in the water, Council does not wish to encourage swimming in the area due to safety concerns.</p>

THEME	EXAMPLE COMMENTS RECEIVED	PROPOSED RESPONSE
Swimming safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outgoing tides that can be quite dangerous There needs to be some highly visible signage there I would love to have more people enjoying aquatic activities in Somerset. My main concern is the rips that are in the river on the change of tides It appears the council is encouraging extended use of the river by the public. We had three near drownings at the river this year, with potentially five lives being lost Needs some life saver presence. Lots swim and play in the river Memorial plaque – suggest installation of respectfully worded memorial plaque for those who have perished at the mouth area of the Cam River 	<p>Adjust wording in master plan to place less emphasis on swimming and more emphasis on the provision of amenities that support the multi-use recreational nature. Ensure messaging in plan and onsite encourages the area as a convenient meeting place to stage running/hiking/riding activities and removing references to swimming.</p> <p>Add action: Work with relevant stakeholders to design and install appropriate signage (or update existing) to further warn of the dangers of swimming.</p> <p>The plan currently considers community education through working with relevant stakeholders (such as the local surf club) as an important factor in improving knowledge about swimming dangers.</p>
Playground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider installing fully fenced preschool playground, pushbike road map track, set of swings Suggestions that the Anzac Park development can be a replacement is fanciful without ready access across the highway Would love to see a new boat built near the Cam River for all children to play on Please, if the boat has to be removed due to safety issues please replace it with another one The boat should be revamped!! Much loved and iconic Timber boat – too old – need something more attractive At playground, children learn social skills, risk taking, develop physical skills, and have fun. An art installation cannot replace this important space for children. A naturalistic playground that uses wood, stone, and pays tribute to the historical value of the area by incorporating a ship or boat as part of its play structure would be appropriate 	<p>The existing playground is becoming unsafe as it is beginning to rot and fall apart. The master plan had proposed to replace the playground with interactive art, due to the nearby all abilities playground planned for Anzac Park.</p> <p>However, given substantial feedback has been provided by the community during the consultation process, the plan has been revised to instead recommend that Council explore options for interactive art and/or equipment.</p> <p>The replacement of the play equipment with new equipment will need to consider style (such as a boat-theme) and lifecycle costs.</p> <p>The investigation will explore social and financial benefits and costs for playground renewal and interactive art. This information shall be provided to Council for a decision prior to undertaking detailed design and construction.</p>

THEME	EXAMPLE COMMENTS RECEIVED	PROPOSED RESPONSE
Land reclamation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The plan doesn't make clear whether any beach area will be retained or whether the intention is the remove the river as an option for swimming ▪ Reclamation needs to be done properly. Present work a disaster falling away ▪ A great idea to engineer this area to make it user friendly and less subject to constant shifting, but looks like it will require significant engineering input ▪ To invest further in trying to control the river mouth seems unwise, and learning from historical interventions, a natural approach that works in harmony with the river's movement rather than erecting an inflexible structure would seem to give a longer lasting and better result for recreation ▪ Objection to the reclamation, as the area forms an important and unique ecotone habitat throughout tidal changes for numerous and diverse aquatic species. The area could also be revegetated accordingly to facilitate the natural ecosystem ▪ Claiming this area as land will promote a change in the progressive erosion patterns of the river ▪ Claiming this part of the river as land will encourage recreational users toward the most dangerous part of the river 	<p>The current plan proposes to engage suitably qualified consultants to investigate the viability of the reclamation and submit to the Council during the 20/21 financial year. This report, alongside community feedback and concerns, will be tabled by the Council prior to a formal decision being made. Amendments have been made to the plan to ensure there is clarity around this process.</p>

THEME	EXAMPLE COMMENTS RECEIVED	PROPOSED RESPONSE
Art	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The recreational area should be enhanced with statues and plaques telling the history of the area like the Campbell Town park • Make the shower area for swimmers a work of art • How the undefined interactive installation will replace the existing playground is unclear • The interactive sculptures sound interesting- it would be nice if they were made of natural materials and reflected both the history and natural values of the site- perhaps including some interpretation of Aboriginal history or plant and animal species found near the reserve • After the installation of those funny wave bumps (trip hazards? art?) in the Somerset Mall I am a bit nervous when I see the words ' art installation' 	<p>The use of historical wayfinding markers is already included in the plan as part of the historical walkway action/s.</p> <p>The master plan requires the interactive art piece to include historical reference and for it to support the natural amenity of the reserve. The process for determining the style of art will include an expression of interest or tender process to ensure market options available are explored. This work shall be undertaken alongside the investigation of playground renewal options before a decision is made regarding the level of interactive art provision.</p>
Extension of Council managed land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council should extend its Crown licence south of the old bridge car park. The area includes a diverse range of native flora, including fungi and orchids. It also forms crucial habitat for many bird species. 	<p>Add action: Facilitate relationships between wild care, land care and the Crown with a view to enhance the natural values of adjoining land not managed by the Council.</p>
Cam River Bridge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The pedestrian footpath is narrow, with no safety barrier, and only about a metre from the highway traffic itself • The bicycle lanes are very small, again with little distance or safety margin from the large volumes of poorly manoeuvrable traffic 	<p>The bridge is not a Council asset and therefore the Council can only advocate to the owner to consider design principles.</p> <p>Amend action 1.3 to include: Convey design concerns to the DSG for consideration in design of new bridge.</p>
Clean-up of debris on beach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please can the beach be cleaned up from debris, which has been there since the floods 	<p>The beach area is not owned or managed by Council and is outside the scope of the master plan. Previous advice from the land manager (Parks and Wildlife) indicated that they prefer to leave the debris in place as part of a natural process and wildlife habitat.</p>

Boat Harbour Beach Master Plan



Final Report

August 2019



The Waratah Wynyard Council engaged ERA Planning & Environment Pty Ltd to lead a multi-disciplinary consultancy team to develop the master plan which comprised:

ERA Planning & Environment
Principal Consultant & Master Planning

Cumulus Studio
Architectural & Master Planning

Noa Group
Stakeholder Engagement

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Photography

All photographs unless otherwise referenced have been provided by Emma Riley & Clare Hester.

Disclaimer

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Boat Harbour Beach Master Plan

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Chapter 1

Introduction



01 Introduction

About Boat Harbour

Boat Harbour Beach is a small beachside settlement located on the northwest coast of Tasmania – approximately 30km west of Burnie within the Waratah Wynyard municipal area.

The township is predominantly a coastal shack community that has between 20-30 permanent residents and approximately 100 residential dwellings and a number of non-residential uses such as a surf club, café and visitor accommodation. It is part of the larger locality of Boat Harbour that includes services such as a primary school and convenience store that provides fuel adjacent to the Bass Highway.

Boat Harbour Beach has a unique natural landscape setting with aqua blue water and white sandy beaches. It sits at the bottom of a steep escarpment below rich agricultural land and within a dramatic amphitheatre-like location.

Boat Harbour Beach experiences significant seasonal fluctuations in population and visitors to the township that peak in the summer period. The township has developed incrementally over many years and was one of the shack site areas that the government divested themselves of in the early 2000's; with many of these shack sites approved outside the normal planning process.



Boat Harbour Beach Master Plan

Why Master Plan?

Planning, at its heart, is concerned with managing and providing for growth and change in towns, settlements and areas of economic activity.

Master planning is a key tool for Local Government to identify a future holistic vision for a place, based on its context and local conditions, in order to address opportunities and challenges experienced within a community.

In the case of Boat Harbour Beach, there have been particular challenges arising from seasonal fluctuations in visitation and usage.

The Boat Harbour Beach Master Plan provides a unifying vision for the area focusing particularly on the management of public spaces around the beach area and the provision of supporting infrastructure and development. In this context, the Master Plan:

- Identifies the overall values of the place which should be protected;
- Examines the role and function of the Boat Harbour Beach area in the context of North West Tasmania;
- Identifies current opportunities and constraints;
- Aligns the interests of all stakeholders towards common goals and achieves cohesiveness in future actions by those stakeholders;
- Gives clarity to the community, business, investors and government about the future direction for the area; and
- Provides an overarching framework to prioritise investment in the area.

Aims of the Master Plan

At the commencement of the master planning process the following aims were identified:

- Identify the overall vision for the township based on key directions.
- Develop clear objectives for the future development and character of the town including specific planning scheme requirements that may be required for Boat Harbour Beach to reflect the objectives.
- Consider and detail the key environmental constraints of the township.
- Consider and detail key infrastructure constraints including car parking and access for the township.
- Establish a plan to improve the quality of the areas available for public open space; including pedestrian access, BBQ facilities and play equipment.
- Identify a settlement boundary having regard to key land constraints and values.
- Consider further detailed work that may be necessary to support implementation of the plan such as streetscape design plans or precinct plans.

Boat Harbour Beach Master Plan

Structure of the Report

This report includes the context of the plan, details of the stakeholder engagement to date, and opportunities and constraints together with the strategic directions. The strategic directions are what have guided the preparation of the master plan outlined in Chapter 5.

The background analysis including the planning context is found in Appendix A.

Further refinement of the Master Plan may occur once the public comment period has been completed and all comments received.

Chapter 2

Context



02 Context

Spatial and Historical Context

Boat Harbour Beach sits between Table Cape and Rocky Cape National Park. It is approximately 5km east of Sisters Beach which is connected to Boat Harbour Beach by a coastal walking trail. The entrance to Boat Harbour Beach is steep, winding down along Port Road from the top of the escarpment to the beach and offering stunning views of the aqua blue water through large eucalyptus trees.

The area has both living and past cultural values for Aboriginal Tasmanians. It is a special place where they can continue to connect with the land, sea and sky, the traditions of their elders and stories of the past.

The current visual character of Boat Harbour Beach originates from the holiday houses which were predominantly constructed in the 1950s and 1960s, with many of these in their original condition. More recently, there has been a number of significant modern, extensions and alterations, particularly on the waterfront.

The township includes a surf club that acts as a kiosk and a restaurant located at the northern end of the beach. The surf club stores equipment on the opposite side of Port Road on Council-owned land at 287 Port Road and has a gymnasium in the public amenities building located between Port Road and Shelter Point.

The township also has self-contained visitor accommodation including a number of buildings located on the old caravan park site and a recently approved caravan and cabin park at 21 Moore Street. The coastal foreshore to the west of the amenities buildings, owned by the Crown, is used regularly by freedom campers. The use has no formal approvals or has formal management.

Traditionally, the township developed as a holiday destination for Tasmanians from the northwest. More recently, however, anecdotally some of the holiday houses are being purchased by people from interstate.

The settlement is severely constrained by the topography and the geology of the area. Geotechnical issues in the eastern area of the town prohibit further development, including extensions to existing dwellings. Additionally, Boat Harbour Beach experiences significant subterranean drainage issues.

A detailed analysis of existing conditions is provided for in Appendix A.

Boat Harbour Beach Master Plan
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Planning Context

As a strategic planning document prepared by Waratah Wynyard Council as a Planning Authority, the Boat Harbour Beach Plan sits within the context of the Resource Management and Planning System of Tasmania (RMPS).

The specific policies and actions within the structure plan must therefore:

- Further the objectives of the Resource Management and Planning System (RMPS);
- Be consistent with relevant State Policies (in particular the State Coastal Policy 1996); and
- Be consistent with the objectives and desired outcomes in the Cradle Coast Regional Land Use Strategy 2010 - 2030.

A detailed analysis of the planning context is provided for in Appendix A

Boat Harbour Beach Master Plan



The existing playground near the tennis court. It is separated from the beach by the road and car parking area.



Freedom campers on the foreshore



Port Road with Azure Accommodation visible on the right hand side of road.



Existing boat sheds to the east of the Surf Club building



Looking north westerly over the beach area from the Surf Club.



Port Road near the kiosk. The width of the road here often provides challenges during summer months with car parks on the side of the road and patrons lined up at the kiosk.

Chapter 3 Engagement Outcomes



03 Engagement Outcomes

The Approach

Community engagement has been a critical component of input into the preparation of the Boat Harbour Beach Plan. The process involved the following stages:

- A planning for engagement workshop;
- A workshop with Council;
- A community workshop;
- Online Survey;
- One-on-one dialogue;
- Direct mailout to Boat Harbour Beach land owners to determine their position on public camping on the foreshore; and
- Four week public consultation of Draft Plan inclusive of two information sessions at Boat Harbour Beach.

Planning for the Engagement Workshop

A workshop was held between the consultant team, the project steering committee and Council officers. The purpose of the consultation was to map the entire engagement system. The second part of the workshop also identified potential opportunities and constraints for the township from the Council's perspective.

Councillor Workshop

A workshop was held with the Councillors, and the General Manager. This workshop also sought the Councillors' views in relation to opportunities, constraints, issues and challenges for the township and the desired future of the township.

Community Workshop

A community workshop was held on Sunday 11 December 2016 from 10am to 3pm. It was well attended by a mixture of residents, shack owners and members of the surf club.

Attendees were divided into five groups where each group discussed:

- public spaces and facilities;
- infrastructure, movement and access;
- development;
- character, look and feel; and
- the preferred future for Boat Harbour Beach.

An important part of the workshop involved a presentation from a number representatives of the Boat Harbour Beach Primary School (from Prep through to Grade 6). Each of the classes had included the Boat Harbour Beach Plan as part of the curriculum for the preceding few weeks of the workshop. In class they had focussed on the opportunities for Boat Harbour Beach and the desired future for the township. The children attending the workshop presented their respective class ideas to the other participants.

Online Survey

An online survey was undertaken for approximately 6 weeks from December 2016 through to January 2017. A total of 45 responses were received (survey attached Appendix A).

One on One

Direct dialogue was also held with two relevant government authorities including Taswater and Mineral Resource Tasmania.

Direct Mailout

The direct mailout resulted in 149 valid votes returned, with 72% supporting camping (either by public camping remaining the same, permitted with a Council by-law upheld or limited in another way). The majority indicated they supported public camping, however wanted it to be limited in terms of location and capacity.

Boat Harbour Beach Master Plan

Public Consultation of Draft Plan

There was general support for the Draft Plan, with the overwhelming concern raised during the 4-week period being the need to prohibit free overnight camping in public areas due to the land use conflict it is causing and the negative impact it is having on Boat Harbour Beach being a popular day trip destination for locals. The consultation also resulted in a number of minor changes to the master plan including increased grassed area and a shared pathway linking the Sisters Beach track with the point and public space.

Results of Consultation

A diverse range of views were raised within the community workshop as well as between the community and council workshops.

The key area of agreement among the workshops was around the preferred future for Boat Harbour Beach. Participants in the consultation process wanted the relaxed, informal, organic feel of the township to be retained. There was a desire for any new developments to involve natural materials and a preference for more shading with trees and the provision of intimate public spaces to provide shelter from the wind.

In addition to identifying the preferred future, other key points identified through the engagement process included:

- Access – there were varied opinions in regard to access, with some placing a strong importance on the retention of the dramatic windy access with other participants concerned with the cost of the ongoing maintenance of the road due to it being located in a Proclaimed Landslip Hazard A area and suggesting the need to gain access to the township from Banksia Park Road.
- Parking – there were varied views on parking, with some participants liking the informal nature of the car parking and opining that the existing arrangements are sufficient for 95% of the time; while an alternative view was that the car parking is not adequate for a much longer period (3-5 months of the year). There were a number of suggestions to reclaim some land on the west side of the public amenity building. Notwithstanding these different perspectives, people generally agreed that the car parking could be in a better location to improve the public open space adjacent to the beach. They also agreed the location of the car park is not safe for pedestrians and that there was a need for specific emergency vehicle parking.
- Public open space and facilities – There was general agreement in relation to public open space and facilities, including: the need for more shade (with a preference for tree shading); improved amenities (more toilets required); interest in having the jetty rebuilt on the point; more BBQ areas with improved seating; a better playground for children of all ages; and improved footpaths and trails (including the one linking Boat Harbour Beach with Sisters Beach). The majority of participants were not happy with the lack of opening hours of the restaurant and would like to see more than one restaurant in the township. The results of the online survey featured a concern around the lack of footpaths.
- Surf club – There was a mixture of views in relation to the surf club. Some participants opined that the club makes a significant contribution to the township and others that the club could be more inclusive. Similarly, there was a mixture of views in relation to the layout of the surf club, with some participants of the view that having the restaurant within the surf club was an important asset (providing the opportunity to watch the surf club participants whilst having a meal) with others of the view that the two should be separated.

Boat Harbour Beach Master Plan

- Caravan park and freedom campers –
A substantial number of participants commented that the 'feel' of the township had changed since the caravan park had been replaced by Azure accommodation which demonstrated the adhoc nature of development and lack of vision for Boat Harbour Beach. There was general acceptability of allowing public camping on the foreshore within the community workshop at the beginning of the project, the majority of survey participants (noting that some survey participants identified ceasing the foreshore camping as the top priority) and in the direct mailout. There was however significant opposition to the foreshore public camping proposed received during the public exhibition of a development application that proposed to formalise it as well as overwhelming opposition during the 4-week public exhibition of the Draft Master Plan.
- Infrastructure – the participants were generally satisfied with the sewer and stormwater infrastructure with a mixture of reliance on spring water and tank water also receiving generally positive feedback. There was general consensus for a preference for underground powerlines. Council officers noted that the majority of geotechnical reports received are recommending overhead power in particular areas of Boat Harbour Beach due to underground water geology.
- Development requirements – a number of participants raised concerns in relation to the redevelopment of some of the shacks located on the beach and that they were not in keeping with the understated, coastal character of the township.

Chapter 4

Constraints and Opportunities



04 Constraints and Opportunities

Constraints

Land Stability

The major constraint for further development at Boat Harbour Beach is the underlying geology and, in particular, the landslide risk.

This hazard, along with the proximity of shacks to the foreshore and steep escarpment, severely constrains the expansion or further intensification of the township.

It is highlighted that this constraint contributes to ensuring the small coastal character of the township has and will be retained into the future.

Regular monitoring of ongoing landslide risks will assist in the management of this constraint.

Land Availability

There is currently very limited land supply in Boat Harbour. However, the capacity to provide for further land supply is restricted by the environmental constraints and agricultural activity in adjacent areas. The landslip constraints that generally surround the settlement (refer section 4.6) severely limit the possibility of any expansion of the settlement boundary.

Council owns only a single title within the township, 287 Port Road (refer figure 4). It was previously used as a tennis court and more recently has allowed for the construction of a shed for the surf club for storage purposes. The site also appears to be used for car parking associated with private residences. The remainder of the public land is owned by the Crown to the west of the beach and the Parks and Wildlife Service to the east of the beach.

This constraint on public land ownership limits the opportunity for the provision of car parking, public open space and further expansion of the surf club.

Access

The steep, windy character of Port Road as it winds down the edge of a hill offers the first glimpses of the aqua blue water and the white sandy beaches of Boat Harbour Beach through large eucalyptus trees. It is visually striking and a unique entrance into the township.

The road is however predominantly located on the Proclaimed Landslip Hazard A, and includes significant groundwater drainage lines, resulting in regular movements and slippage. The road therefore requires continuous, expensive maintenance and repairs. The Coffey report stated that in the 25 years from 2001, Port Road had reportedly dropped 1 metre.

Creating an alternate route from the west side of town is also potentially constrained. It will require the removal of vegetation, is on a steep slope, and will impact on adjoining lots. It may also detract from the landscape setting.

Parking

The car parking is limited and for peak periods the area available is inadequate.

Surf Club

The surf club is constrained given the use of the building for a restaurant, kiosk, storage and surf club. The key issue for the surf club is the lack of storage capacity in the building. This has resulted in the development of a storage shed on the only Council-owned site in the township.

Further, it has also been identified during the consultation phase that the surf club can be an intimidating space for some non-club members to enter.

Boat Harbour Beach Master Plan

Opportunities

Landscape Setting and Character

The aqua blue water, sandy white beaches, and the backdrop of rolling hills of agricultural land sitting above the township combine to provide a stunning location for a coastal settlement. Views down to Boat Harbour Beach from Port Road are particularly valued.

Buildings in the township are still predominantly 1-2 storey 1950's/1960's shacks with notable exceptions including a number of houses on the lower side of Port Road adjoining the beach and Azure Beach Houses on the top side of Port Road.

Minimal fencing and the lack of formal edging to roads further contribute to the informal character of the township.

This character and setting is considered an important feature of the town that needs to be retained.

Public Open Space

The public open space appears to have developed in an ad hoc manner with the main grassed area that contains the BBQ area and playground being divided from the beach, surf club, kiosk and restaurant by the car parks and Port Road. There is a lack of shade and protection from the prevailing winds and a considerable portion of the foreshore is used for freedom camping. There is a significant opportunity to improve the quality, efficiency and connectedness of the public open space.

Tourism Activity

The increase in tourism activity on the North West Coast represents an opportunity for Waratah Wynyard; with Boat Harbour Beach being a destination for both overnight stays or as part of a day trip. The infrastructure and services available will therefore need to be at an appropriate standard.

It was highlighted throughout the workshops that the lack of camping and caravan/motor home sites available within the township since the closure of the caravan park has changed the 'feel' of the settlement and that there is a demand and desire for more opportunities for camping. Sharing the demand for camping and other services with Sisters Beach and Boat Harbour (not Boat Harbour Beach) will be required.

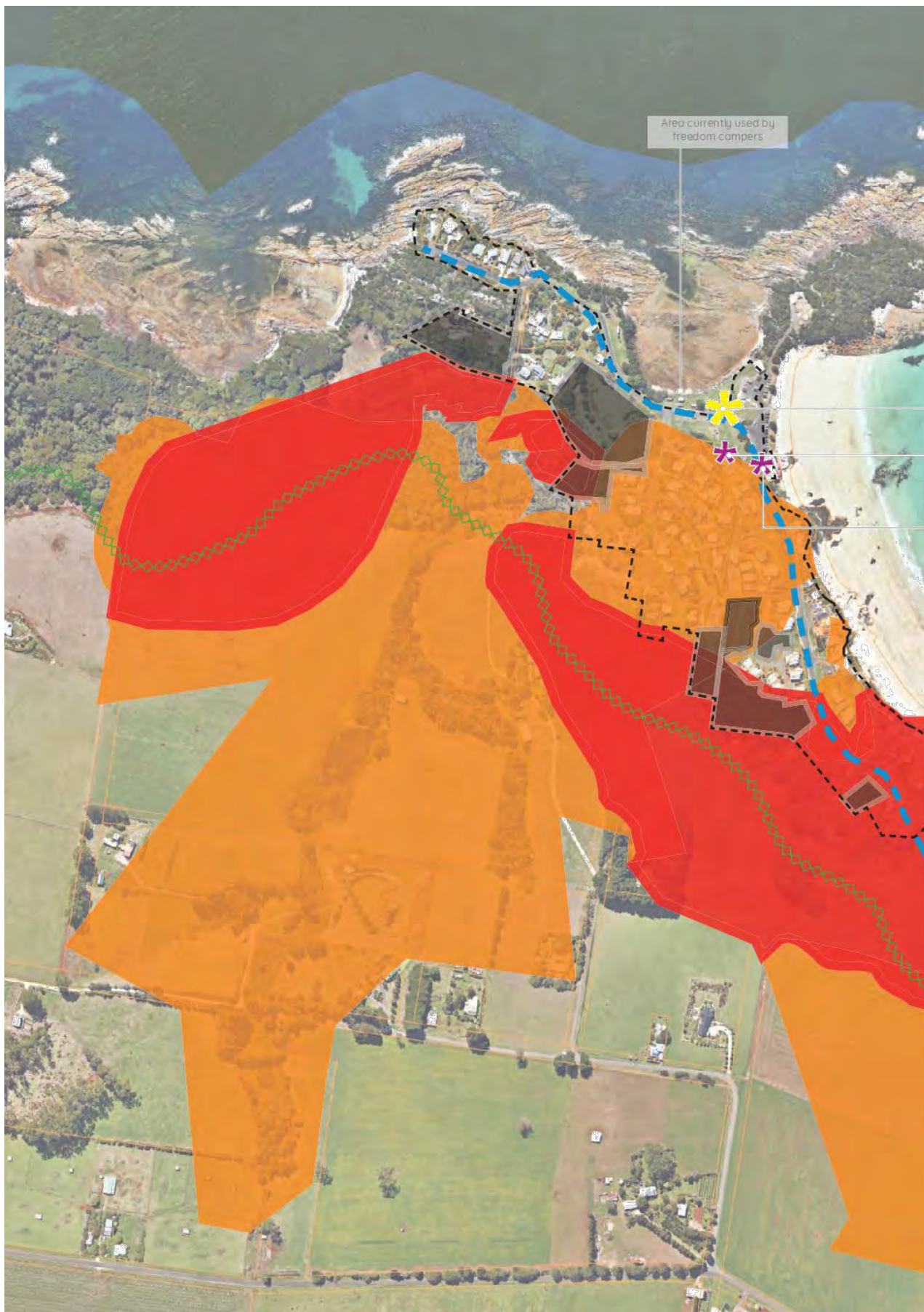
The Planning Scheme

The underlying zoning of Boat Harbour Beach is considered appropriate, however during the preparation of the Local Planning Schedules consideration of the suitability of the requirements for subdivision and dwelling density is important. For example, the management of land stability in the planning scheme is generally controlled through the Hazard Management Code. Boat Harbour does have significant and unique geotechnical issues which may not be adequately addressed through the current regional based provisions.

Importantly, the zoning already allows for appropriate non-residential uses including food services, visitor accommodation (including camping and caravan parks) and local shops.

Existing Infrastructure

Given the minimal further development of the township and that the township is predominantly a holiday destination, the existing infrastructure in terms of sewer, stormwater and water is considered adequate to meet the needs of the future.





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Chapter 5

The Master Plan



Boat Harbour Beach Master Plan

05 The Master Plan

Introduction

The master plan provides a framework for future development and infrastructure investment in Boat Harbour over the next 10 to 15 years.

It provides the basis for preparing the Local Planning Provisions relevant to the area and will guide the long-term growth of the town.

The master plan is comprised of the following elements: The Key Directions, the Concept Plan and the Surf Club and Cafe Design Principles

The Vision

The vision of the Boat Harbour Beach Plan was developed during the community workshop:

Boat Harbour Beach is a unique place within a pristine environment.

The plan will ensure new development and change will retain its natural beauty, village feel and community spirit.



Key Direction 1: Reshape and improve areas of public open space

As a priority the plan should focus on reshaping and improving public areas. This includes opportunities for shade, protection from the prevailing winds, improving shared pathway connections, increasing area of public space adjoining the beach, including improving the facilities such as BBQs and play equipment and considering of rebuilding the jetty. The northern rocky shore is a valued feature of Boat Harbour Beach for the residents and visitors, with the existing rock retaining wall in this area requiring maintenance and repair or replacement.

The Plan Response:

The plan reconfigures the access and parking areas, providing for a single integrated open space area that is comprised of both the beach and a larger grassed area.

The layout of the new building and open space areas includes a new undercover area for wind and sun protection as well as new bbq facilities, playground and a general grassed area.

Direct access to the beach and coastline is maintained for a range of different users. A shared pathway linking the Sisters Beach track to the point and public open space is identified.

Rebuilding the jetty is considered unnecessary at this point in time.

Boat Harbour Beach Master Plan



**Key Direction 2:
Improve the management of transport
and movement**

A consistent theme during the stakeholder engagement and one recognised by most of the community, is the inadequate transport infrastructure including specific loading bays, emergency vehicle parking, disability parking, bus/trailer parking, the inefficiencies of the parking areas together with subsequent compromise of pedestrian safety.

The Plan Response:

The plan provides for additional parking, with the parking and manoeuvring area having capacity for bus/trailer parking, emergency vehicle parking, school bus and loading/unloading areas. To address concerns around the number of designated car parking spaces provided, car parking will be limited for day use only with overnight camping in public areas prohibited. The access road includes traffic calming measures together with its relocation to facilitate direct access to the coastline from open space area as well as designated pedestrian paths.

The configured parking, access and manoeuvring areas will be able to accommodate a second town access if this is determined to be a viable option in the future. Although the plan does continue to rely upon the existing road in and out of the settlement, alternative access roads have been

investigated through a desktop assessment of eight routes. Whilst it is recognised that there are challenges associated with land instability and maintenance of the current access road, feasible alternatives would likely suffer similar issues. Due to significant costs and difficulty of construction it is considered the more economical option currently is to seek to improve the reliability of the existing access where possible.

Boat Harbour Beach Master Plan



**Key Direction 3:
Boat Harbour is a place for everyone**

It is important that the township stays accessible, welcoming and enjoyable for all including people such as campers, beach goers, schools, shack owners and permanent residents.

The Plan Response:

The plan provides for a central public open space area that will become the new 'heart' of community interaction and life within Boat Harbour, with the beach, grassed areas, public buildings and amenities functioning as a single integrated space.

A new centrally located building will provide for the surf club, a café, improved public amenities and undercover public space. The building will be designed to provide visual and physical connections to both the beach and playgroup area as well as provide opportunities for wind and weather protection. Car parking and vehicular access is located around the outside, separating the public open space from moving vehicles.



**Key Direction 4:
Future development is compatible with the character of Boat Harbour**

The natural features of Boat Harbour Beach are a key visual element with the townscape responsive to the amphitheatre effect created by the landform. One and two storey dwellings are the dominant building form, with building stepping up with the slope.

Vegetation is the critical element that combines the landform and natural features with the built elements into a harmonious landscape. It gives the settlement its informal, coastal character through its use to delineate boundaries between properties and roads. Future development should not change this characteristic of the settlement.

The Plan Response:

The plan intends for the physical extent of the settlement to be maintained with the extent of Low Density Residential defining the settlement boundary. Council's Local Provisions Schedule should ensure a like for like translation, with particular attention given to the suitability of the subdivision and dwelling density provisions together with the Landslip Hazard Code.

The physical improvements and new buildings shown on the concept plan are designed to be consistent with the established character. The concept plans have retained the existing coastline and minimised the use of 'engineered' solutions such as land reclamation.

Boat Harbour Beach Master Plan



Key Direction 5:
Public buildings within Boat Harbour are suitable for the needs of the community

The surf club currently utilise the surf club building, a new storage shed on Council owned land and a gym in the amenities building on the Crown land. The surf club building also accommodates a restaurant and a kiosk. A balance of how the needs of the surf club can efficiently be met and the restaurant/café and kiosk still be accommodated is required in future decision making.

The Plan Response:

The concept plan has adopted a balanced approach to meeting the needs of the surf club and the broader community. Operating and maintenance matters regarding the surf club building is outside of the scope of this development plan.



Boat Harbour Beach: Landscape & Playground Precedents





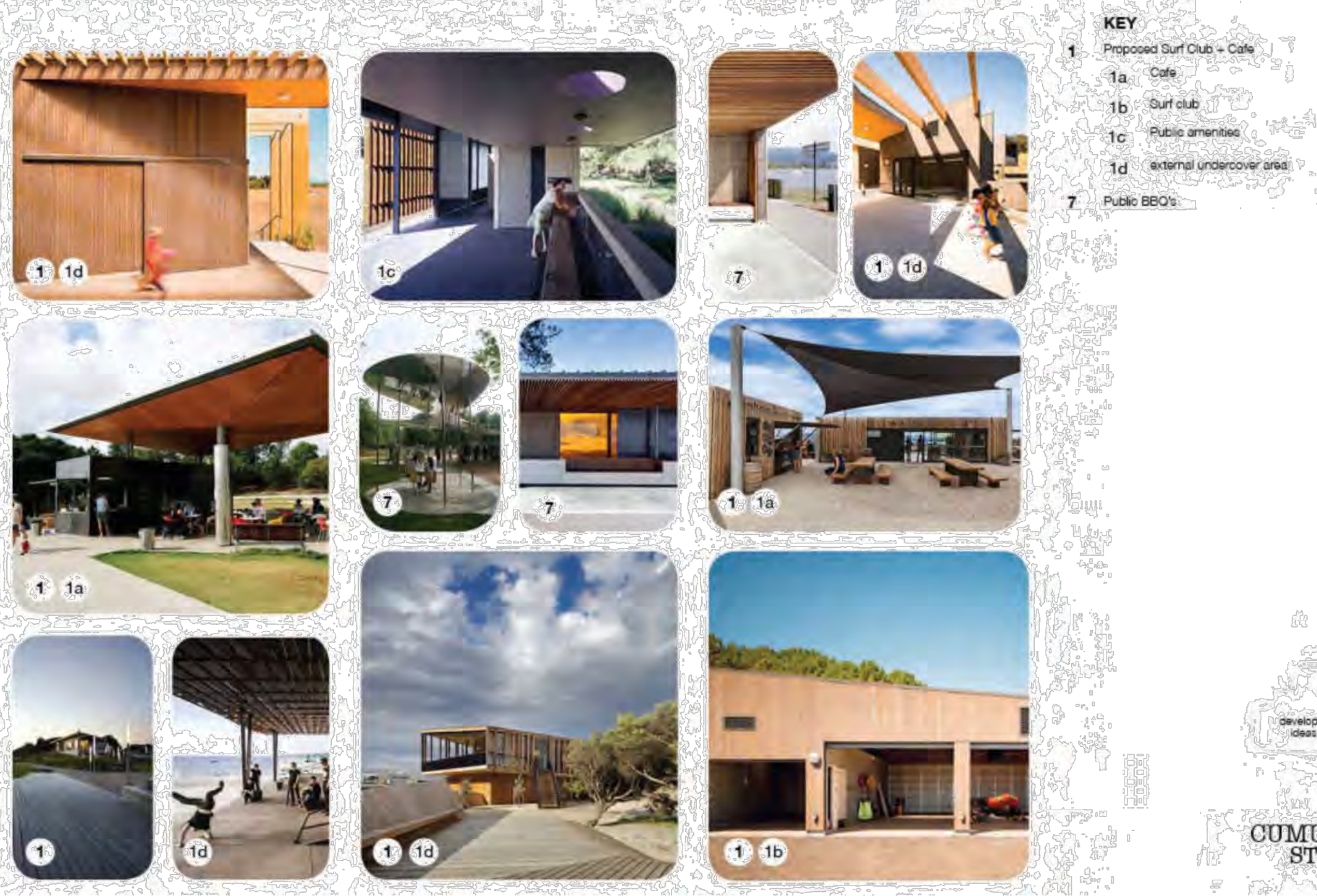


KEY

- 2 Public open space (approx 4060m2) incorporating BBQ's
- 3 Play equipment areas
- 11 External area to Surf Club
- 12 Battered landscape area
- 14 Terraced steps to beach
- 18 Port Road Parking



Boat Harbour Beach: Architectural Precedents



Boat Harbour Beach: Surf Club and Cafe development design principles

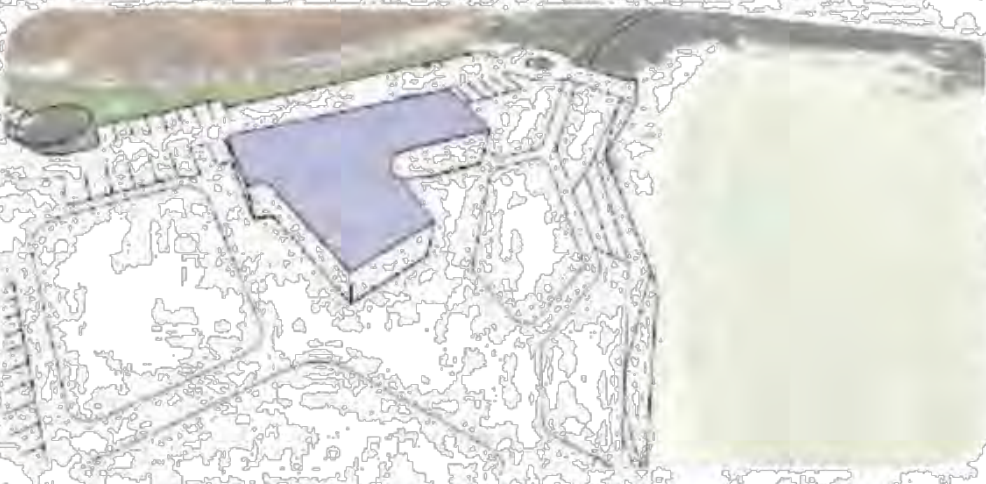
Anticipated building scale

The proposed Surf Club and Cafe development should possess a civic scale to differentiate it from the surrounding residential buildings while at the same time responding to the sensitivity of its prominent positioning between the two bays. A single storey 'low slung' building (maximum 6-6 metres high including roof) would be suitable to house the Surf Club and Cafe and assist in reducing the visual impact on the site.



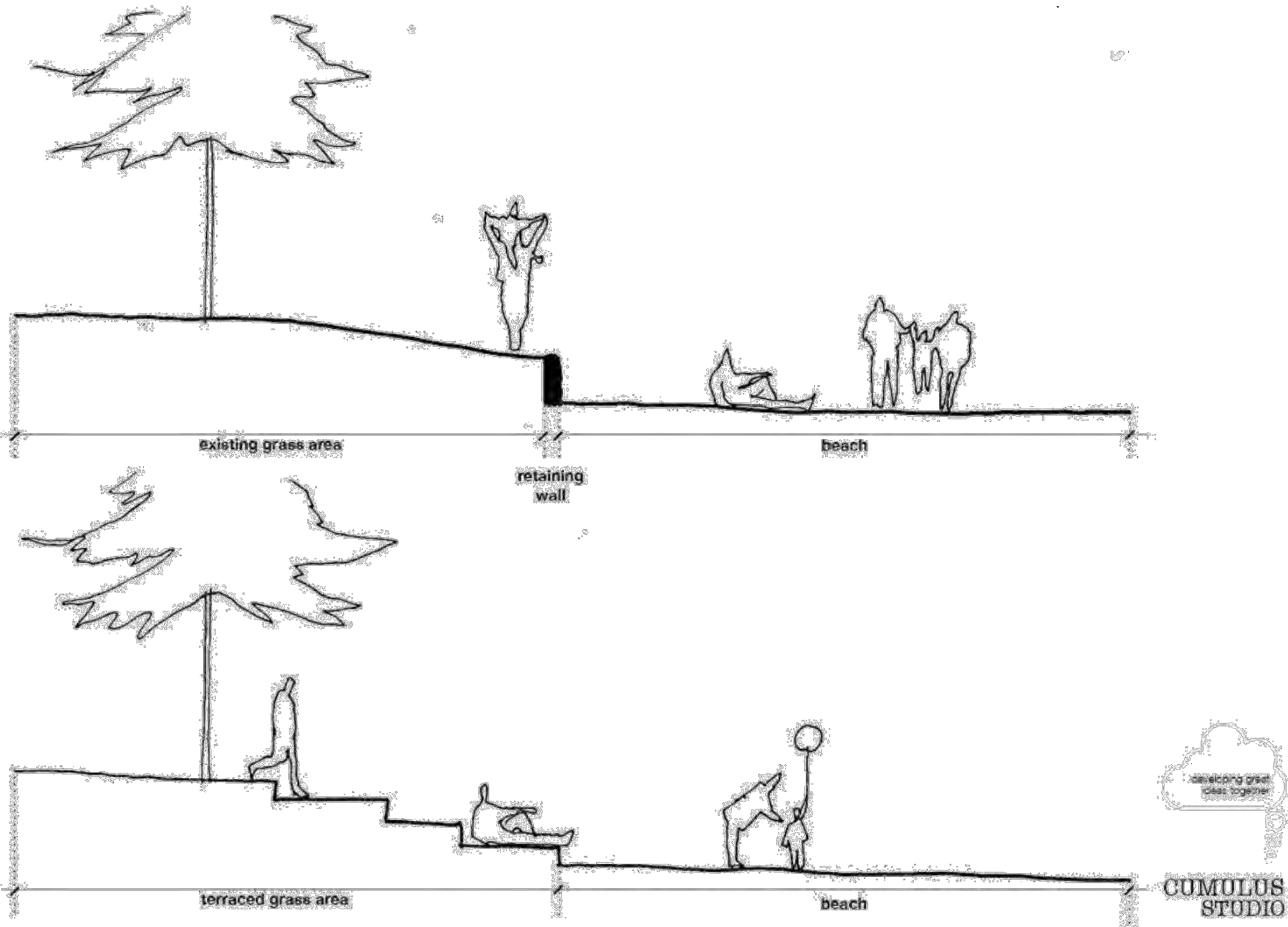
Anticipated building form

As the building will be predominantly viewed from above by either residents or from visitors travelling down Port Road the roof otherwise known as the '5th Elevation' requires careful consideration. Care should be taken to locate plant and equipment out of site from above and the design approach should explore either a graphic or expressive form to address the '5th Elevation'.



Potential design strategies to address the '5th Elevation'





Appendix A

Background Analysis

1 Planning Context

As a strategic land use document prepared by Waratah Wynyard Council as a Planning Authority, the Boat Harbour Beach Plan sits within the context of the Resource Management and Planning System of Tasmania (RMPS). The specific policies and actions within the structure plan must therefore:

- Further the objectives of the Resource Management and Planning System (RMPS);
- Be consistent with relevant State Policies (in particular the State Coastal Policy 1996); and
- Be consistent with the objectives and desired outcomes in the Cradle Coast Regional Land Use Strategy 2010 - 2030.

1.1 The Objectives of the RMPS

The objectives of the RMPS are outlined in Schedule 1 of the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993* (the Act) as follows:

Part 1 Objectives of the Resource Management and Planning System of Tasmania

1. *The objectives of the resource management and planning system of Tasmania are –*
 - (a) *to promote the sustainable development of natural and physical resources and the maintenance of ecological processes and genetic diversity; and*
 - (b) *to provide for the fair, orderly and sustainable use and development of air, land and water; and*
 - (c) *to encourage public involvement in resource management and planning; and*
 - (d) *to facilitate economic development in accordance with the objectives set out in paragraphs (a), (b) and (c); and*
 - (e) *to promote the sharing of responsibility for resource management and planning between the different spheres of Government, the community and industry in the State.*

PART 2 - Objectives of the Planning Process Established by this Act

The objectives of the planning process established by this Act are, in support of the objectives set out in Part 1 of this Schedule –

- (a) *to require sound strategic planning and co-ordinated action by State and local government; and*
- (b) *to establish a system of planning instruments to be the principal way of setting objectives, policies and controls for the use, development and protection of land; and*
- (c) *to ensure that the effects on the environment are considered and provide for explicit consideration of social and economic effects when decisions are made about the use and development of land; and*
- (d) *to require land use and development planning and policy to be easily integrated with environmental, social, economic, conservation and resource management policies at State, regional and municipal levels; and*
- (e) *to provide for the consolidation of approvals for land use or development and related matters, and to co-ordinate planning approvals with related approvals; and*
- (f) *to secure a pleasant, efficient and safe working, living and recreational environment for all Tasmanians and visitors to Tasmania; and*

- (g) to conserve those buildings, areas or other places which are of scientific, aesthetic, architectural or historical interest, or otherwise of special cultural value; and*
- (h) to protect public infrastructure and other assets and enable the orderly provision and co-ordination of public utilities and other facilities for the benefit of the community; and*
- (i) to provide a planning framework which fully considers land capability.*

1.2 State Policies

There are three (3) current State Policies existing within the RMPS:

- The *State Coastal Policy 1996*;
- The *State Policy on Water Quality Management 1997*; and
- The *State Policy on the Protection of Agricultural Land 2009*.

Only the State Policy on Water Quality Management 1997 and State Coastal Policy 1996 are relevant to the Boat Harbour Beach Plan.

State Coastal Policy 1996

There are three main principles identified in the State Coastal Policy:

- Natural and cultural values of the coast shall be protected.
- The coast shall be used and developed in a sustainable manner.
- Integrated management and protection of the coastal zone is a shared responsibility.

In particular, the second principle recognises:

The economic and social values of tourism and recreation in the coastal zone; and

The availability of the coastal zone for some activities, uses and development will be limited by the ability of natural and physical resources to meet the foreseeable needs of future generations and by the need to sustain the life-supporting capacity of air, water, soil and ecosystems.

Water Quality Management 1997

The Water Quality Management Policy includes the following objectives relevant to this plan:

- (a) Focus water quality management on the achievement of water quality objectives which will maintain or enhance water quality and further the objectives of Tasmania's Resource Management and Planning System;*
- (b) Ensure that diffuse source and point source pollution does not prejudice the achievement of water quality objectives and that pollutants discharged to waterways are reduced as far as is reasonable and practical by the use of best practice environmental management;*
- (c) Ensure that efficient and effective water quality monitoring programs are carried out and that the responsibility for monitoring programs are carried out and that the responsibility for monitoring is shared by those who use and benefit from the resource, including polluters, who should bear an appropriate share of the costs arising from their activities, water resource managers and the community;*

- (d) *Facilitate and promote integrated catchment management through the achievement of objectives (a) to (c) above; and*
- (e) *Apply the precautionary principle to Part 4 of this Policy.*

1.3 Cradle Coast Regional Land Use Strategy

The current Cradle Coast Regional Land Use Strategy was declared by the Minister for Planning on 27 October 2011. Under the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993* (the Act) planning schemes must be consistent with the Regional Land Use Strategy.

In addition to a range of regional planning policies which has been considered in the preparation of the plan, the following strategic outcomes identified under section 4.11 of the land use strategy are of particular relevance:

- *The growth and development of centres is contained to create compact places which optimise use of land and infrastructure services and minimise adverse impact on resources of identified resource, natural and cultural value.*
- *The pattern of settlement provides a network of compact, well connected and separate centres each with its individual character and identity.*
- *Land supply is matched to need.*
- *There is coordinated and equitable access to provision of regional level services.*
- *Each settlement provides an appropriate level of local development and facilities to meet daily requirements in employment, education, health care, retail and social and recreation activity for its resident population.*
- *Each settlement provides a healthy, pleasant and safe place in which to live, work and visit.*
- *There is diversity and choice in affordable and accessible housing.*

It is however important to recognise that the legislation provides for the regular review and update of the Regional Land Use Strategy. Local level strategies and plans such as the Boat Harbour Beach Plan can inform these reviews.

1.4 Municipal Strategic Plan

The Act also requires that planning schemes are to be consistent with the strategic plan in force for the municipal area. There are a number of key objectives identified in the Waratah Wynyard Strategic Plan 2017 – 2027 that the plan will contribute to fulfilling:

- **Goal 3: Connected Communities**
Waratah-Wynyard community members will fill a sense of inclusion, belonging and value within a thriving, innovative and diverse population. They will be actively engaged in developing Council facilities, services and programs, and will be encouraged to provide input to planning for community needs.
- **Goal 4: Community Recreation and Wellbeing**

Waratah-Wynyard will be a healthy community with access to more recreational choices in safe and welcoming environments. The community will enjoy programs and recreational spaces that are inclusive, thriving and energetic, and will have access to high quality facilities, services and equipment.

- Goal 7: Environment

Waratah-Wynyard will be an environment where green meets blue; where natural beauty and heritage values are appreciated, and managed through best practice. The natural environment will be shared and enhanced through sustainable development.

1.5 Sustainable Murchison 2040: Community Plan

The Sustainable Murchison 2040 Community Plan – Regional Framework Plan (Community Plan) 21 November 2016 is an initiative between Waratah Wynyard, Circular Head, West Coast, King Island and Burnie Councils which aims to inform a coordinated approach for municipal planning in the Murchison area over the next 25 years.

Spatial and strategic principles were developed to guide the creation of sustainable and liveable places in Murchison:

Principle 4: Distinctive, accessible, compact settlements

Distinctive characteristics of each settlement:

- *Urban morphology – the layout of the settlement with consideration to topography and legibility.*
- *Natural features in and around the settlement*
- *Urban design*
- *Building vernacular*
- *Activities, events and local customs*

Accessibility

- *Connected by private and public transport*
- *Range of transport options connection within and between settlements*
- *Diversity of built forms for all stages of life*
- *Cost for utilities and local infrastructure upgrades/ renewal for marginally sustainable settlements is weighed against alternative solutions to provide sustainable benefits.*

Sustainable urban settlements

- *Conserve valuable resources for agriculture and mineral extraction*
- *Compliment the region's valuable natural landscapes*
- *Minimise travel time and increase accessibility to key recreational, commercial and industrial destinations*
- *Infill development opportunities within the boundaries of existing urban centres/ localities*
- *Greenfield development of lot within 1,000 metres of the current UCL boundary to minimise land use conflicts with agricultural uses*

- *Industrial development priorities close to major highways/arterial roads with adequate buffers from residential development*
- *Cost for utilities and local infrastructure upgrades/renewal for marginally sustainable settlements is weighed against alternative solutions to provide sustainable benefits.*

Principle 6: Natural resource management balances development, production and conservation values

Balances values to resolve conflicts with:

- *Capable agricultural land, forestry and aquaculture*
- *Threatened vegetation, flora and fauna*
- *Reserves, such as conservation areas and National Parks*
- *CFEV wetlands, waterbodies and rivers*
- *Water use and water irrigation*
- *Listed and aboriginal heritage and cultural landscapes*
- *Landslip hazards, coastal vulnerability, flood vulnerability and bushfire vulnerability*
- *Climate change, including changes to rainfall, temperature change, pan evaporation and relative humidity*

The Community Plan also identifies a portfolio of investments (both public and private) in Appendix 6. Table 24 of the appendix identifies the development and implementation of the Boat Harbour Beach Plan as a project for Waratah Wynyard Council.

2 Existing Conditions

2.1 Population Growth

There is no specific data in relation to employment, household composition, income or age for Boat Harbour due to its size. Similarly, there is no population growth scenario specific, for Boat Harbour Beach.

The medium growth scenario in the Regional Land Use Strategy projections for the region is for a net increase of less than 0.5% per year. It notes that the distribution in growth is likely to be uneven. For example, the population growth forecast through to 2032 for Waratah Wynyard Council is a decline in population of 442.

The 2014 Tasmanian Population Projections an alternative source of population statistics, identifies a net increase of 3% for the population of the Waratah Wynyard local government area from 2013 – 2030.

Notwithstanding the differences in projections, any growth is not substantial with a 3% growth amounting to 454 people.

The locality of Boat Harbour has an identified growth scenario as Low and a settlement strategy of stable in the Cradle Coast Regional Land Use Strategy:

Low – demand is driven largely by internal population change and very low rates of inward migration. Growth relies on existing land supply (including vacant zoned land) and available infrastructure within the designated urban boundary without the need for intensification.

Stable- restricts new development to existing land supply within the designated urban boundary without priority for intensification.

2.2 Development Activity

Development activity in Boat Harbour Beach is minimal. Table A1 over page identifies the number of new dwellings or extensions/replacements of existing dwellings from 2006 – 2016 based on the development applications submitted to Council. The figure over page identifies the number of vacant parcels of land.

The character of existing residential development is primarily single detached dwellings. There have been a number of change of use applications more recently (5 in 2014, 2 in 2015 and 4 in 2019) to provide for short term visitor accommodation.

Anecdotally, there are a number of places available for short term visitor accommodation that have not obtained the required planning and building approvals. Lot sizes vary considerably from small residential size lots of less than 400sqm to much larger lots of 4,000sqm. Regardless there are only a minimal number of vacant lots (<5) zoned Low Density Residential, with a similar small number that have potential for further subdivision or development of multiple dwellings.

There are a small number of lots zoned Rural Resource directly adjoining the Low Density Residential Zone that have potential to be developed for residential purposes, visitor accommodation or similar.

Towards the end of 2016 and early 2017 two more substantial developments were proposed as follows:

- 21 Moore Street zoned Rural Resource – Four cabins used for visitor accommodation and 20 camping/caravan park spaces and associated amenities; and
- 293 Port Road and 305-307 Port Road – restaurant, swimming pool, 13 residential dwellings, 18 caravan/motorhome sites and 13 visitor accommodation cabins. The proposal also includes 21 camping bays on Crown Land.

Table A1: Approvals statistics for Boat Harbour Beach (Source: Waratah Wynyard Council)

Year	New dwelling	Extension & Alternations
2006	0	1
2007	1	1
2008	2	2
2009	0	3
2010	2	0
2011	1	4
2012	2	1
2013	0	3
2014	0	3
2015	0	2
2016	0	2
TOTAL	8	22

2.3 Tourism Activity

There is no specific data for tourism activity at Boat Harbour Beach, due to the township not being identified on the Tasmanian Visitors Survey.

Anecdotally, Boat Harbour Beach is 'off the beaten track' and is a holiday or day trip destination for predominantly people of the north and northwest coast of Tasmania.

Notwithstanding, the data provided by the Tasmanian Visitor Survey identifies a steady increase in visitor numbers to the north west and Wynyard with the number of visitors to the north west that visit a place not identified on the survey also increasing in numbers.

It can be extrapolated from this data (refer Table A2 below) that it is likely that the number of people visiting Boat Harbour Beach that do not live in Tasmania is also increasing.

Table A2: Places Visited (source: Tasmanian Visitors Survey)

	Total NW	Wynyard	Other NW
Oct 12 – Sep 13	370,406	84,071	61,837
Oct 13 – Sep 14	404,051	76,911	62,922
Oct 14 – Sep 15	455,432	95,676	77,643
Oct 15 – Sep 16	468,505	91,216	77,586

2.4 Carparking and Access

A specific traffic study has not been undertaken for Boat Harbour Beach. Again, anecdotally during the peak holiday periods, particularly on warm days which attracts beach goers, the car parking provided is considered insufficient to meet demand.

A traffic counter was located on Port Road entering the township from December 2009 – January 2010 and again for one week in April 2010. At the commencement of this project a traffic counter was again located on Port Road (see Table A3 below).

The data is not exhaustive given the limited times that the traffic was counted, although the following can be inferred from the data

- Sunday experiences the most traffic movements. This is likely a reflection of activity at the surf club and the number of weekend day trippers;
- The summer period is the busiest period;
- The number of traffic movements in one day do not generally exceed 2,000, even in peak periods;
- 90 to 95 per cent of vehicles are class 1 vehicles; and
- There no evidence of increase in vehicle numbers over the past 6 years. Indeed, there is a decrease in the traffic numbers in the same period of 2016 compared with 2010. This difference may be for range of reasons including such as the weather, public holidays and events.

There is also no specific area for loading and loading of goods for the restaurant at the surf club and no specific parking for people with a disability.

Community angst regarding the potential pedestrian – car conflict and no emergency vehicle parking available was evident during the consultation phase. It was explained by participants in the community workshop that on more than one occasion an emergency vehicle was forced to park in the middle of the road due to all car parking available being used.

Table A3: Traffic Movements (source: Waratah Wynyard Council)

Date	No of movements
December 2009 – 4 January 2010	
26 Dec	1978
27 Dec	2125
31 Dec	2063
1 Jan	2172
April 2010	
13 April	419
14 April	453
18 April (Sun)	564

Date	No of movements
December 2016 – January 2017	
6 Dec	518
7 Dec	487
11 Dec (Sun)	1041
26 Dec	1318
27 Dec	1109
31 Dec	999
1 Jan	838
10 Jan	1084
11 Jan	841
15 Jan (Sun)	1003
17 Jan	832
18 Jan	840
22 Jan (Sun)	1738

2.5 Natural Features

The natural features of Boat Harbour Beach are predominantly the beach, the aqua blue water and the rocky outcrops. These natural features are a key attraction for the people that live there and the people that visit.

Boat Harbour Beach has predominantly been cleared of native vegetation. Small pockets of vegetation on the edge of the community remain with larger tracts to the west towards Rocky Cape National Park. These vegetation communities are *Eucalyptus obliqua* and coastal scrub. Neither are listed as a threatened community under the *Nature Conservation Act 2002*.

2.6 Geology

As part of the Shack Site Project assessment at Boat Harbour Beach, DPIPWE and Council engaged Coffey Geosciences to undertake a landslide assessment of the area. The Coffey report included a number of key recommendations as follows:

- No new houses be allowed on the known landslides and steep slopes. These are areas where existing landslides may move again or new landslides may occur in the lifetime of a house.
- Maintain good surface drainage which has the potential to improve the stability of existing landslides and reduce the likelihood of new landslides.
- Undertake ongoing monitoring of surface and subsurface movement in particular areas.

Figure A1 over page identifies landslip hazard areas of high and medium within and on the outskirts of Boat Harbour Beach. As demonstrated the settlement is largely surrounded by Landslide Hazard A to the south, east and west which effectively prohibits any physical expansion of the settlement in these directions.



Figure A1: Land at Boat Harbour subject to medium and high landslip hazard (source: Waratah Wynyard Interim Planning Scheme 2013)

2.7 Aboriginal Heritage

The area was first used and by Tasmanian Aboriginals, who continue to use the area and surrounding coastal environment, its food, ritual and spiritual values. It is important to recognise that Aboriginal heritage values do not just lie in the artefacts of the past. The landscape and coastal environments are a living landscape, where Tasmanian Aboriginal people can continue to connect to the land, sea and sky, the traditions of their elders and the stories of the past.

Prior to colonisation, the Tasmanian Aboriginals from the North West Coast of Tasmania were known as the *Tommeginar* band of the North West nation who lived and moved from Table Cape to westward of Rocky Cape. Tasmanian

Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania (AHT) have advised that there are Aboriginal heritage sites within or close to Boat Harbour Beach, including shell middens and artefact scatters. AHT further advised that the surrounding landscape, which includes coastline is conducive to past Aboriginal occupation and is likely to contain additional Aboriginal heritage sites.

This advice correlates with an environmental and infrastructure report (Department of Environment and Land Management 1996) that stated there is an open cave of ironstone rock at Boat Harbour Beach which was an Aboriginal ceremonial site. Artefacts were found when Council were undertaking excavation in proximity to the cave.

AHT advised that the future works at and around the surf club, the vehicle parking areas and the foreshore area would require an Aboriginal heritage investigation due to the presence of registered heritage sites and high probability of additional Aboriginal heritage sites within the area. While a previous Aboriginal Heritage Assessment was undertaken in 2001 for some of the coastal area this study may not satisfy current AHT requirements.

2.8 European Heritage

Boat Harbour Beach in the early days of European settlement was used as a harbour for boats, with the ships mainly loading potatoes, timber and general cargo. In the second half of the 1800's a jetty was constructed off the rocky headland from which potatoes and swedes were shipped. The port then went to Wynyard and eventually to Burnie.

The first shack was constructed in 1917, but did not become a holiday destination until the late 1920's.

2.9 Character

The character of Boat Harbour Beach is identified as being integral to the appeal of the settlement and consistently identified as needing protection.

The key element to understanding the character of Boat Harbour Beach is to not only identify the physical features of the settlement but how they interact with each other. In other words, it is the combination of the features that give the settlement its unique coastal character.

The key natural features of Boat Harbour Beach are considered to be the white sandy beach; the rocky outcrops along the coastline; the aqua blue water; and the escarpment sitting above the settlement that contains rich farmland to the east and south and vegetated slopes to the west. Together these form an amphitheatre effect: landform framing the beach.

The key man-made features are the limited boundary fencing (with exception of the front fencing on the lower side of Port Road); the two storey, single detached dwellings with low pitched roofs that are maximising the views of the coastline and step up with the slope of the land; and the limited amount of commercial uses. The boundaries delineating the dwellings are predominantly defined by vegetation on the side and rear boundaries between dwellings as well as the front boundary between the road and dwelling.

The landscaping and vegetation characteristics are the element that combines these two features and gives the settlement its informal, coastal character; in particular how the landscaping is used to delineate the boundaries and the scale of the buildings in comparison to the natural landscape.

2.10 Water

There are no reticulated water services in Boat Harbour Beach with reliance on tank water or spring water. Reliance on springs generally is from informal historical situation. A number of feasibility studies have been prepared for a reticulated water supply to the township which generally conclude that it is not feasible or only feasible if undertaken in conjunction with Sisters Beach. It is noted that no issues were raised in relation to this during the workshops.

2.11 Sewer

The township has reticulated sewerage infrastructure with the wastewater treatment plant being located on the point west of the beach. Taswater provided the following comments in relation to the infrastructure:

A11

- The wastewater treatment plant is effectively starving due to lack of inflows.
- It is anticipated that localised upgrades would be required to service any additional lots; as a minimum, emergency storage at Taswater's existing pump station would need to be augmented as required.

2.12 Stormwater

There is no reticulated stormwater infrastructure within Boat Harbour Beach. The Stephenson report (2.11.1) stated that while the condition and the quality of the stormwater drainage systems reflects the ad hoc nature of its construction, it is generally only properties below Port Road that experience drainage problems.

The natural springs and semi-permanent creeks that drain through the settled area are similarly adequately controlled with the natural slope of the area generally adequately minimising ponding. More problematic is the ground water where the subterranean stormwater issues contribute to the instability of the hill slope.

3 Waratah Wynyard Interim Planning Scheme 2013

3.1 Zoning

Boat Harbour Beach is predominately zoned Low Density under the *Waratah Wynyard Planning Scheme 2013*. The purpose of the zone is:

To provide for residential use or development on larger lots in residential areas where there are infrastructure or environmental constraints that limit development.

To provide for non-residential uses that are compatible with residential amenity.

The zoning includes specific desired future character statements for Boat Harbour Beach:

Has identity as a small isolated settlement set at the base of a steep coastal escarpment and nestled around the beach and rocky shoreline;

Is characterised by steep narrow roads and a general absence of fencing to provide physical delineation between adjoining sites and from the road;

Close spaced buildings of various height and form across the rising landform to enable opportunity for outlook over the beach and coastal landscape.

In addition to residential uses, the zoning provides for a small number of non-residential uses including a local shop, food services, visitor accommodation and educational and occasional care. Importantly, the planning scheme allows for non-residential uses with appropriate protection of residential amenity; the provision of these non-residential uses such as food services should be for the market to provide.

A number of development standards also apply. These include a 30% site coverage (acceptable solution), private open space of 25sqm and the standard building envelope including a maximum height of 8.5m (acceptable solution).

There is a specific single storey height requirement for building on the lower side of Port Road, although there is no specific height measurement.

The density requirements (for new lots and multiple dwellings) is 500sqm. In comparison, Sisters Beach has a larger permitted density of 800sqm.

Further consideration of the appropriateness of the standard requirements such as the building envelope under the Low Density Residential Zone provision for Boat Harbour Beach needs to be undertaken.

3.2 Hazard Management Code

Boat Harbour Beach is subject the hazard management code. Use and development within an area of risk from exposure to a natural hazard as shown on a map requires a hazard risk assessment to demonstrate a tolerable level of risk can be achieved and maintained for the nature and duration of the use and for the type, form, scale and duration to the development.

3.3 Water and Waterways Code

This code applies to land within 30m of the highwater mark of a shoreline to an ocean and of a bank of a watercourse. The purpose of the code is to assist protection and conservation of a water body, watercourse, wetland or coastal shoreline area.

3.4 Rural Resource Zone

A number of lots on the outskirts of Boat Harbour Beach, are zoned Rural Resource with lot size more rural residential in character: in the vicinity of 1ha in size.

Residential and visitor accommodation uses are allowable in the zone subject to the meeting of a number of zoning requirements including that the use does not constrain or conflict with a resource development use.

3.5 Waratah Wynyard Planning Scheme 2000

Under the previous planning scheme, specific provisions applied to Boat Harbour Beach including acceptable solutions such as no re-subdivision of existing titles, maximum height of 6m, and no front fences. The scheme also determined specific roof forms, cladding, materials and colours. These provisions were not translated into the Interim Planning Scheme.

It is noted that Azzure development was a result of these specific provisions and has attracted criticism within the community for its appearance.



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In preparing this first Report, we have had the benefit of considerable data and information from Tasmanians. Our thinking has been informed by:

- published and unpublished data and information available to us;
- our targeted consultation with Government agencies and peak bodies; and
- additional information contained in other submissions provided to us.

We have made available on our website (www.pesrac.tas.gov.au) the submissions that we have received during the first phase of our work, and also provided a list of those that we have consulted with.

The Council would like to thank the team that comprises our Secretariat in supporting us in our work, and the Departments that have made these people available to us.

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We acknowledge the ancient history of the Tasmanian Aboriginal people as the First People of lutriwita/Tasmania. For over 2 000 generations, the health and well-being of Tasmanian Aboriginal peoples has been, and continues to be based on a deep and continuous connection to family, community and the land, sea and waterways.

Chapter 1: The Task

Introduction to the Council's Work

Like other Australians, in early 2020, Tasmanians watched the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) rapidly spread throughout the world. We prepared for when the virus would inevitably arrive on our island.

COVID-19 has impacted all our lives, none more than the families and communities who have lost loved ones. We are particularly saddened by this loss of life, made more difficult by physical distancing where families and friends were not able to farewell their loved ones as they would have wished.

COVID-19 is challenging our society in so many ways.

Thousands of Tasmanians have lost their jobs, perhaps for the first time, or had their hours significantly reduced. Some have experienced business failures, placing financial, emotional, and mental stress on individuals and households. For frontline and essential workers, going to work became stressful and demanding in ways we had never experienced before. Temporary visa holders have been 'stuck', unable to work or return home, and were excluded from national income support measures.

The Tasmanian way of life that makes this place so unique has been suddenly disrupted. Lifestyle choices we so often take for granted were temporarily unavailable to us, from heading to the 'shack' or camping for Easter, to calling in for a chat at the Neighbourhood House or dropping in for a beer at the local RSL Club.

Families have been separated through border closures or other restrictions. Babies have been born without visitors in hospitals and without the traditional 'home visit' from a child health nurse.

Children have felt the impact as individuals, through isolation from family, friends, school, support services and community involvement. They have also felt the impacts of the concerns or stresses of the adults who care for them.

Parents and carers have taken on additional caring responsibilities, often under challenging circumstances. They have balanced working from home and home schooling or dealing with employment loss and reduced income while, at the same time, facilitating their children's education.

Older people were isolated from their families, communities and support mechanisms, and many were genuinely scared for their lives.

Tasmanians who have been used to accessing support and services face-to-face, have had to shift to more online service delivery. For some people this has provided greater access and flexibility, for others, it has resulted in the loss of an essential human interaction. It has exposed the digital divide between those who have access and can use technology and those who don't or can't.

The uncertainty surrounding the virus and the restrictions put in place to contain it have all had an impact on the well-being of Tasmanians. Together, we have been resilient in the face of these challenges. That resilience will be key to recovery.

Our governments, health system and community acted quickly to suppress COVID-19. Tasmanians have shown strength, compassion and kindness. We have followed the rules in difficult circumstances. This is an achievement we should all be proud of.

While the immediate actions taken were required to save lives, they will have longer-term impacts on our economy and our well-being. As we see COVID-19 cases still rising around the world, and measures being re-implemented in Victoria to control the recent outbreak, we know we will continue to live with this virus for some time to come. However, while COVID-19 is not yet behind us, we must continue to work together in new ways to give our State the best chance of recovery and being prepared for future uncertainty.

On 30 April 2020, the Premier set up his Economic and Social Recovery Advisory Council to provide him with advice on how best to support Tasmania's short, medium, and longer-term recovery from COVID-19. As a first step, he asked us to quickly bring him any actions for immediate implementation that we see as important in the journey to recovery. Those recommendations are listed in Chapter 6.

In approaching the first phase of this task, the Council sought first to listen and learn. We initially reached out to Government agencies and peak bodies, as well as drawing on a wide range of available economic and social indicators, to understand the broad impacts of COVID-19 on Tasmanians.

Through submissions and data review, we have learned a lot and begun to understand the impacts of COVID-19 on Tasmanians. We understand some impacts will particularly affect those already disadvantaged and, by doing so, risk increasing the socio-economic divide for some people and places. We know impacts will also be felt disproportionately for particular industries, small businesses, and regional areas.

Just as it took all of us to work together to 'flatten the curve', it will take a whole-of-Tasmania approach to recover from COVID-19's impacts. The Government must lead, but cannot shoulder the responsibility alone for recovery. Every Tasmanian has a part to play in working together to build a better Tasmania - right down to simple things such as making the choice to buy Tasmanian. All three levels of Government have important, but different, roles to play in returning Tasmania to the pre-COVID-19 situation that saw Tasmania and Tasmanians the envy of many.

In developing our first-phase recommendations, we have considered the impacts on all aspects of people's lives. We see well-being for Tasmanians as a key measure of our recovery. A well-being focus balances the importance of the things that make a good life in Tasmania. These include having a job or income security, accessing the basics such as food and housing, being healthy, loved and safe, having access to learning, connecting with culture and family, and participating in all our State has to offer. It highlights the importance of jobs in supporting people in Tasmanian communities throughout all other aspects of their lives.

We intend to carry this well-being approach through to the second phase of our work, which is to develop medium and longer-term recovery measures. We note this approach is consistent with the existing State Government commitment to develop Tasmania's first-ever strategy to improve the well-being of Tasmanian children and

young people. This is a strategy we wholeheartedly support as a key driver of economic and social recovery in the medium and longer-term.

To understand the ongoing effects of the pandemic on Tasmanians as we enter the recovery phase, we must identify and address gaps in data which helps us understand the impacts of COVID-19. This data will also inform further actions we recommend to mitigate impacts and will ensure our responses remain informed and evidence-based.

In this report, we look broadly at Tasmania's economic and social structure and the relevant impact of COVID-19. We consider the measures introduced to protect lives and to suppress the virus and the impacts these measures have had on Tasmanians and, more broadly, the communities they call home. We acknowledge the work of governments to date to mitigate these impacts and support our recovery. We look to the future - to how we can continue to manage the virus and ensure a stronger recovery. In doing so, we take an aspirational approach to ensure that the Tasmania that emerges has a strong foundation in equity - a healthy, educated population with the skills to take up new jobs underpinned by our entrepreneurial spirit.

To achieve this, we have identified a set of strategic priorities to shape the immediate recovery response:

1. Rebuilding local demand, by:

- ❖ *Building confidence* - because this will embed resilience.
- ❖ *Building capacity* - because this will provide the platform for growth and jobs, as well as strengthening our ability to support those in need.
- ❖ *Increasing local demand and keeping the pipeline flowing* - because this will provide economic momentum over the short and medium-term.
- ❖ *Supporting enterprise recovery* - because this will provide private sector and not-for-profit organisations the assistance required to move forward.

2. Addressing structural issues, by:

- ❖ *Tackling the immediate structural impacts of COVID-19* - because the earlier the action, the better the mitigation.
- ❖ *Staying focused on addressing the social issues* - because there have been deep social impacts.
- ❖ *Encouraging government to deliver differently* - because we all have to focus on improvement.

Our recommendations address these priorities, and they will shape the approach we will take to the second phase of our work. Our intention in undertaking that second phase is to work collaboratively with Tasmanians to develop medium and longer-term recovery arrangements. We expect that this consultation will take place during August to October 2020.

This is an opportunity to reset and create a stronger, flourishing future for Tasmania. Recovery is in all our hands. As Tasmanians we can all work towards our future together.

Overview of Recommendations

The picture below sets out an overview of the categories our recommendations address. More details and rationale for our recommendations can be found in Chapter 6. A complete, compiled list is provided at Appendix 1.



Immediate Priorities

The recommendations set out in Chapter 6 are intended for short-term implementation, including through the State Budget scheduled for 12 November 2020.

The Council will soon commence a second phase of its work, which will focus on medium and longer-term issues, culminating in a final report anticipated to be delivered to the Premier in early 2021.

The Council suggests the State Government should give immediate attention to the following recommendations. They are highlighted throughout Chapter 6 with this ★.

Restoring Demand and Jobs

The State Government should:

Immediately modify contracts with community service providers to extend the duration of the arrangements for an appropriate period to provide funding certainty, where performance has met expectations (Rec #12)

The State Government should further support small and medium business to access private-sector financial/business advice to assist them adapting to the post-COVID-19 environment (Rec #6)

Include in its standard government contracts framework a requirement that government contractors use local suppliers on a 'if not, why not' basis (Rec #19)

Fully resource areas of government that are responsible for planning decisions, permits and related approvals to ensure timely decision-making (Rec #22)

Explain to the community its future COVID-19 management strategy, including how any future outbreaks will be handled (Rec #2)

Require agencies to purchase from Tasmanian businesses on an 'if not, why not' basis for at least the next two years (Rec #18)

Subject Government businesses to as strong buying local requirements as government agencies (Rec #20)

Carefully manage the roll-out of its 'Construction Blitz' program. The flow of housing construction should be scheduled to deliver the intended stimulatory effect without over-heating the industry (Rec #28)

Start Addressing the Structural Issues

The State Government should:

Take a leadership role in collaborating with all Tasmania's elected representatives, to ensure a common voice in lobbying the Australian Government to continue key business and individual support arrangements (Rec #35)

Prioritise work, including shared data capability, to identify, support and engage vulnerable cohorts that may have ongoing disproportionate adverse impacts during recovery, including through disruptions to education, training, and employment (Rec #50)

Build on the current intrastate and interstate marketing campaign by developing additional cost-effective practical initiatives to drive spending (Rec #38)

Review how the additional COVID-19 government funding for mental health; family violence; and emergency food relief has been used and also review the outcomes delivered (Rec #57)

Chapter 2: The Current Situation

The Tasmanian economy has done well in recent years and many Tasmanians have benefited from its growth. Tasmania entered 2020 with a sense of confidence, reaping the benefits of growth in employment and wealth. Our extraordinary environment, culture, heritage and produce had been discovered by the world, with 1.35 million visitors coming to the State and international goods exports of \$3.6 billion annually.

Tasmania's recent growth has been the envy of the nation:

- our economy grew by 3.6 per cent in 2018-19, compared with the national growth rate of 1.9 per cent, and per capita, it grew by 2.3 per cent against national per capita growth of 0.3 per cent;
- in February 2020, our unemployment rate was below the national average at 4.9 per cent;
- over the period 2015 to 2019, Tasmania's business survival rate was the strongest in the nation; and
- our population growth was 1 per cent during 2019, in contrast with the 10-year average of 0.6 per cent, with strong net interstate migration over the period 2017 to 2019.

Tasmania's growth has been reasonably broad, with health care and social assistance, primary industries, construction, retail, ICT, and tourism, all growing in real terms over the past 20 years. Tasmania has also undergone a structural transition towards service sectors, with health care and social assistance now being by far the largest sector in Tasmania; 20 years ago that position was held by manufacturing.

In employment terms, the growth in services has been even stronger, with retail, tourism and accommodation - key parts of the visitor economy - being especially large employers, along with education, public administration, health care and social assistance, as shown in Figure 2.1.

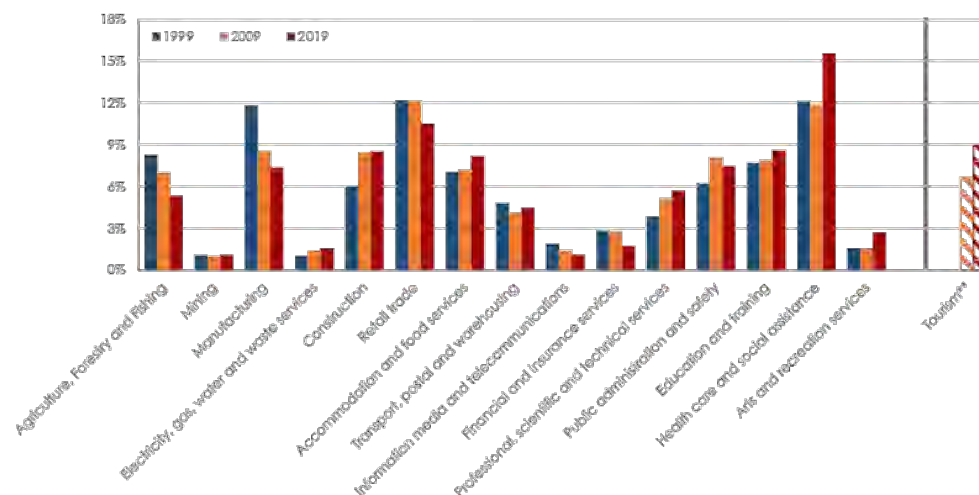
A key feature of the Tasmanian economy is the prevalence of small business: 61 per cent of our businesses are non-employing, and a further 36 per cent have fewer than 20 employees. Nonetheless, many of these depend on large businesses or their employees as customers.

Where Tasmanians have succeeded, it has often been the result of a perseverance against the odds to create something unique. This can be seen in a highly diverse range of new and evolving products and services economy-wide, drawing from our natural resources, creative talents and commitment to excellence. This spirit of perseverance and strong bonds between our people and communities will serve the State well in recovery.

However, some features of our economic and social structure create vulnerabilities. These are now playing a significant role in shaping the way COVID-19 suppression measures are impacting Tasmania. These are discussed below.

Figure 2.1 – Employment by Industry in Tasmania*

Share of total employment, selected industries



*ABS series are a four-quarter average of original quarterly data.

**Annual estimate by Tourism Research Australia from the ABS' Tourism Satellite Account. The ABS System of National Accounts does not capture tourism as a single industry and tourism-related goods and services are embedded in other industry classifications featured above.

Sources: ABS, Tourism Research Australia

Sector-specific Dependence

One of the features of the Tasmanian economy is that it is particularly dependent on some sectors. Chief among these is tourism and hospitality. According to Tourism Tasmania, visitors to Tasmania spent \$2.54 billion on accommodation, attractions, tours, transport and other goods and services in 2019, representing an average of about \$1 880 per visitor.

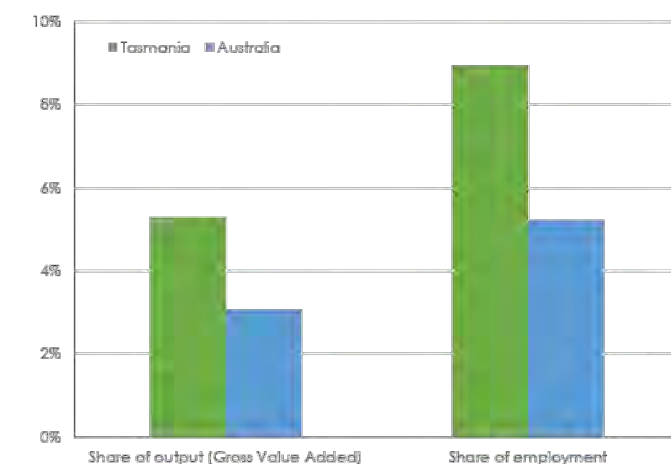
Compared with Australia as a whole, tourism makes up a larger share of value-add and employment in Tasmania. Tasmania's tourism sector as a share of the economy is almost twice the industry's contribution nationally (see Figure 2.2). In addition to the direct jobs created by tourism, there are many other jobs and businesses that are dependent on serving the tourism sector and its supply chain.

Between 2009 and 2019 the number of visitors to Tasmania increased by 48 per cent from 0.91 million to 1.35 million. Prior to COVID-19, Tasmania was receiving more visitors from each of Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland than it was from any one international market. While interstate tourism makes up most of the visitors to the State, international visitors tend to have slightly higher levels of spending relative to interstate visitors.

All tourism and hospitality operators were highly affected during the pandemic suppression period. As suppression measures gradually unwind - relaxed physical

distancing requirements, the opening of first interstate borders and eventually international borders - there will be varying paths to recovery for the sector.

Figure 2.2 – Importance of the Tourism Industry
2018-19



Source: Tourism Research Australia

High Levels of Casual and Part-time Work

Pre-COVID-19, there was a high proportion of the workforce in casual employment. In Tasmania, 51 per cent of people working less than 35 hours a week (that is, part-time) were casual in 2019. By contrast, only 12 per cent of employees working full-time hours were in casual roles. While this is broadly consistent with national trends, 42 per cent of Tasmania's workforce was part-time, compared with 33 per cent nationally.

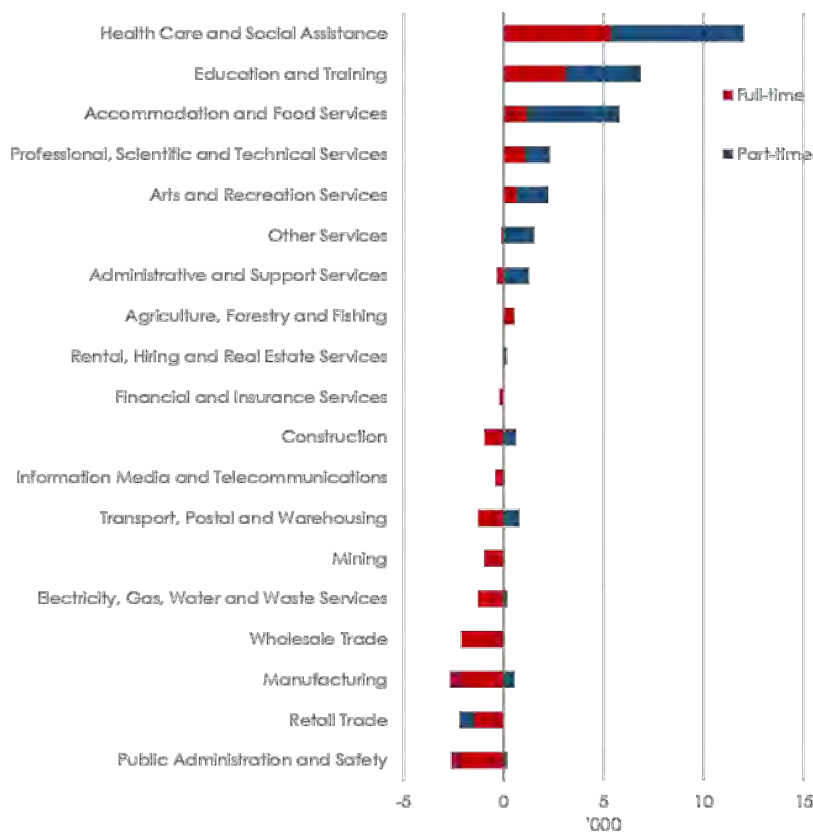
The strong growth in employment Tasmania has seen in recent years has been predominantly part-time (Figure 2.3).

Tasmania's relatively high rate of part-time employment reflects several factors. For example, part-time work suits lifestyle choices for some, such as our older population. However, perhaps the major disadvantage of a casual employment arrangement is the greater likelihood of facing irregular hours of work and fluctuation of earnings. Data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics demonstrates that 28 per cent of part-time employees are likely to want more hours per week. The structure of the Tasmanian economy also plays an important role, with large employing sectors tending to have a high proportion of part-time workers. For example, the accommodation and food services sector has the highest share of part-time workers in Tasmania, with about 65 per cent part-time employment.

Although there has been strong growth in employee compensation over the past two years, particularly in the private sector, Tasmania still has the lowest average hourly rate of pay nationally.

Figure 2.3 – Change in Employed Persons by Industry*

February 2010 to February 2020



*Four-quarter average of February and three prior quarters' original values.

Source: ABS

Inter-generational and Regional Disadvantage

While there has been recent strong economic growth, not everyone has enjoyed its advantages. Many Tasmanians face daily challenges in their financial, social and health outlook. While numbers don't speak to the human realities of those challenges, they do give a sense of its scale in Tasmania:

- 35 per cent of Tasmanian households receive the majority of their income from government payments, compared to 24 per cent of Australian households;
- the number of people on the social housing register increased from 2 054 to 3 330 between 2014 and 2019, with the average wait time from priority applicants being over one year;
- 17 per cent of Tasmanian households do not have access to the internet, and in some regions this is as high as 32 per cent; and
- Tasmanians have worse than national average rates of health risk factors such as obesity, smoking, excessive alcohol consumption and low exercise levels.

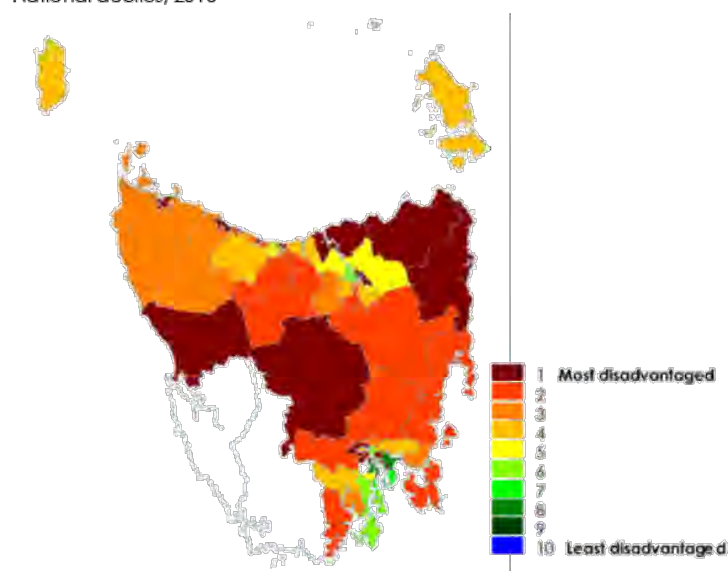
What compounds this disadvantage is that much of it is both inter-generational and focused in specific parts of Tasmania.

The inter-generational disadvantage reaches beyond the lowest socio-economic groups in Tasmania. For example, children in Tasmania's mid-range socio-economic areas are more likely than their interstate counterparts to live in a household where nobody is in work (a known risk factor for long-run disadvantage) and more likely to live in households where the main source of income is government payments.

When it comes to the way disadvantage is focused in Tasmania, the map in Figure 2.4 shows the picture very clearly, with areas coloured dark red indicating the most disadvantaged places.

Figure 2.4 – SEIFA Index of Relative Socio-economic Advantage and Disadvantage

National deciles, 2016



Source: ABS

Mirroring what we see in other places in Australia, advantaged areas tend to be in inner-city parts of metropolitan areas like Hobart and Launceston. At the edges of those cities, there are areas of real hardship and disadvantage. Moving to areas that are more remote, and which have less access to employment opportunities, contemporary infrastructure like the internet, and government and community services, the disadvantage typically deepens.

This clustering of disadvantage in particular places suggests the importance of a geographic lens when considering both COVID-19 impacts and government responses. Of course, pockets of individual disadvantage can also co-exist in otherwise affluent areas.

Where inter-generational poverty exists and disadvantage is focused in particular places, the resilience to shocks such as the COVID-19 pandemic is further weakened by:

- fewer networks for financial, employment or service support;
- no residual, long-term financial resources to draw down on in tough times;
- generational and ongoing chronic illness; and
- the compounding impact of low educational attainment and low levels of literacy and numeracy, magnified by a lack of support for children in their learning.

Despite these inter-generational and regional challenges, many Tasmanian families and communities have a culture of determination, resilience, resourcefulness, and connectedness. In planning for COVID-19 recovery, it is important that we understand the challenges, reinforce our strengths and unite our efforts.

Lower Education Attainment Among Young People

Our young people have significantly lower levels of education and training attainment than the rest of the country. We have the highest proportion of people in Australia with no schooling past year 10. While this is reflective of the long-term nature of the problem, the challenge is a persistent one, with Tasmania's year 12 completion rate still 20 percentage points lower than the national average.

One of the key challenges of this low educational attainment is that it is a major driver of youth unemployment. Young people without year 12 attainment are twice as likely to be unemployed as those with a diploma or higher qualification. Immediately prior to COVID-19, Tasmania's youth unemployment rate was already 12.9 per cent.

Part of what has made this such a tough challenge for Tasmania to address is the mutually reinforcing relationship between inter-generational disadvantage, geographic clustering of disadvantage and low educational attainment rates.

Inevitably a cycle of disadvantage produces major impacts on the overall well-being of young people in Tasmania. This impact is bad, but, it also means young people are more vulnerable when large-scale socio and economic disruptions occur.

There are a range of initiatives already in place to address low levels of education attainment. This includes changes to the *Tasmanian Education Act 2016* which, from 2020, will require students to stay in education or training until they finish year 12, achieve a Certificate III or turn 18. However, this is still a major challenge for Tasmania, which will be magnified by the impacts of the COVID-19 suppression measures.

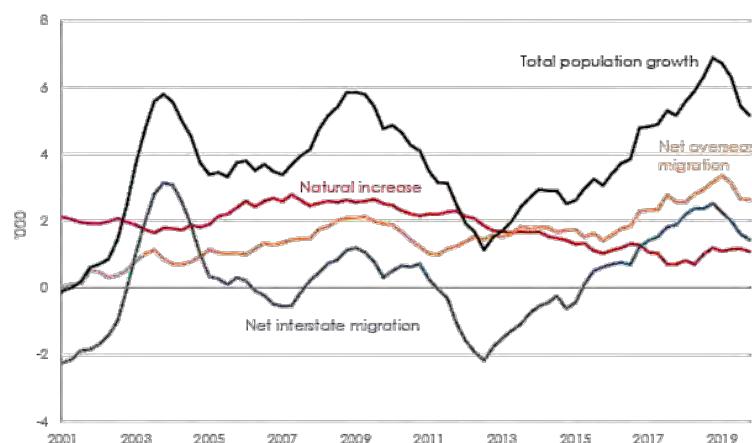
Demographic Challenges and a Dependence on Migration

Tasmania faces natural population decline this decade. Our population is the oldest in Australia and is ageing at a faster rate than the national average. The North East, North, North West and Western regions of Tasmania are at risk of declining in total population due to natural decline and inter-regional migration, despite overall growth in migration to Tasmania from interstate and overseas.

In recent years, a reversal in net interstate migration and increased inwards migration from overseas (Figure 2.5) have contributed to our economic growth. This is why population growth is such a key driver for the State's future - the virtuous cycle of attracting migrants and economic growth benefiting the State.

Figure 2.5 – Components of Population Growth - Tasmania

Four-quarter rolling sum



Source: ABS

Increased migration from interstate and overseas has driven most of our population growth, and because of the age profile of those migrants, our rate of ageing has slowed marginally. Migration has also supported filling critical skills shortages, including in the health sector.

International students have been a key source of growth, with annual overseas student arrivals in Tasmania growing by 94 per cent from 2015 to 2019. The sector was worth over half a billion dollars in 2019, including student fees, rent and retail spend. International students often stay to live permanently in the State.

Population trends are impacting some regions far more adversely than others. For the decade until June 2019, 12 local government areas (LGA) experienced population decline. 11 experienced population growth above the State 10-year average of 0.6 per cent per annum. 16 are experiencing hyper-ageing, whereby 20 per cent of the population is aged over 65 years, pointing to imminent natural decline.

In light of these factors, our State will face many and varied challenges in overcoming the consequences of COVID-19, there are reasons to be optimistic that we will recover and that our economy and community can emerge stronger; as long as we address our weaknesses and leverage our strengths.

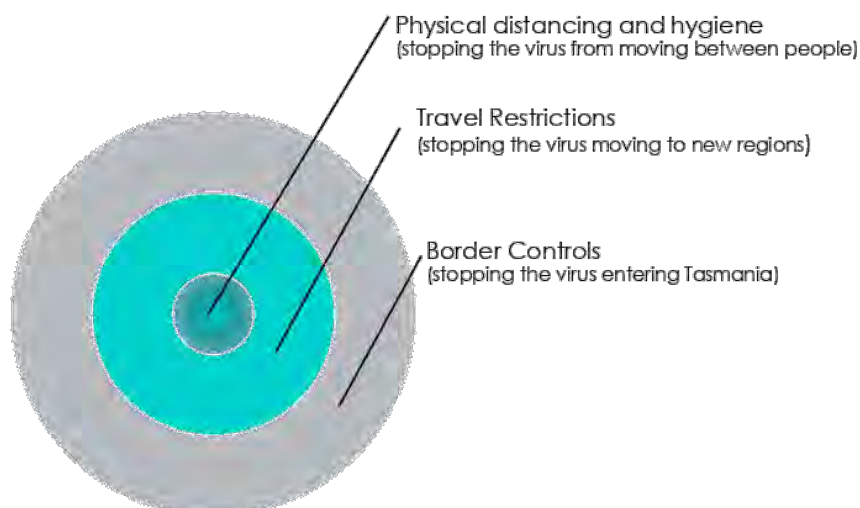
Chapter 3: Suppressing COVID-19

When COVID-19 emerged as a substantial threat to the health and lives of Australians, public health advice was that strong measures would be needed to control its spread. Without them, there was a risk of grave loss of life and for the health system to be overwhelmed, particularly if high numbers of acute cases of COVID-19 developed.

To manage the threat to public health, the Australian and Tasmanian Governments implemented three measures (Figure 3.1), which we refer to as 'COVID-19 suppression measures' throughout this report. These were:

- a range of border controls to limit the arrival of new cases into Australia or into states - to stop the virus getting in;
- travel restrictions within Tasmania - to stop the virus moving to new regions; and
- physical distancing - to stop the virus moving between people.

Figure 3.1 – Australian and Tasmanian Government COVID-19 Suppression Measures



A key focus was avoiding community transmission in Tasmania.

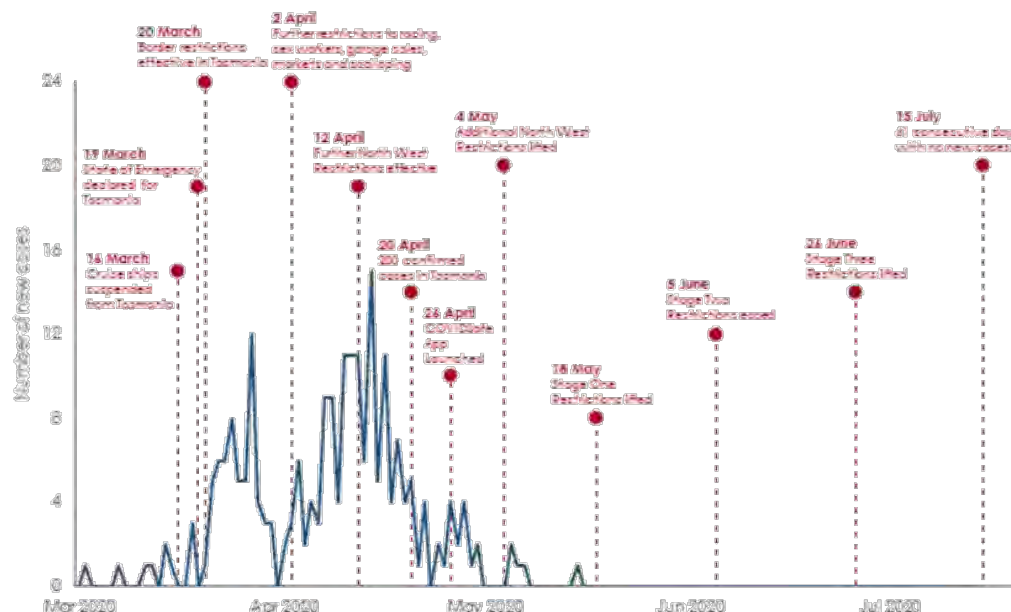
As the health risk grew, the Tasmanian Government increased the extent of physical distancing measures in a bid to control the spread of the disease. The strategy was aimed at 'flattening the curve', that is, slowing the transmission of the virus.

Cases that arrived in Australia, from international travellers, were managed initially through self-isolation. As the threat intensified, a system of compulsory quarantine was introduced. The same strategy was used to manage interstate and overseas arrivals into Tasmania.

As a result of the COVID-19 suppression measures, and the willingness of the vast majority of the community to comply with them, Australia and Tasmania have so far largely avoided the scale of health impacts seen internationally.

Nevertheless, at the time of writing, 226 cases of the disease have been detected in Tasmania, 13 people have died and there has been major disruption to the lives of Tasmanians. The rise and fall in the number of new cases over time is shown in the Figure 3.2.

Figure 3.2 – Timeline of COVID-19 in Tasmania*



*Date of notification to Public Health Services.

Sources: Department of Premier and Cabinet, Public Health Services

While all three regions across the State have recorded COVID-19 cases, the North West region experienced the largest outbreak, with 149 of the State's 226 cases and 12 of the State's 13 deaths.

The outbreak in the North West in April 2020 drove the peak in new cases shown in the Figure 3.2. It began among health workers from the North West Regional Hospital (NWRH) who were treating patients that contracted COVID-19 on board the Ruby Princess cruise ship, and quickly spread to their close contacts.

Factors that may have contributed to the transmission of the virus in this setting and actions to help mitigate future risk in the Tasmanian Health Service are set out in the *North West Regional Hospital Outbreak - Interim Report*. A separate independent review into the outbreak is also underway with a report expected in October this year. The lessons that come from these reviews should provide a strong foundation for confidence that a similar outbreak will be well-managed should it occur in the future.

The Government (with assistance from the Australian Defence Force and an Australian Medical Assistance Team) brought the North West outbreak under control with strong suppression measures. This included quarantining all NWRH and North West Private Hospital staff and discharged patients and their households for 14 days, closing

businesses where there was a risk of people gathering and restricting the movement of people within the region.

The success of the strategies adopted in the North West is demonstrated through the State's infection levels, which have diminished over time. As at 15 July 2020, there had been no active cases in Tasmania for 61 days.

In addition to the direct impact on the health of Tasmanians infected, there were broader health impacts on the Tasmanian community. Some services, such as elective surgery and dental procedures, were put on hold or deferred. Face-to-face delivery of many other health and social services was reduced and more services shifted to an online or Telehealth mode of delivery. While some face-to-face services have returned to normal, others continue to be constrained. Some members of the community were also less willing or unable to attend appointments due to restrictions or concerns around contracting the virus.

The Australian Government expanded Telehealth services to allow continued access to health care advice, particularly for vulnerable people and where face-to-face services were not practical. As health services return to normal, there will likely be a pent-up demand for health services deferred during the higher risk period of the pandemic.

The measures that were introduced by the Australian and Tasmanian Governments have saved lives and to date, enabled our health system to cope with the case load.

Governments around the country have increased capacity in the health care system to be able to treat a greater number of patients with the virus.

Global efforts to better understand the virus and develop treatment regimes are ongoing, as is the search for a vaccine. Until these efforts bear fruit - and this may take considerable time - the only realistic approach is to develop strategies to co-exist with COVID-19 in a way that appropriately manages the health risks and costs alongside the economic and social costs arising from those management strategies.

In Australia, governments moved quickly to tighten the grip on the virus with increasingly severe suppression measures. This has proven highly successful in containing the spread of the virus to date. However, it has also come at an enormous cost, both in economic and social terms. We consider this in more detail in Chapter 4.

By contrast, a much more gradual approach has been taken to removing those suppression measures. Australian States and Territories have moved at different rates and there has been considerable debate about the pace of change. There is also anxiety about the potential for the re-emergence of active cases in Tasmania, particularly looking to the experience of other places where outbreaks of the virus are emerging after a reasonably successful initial suppression.

Around the world other governments have, to varying degrees, implemented similar measures with different levels of success. The struggles other countries are having in maintaining measures to suppress COVID-19 has major implications for Australia and Tasmania's recovery. It increases the risk of further outbreaks, limits travel and migration and will impact their economies, with likely flow on effects for Tasmania's economy.

Chapter 4: The Economic and Social Impact of COVID-19

Broad-based and Structural Impacts on the Economy from Suppression Measures

COVID-19 suppression measures have had a substantial impact on the economy in two ways: a broad-based drop in demand and the structural impact on specific sectors, people and places.

These economic impacts, combined with other restrictions and physical distancing measures, have in turn led to significant social impacts. We deal firstly with the economic impacts.

Impact on Businesses and Employment from Broad-based Drop in Demand

The first major impact of the COVID-19 suppression measures has been a sudden and broad-based drop in demand, which has been driven by a combination of:

- lockdown and physical distancing measures, which have constrained opportunities for economic activity;
- households reducing discretionary expenditure (and increasing savings where possible) in response to reduced incomes and uncertainty about the future;
- businesses hibernating and closing;
- medium and longer-term business confidence falling away in light of uncertainty, leading to deferral or cancellation of investment activities (impacting on services at the 'front end' of the pipeline, such as professional services); and
- unemployment and under-employment rising across all industry sectors.

Demand has been further reduced by supply chain disruptions caused by production issues across the globe and issues with air and sea freight services. International shipping costs have increased, and service frequency has reduced. Air services on and off the island - vital to tourism, hospitality and agricultural and aquaculture exports - practically stopped, and there has been uncertainty around when (and which) airlines will schedule flights and their frequency, and at what price.

Because of the time lags, we are only now starting to get detailed and comprehensive data on the economic impacts of COVID-19 suppression measures. For many Tasmanian businesses, revenues have fallen significantly and the COVID-19 Safe workplace requirements have increased operational costs and impacted efficiency and scale. Lower revenues, higher costs and declining cash flow mean that many have had to draw down working capital reserves and/or increase borrowings to stay viable in the short-term.

Small businesses (which employ almost half of Tasmania's total private-sector work force) are finding it particularly challenging to survive these difficult times; many have

limited reserves and face obstacles in accessing capital. The difficulty in gaining additional financial support is further exacerbated by the fact that many Tasmanian businesses operate in service industries with limited tangible assets (property, plant and equipment) that they can offer as security.

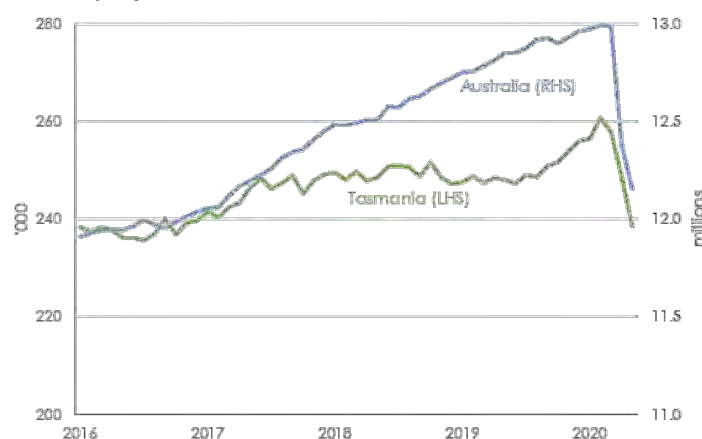
Many community service organisations are also experiencing challenges; uncertain revenue streams (such as short-term funding arrangements and suspensions in fundraising activities and donations), and increased demand for services. Further, many organisations are finding it difficult to attract and retain volunteers. It has been reported that around 70 per cent of volunteer programs have been suspended and about 240 000 volunteer hours have stopped being delivered every week.

In response, enterprises have had to reduce costs, hibernate, change business models or close. In turn, many people have been made redundant or are working reduced hours.

Nationally, between March and May 2020, employment fell by about 835 000 persons. Over the same period, about 19 200 Tasmanians lost their employment (Figure 4.1).

Figure 4.1 – Employment

Seasonally adjusted



Source: ABS

The reduction in the number of people employed has not translated into a substantial increase in the unemployment rate in Tasmania. Tasmania's unemployment rate has increased by a relatively modest 1.4 percentage points to 6.4 per cent (Figure 4.2). Nationally, the unemployment rate has increased 1.9 percentage points to 7.1 per cent.

However, Tasmania's relatively low unemployment rate does not fully reflect the impact that COVID-19 suppression measures have had on employment and economic capacity more broadly, for two key reasons.

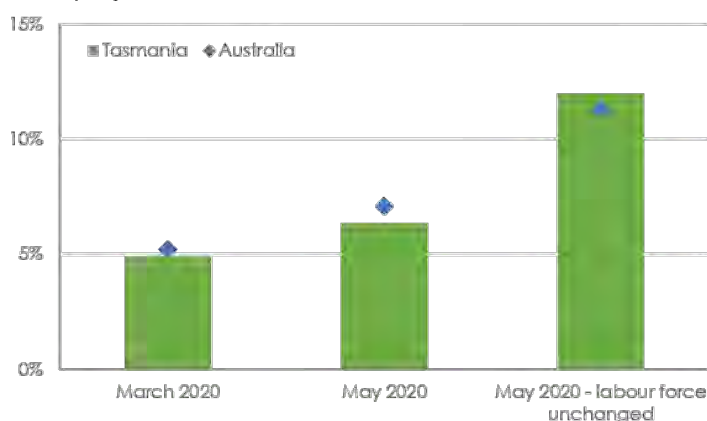
- Firstly, about 85 per cent of people who have lost their employment in Tasmania since March have left the labour force. If those people had remained in the labour force, Tasmania's unemployment rate would be close to 12 per cent.

- Secondly, there are people who are not working but are receiving JobKeeper support and therefore are considered to be employed.

Both factors, alongside reduced working hours and the use of paid leave entitlements, mean the unemployment rate, in Tasmania and Australia, has remained relatively low. There is a very real risk that unemployment will rise when the current support measures cease.

Figure 4.2 – Unemployment Rate

Seasonally adjusted



Sources: ABS, PESRAC calculations

Consistent with the estimated underlying unemployment rate of about 12 per cent, hours worked in Tasmania have declined by almost 14 per cent since March 2020, the largest decline of any state or territory.

While already the lowest in Australia, Tasmania's participation rate has fallen by 3.7 percentage points to 57.3 per cent since March 2020 - again the largest decline of any jurisdiction.

The increasing number of unemployed people, combined with the growing number of people who have given up looking for jobs, highlights the State's major challenges - the need to stimulate demand, create jobs and draw people back into the labour force, while supporting people to upskill and reskill.

Given the rapidly developing situation, we are not yet seeing impacts on the long-term unemployed. Tasmanians who have been looking for work for an extended period of time will find it even harder to secure work in a much more competitive labour market, where people with very recent job experience are also competing for the pool of available jobs.

Along with the immediate and broad-based drop in demand across the economy, there are numerous factors that are likely to lead to further suppression of demand in coming months, including:

- significant reductions in forward orders and capital expenditure by businesses;

- potential reduction in exports due to supply chain disruption, and uncertainty in, and access to, global markets; and
- withdrawal of, or major changes to, current stimulus measures and other policy responses.

The impacts on demand and employment have been so significant that the national economy is expected to go into recession for the first time in almost 30 years and the drop in economic activity may be comparable with the largest falls seen in the last 100 years. This provides a sense of the magnitude of the challenge in restoring our economy to its pre-COVID-19 levels.

Structural Impacts on Specific Sections of the Economy

The measures governments have introduced to protect public health, combined with pre-existing features of our economy as described earlier, have resulted in specific sectors, people and places being hit particularly hard.

Specific Sectors

Sectors that are highly exposed to people's ability to travel and gather have been especially impacted. Between February and May 2020, 58 per cent of all employment losses nationally were in accommodation and food services, arts and recreation services, and education and training.

As shown in Figure 4.3, all sectors of Tasmanian industry, bar one, have recorded job losses during the pandemic. Of the 19 industry sectors, eight recorded a decline in jobs greater than 7 per cent between 14 March and 13 June 2020.

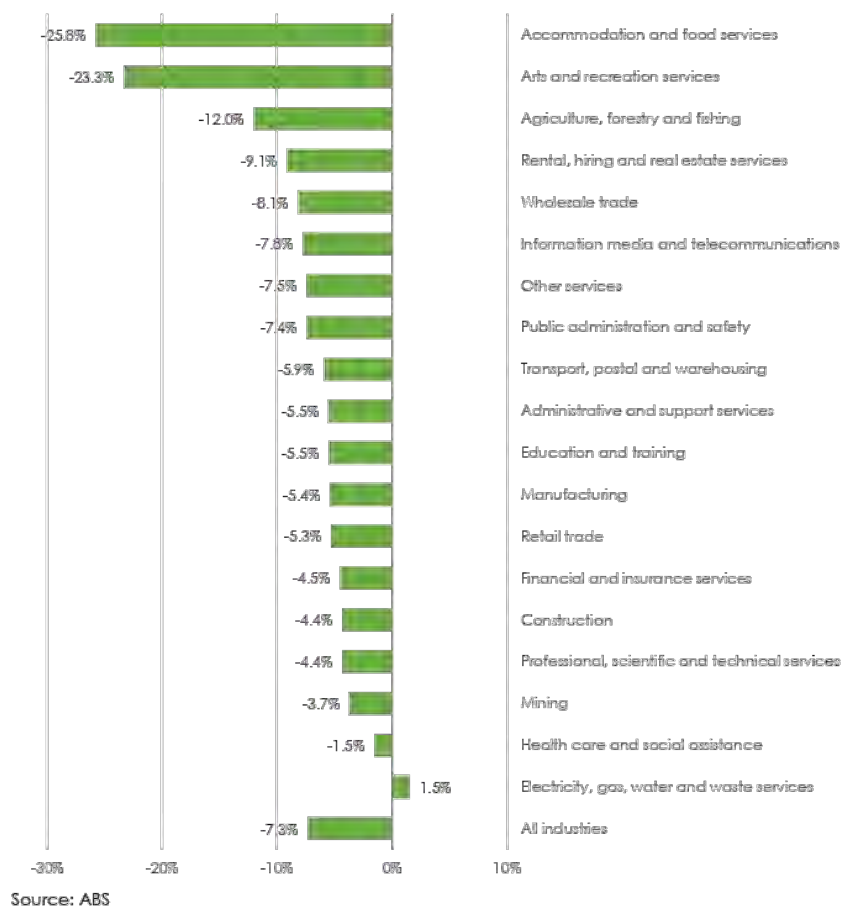
Jobs in the accommodation and food services sector contracted by over a quarter between March and June 2020, the largest contraction of all sectors. This reflects the immediate pause of interstate and overseas visitors, restrictions on intrastate travel and the forced closure of many food-based businesses.

International border controls by Australia and other countries are expected to remain in place for an extended period, and the willingness of people to travel long distances in aircraft is as yet untested. Once restrictions are relaxed, it will take significant time for travel to return to pre-COVID-19 levels, meaning these impacts are likely to be structural and long-term. There is also the risk that we will continue to see outbreaks like those that have occurred in Melbourne that might constrain interstate tourism.

Tourism will be reshaped not just by border restrictions but also by physical distancing requirements. While COVID-19 continues to be a threat, there will be restrictions on large gatherings, which will limit tourism that is built around major events. Already major festivals such as Dark MoFo, the Festival of Voices, the Taste of Tasmania and the Falls Festival have been cancelled.

Figure 4.3 – Change in Payroll Jobs - Tasmania

14 March 2020 to 13 June 2020



While it is a relatively small employing sector, the arts and recreation services sector has also been heavily impacted. Jobs fell by almost a quarter between March and June 2020, which is not surprising given the high degree of inter-connectivity with the tourism sector, and the fact that physical distancing measures means that these activities simply can't be conducted.

People

Children and Young People

Children have felt the impact as individuals, through isolation from family, friends, school, support services and community involvement. They have also felt impacts arising from the concerns and stresses of the adults who care for them.

In some instances, children's engagement in quality education and play opportunities has also been impacted. Face-to-face options, such as play groups, have either hibernated or shifted to online delivery modes. Many parents also decided to remove

children from early childhood education and care. Access to these services may continue to be compromised due to concerns around the ongoing viability of early childhood education and care service providers, particularly smaller centres in regional areas.

Students of all ages have been impacted to varying degrees, due to a range of factors such as access to online learning and the ability to attend school. Upheaval in routines has also limited access to support for children and young people, as physical attendance at schools and face-to-face contacts with trusted adults within a child's networks have been limited. Engagement with social and/or child safety services may also have been impacted.

Young people are particularly vulnerable to the disruptions the pandemic has caused, and some are now at risk of being left behind in education, economic opportunities, and health and well-being during a crucial stage of their life development. Young people have had stressful life events like studying for their year 10 or 12 certificates significantly disrupted.

Young people have also been particularly hard hit by the job losses. While total employment in Tasmania fell by 7.4 per cent from March to May, nearly one-in-five Tasmanians aged 15-24 lost their employment. New apprenticeships have dropped dramatically in most sectors (Figure 4.4). Appropriate courses and training pathways will be critical in supporting young people to find jobs in a shrinking and competitive labour market.

Figure 4.4 – Apprentice and Trainee Contracts Registered in Tasmania
As at 7 July 2020



Source: Skills Tasmania

Women

In many ways, women have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19. The reasons for this include:

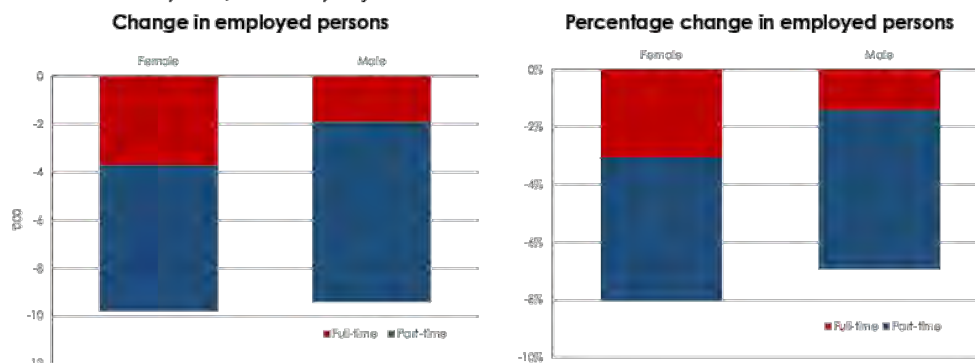
- women heavily dominate the industries that are on the 'frontline' of the COVID-19 crisis, including health care, social assistance, education, retail and cleaning;
- social norms mean women are more likely to take on additional household and caring responsibilities arising due to COVID-19, such as home-schooling and

caring for older family members, those with a disability and those who are unwell;

- women are over-represented in casual work as well as in industries that are suffering in the crisis, such as accommodation and food services, which makes their re-employment opportunities vulnerable depending how these industries recover; and
- a higher proportion of women have lost jobs, compared with men - between March and May, female employment in Tasmania fell by 8 per cent while male employment fell by 6.9 per cent (Figure 4.5). While more women lost full-time employment than men, total employment lost by men and women is broadly the same.

Figure 4.5 – Change in Employment in Tasmania

March 2020 to May 2020, seasonally adjusted



Source: ABS

Casual Workers

Those in casual work have been hard-hit due to the high dependence on casual workers in sectors most impacted (especially accommodation and food services), as well as employers generally taking advantage of the flexibility afforded to them through this type of employment arrangement.

Some casual workers do not qualify for JobKeeper support (although a proportion of those would qualify for JobSeeker), and many have found themselves in a vulnerable situation with no ongoing engagement with their employer.

People Disproportionately Impacted

There is a risk that some groups already living in a range of vulnerable circumstances or social disadvantage before the pandemic are disproportionately impacted.

The full impact on Tasmanians including children, Tasmanian Aboriginals, people with disabilities, LGBTIQI+, people from cultural and linguistically diverse backgrounds, older Tasmanians and those already living in poverty are yet to be fully understood. In addition, many people living in Tasmania on temporary visa arrangements are vulnerable as they too have been left with no income for an extended period.

It will take time for us to fully understand the short, medium and possible long-term impacts for all Tasmanians, and specifically these groups. It is likely many people within these groups may have already experienced disproportionate impacts. We are seeking a deeper understanding of the effects.

There are a multiplicity of services assisting socially disadvantaged Tasmanians because there are often specialised solutions required according to individual background. The data required to fully understand the emerging needs is often fragmented. Access to and interrogation of data, including government administrative data, throughout recovery will be important in gaining this understanding to inform responses.

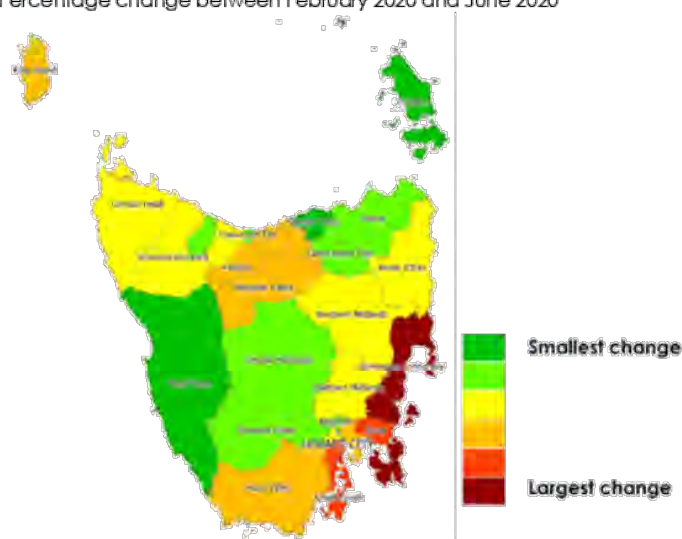
The Regions

All regions in Tasmania have been impacted to varying degrees by COVID-19 and the suppression measures.

However, some regions, such as the East Coast, have been disproportionately impacted because of their reliance on tourism and because those regions had large proportions of their workforce in less secure jobs.

An analysis of the Australian Government's employment services program (Jobactive) caseload data by LGA reveals that almost all LGAs have experienced greater than a 50 per cent increase in the number of people looking for work and using the employment service (Figure 4.6).

Figure 4.6 – Jobactive caseload
Percentage change between February 2020 and June 2020



Source: Australian Government Department of Education, Skills and Employment

The data also highlights that LGAs that had the highest proportion of people using an employment service before COVID-19 - West Coast, Break O'Day and George Town - remain at the top of the list.

However, two LGAs on the East Coast of Tasmania - Glamorgan-Spring Bay and Tasman - recorded the largest increase in the number of people using the employment service since COVID-19 hit, as both a share of their resident populations and also their pre-COVID-19 caseloads.

The Social Impact

COVID-19 suppression measures have impacted people's health, well-being and quality of life. The economic impacts have, in turn, added to the social impacts already being felt from physical distancing requirements and other restrictions.

To understand the broader social impact on people's well-being, we have used the OECD's Better Life Initiative well-being framework. The framework sets out, as drivers of well-being, health, access to material basics such as food and housing, social connectedness, safety and security, learning and skills and employment and income. These have all been affected by COVID-19 and the suppression measures in Tasmania.

While we do not have a comprehensive picture of social impacts due to lags in data, during times of stress and hardship across society there is generally a corresponding increase in anxiety, mental health issues, psychological distress, alcohol consumption, and family violence. For people who have pre-existing experiences of one or more of these circumstances, the impact is likely to be exacerbated.

Those in precarious employment or financial circumstances, living in poor quality housing, socially or digitally isolated, needing access to face-to-face services, or already struggling with health or mental health issues have been particularly impacted during the suppression period.

Sudden and dramatic changes in people's financial position have resulted in increased demand for social supports such as food relief and emergency housing. These sudden impacts, as well as isolation, loneliness, uncertainty, anxiety and a loss of purpose, have driven increases in those seeking support for mental health.

These social impacts have the potential to pose new service delivery challenges for the government and community sectors in planning, preparing, pre-empting and responding to the issues.

Increased Insecurity Around Life Basics: Food, Housing, Heating

The COVID-19 lock-down resulted in many Tasmanians facing the reality that they could no longer afford to support themselves or their families, some for the very first time. The loss of income has had direct impacts on people's security, particularly access to material basics such as food and housing. Many Tasmanians, who before the pandemic considered themselves financially stable, are being hit by rental or mortgage stress for the first time. Social service providers have noted an increase in people seeking emergency accommodation, particularly women and young people. Temporary visa holders, students and those receiving disability supports have also been among those seeking food relief and housing support.

Emergency food relief has emerged as an immediate and ongoing concern. Food insecurity through the pandemic was caused by numerous factors ranging from not having enough money due to sudden job loss through to local stores being closed or not accessible. While many of these acute needs during the suppression period will have passed, the current and anticipated levels of unemployment suggest that more Tasmanians will be seeking food relief into the medium-term.

As people's income and financial circumstances continue to be placed under pressure, many social services are particularly concerned about the capacity of vulnerable Tasmanians to secure appropriate housing (and homelessness services) and to pay for heating during Tasmania's cold winter months.

Increased Mental Health Challenges

The demand for mental health services has increased in our community. Providers have reported increased anxiety and mental health issues among children, young people and families in financial distress. People who have not accessed social support services in the past are now seeking help for a range of reasons. Service providers have reported that 67 per cent of those seeking support for psychological distress are new clients.

The Lifeline Tasmania COVID-19 response call-centre continues to receive calls from Tasmanians experiencing psychological distress. A high proportion of callers name as the dominant reason for their call:

- fear and anxiety about the future;
- lack of control;
- financial distress; and
- isolation and loneliness.

Callers describe these concerns resulting in:

- impacts on their physical health and mental health;
- lack of motivation and purpose; and
- loss of connectedness often related to their loss of employment.

The increase in demand for services supporting people with mental health issues is anticipated to continue into the foreseeable future. Isolation, loneliness, lack of connection and anxiety are the most significant causes, however, parenting issues, alcohol and drug issues, unemployment and relationship problems are all increasing demand for mental health support.

With anticipated increases in unemployment and underemployment the social impacts are likely to expand across our society and regions, with increases in anxiety and mental health issues.

Family Violence

The burden of stress and anxiety arising from the pandemic - either the virus itself, the suppression measures or the loss of jobs and income - combined with people being confined in homes have contributed to many social impacts, including variability in

reported rates of family violence and an increase in demand for family violence support services. Tasmania Police reporting data on family violence shows the number of reportable incidents dropped during the lock-down period. Figures in May 2020 rose above the three year average and levelled in June 2020 to be consistent with average reporting rates.

As with all social areas of health and well-being, anecdotal evidence from service providers demonstrates many individuals may have experienced increased levels of coercion both emotionally and financially, and increased levels of emotional and physical abuse during this period. The reduced ability to safely contact support services during this period is also expected to impact in ways not captured in the data.

Restrictions on households and individuals, reduced access to schools, workplaces or social interactions and support systems has changed the way services are providing support and how family violence is being reported during COVID-19. We are still building our understanding of the impact it has had on family violence.

Changing Attitudes and Practices that will Shape How We Recover

Business and individuals have responded to COVID-19 and the suppression measures by redesigning their ways of working and providing services. This has led to some significant and interesting changes in work practices and social attitudes, which will play an important role in our recovery.

Until a vaccine becomes available or rapid treatments are developed, we will need to adapt to live with COVID-19 in our society. During the recovery period, it is important that organisations, governments, communities, and individuals remain flexible, adaptable and resilient.

Changes in Work Practices

Public, private, and not-for-profit sector organisations have changed work practices, and in some instances introduced significant changes, in a very short period of time.

Changes in work practices that have been introduced over the past several months include:

- large proportions of workforces working from home or remotely;
- reducing travel and face-to-face meetings and using video conferencing;
- embracing physical distancing measures in the workplace and implementing new travel arrangements;
- adopting new service delivery models (for example, Telehealth);
- re-tooling to produce goods in short supply (for example, hand sanitiser);
- adopting new business models (for example, re-assessing the 'just-in-time' delivery approach and building relevant inventories);
- increasing web presence and online sales, in part as businesses discourage the use of cash sales; and

- adopting new purchasing arrangements (for example, introducing flexible purchasing arrangements for social services to allow them to meet new and growing demands with a responsive and agile approach).

Many of the work practice changes represent a positive dividend from our COVID-19 experience. A reversion to 'the way things used to be' during recovery might not be the best approach in all cases, and we may have unlocked permanent improvements in the way business is conducted - for the environment (for example, less business travel), for work-life balance (for example, flexible working arrangements) and for business bottom lines (for example, new revenue lines).

Changes in Social Attitudes

COVID-19 has impacted all Tasmanians, but the impacts on individuals differ and people have responded in a variety of ways.

People have embraced some of the new ways services are being provided. Many Tasmanians say they would continue using Telehealth and other online or telephone support services. Such changes in practices and attitudes will do much to support these being lasting and positive changes.

But not all changes in attitude have been so positive. Some Tasmanians have reported that they do not feel safe in public or shared spaces. Some are reluctant to go back to social activities they used to participate in, even as restrictions are relaxed. This concern may ease if COVID-19 cases in Tasmania continue to be minimal but should we see outbreaks like in Victoria or other places where restrictions have eased, these attitudes could become more permanent.

Some Tasmanians have reported that the pandemic has changed them as a person. Others have indicated that it has changed their life priorities. We do not yet know where this will lead but there are some interesting early hints. For example, some Tasmanians have reported that they have started to grow their own food and many are interested in learning how to grow, catch or hunt their own food. This may reflect a shift in perspectives on food. Some Tasmanians have reported that they think that local produce is now more important as a result of the pandemic.

A survey by the University of Tasmania suggests that many people are hoping that a different Tasmania will emerge as part of the recovery process. Respondents strongly supported improvements in affordable housing, health care, education and sustainability.

As we reflect on 'what are we looking for from the recovery' it appears that Tasmanians are focused not just on seeing our economy start up again and jobs return but seeing us find ways to improve the well-being of all Tasmanians.

The Situation Remains Dynamic, and That's Not Likely to Change

COVID-19 was first reported in China on 31 December 2019. It took just nine weeks for Tasmania to record its first case. Tasmanian borders were effectively closed about three weeks after that, and three weeks later, the whole of the North West was under the then strongest lockdown arrangements in the country.

The three-stage unwinding strategy commenced in May and, based on health advice, has since been accelerated.

Just as Australia was beginning to emerge from the crisis, during late June, outbreaks of COVID-19 re-emerged around Melbourne. Other States have responded by closing their borders to Victorians. People's anxiety about a second wave is on the increase.

Some of the impacts that we have observed through the acute suppression phase will have passed as we move towards 'a new normal', while some will be longer lasting. There may well be new impacts in Tasmania as circumstances shift. We are still to see the impacts arising from unwinding of the Australian Government's key hibernation strategies, which are likely to have masked or delayed the real impacts from COVID-19.

In the recovery phase, restoring confidence and economic growth are key ingredients in assisting the thousands of Tasmanians who now find themselves looking for work and living on inadequate income levels - the same hurdles as Tasmanians who were already socially disadvantaged.

The situation will remain fluid, and the impacts of COVID-19 are dynamic, and in many cases, not yet observed. This situation is likely to remain for some time and it is important that Government responses are designed and implemented in context of the longer-term recovery.

Chapter 5: Governments' Response to COVID-19

COVID-19 has presented once-in-a-lifetime challenges for governments at all levels. Rapid responses were required to both suppress the spread of the virus and to deal with the immediate economic and social consequences of those COVID-19 suppression measures.

The Tasmanian Government initially announced a series of stimulus and support initiatives exceeding \$1 billion designed to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 suppression measures and provide relief to businesses, individuals, households and the broader community. In parallel with this, the Australian Government also announced about \$270 billion in response with the same purpose and broad scale approach. Tasmanian councils too have played an important role, committing in the order of \$40 million in response initiatives.

The swift responses from governments were needed in light of the rapidly evolving crisis that had no precedent. The result was a wide-ranging set of initiatives - some overlapping, and some with gaps - to offset the impacts of COVID-19 suppression measures. Due to the insulating effect of many of these temporary stimulus and support initiatives, some of the medium and longer-term implications of COVID-19 remain masked.

The recovery now needs to build on the good work already undertaken.

In this Chapter, we have mapped the responses against the broad economic impact, the sector-specific impact and the social impact. Chapter 6 sets out the areas for immediate action that we considers will strengthen responses in each of these areas in the short term, as we embark on the recovery journey.

Economic Impact

Response to Fall in Broad-based Demand and Employment

As discussed in the previous Chapter, COVID-19 suppression measures have had a significant global impact, including a broad-based decline in economic activity. Household consumption, business activity and international trade of goods and services have all been severely affected.

With demand falling and, as a result, revenue declining, businesses have had to cut costs substantially. The scale of the drop in revenue has meant that many businesses have had to look to their payrolls and stand down people, which has only further depressed demand throughout the economy. Even then for many businesses, survival has become a real challenge.

On the economic front, governments' responses have sought to address these challenges by supporting demand, maintaining people's connection to employment, and supporting business to manage through this period of depressed demand.

Supporting Demand

To support demand, governments have delivered a broad range of payments to businesses, households and individuals. These have included:

- The Australian Government announced a series of stimulus and support initiatives for households and individuals impacted by COVID-19 suppression measures. This included \$14.1 billion in funding for supplementary income support payments under JobSeeker, \$8.8 billion in targeted economic support payments for households and in excess of \$1 billion for the early release of superannuation.
- A centre-piece of the recovery strategy by the State Government was its \$3.1 billion 'Construction Blitz', announced on 4 June 2020, which will support increased activity in the home-building (about 2 300 new dwellings) and commercial construction sectors, as well as roads and other infrastructure.
- The State Government provided \$200 million in Local Government loans and \$70 million in funding for the Government maintenance program.

Supporting Employment

To maintain people's connection to employment the Australian Government announced several initiatives aimed at mitigating job losses and providing some protection to the business sector, specifically, the \$70 billion JobKeeper program to support businesses to retain staff.

The State Government made a number of changes to payroll tax to support employment directly, including waiving 2019-20 payroll tax for businesses with payrolls up to \$5 million, waiving payroll tax for 2019-20 for businesses in the tourism, hospitality and seafood businesses, waiving payroll tax on JobKeeper wages, and introducing a 12-month payroll tax rebate for new youth employees.

Supporting Business Survival

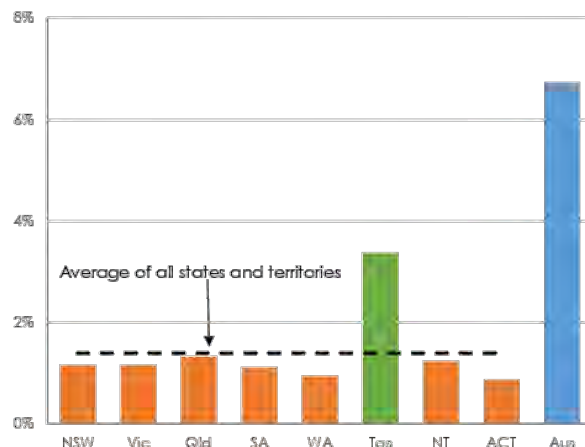
To support business to survive through this period the Australian Government provided \$32 billion to boost cash flow for employers, and in excess of \$125 billion to support the flow of credit in the Australian economy. Similarly, the Tasmanian Government announced approximately \$120 million in funding for small business loans, continuity grants and training programs, which delivered much-needed immediate support to the small-business sector. The measures introduced by the financial services sector to enable businesses (and individuals) to defer loan repayments for a six-month period was also a key business survival initiative. In early July, this was extended for a further four months.

The level of stimulus and support initiatives provided by the Tasmanian Government has so far been an order of magnitude larger than other States and Territories and reflects both the level of impact on the State and the Government's commitment to support Tasmanians and to maintain enough momentum in the economy to increase the chances of a more rapid recovery (Figure 5.1).

We are now at a point where we need to transition from government partially filling the gap in demand and providing support to seeing businesses grow again and take on employees.

Figure 5.1 – Government COVID-19 Fiscal Response Measures

Share of pre-COVID-19 GSP/GDP



Source: Grattan Institute

Responses to Structural Impacts

Governments' responses have recognised some of the structural impacts.

Sectors Disproportionately Impacted

We saw in Chapter 4 the way particular sectors have been disproportionately impacted, especially the tourism and hospitality sector. Governments' have been very alert to these more severe sectoral impacts. As a way of encouraging Tasmanians to support tourism and food businesses who were required to close during COVID-19, the Tasmanian Government committed \$1 million in funding to the *Holiday at Home* campaign.

It has also provided a range of support to the creative and cultural industries, taxi operators, seafood and fisheries and the recreation sector, especially sporting clubs, who have been particularly impacted.

Children and Young People

As discussed in Chapter 4, children and young people have been widely recognised as being particularly impacted by the pandemic, and for some, the impacts of the pandemic have been quite significant.

In addition to the Australian Government's income and business support initiatives, the Tasmanian Government committed \$65 000 in funding to the Youth Network of Tasmania to develop a campaign and communication strategy for young Tasmanians in response to COVID-19. They have also provided a series of rental packages for low-income persons and households, and increased the capacity of existing services that provide support for homelessness, mental health, family violence and young people in care.

Providing employment and training opportunities for young people will be critical in the recovery process. Work is already underway within Government to promote effective, agile and accessible training pathways that will help leverage the growth potential of sectors such as infrastructure, renewable energy, advanced manufacturing, health and care services.

The Tasmanian Government also committed \$2.5 million in funding to enhance child safety and well-being systems, including expanding the *After Hours Response Service* for children and families at risk and provided grants for the purchase of hygiene and basic essential cleaning products.

Women

Women are over-represented in casual and part-time work and make up large proportions of the workforce in sectors that are particularly suffering in the crisis (such as hospitality, retail, childcare and social support services). The major infrastructure and construction stimulus initiatives delivered by the Australian and State governments will have an indirect positive impact on female dominated sectors, but the major initial incidence of the stimulus will be on sectors in which female employees are under-represented.

The health and community services sector is dominated by female employment, and therefore additional resources that have been deployed into this sector in response to COVID-19 will contribute to potentially creating additional jobs for women.

The Australian Government also committed \$1.6 billion in funding support for the child care sector, protecting the high female representation in that sector's workforce and also providing opportunities for parents to continue working.

As with all employment, the most effective way to rebuild the sectors that have higher levels of female employment and continue to be adversely impacted will be the unwinding of the COVID-19 suppression measures. There are some additional measures we consider should be implemented to enhance employment opportunities for women, and these are discussed in Chapter 6.

Regional Impacts

The full extent of the social and economic impacts on regions - particularly those that rely heavily on tourism and hospitality - are expected to be experienced once the current stimulus and support initiatives end (specifically JobKeeper and JobSeeker).

We know that regional economies are more inter-dependent than larger cities and significant economic shocks are felt far more acutely in people's day-to-day lives and livelihoods due to the smaller population bases. Until such time as borders reopen and physical distancing measures are significantly relaxed, there will be a continued lag in demand and the recovery in regional areas will be slow.

In the meantime, the Tasmanian Government's *Holiday at Home* campaign to help the tourism sector will also benefit the regions of Tasmania.

The Government's \$200 million loans scheme for local government will bring a regionally dispersed stimulus, while the roll out of the housing and infrastructure programs can shape stimulus in a way that meets regional objectives.

Finally, the individual responses of each municipality will help deliver support and stimulus right across Tasmania.

Social Impact Responses

The extent of lasting social impacts resulting from increased disconnection and the widespread restrictions on movement during the suppression period remain largely unknown. Our expectation is that these may have been more prevalent for those from low socio-economic cohorts, the elderly and young people and particularly for those groups living in smaller regional Tasmania and other minority groups.

In relation to immediate acute impacts, responses from the State and Australian Governments, reflected an awareness that, in times of crisis and hardship across society, there is a corresponding increase in anxiety, mental health issues, psychological distress, alcohol consumption, and family violence.

To ease the financial burden on families and individuals, the Tasmanian Government provided \$13 million in waivers and refunds of school levies for 2020, emergency relief payments for low-income persons, \$20 million in fees and charges relief by capping electricity prices and freezing water bills for 2020-21, and \$3 million in funding assistance for temporary visa holders facing financial hardship, the latter addressing a gap in the Australian Government's enhanced income support initiatives.

The Tasmanian Government provided strong protections for renters by enacting a moratorium on residential evictions, preventing rent increases up to 30 June 2020 (recently extended through to 30 September 2020), while providing immediate assistance to low-income persons and households through a rent relief fund.

Insecurity Around Life Basics: Food, Housing, Heating

The COVID-19 suppression period resulted in many Tasmanians facing the reality they could not afford, or could not access, the food they needed to feed their family. As part of a \$3 million emergency relief package, the Tasmanian Government committed increased funding to several providers (including Foodbank, Meals on Wheels, Loaves and Fishes and City Mission), to provide meals for people facing hardship.

The Tasmanian Government also committed \$6.7 million in rent relief for social housing tenants, as well as \$2.6 million in funding support to the existing *Safe Night Space* pilot program, which provides a safe, overnight place for those sleeping rough in Hobart, Launceston and Burnie. The Tasmanian Government also committed to a series of rental programs for low-income persons and households, as well as implementing caps and freezes on water and electricity prices for 2020-21 (estimated to help 244 500 households).

Nationally, the Australian Government provided \$200 million for organisations providing emergency food relief a proportion of which will be allocated to Tasmania.

Mental Health Challenges

It is anticipated that mental health issues will increase due to the compounding effects of isolation, economic stress, poverty and social disruption associated with COVID-19.

In response, the Tasmanian Government committed approximately \$4 million in funding to support those experiencing mental health difficulties arising from the COVID-19 crisis. This included expanding the *Lifeline Service*, increasing the capacity to provide support for vulnerable Tasmanians living in rural areas and, providing additional non-clinical services state-wide in response to COVID-19 through the *Migrant Resource Centre*.

Nationally, the Australian Government delivered \$74 million to support mental health services, and \$48.1 million (co-funded) for mental health plans, a proportion of which will be allocated to Tasmania.

Family Violence

In times of crisis, when there are increased levels of unemployment and economic stress on families and households, there tends to be an increase in severe social impacts. This applies to family violence and elder abuse, which tend to increase in times of stress.

The Tasmanian Government has provided \$2.7 million to address a range of issues associated with family violence, including expanding the *Safe at Home* and *Rapid Rehousing* programs - both programs aimed at providing services which protect and support victims of family violence, including young people and children.

Nationally, the Australian Government provided \$150 million for family and sexual violence, a proportion of which will be allocated to Tasmania.

The Recovery Ahead

In Chapter 6, we set out a package of immediate actions that we believe are key to starting the recovery journey.

All three levels of Government have an important part to play, and these roles will necessarily be quite different from each other.

The Australian Government control of many of the levers that will be required to drive national (and Tasmania's) economic performance, and has set out a reform agenda, referred to as its *JobMaker Plan*, with a series of reform priorities, that aims to have 'Australia emerge from the pandemic with a stronger, more resilient and more competitive job-making and income-generating economy'.

Clearly, the future of the hibernation strategies the Australian Government introduced will be extremely important in shaping the longer-term impacts of the COVID-19 crisis in Tasmania, and we make some points about that in the next Chapter. Given the importance of these initiatives for Tasmania, perhaps more so than other jurisdictions, there is a clear role for all Tasmanians and the State Government to advocate for a sensible transition in these support arrangements.

With limited financial flexibility, the State Government's recovery measures should place a high priority on areas that are outside the domain of the Australian Government. Perhaps the best leverage the State Government has in recovery is making changes to the way it conducts its own business, and in removing obstacles to economic growth. This theme sits behind many of our recommendations for immediate action in Chapter 6.

As the level of government closest to the community, local government has an important role to play in the recovery journey. A partnership-based approach with the State Government will be required to avoid duplication and the development of competing measures. Again, a focus on supporting economic growth through the removal of barriers to growth is key. Using broad-based untargeted support approaches, such as general rate relief (as opposed to hardship arrangements for dealing with specific cases) will mean that councils will not have the resources that they would otherwise have to address specific areas of need in their local community. The LGAT submission highlighted that because of the financial impacts of COVID-19 suppression measures, Tasmanian councils will likely need to refocus their activity onto core legislatively-required service delivery. However, many non-legislative functions are likely to be even more important in recovery than prior to COVID-19, so preserving the financial capacity of local government will be important.

Chapter 6: The Recovery Journey and Immediate Priorities

The Premier has asked us to identify:

- additional immediate and short-term actions to mitigate the impacts of the COVID-19 suppression measures; and
- the medium and longer-term issues to be addressed by government, the community, and the private sector to facilitate sustainable economic growth and mitigate the social impacts of COVID-19 suppression measures and their ongoing influence on Tasmania.

This chapter recommends immediate and short-term actions.

The priority is to start restoring overall demand in the Tasmanian economy and starting to address the structural issues that need to be tackled on Tasmania's recovery path. Recognising the extent of social impacts, support will also be needed for those who have been more heavily impacted by the COVID-19 suppression measures through transition.

Beyond this, our planned Phase 2 consultation is the key to us developing recommendations for medium and longer-term recovery measures for our Final Report.

Nonetheless, our recommendations for immediate action signal our current thinking in relation to the strategic priorities that will shape our work during Phase 2. These are signalled by a ★.

Our strategic priorities are:

1. Rebuilding local demand, by:
 - ❖ *Building confidence* - because this will embed resilience.
 - ❖ *Building capacity* - because this will provide the platform for growth and jobs, as well as strengthening our ability to support those in need.
 - ❖ *Increasing local demand and keeping the pipeline flowing* - because this will provide economic momentum over the short and medium-term.
 - ❖ *Supporting enterprise recovery* - because this will provide private sector and not-for-profit organisations the assistance required to move forward.
2. Addressing structural issues, by:
 - ❖ *Tackling the immediate structural impacts from COVID-19* - because the earlier the action, the better the mitigation.
 - ❖ *Staying focused on addressing the social issues* - because there have been deep social impacts.
 - ❖ *Encouraging government to deliver differently* - because we all have to focus on improvement.

The economy after COVID-19 will not have the same shape as it did before the pandemic. Support will be needed to enable Tasmanians and Tasmanian businesses to adjust over time. Any major structural adjustments will likely have social impacts and careful support will be needed to assist people through this period of change.

Job creation will not be a 'silver bullet' in relation to the social challenges we are facing. But the best way of preventing deeper social consequences is by creating as fast a path as possible back to work. That's why our top priority is focused on rebuilding demand.

Our economy performed well in recent years and many Tasmanians benefited – socially, culturally, as well as financially. However, there are some structural features that are now significantly shaping how COVID-19 suppression measures are affecting Tasmanians.

Some of the changes we propose in this Report would have been desirable for Tasmania even if COVID-19 had not landed with such sudden impact. Other changes relate entirely to the novelty and severity of the COVID-19 threat.

Those structural features mean that the recovery journey will be challenging for Tasmanians. But they also mean that there is the opportunity for lasting improvement that builds on our strengths and ensures we emerge more resilient.

Despite our recent and relative prosperity, many Tasmanians still remember times when our economy was weak and jobs were limited, forcing our young people to leave for opportunity. There will be concerns about Tasmania once again being defined by what Tasmania lacks, rather than what it has.

These memories and concerns are real.

But Tasmanians have faced many challenges as a community, and we have risen to them before. Tasmanian Aboriginals have survived colonisation, and today play a foundational role in defining our sense of a Tasmanian identity at home and beyond. For more than 200 years, waves of immigrants from across the world and wider Australia have built homes, businesses and social capital in our island State in a way that has made Tasmania stronger. Tasmanians have dealt with earlier pandemics, wars, economic downturns, shifting social norms and cultural trends – emerging all the more resilient. Generations of old and new Tasmanians have found something to cherish and protect in this special place that we continue to share. This COVID-19 recovery journey is part of a much larger and evolving whole.

Restoring Demand and Jobs

Restoring demand will be a long-term journey. Our trade-exposed economy means that there are limits on the momentum we can generate. While we cannot swim against national and international economic tides, there are actions that will make a difference in rebuilding business and community confidence. These actions will drive the Tasmanian economy forward and create some momentum towards growth.

Building Confidence

Tasmanians need to be confident that while governments had to work very quickly to put good plans in place to respond to COVID-19's initial strike, we are now much better prepared and able to co-exist with the virus until a vaccine or rapid treatments are found. The first step to restoring demand and the jobs that follow is to help people and businesses regain their confidence to spend and invest. Tasmanians need to regain their confidence to re-engage in the economy, to reconnect to community and to take a step forward in business.

There was sharp and clear messaging supporting the strategy of 'flattening the curve' - 'Stay home, Save lives' and 'unless it's essential, stay home'. These are simple messages, and they were effective. The Government went to considerable lengths to engage with the community (including daily updates from the Premier) and there was transparency about the extent and nature of the COVID-19 outbreak.

The much longer era that is before us of living with COVID-19 also requires strong messaging and open communications. In making decisions about removing restrictions, and potentially imposing them again when an outbreak does eventuate in Tasmania, the Government will be making decisions to manage the health risks. In doing so, it will be balancing those health risks against economic and social risks arising from the imposition of controls.

The community needs to understand the Government's strategy for managing COVID-19 into the future – is it a continuation of suppression or another approach more accepting of a limited number of outbreaks? Is the intention to 'stamp' quickly on any outbreak or manage it within a containment area? Without an understanding of the strategy, there may not be strong community support for the measures the Government takes to manage outbreaks and that likely means lower levels of compliance with restrictions than is needed.

Similarly, the community needs to understand – in advance of any occurring – what the Government intends to do in the event of an outbreak. Following a pre-announced process and strategy will engender community confidence and promote acceptance of the measures needed to deal with the outbreak. In the initial crisis, events were moving very quickly, and the community was accepting of surprises as new measures were imposed, sometimes daily. For future outbreaks, that level of acceptance cannot be assumed unless the Government's intentions are carefully explained – in advance.

An important part of rebuilding community confidence and the willingness of business to again move onto a positive footing is giving the community an insight into how those decisions are being made.

One well-established crisis-management method to help people plan is to have a limited number of scenarios that provide people with an understanding of how things might play out. A number of organisations around the State have already created and used these and they have proved very helpful in planning responses to what is a changing situation.

As we are finalising this report, the outbreaks in Victoria and the re-imposition of 'hard lock-downs' and previously un-seen border controls are dominating the news cycle. These developments are again raising the levels of concern about COVID-19 re-emerging in Tasmania, and concerns about the borders re-opening. Communication of the type we have outlined above is key in maintaining confidence that we can continue the path of recovery.

Recommendations

1. The State Government should continue delivering clear and consistent messaging to shift the community's mindset from 'stay home, save lives' to the importance of all Tasmanians working towards recovery.
2. The State Government should explain to the community its future COVID-19 management strategy, including how outbreaks will be handled. 🌟
3. The State Government should explain the risk management basis of COVID-19 restrictions as those decisions are being made - including any reimposed or new restrictions.
4. The State Government should pay special attention to building public confidence in the capacity of Tasmania's health system to deal with future COVID-19 outbreaks.
5. The State Government should give confidence to Tasmanians that control mechanisms to manage COVID-19 risks are being rigorously applied, particularly in the context of relaxing interstate border restrictions.

Building Capacity to Recover

One of the challenges of any recovery is that it takes time. There is a saying that 'economies descend in the elevator and return by the stairs'. Integral to what slows recovery is the damage to the ability of businesses and organisations to grow.

In Chapter 4 we highlighted some of the important ways in which that was occurring, such as a serious reduction in working capital. Therefore, it is important we help restore this capacity quickly.

Building the Capacity of Small and Medium Businesses

Small businesses, which make up about 97 per cent of all Tasmanian businesses, have been particularly impacted in Tasmania by COVID-19. Many continue to rely on a wide range of business supports from all levels of government, as well as a more accommodative banking system.

And while many businesses were adaptable and resilient through the suppression period, the medium and longer-term implications of COVID-19 will require further adaptation. Where business loan repayments and creditor payments have been deferred, new business and financial plans will be required to put them onto a secure footing.

One of the State Government's immediate initiatives was to assist businesses to access third-party financial advice through Business Continuity programs. This approach should be extended during the recovery period, leveraging the capacity of the financial/business advisory sector, industry associations and regional chambers of commerce to work with business.

Depending on the Australian Government's decisions on the future of JobKeeper, some small and medium businesses may be caught mid-transition towards a sustainable post-COVID-19 business model. A well-targeted and administratively simple grants or loans program could also provide a necessary bridge to sustainability and jobs preservation. A condition of the program should be that businesses access independent expert financial advice.

The Tasmanian Development Board plays an important role in managing such loans programs to support business in Tasmania and providing financial assistance for expanding businesses in areas that are not met by the commercial banking sector.

During the COVID-19 recovery phase, it is important that the Board has sufficient capacity within its loans programs to provide the support needed by businesses that are viable and have the capacity to grow and prosper. A key part of the Board's role is to establish that businesses meet those criteria before assistance is provided.

Information provided to us is that under some scenarios, the capacity of the Board to meet the needs of business could be limited by the Board's current aggregate loans cap.

As the headroom under the current loans cap is constrained, timely consideration is required of the potential to increase it. This can support recovery and development of businesses in sectors where Tasmania has a demonstrable competitive advantage.

Recommendations

6. The State Government should further support small and medium business to access private-sector financial/business advice to assist them adapting to the post-COVID-19 environment. ★

Recommendations cont.

7. The State Government should provide a round of small business sustainment grants, or a loans program, for businesses transitioning to a sustainable post-COVID-19 operating model.
8. The State Government should ensure that the Tasmanian Development Board has the capacity to support viable recovering and growing businesses by making timely decisions regarding the level of the Board's Loans Cap.

Supporting Small and Medium Enterprises Working Capital

The Government is a large purchaser and has already moved to update the purchasing requirements to require 14-day terms with its direct suppliers. This should be a consistent rule across the whole of our public sector, including government businesses.

The standard contracting framework should be amended to require the benefit of improved trading terms to be passed onto Tasmanian suppliers of Government contractors.

Recommendations

9. The State Government should continue and extend the requirements implemented during COVID-19 for Government agencies and Government businesses to pay their Tasmanian suppliers on 14-day terms.
10. Government agencies should seek the agreement of existing major contractors to agree on 14-day terms with their Tasmanian suppliers.
11. The State Government should amend its standard contracting framework to require contractors to trade on 14-day terms with their Tasmanian suppliers.

Building the Capacity of the Community Services Industry

The community services industry is a large employer that has not only experienced major financial impacts from COVID-19, but also has limited funding certainty due to the short-term nature of many government contracts. Some contracts are on 12-month roll-overs, others are renewed on a regular basis with little or no contract review due to the ongoing nature of the community services the government is purchasing.

The duration of these contracts is intended to allow the Government to maintain flexibility and provide incentives for performance. In practice, however, these contracts are often routinely rolled. Critically, short duration does not provide

longer-term funding certainty, and consequently, service providers in this sector are unable to provide on-going employment tenure to their staff. As a result, this large labour-intensive industry has a high level of casual and/or short-term employment arrangements.

In light of the COVID-19-related financial impacts across the sector, extending medium-term funding certainty to community sector entities that have an established record of effective service delivery is sensible.

Building on experiences of COVID-19, designing contracts with flexibility in the way services are delivered (for example, face-to-face versus online) would allow organisations to respond to a changing situation to prioritise services as they are needed by Tasmanians.

This will strengthen the capacity of the sector to respond to emerging social issues from the pandemic. It will also strengthen job security within the sector, enabling the workforce to adopt a more confident outlook in their own spending decisions, thereby reinforcing the Tasmanian economy.

Recommendations

12. The State Government should immediately modify contracts with community service providers, where performance has met expectations, to extend their duration to provide appropriate funding certainty. 🌟
13. Contracts should provide flexibility in the nature of service delivery, reflecting new models developed during COVID-19.

Skills and Training - Resourcing for Sectors that are Driving Recovery

Upskilling and re-skilling Tasmanian workers will be critical in recovery. While this will feature in our second-phase work, there are immediate actions required to respond to the current situation.

Given the rapid shift in labour demand created by suppression measures and subsequent stimulus spending, there needs to be ongoing support for workers transitioning between sectors, particularly into construction. There also needs to be a concerted response to the rapid decline in new apprentices and trainees across a range of sectors, pointing to future skills shortages.

The Government has already provided several training initiatives to support worker transition, including the Rapid Response Skills Initiative, and contestable training funds for existing workers provided through User Choice and the Skills Fund. TasTAFE has also established a range of free short courses.

Furthermore, Skills Tasmania and the Tasmanian Building and Construction Industry Training Board have been tasked with developing an Action Plan for ensuring skilled workers are available to the construction sector. The State Government has also

established the Tasmanian Energy and Infrastructure Workforce Advisory Council to advise Skills Tasmania on the best use of industry training funds. There is similar workforce development activity occurring in other sectors.

Nonetheless, employers remain concerned that TasTAFE and the training system more broadly will not be able to provide the responsiveness, agility and industry-relevant training required to support Tasmanians into emerging job opportunities, as well as improving the flexibility and productivity of existing workers.

Our recommendations for immediate action will start addressing these issues.

Recommendations

14. The State Government should fund a program of free VET courses in qualifications directly related to demonstrated jobs growth. These should be delivered rapidly and flexibly by TasTAFE and other training providers endorsed by industry.
15. Group training organisations, labour hire firms, and other job matching services should be funded to support recruitment, mentoring and rotation of apprentices, trainees and short-term workers across employers that cannot currently commit to long-term employment contracts.
16. The State Government should fully fund the Rapid Response Skills Initiative past 2020.
17. The State Government should enable TasTAFE to implement an internal workforce transition plan to ensure TasTAFE's trainers have up to date and contemporary industry skills.

Increasing Local Demand and Keeping the Pipeline Flowing

The State Government has the opportunity and responsibility to contribute to the rebuilding of local demand through its industry capability building and purchasing frameworks. It has a leadership role in encouraging all Tasmanians - individuals and businesses - to do the same.

The Government should prevent blockages emerging that would stymie the positive impact of the substantial stimulus packages already announced by the Australian and State Governments - which aim to drive economic activity and generate jobs in the short and medium term.

Beyond the immediate term, we see major projects and larger-scale private sector investment being integral to recovery, and this will be an important part of the second phase of our work. Investment and other initiatives should balance ongoing support for established or recognised 'market winners' with emerging sectors and market leaders that best align with the Tasmanian brand.

The attraction of new private sector investment in medium and larger scale labour-intensive businesses will be an important component of recovery - for the direct impact these projects have, and because they will also contribute to an uplift in confidence.

But we are also mindful that the Tasmanian brand is synonymous with the artisanal, and the pursuit of quality over quantity. Culture can power economic opportunity. Micro and small-business entrepreneurs will also play an important role in recovery, alongside facilitation of traditional larger-scale businesses, and we also expect to explore this in the second phase of our work.

Public Sector Purchasing - Supporting Tasmania

Given the importance of economic recovery, the full weight of Tasmanian public sector procurement should be behind Tasmanian business.

The Government announced on 1 June 2020 that the Department of Treasury and Finance was to consider how the weighting towards Tasmanian content could be enhanced in the Government's procurement rules and how the investment that is being made locally by firms to substitute for imports can be recognised more fully in the Buy Local policy.

Now more than ever, the concept of 'value for money' must not be solely based on 'lowest price', but it must include an assessment of the 'value to Tasmania' of having economic activity undertaken within the State. This includes the longer-term benefits to the agencies themselves in having a more capable and responsive local industry in support of their outsourced tasks, which may be missed in a short-term transaction-by-transaction procurement approach.

Pre-procurement industry engagement in partnership with agencies such as the Department of State Growth can assist in ensuring strong local participation whilst maintaining arms-length procurement contestability. The State Government can adopt similar local industry services as those provided by the Australian Government's defence industry programs.

The boundaries of Treasury's procurement review should be extended as far as possible, and pressure brought to bear on Government's suppliers to adopt similar arrangements. Government businesses should also be under the same arrangements that apply to agencies in relation to buying local.

Recommendations

18. The State Government should require agencies to purchase from Tasmanian business on an 'if not, why not' basis for at least the next two years. 🌟

Recommendations cont.

19. The State Government should include in its standard government contracting framework a requirement that government contractors use local suppliers on a similar 'if not why not' basis. ★
20. Government businesses should be subject to as strong buying local requirements as government agencies. ★

Tasmanians Supporting Tasmanian Business

There have been several Buy Tasmanian initiatives launched during the past few months, including the *Buy Something Tasmania* website, initiatives by the RACT to extend its Rewards program, and an advertising campaign on commercial TV.

While there are good resources available that support Tasmanians to find local suppliers, there is a need to drive a sustained behavioural change by individuals and business to generate material levels of demand. Government has a key role to play in encouraging the required behaviours - work that should be strongly aligned with Brand Tasmania's strategic 'Tasmanian lens' response to COVID-19.

Recommendation

21. The State Government should work in a consultative way – including across relevant State government agencies and government businesses – with peak business groups, industry and sector leaders to support initiatives across sectors to 'Buy Tasmanian' products and services including the Brand Tasmania 'Showcase Initiative'.

Keeping the Pipeline Full and Moving - Facilitating Development

The Australian and State Governments have provided substantial funding packages to stimulate short and medium-term economic activity and job creation, particularly in building and infrastructure.

It is now critical that there are not roadblocks through inadequate resourcing or red-tape in the planning, permit and approval functions of local and State governments.

The State Government has already undertaken some work in this area, including committing to increase resourcing of the Land Titles Office, and introducing the *Building and Construction (Regulatory Reform Amendments) Act 2020*. Among other things, this Act provided a basis for statutory timeframes for TasWater and TasNetworks permits. Further work to reduce regulatory burdens, including setting those statutory timeframes, should be progressed as a priority.

LGAT's submission highlights planning resource constraints, particularly in their capacity to attract and retain planning officers. Every effort must be made by councils to make sure planning matters are given the tightest attention. Statutory timeframes should be viewed as a binding deadline to be bettered to ensure they do not impede timely consideration of development applications.

Alternative arrangements should be developed to use non-Council planning resources to alleviate potential blockages. One approach would be to provide a tailored certification approach for projects that are aligned with strategic priorities (such as social housing) and fall into the categories of either 'no permit required' or 'permitted use'.

Recommendations

22. Areas of government responsible for planning decisions, permits and related approvals, including the Land Titles Office, should be fully resourced to ensure timely decision-making. ★
23. The State Government should fast-track the implementation of statutory timeframes for TasNetworks and TasWater to deliver infrastructure permits for development projects.
24. Reforms under consideration to deliver a fit-for-purpose building and construction regulatory framework should be given the strongest-possible mandate and priority for completion.
25. Local government should prioritise the resourcing of development applications and planning approvals to ensure that legislative timeframes are met, if not bettered.
26. The State Government should change the regulatory framework for developments that fall within 'no permit required' and 'permitted use' under planning schemes to deliver an efficient and timely approach for dealing with planning outcomes.

Major Project Facilitation

The Office of the Coordinator General was established in 2014 to be the primary point of access to government for investors. The Office is responsible for attracting and securing investment in major development projects that maximise their contribution to Tasmania's economy.

We have been briefed by the Coordinator General as part of our Phase 1 work, and are aware of the sector strategies that have been mapped and are being progressed by the Office to attract new investments of scale to Tasmania.

The State Government also has a number of industry strategies designed to build on underlying industry capabilities in Tasmania, including advanced manufacturing, defence and renewable energy.

The second Bass Strait electricity interconnector - Project Marinus - is another major project being progressed by the State Government, with substantial financial support from the Australian Government. In July 2020, the project moved into the Design and Approvals phase, which will see the completion of activities required to achieve an investment decision and the supporting Tasmanian transmission development. The project is targeting an investment decision in the mid-2020s so the link can commence service from the late 2020s.

As a part of its COVID-19 stimulus response, the Australian Government has identified the project as one that will have streamlined national approvals processes applied.

As we move into the recovery phase from COVID-19, the urgency and priority applied to major project attraction and facilitation cannot simply return to that which existed in early 2020. Projects face tight capital markets, globally suppressed economic conditions, and increased competitive tension between jurisdictions to attract mobile capital. In this environment, the willingness of the State Government to actively engage with project proponents to find paths to bring projects to reality becomes doubly important.

This need not mean direct funding of projects - the streamlined assessment process for Marinus by the Commonwealth is an example of how governments can take direct action to remove barriers that otherwise inhibit major projects.

Recommendation

27. The Government should take a much more active approach to engaging with the private sector to facilitate major projects in Tasmania.

Keeping an Eye on Construction

The combined construction stimulus measures of the Australian and State governments - particularly those aimed at housing - are very large relative to the size of Tasmania's construction sector. The total housing package delivered by the State Government alone is broadly equivalent to a typical year of housing construction.

At an aggregate level, neither development approvals nor building approvals have fallen dramatically through the COVID-19 suppression period. Total dwelling approvals during March to May 2020 were 4.5 per cent higher than the corresponding period one year earlier.

Considering the underlying level of activity in the construction sector - particularly housing - there are severe risks of unintended consequences if the construction pipeline is not carefully managed. Higher prices, unavailability of tradespeople for normal maintenance activities and crowding out of private-sector construction activity are among the risks. These can be avoided by careful monitoring of the leading indicators of the pipeline of work available to the industry and putting out contracts for construction work at the rate which will sustain the industry without over-heating it.

Stimulus spending to deliver 1 000 new affordable housing units should be managed to stimulate economic activity in regional areas more heavily impacted by COVID-19. By considering the housing waiting list in planning these developments, those most in need can be assisted first and with solutions tailored to their needs.

Recommendation

28. The State Government should carefully manage the roll-out of its 'Construction Blitz' program. The flow of housing construction should be scheduled to deliver the intended stimulatory effect without over-heating the industry. 🌟

Supporting Enterprise Recovery

A great many organisations - businesses, community sector and volunteer based — have been left financially weaker as a result of the COVID-19 suppression measures. Taking immediate actions to support their recovery is a key step on the broader recovery journey.

COVID-19 Safe Workplace Requirements

The feedback we have received regarding COVID-19 Safe requirements and the way in which they have been rolled out has been consistent across the business sector, the community services sector and from volunteer organisations: that it is a material burden for enterprises.

Recent market research undertaken by EMRS demonstrates that Tasmanians are demanding businesses adopt COVID-19 Safe requirements. We know that employees also have high expectations that their organisations will implement measures to guard against the virus's spread. Feedback confirms a strong desire by organisations to meet these expectations.

However, there is broad concern that the fear of punitive measures being applied to organisations struggling to comply due to difficulty accessing tools and limited understanding of their specific obligations is adding unnecessary stress in an already difficult operating environment.

A pragmatic and practical approach can and should be taken during recovery to assist all organisation adapt to co-existing with COVID-19.

Recommendations

29. The State Government should further support all enterprises adapting to new COVID-19 Safe Workplace requirements.
30. The compliance arrangements need to be clear and as simple as possible, and penalties limited to genuinely recalcitrant non-compliers.

Recommendations

31. Simple templates and tools should be made widely available and small organisations given proactive assistance to meet their minimum requirements.
32. Common approaches for common situations should be encouraged, not bespoke arrangements for each situation.

Support for Volunteering

Tasmania's volunteer sector is carrying an especially onerous and unmanageable compliance burden relating to COVID-19 Safe requirements and developing their COVID-19 Safe Plans. That sector comprises about 200 000 volunteers, half of whom work in organisations that are either entirely run by volunteers or have fewer than five staff. A conservative estimate indicates 250 000 volunteering hours have been lost in Tasmania since the COVID-19 outbreak. This is impacting heavily on Tasmania's social and economic recovery, and on the mental health and well-being of many Tasmanian volunteers.

Recommendations

33. The State Government should engage with Volunteering Tasmania to develop support measures to enable organisations to retain and attract volunteers.
34. Workplace Standards should make special efforts, including by providing simple templates, to assist volunteer-based organisations develop COVID-19 Safety Plans.

Start Addressing the Structural Issues

As we embark on the economic recovery journey, there will be a need for ongoing support for those that have been impacted by structural changes arising from COVID-19.

In the next phase of our work, we will examine measures needed to address the structural issues in the longer-term but there are some steps that can be taken now to address structural issues.

In the immediate term, the future of the Australian Government's COVID-19 support measures will be particularly important for supporting Tasmanians and our economy.

Considering that some of the impacts of COVID-19 are yet to be fully felt, the State Government will need to adopt a flexible and scalable approach to quickly respond to emerging needs. Caution is required to preserve the Government's capacity to respond to an escalating situation, as is now evident in Victoria.

Importantly, the timely collection of data and information on social indicators must guide the implementation of support mechanisms as the longer-term implications emerge.

Specific Sectors

Transitioning the Australian Government's Support Measures

In Chapter 4, we identified how some sectors have been particularly damaged by the COVID-19 suppression measures. As shown in Chapter 5, the Australian Government quickly delivered a package of broadly-based strategies that shielded individuals and businesses from some of the worst impacts of COVID-19. On current plans, these measures are expected to end or be adjusted in September 2020.

Some sectors, particularly those that continue to be heavily impacted by international border closures and ongoing physical distancing requirements, may require longer support to transition to sustainable business models, or simply survive until suppression strategies are no longer required.

Given a high proportion of Tasmanians are routinely or recently dependant on Australian Government income support as their primary form of income, the level of income support payments will play a key role in supporting the local economy.

Tasmania needs to have a strong voice in calling for an appropriate extension of these arrangements.

The Australian Government announced on 3 July 2020 that the International Freight Assistance Mechanism (IFAM) would be extended until the end of 2020. But as we move into summer, there will be increased competition nationally for access to the scheme from seasonal fruit and other products. The future of international airline travel remains highly uncertain, and the ongoing support by the Australian Government of the IFAM for as long as there is a material reduction in airfreight capacity into Tasmanian export markets will be key in sustaining market access for our primary industry sector.

Recommendations

35. The State Government should take a leadership role in collaborating with all Tasmania's elected representatives, to ensure a common voice in lobbying the Australian Government to:
- provide a transition path for COVID-19 income supplements;
 - provide a transition path for JobKeeper for all sectors, and particularly those most exposed to closed international borders and physical distancing requirements;
 - continue the International Freight Assistance Mechanism while there is a material reduction in air capacity into key markets; and
 - extend beyond September the current relaxed insolvency measures for enterprises. 🇺🇸

At the same time as calling for those measures to be extended, we need to be working on specific measures to support the structural changes needed.

Restoring Demand in Tourism and Hospitality

Co-existing with COVID-19

For the tourism and hospitality sectors, it will be a significant period before international demand is restored, so we need to support the structural shift to focus the sector for the immediate and medium-term to Tasmanian and interstate tourism.

The domestic and international border controls introduced in response to COVID-19 had an extreme and immediate impact on the viability of a wide range of businesses in this key sector. With the removal of intrastate travel restrictions, relaxation of physical distancing requirements, and the imminent reopening of interstate borders, the tourism and hospitality sector has begun the recovery journey. However, parts of the sector that are more dependent on international visitors are a long way from returning to normal. Air access remains highly uncertain and ongoing physical distancing measures will have a lasting impact on this sector.

Visitor Access

Aviation access is vital for Tasmania - for the tourism sector, for our fresh-export sectors that require rapid access to markets, and for our social connection to the remainder of Australia. While opening the borders to some or all Australian jurisdictions is a necessary step to bringing visitors back to Tasmania, without appropriate air access, the gains will be severely limited.

We are aware of the work by specialists within government on access. The direct involvement of the Premier with the airline industry CEOs is key in sending the signal about the importance of air-access for our Island.

In the absence of materially improved air access, the TT-Line's service is the only other access point to the State. The TT-Line Board and management have a charter and obligation to act in a commercially prudent manner, and decisions about the sailing schedules of the *Spirits* must necessarily consider those obligations.

Relatively high capacity is required to make crossings financially worthwhile. In the absence of sufficient air services to the State, a lower weighting should be given to the commercial viability of capacity decisions, and a higher priority applied to maintaining access for tourism (and freight).

Recommendations

36. The State Government should take all appropriate steps to re-establish visitor access to Tasmania at maximum feasible capacity once border controls allow demand to resume. This should include appropriate liaison with the Access Working Group, and should focus on both air and sea access, as well as the best evolving balance between them.
37. The State Government should provide clear direction to the TT-Line Board that it is to lead not lag passenger capacity into Tasmania, particularly in the absence of substantial air access.

Community-driven Events

The *Make Yourself at Home* campaign has been a key initiative to stimulate intrastate visitation. Tourism Tasmania has also developed a marketing campaign to continue to rebuild Tasmania's share of the interstate tourism market that will be released coinciding with borders being re-opened.

In addition to this work, the development of community-driven COVID-19-compatible (scale) events run state-wide is an opportunity to address community reconnection and psychosocial recovery, as well as encouraging intrastate and interstate visitors into regional areas.

Innovative and creative promotions and initiatives could supplement the marketing campaigns developed by Tourism Tasmania to incentivise regional visitation and spending.

Tourism Tasmania and Brand Tasmania should, consistent with T21, amplify existing strategic alignment to capture our interstate market share. The focus on the 'yield and dispersal' strategy should be strengthened to attract potential new interstate and intrastate visitors into regional areas across Tasmania.

Recommendation

38. The State Government should build on the current intrastate and interstate marketing campaign by developing additional cost-effective practical initiatives to drive spending. 📌

Restoring Demand in Arts and Events Sector

COVID-19 suppression measures had an extreme and immediate impact on the viability of a wide range of arts and event businesses. They severely impacted the livelihood of artists, performers and the multitude of other freelance and casual workers who support activities in this sector – a sector vital to Tasmania's growing creative economy. Ongoing requirements around physical distancing are likely to continue to affect the sector, perhaps more than any other.

Having developed the Community Arts and Cultural Development (CACD) strategy, the Government should now progress its implementation with a priority on initiatives that deliver regional balance and address areas of systemic social disadvantage. Being collaborative and aiming to build local skills and capacity by creating opportunities for community members and artists, the CACD strategy is well suited to the recovery process. It can deliver long-term improvement in social health and well-being, while generating much needed employment. International and national research and examples over 50 years indicate that participation in community arts gives rise to positive social impacts, provided project design clearly takes into consideration larger social policy goals.

Recommendation

39. The State Government should implement and fund the Community Arts and Cultural Development strategy.

People

With a sharp increase in the number of people without work, the highest priority needs to be given to creating pathways to work. This should include those who have recently lost work, those who have been without work for some time, and the next generation who are charting their future work-lives.

Job Placement Services

Feedback from employers suggests that before COVID-19, the Australian Government's Jobactive model was not working well for either employers or people looking for work. In response, the Tasmanian Government has been piloting new job matching services in regional Tasmania. Initiatives have included the Jobs Action Package and more recently through the Strategic Growth agenda as well as with the support of the Tasmanian Community Fund. These seek to enable cross-sector approaches to find local solutions to local issues that impact on employer and employee barriers and enablers to employment. A Sorell Jobs Hub has been established, and the Glenorchy Jobs Hub is due to commence shortly.

The State Government needs to work with the Australian Government to deliver an enhanced regionally appropriate employment service system (Jobactive model) for Tasmania. This approach needs to include job placement payments and incentivise local solutions to employment for COVID-19 impacted jobseekers, industries and businesses. This work should also examine specific barriers to employment (such as

transport) and engage with community, education and training organisations with a specific focus on young people, women and small-medium enterprises. Lessons from Tasmanian Government funded programs could be adapted into a broader Australian Government Jobactive model, using Tasmania as a pilot.

Recommendation

40. The State Government should drive the development of effective job placement approaches that enable regional led solutions and provide for employer and job-seeker matching at a local level.

Education Pathways - Connecting Education with Work

A key element of the recovery journey and a foundation for our State's future prosperity is better connecting the education system with the workforce. We need our young people to engage in an educational/vocational pathway that is linked to real workforce opportunities in the State, and which fosters entrepreneurship and a resourceful and adaptable mindset towards both education and work.

We are aware that significant work is underway through the 'Years 9 to 12 Project', a cross-sectoral approach that will include all Tasmanian school sectors, TasTAFE, the University of Tasmania, Skills Tasmania and the Office of Tasmanian Assessment, Standards and Certification. It is important that this project is prioritised and supported, including bringing Tasmanian industries and employers together as key partners in our education and training system.

Recommendation

41. The State Government should accelerate existing strategies to deliver improved educational opportunities that meet individual student needs as well as providing clearer pathways to jobs in identified post-COVID-19 industry priority areas, the training system and university.

Young People

Apprenticeships and Traineeships

The Government recognises the leverage it has for the employment of apprentices through its capital works program by mandating within its procurement rules that, for Government building and construction projects over \$250 000, 20 per cent of labour hours must be by apprentices.

What is less clear is how those requirements are documented within building and construction contracts as a binding requirement, and the way these requirements are enforced to ensure that contractors uphold their obligations.

The payroll tax 'Youth Employment Incentive' is limited to a one-year period from the date of employment between 1 April and 31 December 2020. This policy should be extended for at least another 12 to 18 months. This would provide enhanced medium-term certainty to employers taking on new young workers.

The apprentice and trainee payroll tax incentive operates between July 2019 and June 2021 and is limited to three sectors - building and construction, tourism and hospitality and manufacturing. Extending this scheme to all sectors and extending its duration for an extra 12 to 18 months would provide an incentive for business to take on young employees.

A similar apprentice labour requirement to Government building and construction should be applied to the capital projects of government businesses and as a part of the affordable housing element of the 'Construction Blitz' program, which currently has no apprenticeship requirements.

The State Service comprises about 24 000 Full Time Equivalents, of which less than 12 per cent are under 30 years of age (about 25 per cent are aged over 60). A structured approach to workforce renewal and the employment of young people in the State Service will not only support the structural change arising from COVID-19 but assist in shaping the Government's workforce of the future.

Recommendations

42. The State Government should rigorously monitor and enforce apprentice requirements for government building and construction works as required in the Building and Construction Training Policy.
43. A similar model should be applied to capital work programs for government businesses.
44. The roll-out of the affordable housing stimulus as part of the 'Construction Blitz' program should contain apprenticeship requirements on a similar basis to those that apply to the Government's own construction program.
45. The State Government should extend the payroll tax rebate schemes for youth employees, and for apprentices and trainees.
46. The State Government should implement a structured approach to increasing the share of its own workforce represented by young people.

Women

Given the male-dominance of the construction and infrastructure sectors, and the ongoing risks to the childcare sector, the short-term employment environment for women has not been sufficiently mitigated.

Long-term growth sectors such as community services, health care and education have very strong representation of women in the workforce, and, over time, this is likely to see jobs opportunities increasingly become available. We also note that over 70 per cent of the State Sector is made up by women.

Nonetheless, there remain cultural barriers to women seeking and gaining employment in stable, high-paying and diverse industry roles. The Government has already supported sector-specific projects to encourage and mentor women into non-traditional roles such as the TaslCT Women in ICT Program. This approach can be extended more widely.

Recommendations

47. The State Government should support further industry programs to enhance workplace cultural change and development pipelines for women.
48. The Tasmanian State Sector should create traineeship pipelines within Government and maintain at least gender parity in recruitment.
49. Government agencies should embed flexible working arrangements delivered successfully through the COVID-19 suppression period, to support the recruitment and advancement of women in the State Service.

Other People Disproportionately Impacted

Capturing the Right Data to Track COVID-19 Impacts

As discussed in Chapter 4, the full social impacts on people including children, Aboriginal Tasmanians, people with disabilities, people from cultural and linguistically diverse backgrounds, LGBTQI+, and older Tasmanians are still being understood.

Data is patchy and fragmented, and not available in a timely way to ensure pre-emptive action can be taken across a range of COVID-19 impacted areas. The development of an overarching data set for monitoring the longer-term impacts of COVID-19 on people's housing, mental health, family violence, drug and alcohol and a range of other critical social services and policy responses will be essential to inform an integrated evidence-led recovery.

Recommendations

50. The State Government should prioritise work, including shared data capability, to identify, engage and support vulnerable cohorts that may have ongoing disproportionate adverse impacts during recovery, including through disruption to education, training, and employment. 🏠

Recommendations cont.

51. Vulnerable Students Panels across all sectors should be continued, appropriately resourced, embedded within the education system and bolstered by a comprehensive case management system.

Regional Impacts

Prioritising Regional Infrastructure

Infrastructure Tasmania is reviewing input from all public sector infrastructure providers, including government agencies, government businesses, TasWater and local government to inform the '10-year infrastructure pipeline'.

A different lens needs to be applied to that pipeline of projects post-COVID-19, which shifts the focus onto smaller-scale regionally diverse projects that offer the prospect of high social outcomes in regions particularly disrupted. In particular, there is an opportunity to invest in development of infrastructure that promotes access to nature and increased physical activity, such as walking and cycling, serving the needs of both local communities and visitors alike.

The State Government should encourage other public sector providers to reconsider the application of a 'business as usual' framework for establishing capital project priorities.

Recommendations

52. The State Government should review its capital program and place a higher weighting on distributing activity towards smaller-scale regional projects.
53. The State Government should use its influence to encourage government businesses and other public-sector infrastructure providers to establish capital project priorities that place a higher weighting on distributing activity towards smaller-scale regional projects.

Addressing the Digital Divide

COVID-19 has amplified the need to have digital access recognised as an essential service for all Tasmanians. Tasmania performs poorly on all three measures of digital inclusion – accessibility, affordability and overall ability to use digital technology for work, study and day-to-day access to essential services.

Recommendations

54. The State Government, with the support of the Australian Government, should address digital inclusion and equity across Tasmanian communities, including by:
 - addressing critical regional mobile and internet black spots; and
 - making available at little or no cost, devices and other resources needed to enable disadvantaged Tasmanians to engage in education, employment and to seek the assistance they may require from support services, regardless of location.
55. The State Government should expand the roll out of digital literacy initiatives in communities around Tasmania utilising existing networks such as Libraries Tasmania and Service Tasmania.

Mobility

With the structural dislocation of employment opportunities in some regional areas, there is likely to be an increasing need for people to travel to take up jobs. Rather than seeing a population shift away from these communities, an alternative approach is to increase people's mobility and ability to gain employment without having to relocate. This is particularly important where structural dislocation is more likely for a limited period.

There are innovative transport models already in operation across Tasmania, such as Community Transport Services Tasmania, and the Derwent Valley 'Jobs Bus' initiative (currently a pilot scheme) that provide flexible transport options for those who do not have their own transport. These are relatively low-cost models by comparison with the full public-transport offering that should be explored to meet emerging mobility needs linked to employment and training opportunities.

Recommendation

56. The State Government should work with regional councils to explore innovative approaches to community transport to better connect people living in regional areas to education and work opportunities.

Stay Focused on Addressing the Social Impacts

As we look to the longer-term structural adjustments required in a time when there will be high levels of unemployment and underemployment, there is a need to ensure that basic life-needs supports (food, warm and appropriate housing), mental health, and safety in the family are adequately provided for.

Preparing for More Community Support

We have received many submissions that point to the likely need for more funding of core social supports, anticipating potential outcomes during recovery. There is much less information available to us detailing specifically what those additional needs will be.

The needs will be shaped by future patterns of COVID-19 infections, the duration of suppression measures and the future of the key additional Australian Government income supports that have thus far been provided.

The Government acted quickly in the emergency response to provide additional funding for key social needs. However, during our first phase of work, we have not been able to ascertain:

- how effectively those additional funds have been applied;
- the outcomes delivered;
- the extent to which the funding has been fully exhausted; and
- the capacity that remains to deal with new and emerging COVID-19-related social needs, having regard to pre-COVID-19 base funding levels.

Our view is that these areas need to be quickly understood by the Government to inform additional funding requests to meet emerging needs.

Recommendations

57. The State Government should quickly review how the additional COVID-19 government funding for mental health, family violence, and emergency food relief has been used and the outcomes delivered. 🌟
58. Monitoring and rapid contingency planning should be undertaken to ascertain if further additional funding is needed across these important community impact areas.

Restoring Face-to-Face Delivery of Community Support Services

The rapid acceleration of suppression measures required community support providers to quickly switch from face-to-face services to online or telephone-based services and in some cases, temporarily suspend services.

According to submissions received, some of these service changes have delivered better outcomes for clients (for example, Telehealth for some doctors' appointments,

some sexual health and counselling services). But it has not worked well for all, an example being supporting parents, newborns and infants. While there is a need to ensure the safety of workers and clients in physical settings, returning to the option of face-to-face services should now be a priority.

Recommendations

59. In developing COVID-19 Safe Workplace approaches, the State Government should prioritise restoring face-to-face service delivery (directly and through purchased services), particularly for community support services.
60. Where digital service delivery has delivered improved outcomes from a client perspective, those changes should be maintained.

Mental Health

During the peak of the suppression period, many people experienced higher levels of anxiety, confusion, frustration, uncertainty, worry or anger. Evidence suggests that for many people, these feelings will reduce over time without the need for any intervention. However, the ongoing high levels of uncertainty in health, jobs and general day-to-day life will impact people in different ways. Through public awareness campaigns, it is important to let people know that these feelings are normal and simple strategies can provide quick outcomes.

There will be substantial ongoing job losses because of COVID-19. For some, this will be the first experience of being without work. For others, it will add to the despair of their long-term unemployment in a labour market with substantially more applicants and less jobs. For business owners, unexpected business failure will be a shock to previously successful people. We are concerned about the mental health of these individuals.

Research from past pandemics and mass trauma events indicates that mental health and well-being are impacted. Those who currently experience issues with alcohol may be more vulnerable to using alcohol as a coping mechanism during times of stress.

Additionally, for some high-risk population groups, including people with existing mental health issues, people newly experiencing mental health issues, health workers and young people, there may be lasting and possibly a significant increase in depression, anxiety, and other conditions.

Recommendation

61. The State Government should develop and provide Tasmanians with a 'whole of population screening tool' so the general public can 'check in' on their mental health and seek help early if needed. This should be supported by a public awareness campaign to prevent long-term impacts and raise awareness of the newly-funded access points for help.

Food Security

Recent data from University of Tasmania research reveals the percentage of Tasmanians experiencing food insecurity rose to 26 per cent or about 130 000 people from pre-pandemic levels as low as 6 per cent.

Both the university research and evidence from food relief providers suggest that food insecurity has occurred across all household types and those employed and unemployed.

The long term-nature of recovery makes continual 'emergency food relief' unsustainable. One element of building community resilience is to shift from 'emergency food relief' to community-based food security models where the need is the greatest. Such a transition would need to be undertaken while maintaining a demand-based level of emergency food relief in the interim.

Recommendation

62. The State Government should plan and transition from increased emergency food relief provision towards community-based and school-based food security models.

How Government Delivery Needs to be Different

Successful recovery will be greatly aided not just by what we do but how we do it. The suppression measures have forced businesses and Tasmanians to suddenly shift from 'business as usual' and adopt fundamentally different ways of operating. We believe there is a need for the Tasmanian public sector to do the same.

Coordinating Recovery

One of the strengths of the emergency management framework that guided the response during the suppression period was the coordinated approach to the immediate response. This approach saw State and local government cooperation and integration in meeting urgent needs and delivering the 'on the ground' responses. Regional approaches were taken to target interventions, and very high levels of interagency cooperation, including data sharing and resource coordination were evident.

While the intensity of the recovery process will be materially less than required in managing the acute crisis, we believe that a regionally based approach to coordinating recovery needs to be maintained.

Recommendation

63. The State Government should implement a regionally-based model for coordinating the recovery journey.

Review of the Tasmanian State Service

Dr Ian Watt AC, is conducting the Review of the Tasmanian State Service, announced in November 2019. The purpose of the Review is to ensure the Tasmanian State Service is fit-for-purpose, agile and able to provide the services that Tasmanians require now and in the future.

COVID-19 and the resulting consequences for the State Service have brought an even sharper focus to its challenges. There are many lessons to be learnt from the rapid deployment of new capabilities required to meet the community's needs during the pandemic. The economic and social impacts of the pandemic will also necessitate new ways of working as a State Service, in partnership with the profit and non-profit sectors and the community. Moreover, the fiscal implications of COVID-19 for the State's finances means now more than ever, the State Service and its governance model must be fit-for-purpose.

While progress on the State Service Review has slowed because of COVID-19, our view is that it should not be overtaken by other priorities. It is even more important that the work be completed in a timely manner to provide a platform for enabling the Government, through the State Service, to respond to the very considerable challenges of recovery.

Recommendation

64. The State Government should accelerate the Tasmanian State Service Review.

Appendix 1

Restoring Demand and Jobs	Building Confidence	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The State Government should continue delivering clear and consistent messaging to shift the community's mindset from 'stay home, save lives' to the importance of all Tasmanians working towards recovery. 2. The State Government should explain to the community its future COVID-19 management strategy including how any future outbreaks will be handled. ★ 3. The State Government should explain the risk management basis of COVID-19 restrictions as those decisions are being made - including any reimposed or new restrictions. 4. The State Government should pay special attention to building public confidence in the capacity of Tasmania's health system to deal with future COVID-19 outbreaks. 5. The State Government should give confidence to Tasmanians that control mechanisms to manage COVID-19 risks are being rigorously applied, particularly in the context of relaxing interstate border restrictions.
	Building Capacity to Recover	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. The State Government should further support small and medium business to access private-sector financial/business advice to assist them adapting to the post-COVID-19 environment. ★ 7. The State Government should provide a round of small business sustainment grants, or a loans program, for businesses transitioning to a sustainable post-COVID-19 operating model. 8. The State Government should ensure that the Tasmanian Development Board has the capacity to support viable recovering and growing businesses by making timely decisions regarding the level of the Board's Loans Cap. 9. The State Government should continue the requirements implemented during COVID-19 for Government agencies and Government businesses to pay their Tasmanian suppliers on 14-day terms. 10. Government agencies should seek the agreement of existing major contractors to agree on 14-day terms with their Tasmanian suppliers. 11. The State Government should amend its standard contracting framework to require contractors to trade on 14-day terms with their Tasmanian suppliers. 12. The State Government should immediately modify contracts with community service providers, where performance has met expectations, to extend their duration to provide appropriate funding certainty. ★ 13. Contracts should provide flexibility in the nature of service delivery, reflecting new models developed during COVID-19.

		<p>14. The State Government should fund a program of free VET courses in qualifications directly related to demonstrated jobs growth. These should be delivered rapidly and flexibly by TasTAFE and other training providers endorsed by industry.</p> <p>15. Group training organisations, labour hire firms, and other job matching services should be funded to support recruitment, mentoring and rotation of apprentices, trainees and short-term workers across employers that cannot currently commit to long-term employment contracts.</p> <p>16. The State Government should fully fund the Rapid Response Skills Initiative past 2020.</p> <p>17. The State Government should enable TasTAFE to implement an internal workforce transition plan to ensure TasTAFE's trainers have up to date and contemporary industry skills.</p> <p>18. The State Government should require agencies to purchase from Tasmanian business on an 'if not why not' basis for at least the next two years. ★</p> <p>19. The State Government should include in its standard government contracting framework a requirement that government contractors use local suppliers on a similar 'if not why not' basis. ★</p> <p>20. Government businesses should be subject to as strong buying local requirements as government agencies. ★</p> <p>21. The State Government should work in a consultative way – including across relevant State government agencies and government businesses – with peak business groups, industry and sector leaders to support initiatives across sectors to 'Buy Tasmanian' products and services including the Brand Tasmania 'Showcase Initiative'.</p> <p>22. Areas of government responsible for planning decisions, permits and related approvals, including the Land Titles Office, should be fully resourced to ensure timely decision-making. ★</p> <p>23. The State Government should fast-track the implementation of statutory timeframes for TasNetworks and TasWater to deliver infrastructure permits for development projects.</p> <p>24. Reforms under consideration to deliver a fit-for-purpose building and construction regulatory framework should be given the strongest-possible mandate and priority for completion.</p> <p>25. Local government should prioritise the resourcing of development applications and planning approvals to ensure that legislative timeframes are met, if not bettered.</p> <p>26. The State Government should change the regulatory framework for developments that fall within 'no permit required' and 'permitted use' under planning schemes to deliver an efficient and timely approach for dealing with planning outcomes.</p> <p>27. The Government should take a much more active approach to engaging with the private sector to facilitate major projects in Tasmania.</p>
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		<p>28. The State Government should carefully manage the roll-out of its 'Construction Blitz' program. The flow of housing construction should be scheduled to deliver the intended stimulatory effect without over-heating the industry. ★</p> <p>29. The State Government should further support all enterprises adapting to new COVID-19 Safe Workplace requirements.</p> <p>30. The compliance arrangements need to be clear and as simple as possible, and penalties limited to genuinely recalcitrant non-compliers.</p> <p>31. Simple templates and tools should be made widely available and small organisations given proactive assistance to meet their minimum requirements.</p> <p>32. Common approaches for common situations should be encouraged, not bespoke arrangements for each situation.</p> <p>33. The State Government should engage with Volunteering Tasmania to develop support measures to enable organisations to retain and attract volunteers.</p> <p>34. Workplace Standards should make special efforts, including by providing simple templates, to assist volunteer-based organisations develop COVID-19 Safety Plans.</p>
Starting to Address the Structural Issues	Specific sectors	<p>35. The State Government should take a leadership role in collaborating with all Tasmania's elected representatives, to ensure a common voice in lobbying the Australian Government to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ provide a transition path for COVID-19 income supplements; ▪ provide a transition path for JobKeeper for all sectors, and particularly those most exposed to closed international borders and physical distancing requirements; ▪ continue the International Freight Assistance Mechanism while there is a material reduction in air capacity into key markets; and ▪ extend beyond September the current relaxed insolvency measures for enterprises. ★ <p>36. The State Government should take all appropriate steps to re-establish visitor access to Tasmania at maximum feasible capacity once border controls allow demand to resume. This should include appropriate liaison with the Access Working Group, and should focus on both air and sea access, as well as the best evolving balance between them.</p>

		<p>37. The State Government should provide clear direction to the TT-Line Board that it is to lead not lag passenger capacity into Tasmania, particularly in the absence of substantial air access.</p> <p>38. The State Government should build on the current intrastate and interstate marketing campaign by developing additional cost-effective practical initiatives to drive spending. ★</p> <p>39. The State Government should implement and fund the Community Arts and Cultural Development strategy.</p> <p>40. The State Government should drive the development of effective job placement approaches that enable regional led solutions and provide for employer and job-seeker matching at a local level.</p> <p>41. The State Government should accelerate existing strategies to deliver improved educational opportunities that meet individual student needs as well as providing clearer pathways to jobs in identified post-COVID-19 industry priority areas, the training system and university.</p>
	People	<p><i>Young People</i></p> <p>42. The State Government should rigorously monitor and enforce apprentice requirements for government building and construction works as required in the Building and Construction Training Policy.</p> <p>43. A similar model should be applied to capital work programs for government businesses.</p> <p>44. The roll-out of the affordable housing stimulus as part of the 'Construction Blitz' program should contain apprenticeship requirements on a similar basis to those that apply to the Government's own construction program.</p> <p>45. The State Government should extend the payroll tax rebate schemes for youth employees, and for apprentices and trainees.</p> <p>46. The State Government should implement a structured approach to increasing the share of its own workforce represented by young people.</p> <p><i>Women</i></p> <p>47. The State Government should support further industry programs to enhance workplace cultural change and development pipelines for women.</p> <p>48. The Tasmanian State Sector should create traineeship pipelines within Government and maintain at least gender parity in recruitment.</p> <p>49. Government agencies should embed flexible working arrangements delivered successfully through the COVID-19 suppression period, to support the recruitment and advancement of women in the State Service.</p>

		<p><i>Other people disproportionately impacted</i></p> <p>50. The State Government should prioritise work, including shared data capability, to identify, engage and support vulnerable cohorts that may have ongoing disproportionate adverse impacts during recovery, including through disruption to education, training, and employment. ★</p> <p>51. Vulnerable Students Panels across all sectors should be continued, appropriately resourced, embedded within the education system and bolstered by a comprehensive case management system.</p>
	Regional Impacts	<p>52. The State Government should review its capital program and place a higher weighting on distributing activity towards smaller-scale regional projects.</p> <p>53. The State Government should use its influence to encourage government businesses and other public-sector infrastructure providers to establish capital project priorities that place a higher weighting on distributing activity towards smaller-scale regional projects.</p> <p>54. The State Government, with the support of the Australian Government, should address digital inclusion and equity across Tasmanian communities, including by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ addressing critical regional mobile and internet black spots; and ▪ making available at little or no cost, devices and other resources needed to enable disadvantaged Tasmanians to engage in education, employment and to seek the assistance they may require from support services, regardless of location. <p>55. The State Government should expand the roll out of digital literacy initiatives in communities around Tasmania utilising existing networks such as Libraries Tasmania and Service Tasmania.</p> <p>56. The State Government should work with regional councils to explore innovative approaches to community transport to better connect people living in regional areas to education and work opportunities.</p>
	Stay Focused on Addressing the Social Impacts	<p>57. The State Government should quickly review how the additional COVID-19 government funding for mental health; family violence; and emergency food relief has been used and the outcomes delivered. ★</p> <p>58. Monitoring and rapid contingency planning should be undertaken to ascertain if further additional funding is needed across these important community impact areas.</p> <p>59. In developing COVID-19 Safe Workplace approaches, the State Government should prioritise restoring face-to-face service delivery (directly and through purchased services), particularly for community support services.</p>

	<p>60. Where digital service delivery has delivered improved outcomes from a client perspective, those changes should be maintained.</p> <p>61. The State Government should develop and provide Tasmanians with a 'whole of population screening tool' so the general public can 'check in' on their mental health and seek help early if needed. This should be supported by a public awareness campaign to prevent long-term impacts and raise awareness of the newly-funded access points for help.</p> <p>62. The State Government should plan and transition from increased emergency food relief provision towards community-based and school-based food security models.</p>
How Government Delivery Needs to be Different	<p>63. The State Government should implement a regionally-based model for coordinating the recovery journey.</p> <p>64. The State Government should accelerate the Tasmanian State Service Review.</p>



COPY

7 July 2020

Mrs Lisa Dixon
PO Box 429
WYNYARD TAS 7325

Dear Lisa

RÉ: JOINT AUDIT PANEL – CIRCULAR HEAD, KING ISLAND AND WARATAH-WYNYARD COUNCILS

In reference to your position as a member of the Joint Audit Panel servicing Waratah-Wynyard Council, Circular Head Council and King Island Council, I wish to advise that your three year appointment expires on the 3 August 2020.

I wish to offer you a term of reappointment to the Panel for a further three year period from the 3 August 2020 to 3 August 2023.

I trust that this offer is acceptable to you and look forward to a favourable response at your convenience.

It would be appreciated if you would sign the attached copy of this letter signifying your acceptance of the renewal of your appointment.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shane Crawford', is written over a faint, stylized outline of the council's logo.

Shane Crawford
GENERAL MANAGER

Waratah Wynyard Council
21 Saunders Street (PO Box 100) Wynyard Tasmania 7325
P: (03) 6443 8328 | F: (03) 6443 8383 | E: council@warawyn.tas.gov.au

*I, Lisa Dixon accept the terms and conditions outlined in this letter for renewal of my appointment as **Member of the Joint Audit Panel** for Waratah-Wynyard Council, Circular Head Council and King Island Council.*

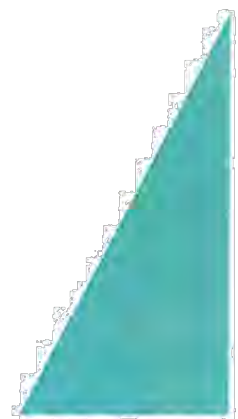
Name: Lisa Dixon

Signature: *Lisa Dixon*

Date: 27.07.20



Waratah Wynyard Council
21 Saunders Street (PO Box 188) Wynyard Tasmania 7325
P: (03) 6443 6333 | F: (03) 6443 5363 | E: council@warwyn.tas.gov.au



Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water & Environment

Hobart GPO Box 44, Hobart, Tasmania, 7001
Ph 1300 368 550
Web www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au



Waratah-Wynyard Council
Attn: Mr Shane Crawford
PO Box 168
WYNYARD TAS 7325
Email: scrawford@warwyn.tas.gov.au

Dear Mr Crawford

Sisters Beach Erosion Report

I am writing to you following your recent meeting with Minister Roger Jaensch MP which included discussion about the engagement of a specialist coastal erosion consultant to produce a report for Sisters Beach.

It is my understanding that the discussion with the Minister's acknowledged Waratah-Wynyard Councils commitment to fund 50 per cent of the cost of the report, which is expected to have a total cost of \$46,000.

The scope of work provided in January of this year remains unchanged, however Council are invited to review and provide any comments in advance of the engagement of the current preferred contractor, Syrinx Environmental. The Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS) can coordinate the engagement of Syrinx Environmental once the scope of works is agreed and clarify delivery timeframes subject to current scheduled Syrinx Environmental work commitments.

It remains important that Council understands that although the PWS has agreed to co-contribution of the report and some revegetation costs, any other works that may be deemed suitable and desirable, are not likely to be funded by the PWS.

Should you have any queries regarding this matter, please contact Fiona Steel, Operations Manager, PWS, on 6165 4682 or Fiona.steel@parks.tas.gov.au

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Lloyd', is written over a faint, light-colored background that looks like a piece of paper with some texture or a watermark.

John Lloyd
**DIRECTOR OPERATIONS
PARKS AND WILDLIFE SERVICE**

19 June 2020

Minister for Housing
Minister for Environment and Parks
Minister for Human Services
Minister for Aboriginal Affairs
Minister for Planning

Level 9 15 Murray Street HOBART TAS 7000 Australia
GPO Box 123 HOBART TAS 7001 Australia
Ph: +61 3-6165 7670
Email: environment@tas.gov.au



15 JUL 2020

Sisters Beach Erosion Group
Attn: Mr Peter Mancell
C/- scrawford@waratah-wynyard.gov.au

Dear Mr Mancell

Peter

I reply to your letter dated 3 May 2020 to Mr Shane Crawford, General Manager Waratah-Wynyard Council (WWC). In accordance with your request, your letter has been forwarded to me, as the Minister for Environment and Parks, for consideration and response.

Thank you for raising your concerns with me regarding the erosion at Sisters Beach and for outlining the work and great interest your group has in the coastal reserve.

I recently met with Waratah-Wynyard Council Mayor, Robby Walsh, for what was a very productive meeting on local issues which included the erosion at Sisters Beach. I am pleased to be able to assist address the erosion issues through the support of my Department and the Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS).

Regarding your letter, I am advised that your group, the Sisters Beach Erosion Group 25-43 (SBEG 25-43), notified the PWS in August 2019 that you would be progressing a Development Application for remedial works to a dune front to mitigate erosion effects for the 10 residences in the group. The advice also stated that discussions had commenced with a suitable contractor, with cost estimates in the order of \$100,000 to \$125,000, and that it was the group's intention to seek grant funding for this work.

I also note some works have been initiated and these works have been funded by the residents. I appreciate that residents have been proactive in managing the erosion issues; however, it is important that all works are properly designed and assessed with all of the necessary approvals in place.

I have received advice on the issues at both Sisters Beach and Hellyer Beach and am advised that it is necessary to commission a site specific revegetation strategy. I have encouraged the PWS to progress this work and discuss joint funding with the WWC as the licensee of the coastal reserve.

I am advised that the PWS has supported the WWC to date by approving and authorising works this financial year within the Public Reserve licenced to the WWC. This included the construction of Nodes 2 and 10, undertaking tree removal works in the vicinity of Sisters Creek, and the release of the Water Technology report noted in your references so that it would further inform SBEG 25-43 of assessments

scrawford

undertaken to date. I am further advised that the WWC has a further eight nodes under review, and the PWS will continue working with the WWC as they consider retention and/or replacement or removal of existing infrastructure.

I am hopeful that a considered revegetation strategy will identify low cost solutions that may be introduced over time by landowners adjoining the beachfront, and I encourage your group to remain active and engaged with this process.

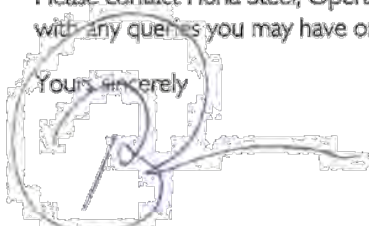
The PWS has also advised me that it will conduct inspections in the near future to formally document all encroachments and unauthorised structures. Each adjoining freehold resident will be contacted following the inspections regarding their specific encroachments onto the Public Reserve.

All landowners will be encouraged to remove unauthorised encroachments. The PWS will be in contact to provide advice on the process for the removal of unauthorised encroachments. I would like to reassure the group and residents that this is not a compliance exercise but will allow for more Crown land to be available to help mitigate further coastal erosion.

Thank you again for writing to me on this matter.

Please contact Fiona Steel, Operations - Property Services, on 6165 4682 or fiona.steel@nt.gov.au with any queries you may have on the process and next steps.

Yours sincerely



Hon. Roger Jaensch MP
Minister for Environment and Parks

Summary of Carry Forward Budget Amendments

Project	WO No	2020 Budget \$	Actual to 30 June \$	Budget Remaining (Available to C/Fwd) \$	Carry Forward Adopted \$	Revised Carry Forward \$
8' Hydraulic Grader Blade	2292	5,700	0	5,700	5,700	5,700
Aerial Imagery Update	2405	30,000	0	30,000	30,000	30,000
ANZAC Park All Ability Playground	2370	150,000	15,224	134,776	100,000	134,776
Asset System Upgrade (Conquest)	2414	22,632	6,818	15,814	0	15,814
Bollard Replacement	2492	46,588	14,332	32,256	0	
Depot Trade Waste Pretreatment System	2416	37,623	13,728	23,895	24,448	23,895
East Wynyard Foreshore Playground	2365	491,690	44,802	446,888	447,508	446,888
East Wynyard Foreshore Toilet	2432	95,000	83,289	11,711	0	11,711
Exhibition Link Vulnerable Road users link	2476	12,500	851	11,649	0	11,649
Finance/Assets Software	2272	160,000	62,090	97,910	128,401	97,910
Goldie St Pedestrian Crossing Point	2475	30,000	8,763	21,237	21,237	21,237
HR Management System	2271	30,000	0	30,000	30,000	30,000
Jackson St Vulnerable Road User Crossing	2474	30,000	133	29,867	30,000	29,867
Langley Park Instal Grease Trap	2489	7,000	2,172	4,828	0	4,828
Links Child Care Playground Replacement	2181	60,000	0	60,000	60,000	60,000
Multi Use Community Facility	2246	3,813,698	238,434	3,575,264	3,594,701	3,575,264
New Radio System (Depot)	2417	5,000	2,838	2,162	2,500	2,162
Online Booking System	2283	20,000	0	20,000	20,000	20,000
Park St Additional DDA Complaint Parking Bays	2479	20,470	8,893	11,577	0	3,300
Port Road Boat Harbour Drainage	2512	0	94,203	-94,203	24,320	30,797
Public Art	2411	10,000	0	10,000	10,000	10,000
Renew Chambers Facia & Eaves	2399	52,000	-	52,000	0	52,000
RSL Honour Board	2402	1,570	0	1,570	0	1,570
Rural Roads Junction Upgrades	2469	15,000	13,897	1,103	0	0
Sisters Beach Hardstand	2498	70,000	14,879	55,121	54,000	55,121
Sisters Beach Pedestrian Bridge	2373	12,500	851	11,649	11,649	0
Skate Park Art Boards	2413	4,000	0	4,000	4,000	4,000
Somerset CBD Masterplan Works	2074				12,112	0
Somerset CBD Public Art	2347	47,740	22,544	25,196	25,848	25,196
Somerset Soccer Ground Fence Repair, Security Improvements and Gate Facility	2361	10,000	866	9,134	0	9,134
Somerset Surf Club Instal Grease Trap	2490	9,000	2,423	6,577	0	6,577
Urban Footpaths - DDA compliance	2464	30,000	23,525	6,475	0	0
Wynyard CBD Plaza	2480	500,000	189,812	310,188	200,000	310,188
Wynyard Recreation Ground Change Rooms	2359	550,000	529,459	20,541	57,131	20,541
Wynyard Recreation Ground Fence Replacement	2482	279,790	174,489	105,301	0	22,916
Total					4,893,555	5,073,041
Change (increase)						179,486

Waratah Wynyard Council

Final Capital Expenditure Report as at 30 June 2020

Project	WO No	Estimate \$	Actual \$	Balance Remaining \$
<u>GOVERNANCE</u>				
Council				
Renew Chambers Facia & Eaves	2399	52,000	-	52,000
Replace Chambers Atrium roof	2400	8,000	7,945	55
Council Chamber Security Improvements	2401	12,000	8,875	3,125
RSL Honour Board	2402	1,570	-	1,570
Multi Use Community Facility	2246	3,813,698	238,434	3,575,264
Wynyard Wharf Entrance Augmentation	2175	201,326	113,579	87,747
New Board Walk and Seawall Renewal	2176	495,077	1,037,724	(542,647)
HR Management System	2271	30,000	-	30,000
Chambers Sound System	2268	3,000	-	3,000
Council Rebranding	2011	74,078	78,263	(4,185)
		4,690,749	1,484,820	3,205,929
TOTAL GOVERNANCE		4,690,749	1,484,820	3,205,929
<u>STRATEGIC & FINANCIAL SERVICES</u>				
Strategic & Financial Services				
Finance/Assets Software	2272	160,000	62,090	97,910
CCTV Cameras	2403	160,000	162,898	(2,898)
		320,000	224,988	95,012
TOTAL STRATEGIC & FINANCIAL SERVICES		320,000	224,988	95,012
<u>CORPORATE SERVICES</u>				
Information Technology				
IT Replacement	2404	28,000	27,950	50
Aerial Imagery Update	2405	30,000	-	30,000
IT Replacement	2273	41,131	28,056	13,075
		99,131	56,006	43,125
TOTAL CORPORATE SERVICES		99,131	56,006	43,125
<u>COMMUNITY SERVICES</u>				
Children Services				
Links Child Care Security Door	2406	5,368	3,397	1,971
Links Child Care Playground Replacement	2181	60,000	-	60,000
Links Child Care Drainage Upgrade	2407	4,500	3,214	1,286
		69,868	6,611	63,257
Tourism				
Duress Alarm - WOW	2408	2,500	2,094	406
Waratah Museum Veranda Enclose	2409	2,000	890	1,110
		4,500	2,984	1,516
General				
Online Booking System	2283	20,000	-	20,000
Public Art	2411	10,000	-	10,000
Somerset Xmas Decorations	2412	15,000	14,930	70
Skate Park Art Boards	2413	4,000	-	4,000
Interactive Christmas Street Scape	2282	13,174	9,190	3,984
		62,174	24,120	38,054
COMMUNITY SERVICES		136,542	33,715	102,827
<u>ENGINEERING SERVICES</u>				
Depot				
Asset System Upgrade (Conquest)	2414	22,632	6,818	15,814
360 Degree Site Traffic Cameras	2415	4,000	2,783	1,217
Depot Trade Waste Pretreatment System	2416	37,623	13,728	23,895
Depot Car Park and Security	2290	29,000	2,180	26,820
New Radio System (Depot)	2417	5,000	2,838	2,162

Project	WO No	Estimate \$	Actual \$	Balance Remaining \$
Plant		98,255	28,346	69,909
10' Grader Blade 3 Point Linkage	2291	10,500	-	10,500
8' Hydraulic Grader Blade	2292	5,700	-	5,700
Tractor Loader 2523	2293	135,000	128,000	7,000
Toro Ride on 1513	2418	31,500	19,700	11,800
Slasher Superior 1553	2419	11,500	-	11,500
Isuzu Dmax 4x4 2034	2420	20,000	17,531	2,469
Mitsubishi Triton 4 x 4 2129	2421	13,637	14,766	(1,129)
Toyota Camry 2167	2422	16,000	17,157	(1,157)
Holden Equinox 2191	2423	9,600	12,897	(3,297)
Kia Carnival 2360	2424	20,000	22,732	(2,732)
Subaru Forester 3090	2425	16,000	15,903	97
Small Plant Replacement	2426	30,000	28,722	1,278
Backhoe Waratah 501	2427	(2,000)	-	(2,000)
Forklift TCM 801	2428	28,000	-	28,000
Truck Mounted Cherry Picker	2429	80,000	83,871	(3,871)
Street Sweeper	2430	286,340	328,777	(42,437)
Arm Mounted Flail Mower/Slasher	2431	80,000	73,950	6,050
		791,777	764,006	27,771
TOTAL ENGINEERING SERVICES		890,032	792,353	97,679
WASTE MANAGEMENT				
Relocate RV Dump Point	2307	25,000	34,344	(9,344)
TOTAL WASTE MANAGEMENT		25,000	34,344	(9,344)
PUBLIC CONVENIENCES				
Boat Harbour Beach Toilets Stainless Steel Lining	2308	20,658	20,720	(62)
East Wynyard Foreshore Toilet	2432	95,000	83,289	11,711
TOTAL PUBLIC CONVENIENCES		115,658	104,009	11,649
TRANSPORT				

Project	WO No	Estimate \$	Actual \$	Balance Remaining \$
<u>Re-Sheeting</u>				
Allens Rd (0000-1035m) - Surface	2433	45,000	50,152	(5,152)
Deep Creek Rd (05809-07509m) - Surface	2434	73,000	67,130	5,870
Deep Creek Rd (07509-08711m) - Surface	2435	53,000	42,688	10,312
Doctors Rd (0000-0992m) - Surface	2436	40,000	29,140	10,860
Elphinstones Rd (0000-1903m) - Surface	2437	85,000	77,548	7,452
Masons Rd (0000-1090m) - Surface	2438	49,000	39,392	9,608
Oldina Rd (20015-20611m) - Surface	2439	42,288	25,272	17,016
Reservoir Drv (7338-8931m) - Surface	2440	20,000	31,415	(11,415)
Rulla Rd (1971-4207m) - Surface	2441	99,000	75,193	23,807
West Calder Rd (50-03025m) - Surface - part of asset ID 18914	2442	120,000	109,751	10,249
Scotts Rd (1621-3933m) - Surface	2443	95,000	80,658	14,342
		721,288	628,338	92,950
<u>Reseals - Rural</u>				
Guildford Rd (0000 - 0069m) - Surface	2444	3,614	7,857	(4,243)
Ten Foot Trk (0000 - 0017m) - Surface	2445	8,556	829	7,727
Preolenna Rd (13516 - 15518m) - Surface	2446	65,881	24,406	41,475
Irby Bvd (0246 - 1429m) - Surface	2447	47,185	8,110	39,075
Table Cape Rd (3646 - 4282m) - Surface	2448	30,333	22,976	7,357
Table Cape Rd (2958 - 3646m) - Surface	2449	34,088	27,519	6,569
Kenelm Av (0145 - 0391m) - Surface	2450	9,969	8,101	1,868
East Bvd (0085 - 0327m) - Surface	2451	17,129	12,132	4,997
Irby Bvd (0052 - 0246m) - Surface	2452	10,576	26,338	(15,762)
East Boulevard Sec - 1 Surface	2453	6,876	4,551	2,325
		234,207	142,820	91,387
<u>Reseals - Urban</u>				
George St (Somerset)	2343	58,000	-	58,000
George St (Somerset) Sec 2 - Surface	2454	20,000	8,481	11,519
George St (Somerset) Sec 4 - Surface	2455	30,000	12,193	17,807
George St (Somerset) Sec 5 - Surface	2456	10,000	11,766	(1,766)
Caravan Park Access (Off Old Bass Hwy) Sec - 1 Surface	2457	5,957	1,406	4,551
Main Pumpstation Road Sec - 1 Surface	2458	2,462	282	2,180
Cotton Street Sec - 1 Surface	2459	12,175	9,153	3,022
Newhaven Drv (0395 - 0617m) - Surface	2460	8,286	12,674	(4,388)
Port Road Sec - 2 Surface	2461	3,989	11,349	(7,360)
Port Road Sec - 1 Surface	2462	3,656	4,241	(585)
Edward Street Sec - 1 Surface	2463	4,135	6,101	(1,966)
		158,660	77,645	81,014
<u>Footpaths</u>				
Footpath Major Repairs Old Bass Highway Dodgin St to Wharf Entrance	2346	25,000	1,645	23,355
Urban Footpaths - DDA compliance	2464	30,000	23,525	6,475
Belton St/Frederick St Footpath Continuity	2465	66,505	43,868	22,637
Bridge St Sisters Beach Footpath	2466	71,100	50,814	20,287
		192,605	119,851	72,754
<u>General</u>				
Woolworths Car Park	2252	78,349	87,893	(9,544)
Somerset CBD Public Art	2347	47,740	22,544	25,196
Somerset CBD Masterplan Works	2074	261,332	281,587	(20,255)
Railway Inst. Hall Replace Windows - Brick Section	2467	25,000	27,538	(2,538)
- Rear Section	2468	10,000	7,617	2,383

Project	WO No	Estimate \$	Actual \$	Balance Remaining \$
Rural Roads Junction Upgrades	2469	15,000	13,897	1,103
Wynyard CBD Bin replacement	2470	51,000	58,382	(7,382)
Retaining Wall Replacement 57 Jackson St	2471	21,854	13,640	8,214
Retaining Wall - 96 Jackson St	2472	56,301	44,337	11,964
Wynyard CBD Heavy Vehicle Detour Signage	2473	8,150	6,045	2,105
Jackson St Vulnerable Road User Crossing	2474	30,000	133	29,867
Goldie St Pedestrian Crossing Point	2475	30,000	8,763	21,237
Exhibition Link Vulnerable Road users link	2476	12,500	851	11,649
Tennis Court Rd Speed hump	2477	9,988	6,773	3,215
Inglis St Guard Rail Over Big Creek	2478	91,875	-	91,875
Park St Additional DDA Complaint Parking Bays	2479	20,470	8,893	11,577
Wynyard CBD Plaza	2480	500,000	189,812	310,188
Wynyard Lawn Cemetery New Memorial Wall	2349	30,000	37,157	(7,157)
		1,299,559	815,861	483,698
Bridges				
Rural Road Bridges - Upgrade bridge approaches	2481	10,000	10,125	(125)
		10,000	10,125	(125)
TOTAL TRANSPORT		2,616,319	1,794,639	821,679
SPORTING FACILITIES				
Wynyard				
Wynyard Recreation Ground Change Rooms	2359	550,000	529,459	20,541
Wynyard Recreation Ground Fence Replacement	2482	279,790	174,489	105,301
Wynyard Sports Centre Renew Line Marking	2483	6,758	3,450	3,308
Wynyard Tennis Courts Upgrade Lights to LED	2484	13,000	13,274	(274)
Wynyard Wharf Replace Damaged Pylons	2485	20,000	11,308	8,692
Frederick St Underground Irrigation	2486	153,379	152,417	962
		1,022,927	884,397	138,530
Somerset				
Somerset Soccer Ground Fence Repair, Security Improvements and Gate Facility	2361	10,000	866	9,134
Somerset Indoor Rec Centre Replace Box Gutters	2487	9,500	9,311	189
Somerset Indoor Rec Centre Install LED Lights West Wing	2488	16,000	16,735	(735)
Langley Park Instal Grease Trap	2489	7,000	2,172	4,828
Somerset Surf Club Instal Grease Trap	2490	9,000	2,423	6,577
Cardigan St Underground Irrigation	2491	148,470	131,980	16,490
		199,970	163,486	36,484
TOTAL SPORTING FACILITIES		1,222,897	1,047,883	175,014
PARKS & GARDENS				
Wynyard				
Camp Creek Remediation	2082	361,591	200,364	161,227
Camp Creek Pedestrian Bridge	2364	75,000	-	75,000
East Wynyard Foreshore Playground	2365	491,690	44,802	446,888
Gutteridge Garden Replace Fencing at Sound Shell	2369	20,000	8,098	11,903
Bollard Replacement	2492	46,588	14,332	32,256
Lyons St - Zig Zag Walking Track Upgrade	2493	135,476	186,227	(50,751)
Inglis River Walking Track Bridge over Telford Creek	2494	38,000	7,817	30,183

Project	WO No	Estimate \$	Actual \$	Balance Remaining \$
Sisters Beach Pedestrian Bridge	2373	129,122	79,291	49,831
		1,297,467	540,931	756,536
<u>Somerset</u>				
ANZAC Park All Ability Playground	2370	150,000	15,224	134,776
		150,000	15,224	134,776
<u>General Parks & Reserves</u>				
BBQ Renewals	2495	5,000	4,242	758
Parks Furniture Renewal	2496	10,000	7,367	2,634
Waratah Falls Lookout - New Walking Track	2497	10,658	11,385	(727)
Sisters Beach - Access Repairs	2396	83,050	76,960	6,090
Sisters Beach Hardstand	2498	70,000	14,879	55,121
		178,708	114,833	63,875
TOTAL PARKS & GARDENS		1,626,175	670,988	955,187
STORMWATER DRAINAGE				
<u>Stormwater Pipe Replacements and Upgrades</u>				
Dart Street Outfall Upgrade	2499	44,564	28,481	16,083
Port Road Boat Harbour Drainage	2512	0	94,203	(94,203)
Rural Road Culvert Replacement	2374	30,000	43,601	(13,601)
Port Creek Stormwater Upgrade	2519		12,750	(12,750)
Big Creek Stormwater Upgrade	2520		17,336	(17,336)
Cotton Street Stormwater Upgrade	2521		454	(454)
		74,564	196,825	(122,261)
<u>General</u>				
Gully Pits	2500	23,000	10,908	12,092
Manhole Covers	2501	23,000	18,951	4,049
		46,000	29,859	16,141
TOTAL DRAINAGE		120,564	226,684	(106,120)
TOTAL CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAM 2019/20		11,863,067	6,470,429	5,392,637

Revised Estimated Statement of Capital Expenditure

	Carry Forward	Estimate 2021	Renewal	Upgrade	New
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Buildings					
Amenities	11,711	47,061	-	22,061	25,000
Community Facilities	3,575,264	4,510,169	-	10,200	4,499,969
Council Operational Buildings	52,000	232,250	168,250	3,000	61,000
Total Buildings	3,638,975	4,789,480	168,250	35,261	4,585,969
Parks & Open Spaces					
Child Care	60,000	60,000	60,000	-	-
Other	-	130,000	10,000	-	120,000
Other Infrastructure	55,121	125,121	-	-	125,121
Playgrounds	581,664	1,272,414	447,888	824,526	-
Recreational Reserves	-	301,340	115,450	101,563	84,327
Walkways & Tracks	-	2,647,995	168,995	-	2,479,000
Wynyard	-	6,000	6,000	-	-
Total Parks & Open Spaces	696,785	4,542,870	808,333	926,089	2,808,448
Plant & Equipment					
Other Plant & Equipment	66,823	172,783	45,122	61,570	66,091
Plant & Vehicle Replacements	5,700	794,641	750,541	-	44,100
Software & IT Replacements	193,724	251,724	171,724	30,000	50,000
Total Plant & Equipment	266,247	1,219,148	967,387	91,570	160,191
Sporting Facilities					
Camping	-	30,000	-	-	30,000
Indoor Recreational Facilities	43,457	690,957	-	605,957	85,000
Outdoor Sporting Facilities	20,539	282,539	-	238,539	44,000
Total Sporting Facilities	63,996	1,003,496	-	844,496	159,000
Stormwater					
Flood Mitigation Works	-	2,400,000	-	-	2,400,000
Other Stormwater Works	30,797	82,397	7,800	74,597	-
Total Stormwater	30,797	2,482,397	7,800	74,597	2,400,000
Transport					
Bridge Renewals	-	654,313	584,313	70,000	-
Footpaths & Kerbs	-	195,870	60,000	-	135,870
Other Transport	376,241	660,515	33,300	572,676	54,539
Resheeting	-	935,150	935,150	-	-
Rural Reseals	-	616,057	616,057	-	-
Strategic Projects	-	46,337	-	-	46,337
Urban Reseals	-	126,462	84,272	42,190	-
Total Transport	376,241	3,234,705	2,313,093	684,866	236,746
Total Estimated Capital Expenditure	5,073,041	17,272,096	4,264,863	2,656,879	10,350,354

Revised Estimated Statement of Comprehensive Income

	Estimate	Adjustment	Revised Estimate
	\$	\$	\$
Recurrent Income			
Rates & Charges	11,434,382		11,434,382
User Charges	2,213,600		2,213,600
Reimbursements/contributions	519,959		519,959
Grants	3,429,944		3,429,944
Interest	150,000		150,000
Distributions from Water Corporation	-		-
	17,747,885	-	17,747,885
Recurrent Expenses			
Employee Costs	7,114,362		7,114,362
State Levies	527,426		527,426
Remissions & Discounts	447,749		447,749
Materials & Contracts	5,462,966		5,462,966
Depreciation	4,466,666		4,466,666
Gain/(Loss) on Disposal	127,102		127,102
Borrowing Costs	24,307		24,307
Other Expenses	378,065		378,065
	18,548,643	-	18,548,643
Surplus/(Deficit)	(800,758)	-	(800,758)
Capital Income			
Capital Grants	4,850,823	132,500	4,983,323
Comprehensive result	4,050,065	132,500	4,182,565

Revised Estimated Statement of Financial Position

	Actual 2020 \$	Estimate 2021 \$	Adjustment \$	Revised Estimate \$
Current Assets				
Cash and Cash Equivalents	12,075,844	5,609,324	(1,072,466)	4,536,858
Receivables	1,607,402	880,000	-	880,000
Inventories	119,036	110,804	8,232	119,036
Land Held for Resale	-	-	-	-
Other	295,097	193,800	295,097	488,897
	14,097,379	6,793,928	(769,137)	6,024,791
Non-Current Assets				
Property, Plant and Equipment	201,248,515	174,845,627	39,081,216	213,926,843
Investment in Water Corporation	39,684,454	51,687,318	(12,002,864)	39,684,454
	240,932,969	226,532,945	27,078,352	253,611,297
Total Assets	255,030,348	233,326,873	26,309,215	259,636,088
Current Liabilities				
Payables	3,783,138	1,867,516	-	1,867,516
Financial Liabilities	119,862	353,319	-	353,319
Provisions	1,813,806	1,859,708	4,885	1,864,593
	5,716,806	4,080,543	4,885	4,085,428
Non-Current Liabilities				
Financial Liabilities	750,312	2,796,993	-	2,796,993
Provisions	281,155	299,782	(10,755)	289,027
	1,031,467	3,096,775	(10,755)	3,086,020
Total Liabilities	6,748,273	7,177,318	(5,870)	7,171,448
Net Assets	248,282,075	226,149,555	26,315,085	252,464,640
Equity				
Accumulated Surplus	155,822,539	158,610,235	1,394,869	160,005,104
Reserves	92,459,536	67,539,320	24,920,216	92,459,536
Total Equity	248,282,075	226,149,555	26,315,085	252,464,640

Revised Estimated Statement of Cash Flows

	Estimate	Adjustment	Revised Estimate
	2021	2021	2021
Cash flows from operating activities			
Employee Costs	(7,061,692)	5,989	(7,055,703)
Materials and Contracts	(7,105,351)	(37)	(7,105,388)
State levies	(527,426)	-	(527,426)
Other expenses	(825,814)	-	(825,814)
Rates & Charges	11,434,382	(270,708)	11,163,674
User Charges	2,213,600	-	2,213,600
Interest	150,000	-	150,000
Reimbursements/contributions	519,959	-	519,959
Grants	3,429,944	531,110	3,961,054
Net Cash provided by (used in) operating activities	2,227,602	266,354	2,493,956
Cash flows from investing activities			
Payments for Property, Plant and Equipment	(16,230,042)	(1,042,054)	(17,382,278)
Distributions from Water Corporation	-	-	-
Proceeds from Sale of Property, Plant and Equipment	110,182	-	110,182
Capital Grants	4,850,823	132,500	4,983,323
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities	(11,269,037)	(909,554)	(12,288,773)
Cash flows from financing activities			
Loan Drawdowns	2,400,000	-	2,400,000
Borrowing Costs	(24,307)	-	(24,307)
Loan Repayments	(119,862)	(0)	(119,862)
Net cash provided by financing activities	2,255,831	(0)	2,255,831
Net (Decrease) in Cash Held	(6,785,604)		(7,538,986)
Cash at beginning of year	12,394,928	(319,084)	12,075,844
Cash at end of year	5,609,324	(319,084)	4,536,858

	<p style="text-align: center;">WARATAH-WYNYARD COUNCIL</p> <p style="text-align: center;">DIGITAL RECORDING OF COUNCIL MEETINGS POLICY</p>
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1. SCOPE

- 1.1 This policy relates to the digital recording of Waratah-Wynyard Council Meetings.

2. PURPOSE

- 2.1 This policy provides for digital audio recording of Council Meetings to assist in the preparation of minutes and to ensure that a true and accurate account of debate and discussion at meetings is available and to ensure transparent decision making.

3. POLICY STATEMENT

- 3.1 All Council Meetings, including Special Meetings shall be digitally recorded as provided for by Regulation 33 of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015* (the Act) except for the proceedings of meetings or parts of meetings closed to the public in accordance with Regulation 15 (2).
- 3.2 All Ordinary and Special Council Meetings will be live streamed.
- 3.3 The Council may, by resolution, determine to digitally record the proceedings of a specific meeting or part thereof that is closed to the public in accordance with Regulation 15 (2) of the Act.
- 3.4 Digital recordings will be accessible on the Council's website by any person for the period they are retained by the Council. The Council makes this information available as a routine disclosure under the *Right to Information Act 2009*.
- 3.5 The digital files of meeting proceedings closed to the public (as per clause 3.3) will only be available for listening, upon written request, by one or more councillors entitled to be present during the proceedings in question.
- 3.6 A notice to inform the public that the meeting proceedings are digitally recorded is to be displayed at the entrance to a room in which a meeting is to be held.
- 3.7 At the time of declaring the meeting open, the Chairperson is to inform councillors and any public present that the meeting is being recorded and live streamed.
- 3.8 Council is to retain the digital files of meeting recordings for six (6) months in accordance with Regulation 33 of the Act and to dispose of the files following the expiry of that period.
- 3.9 Where, due to technical difficulties, digital recording is not available, the chairperson will advise those present and relevant details will be placed on the Council website.

Legislative Requirements

- Regulation 33 of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015*
- Right to Information Act 2009*

Related Procedures/Guidelines:

- Waratah-Wynyard Council Meeting Procedures

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