



AGENDA

Annual General Meeting

Monday 15 January 2024

At 7.00pm

Council Chambers, 21 Saunders Street, Wynyard

Notice is given that an Annual General Meeting of Council will be held at the Waratah-Wynyard Council Chambers, 21 Saunders Street, Wynyard on Monday **15 January 2024** commencing at 7.00pm.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'SC', is positioned above the name of the General Manager.

Shane Crawford
GENERAL MANAGER

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DIGITAL RECORDING OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

The Public is advised that it is Council policy to record and live stream the proceedings of meetings of Council on digital media to assist in the preparation of minutes and to ensure that a true and accurate account of debate and discussion of meetings is available.

This recording is authorised by *the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015*.

AGENDA OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE WARATAH-WYNYARD COUNCIL TO BE HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS 21 SAUNDERS STREET WYNYARD ON MONDAY 15 JANUARY 2024 COMMENCING AT 7.00PM.

1.0 PRESENT

Councillors

In Attendance

Recorded on Attendance Sheet

2.0 APOLOGIES

3.0 WELCOME

The Mayor to make a statement

4.0 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

Section 72B. of the *Local Government Act 1993* (the Act) provides that in relation to an Annual General Meeting.

72B. Annual General Meeting

(1) A council must hold an Annual General Meeting on a date that –

(a) is not later than 15 December in each year; and

(b) is not before 14 days after the date of the first publication of a notice under [subsection \(2\)](#).

(2) A council must publish a notice in a daily newspaper circulating in the municipal area or other prescribed newspaper specifying the date, time and place of the Annual General Meeting.

(3) If a quorum of the council is not present at an Annual General Meeting –

(a) the Annual General Meeting is to be reconvened and held within 14 days; and

(b) a notice is to be published in a daily newspaper circulating in the municipal area specifying the date, time and place of the Annual General Meeting.

(4) Only electors in the municipal area are entitled to vote at an Annual General Meeting.

(5) A motion at an Annual General Meeting is passed by a majority of votes taken by a show of hands or by any other means of ascertaining the vote the council determines.

(6) A motion passed at an Annual General Meeting is to be considered at the next meeting of the council.

(7) The general manager is to keep minutes of the Annual General Meeting.

The Annual General Meeting is being held past the legislated date of 15 December due to delays in receiving audited financial statements from the Tasmanian Audit Office.

The Director of Local Government was advised of the delay when it became apparent that Council would be unable to meet its legislative obligation. The Director Local Government acknowledged the advice and noted that the delay was outside of Council's control.

5.0 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

RECOMMENDATION

“That Council receive and note the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Waratah-Wynyard Council, held at 21 Saunders Street, Wynyard on 24 October 2022, previously circulated and adopted at the Council Meeting on 22 November 2022.”

The minutes of the meeting were circulated to Councillors and are included in Attachment 1 at the end of this document.

Any corrections to the Minutes are to be identified and agreed at this point prior to taking a vote to adopt the minutes.

6.0 ANNUAL REPORT PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS

Under the provisions of the *Local Government Act 1993*, Council invited the community to make submissions on its Annual Report for discussion at the Annual General Meeting. The closing date for submissions was 10 January 2024.

There were no submissions received at the time of agenda compilation.

7.0 ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23

RECOMMENDATION

That Council note the Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2023

PURPOSE

To adopt the Annual Report in line with legislative requirements.

BACKGROUND

The Annual Report of the Council for 2022/23 has been prepared pursuant to section 72 of the *Local Government Act 1993* which requires Council to prepare an Annual Report detailing its achievements in respect of goals and objectives for the financial year.

DETAILS

Council’s Strategic Planning Framework guides Council in identifying community needs and aspirations over the long term (Our Vision), medium term (Strategic Plan) and short term (Annual Plan and Budget Estimates) and holds itself accountable through the Audited Financial Statements and Annual Report.

The Annual Plan and Budget Estimates are set in June each year and progress reporting occurs to Council on a quarterly basis.

The Annual Report provides highlights of the Council’s achievements throughout the year together with a performance report on activities listed in the 2022/23 Annual Plan.

As required, the Annual Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2023, together with the Independent Audit Report are included within the Annual Report. Council formally received the audited financial statements at the October meeting.

In accordance with Section 72(2)(d) and (3) of the *Local Government Act 1993*, Council placed advertisements in the Advocate Newspaper on Saturday 9 December 2023 and Saturday 6 January 2024 notifying the public of the Annual General Meeting on Monday 15 January 2024 and invited submissions from the community on the Annual Report.

Outstanding Actions Progress

Details of each action and their status are provided in the attached report. Actions which remain uncompleted as at the end of the financial year will be delivered. A summary of these items is provided below –

Action	Progress
East Wynyard Foreshore Masterplan	Completed. The new boardwalk works have been finalised.
Erosion Mitigation - Somerset	Planning permit completed. Design currently being prepared.
Cam River Masterplan	Public Art project awarded and expected to be fully installed by January 2024.
Rural Road Network Improvements	Completed
Camp Creek Biodiversity Project	Discussions continue with relevant stakeholders with planting expected to commence before June 2024.
Bushfire Risks For Settlement Areas	Risk assessments have occurred for the Somerset area and actions are being taken to mitigate identified risks.
Sustainable Murchison Plan Review	Review was deferred until local government reform process has progressed to decision
Yolla Public Toilet	Investigation is continuing. Council is ready and willing to construct this facility should a suitable site be determined. Update likely to be presented in February 2024 Council agenda.
Enclosed Dog Exercise Area	Progressing negotiations with Wynyard Show Society about establishment of site at showgrounds however progress remains slow due to crown land approval process.
Waratah Community Hub Upgrades	These upgrades were deferred so works can be undertaken concurrently with scheduled maintenance tasks in Waratah in the 23/24 financial year. Works are planned for February '24.
Waratah Rail Bridge	Tender awarded at July 2023 Council meeting with works scheduled to commence in October. Completion scheduled for early February 2024.
Big Creek Flood Mitigation Works	New scope and design being considered. Public consultation has commenced
Port Creek Flood Mitigation Works	Tender awarded at May 2023 Council meeting with works commencing in December. Completion expected in May 2024.
Ballad Avenue Use	Council has determined not to proceed with recreational infrastructure on the site and are seeking feedback from the Sustainability Environmental Advisory Panel as to possible uses for the site.

STATUTORY IMPLICATIONSStatutory Requirements

Section 72 of the *Local Government Act 1993* requires Council to prepare an Annual Report containing the Annual Financial Statements and other statutory requirements. The Annual Report must be considered at the Annual General Meeting, which is to be held no later than 15 December

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONSStrategic Plan Reference

GOAL 1: Leadership and Governance
Desired Outcomes
1.5 We highly value the use of an evidence-based approach to the development and implementation of strategies and policies that support and strengthen our decision making.
Our Priorities
1.5.2 Maintain accountability by ensuring council decisions are evidence based and meet all legislative obligations.

Sustainable Murchison Community Plan 2040

Community Future Direction Theme	Key Challenges & Opportunities:
Business & Industry	Specialised diversity of the economy – Value adding, diversification, innovation and employment. A resilient economy with global brand recognition and growing exports.
Tourism	Memorable visitor experiences all year round – The must see destination, quality product, easy access, popular events and festivals with coordinated marketing. A longer season with increasing yields.
Strong communities and social capital	Enduring community capital – Growing, proud, self-reliant communities that are inclusive and engaged with volunteers and shared facilities.
Access and infrastructure	Local, regional and global transport and infrastructure access – Safe and efficient access alternatives, growing freight capacity, renewable energy, water management and contemporary communications. Community infrastructure that supports economic development.
Natural resource management	Managing abundant, natural and productive resources – Natural resource management is valued and development is environmentally sustainable. The environment is clean and healthy with unspoilt beauty and biodiversity.
Health and Wellbeing	Maintaining good health and wellbeing – Healthy communities, people taking responsibility for their wellness, convenient access to medical services and facilities.
Education	Lifelong learning and education – Education and lifelong learning is valued and there is access to vocational training and tertiary education. Education retention rates have increased.
Place making and liveability	Liveable places for all ages – Liveable attractive townships, relaxed lifestyles and community pride attract people to Murchison. Communities have history and character that drive their place-making strategies. Sport and recreation is widely supported especially by young people. Multi-purpose recreational and cultural facilities are well utilised.
Governance and working together	Working together for Murchison – Everyone plays a part in achieving the objectives of the Sustainable Murchison Community Plan. There is cooperation, resource sharing and less duplication between Councils. Leadership is provided across all community sectors.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

There are no policy implications as a result of this report.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no environmental implications as a result of this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications as a result of this report.

RISK IMPLICATIONS

There are no risk implications as a result of this report.

CONSULTATION PROCESS

The draft financial statements were referred to the Audit Panel for review at its meeting on 19 September 2023.

The Annual Report and Annual General Meeting have been advertised in accordance with legislation. No submissions have been received by the public in relation to the Annual Report

CONCLUSION

It is recommended that Council receive and note the Annual Report for 2022/23.

8.0 NOTICES OF MOTION**8.1 C HUTCHISON – OLDINA RESERVE RESTORATION****MOTION**

That Council:

- 1. Negotiate with Sustainable Timber Tasmania, for a 3 year lease between 2024 – 2027 for the Oldina Reserve & Picnic Area with the option to extend the lease period further; and**
- 2. Develop an Oldina Reserve Restoration & Maintenance Plan with costings in cooperation and consultation with the community; and**
- 3. Invite discussions with local State and Federal representatives and election candidates about the community vision to restore facilities and maintenance of the Oldina Reserve.**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

A motion was raised at the 2022 Waratah-Wynyard AGM, and it was defeated by electors. The vote was **15 AGAINST & 13 FOR** according to the Mayors count.

This vote was lost because Councillors unanimously opposed it and because of Councillor's personal associates, council election candidates who had a pre-existing association with certain Councillors, as well as Council staff who were present at the AGM to vote against the motions. This coordinated action was in my honest opinion, pre-planned and orchestrated with the intent to block an initiative by a member of the public.

This is documented in the 2022 Council AGM Meeting Minutes and Council YouTube Live Stream:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-qDD2J5EH2g>

This saga didn't have to be political, yet at every turn, this Council has made it political.

Since October 2022, there has been in excess of another year of wasted opportunity, which demonstrates another failure by this Council to do something positive at Oldina Reserve.

From personal conversations, it is my understanding that Cr. Hyland thinks a bike path was intended (at some point in the past) to go to Oldina. I find this hard to believe, considering the amount of effort and focus on the bike path between Wynyard and Cooe, then confirmation of intent to progress towards bike paths westward from Wynyard. The restoration of Oldina Reserve cannot be dependent on these pipedreams but must stand alone as a priority project of community significance.

In early 2023, Councillor's Courtney and Johnstone were appointed to the Oldina Stakeholder group, yet when the meeting was hosted by Council managers, both Councillors were omitted from the invite list from the one and only meeting it has had in 12 months. Despite calls to re-host it with Councillors present, Council management has until now, not held a subsequent meeting.

It is now January 2024, and Oldina Reserve sits, waiting patiently for someone to take some responsibility for it.

I tried to point out the importance of the Oldina Reserve to Council and to begin opening a space for community input. This began in early 2020. Nothing but silence. Council failed.

I tried calling for a public meeting in 2021. It passed the Public Motion and the Council Motion.

Council failed to implement this motion passed and has yet to hold this meeting.

In the time following the passing of the motion, I discovered that Council was working on a Reserve plan behind the community's back with an undisclosed third party, later to be revealed as the Pony Club due to a past request in 2020 for a potential new venue. Council failed to engage the community in advance of this proposal.

In early 2022, I tried to support Council's half-baked Pony Club relocation proposal, which didn't even have the support of the Pony Club. I spent considerable time making comment on the plan and a broader vision with diagrams and infographics. These detailed images were, in my view, intentionally excluded from the summary of submissions to the concept plan. Council failed to communicate these ideas to the general public.

The Concept plan eventually did not have enough support to achieve traction, and little has been heard about the plan since April 2022. Council failed to deliver any results after that plan was released.

At the 2022 AGM in October, I proposed a public motion for Council to take on a lease of the Reserve, only for Council to thwart this attempt as outlined at the beginning. Council failed the community again.

Council wanted its own working group, got a handful of people and didn't invite the appointed Councillors, telling the community working group that Council doesn't really want anything to do with the Reserve. I didn't apply to join this working group because I believe Council has lost respect for my opinions and ideas. I presumed this attempt to do something at Oldina was just a façade. For the duration of 2023, Council has not indicated any achievements to progress plans or ideas for the Oldina Reserve. Council failed the community again.

We are now having the 2023 AGM in 2024. I fear that Council will simply just come up with more tricks to avoid taking any responsibility for a takeover of the Oldina Reserve despite repeated requests by myself and other community members.

I'm tired of failing to convince Council of the possibilities and potential of the Oldina Reserve. I'm tired of being failed by this Council. We are potentially in line for hundreds of thousands of dollars in investment if we can successfully pitch this or a similar proposal in relation to the Oldina Reserve.

When Council is genuinely willing to work with the community on this project, the opportunity and reward will outweigh the risk and cost.

If this public motion is successful, Council must finally listen and act. My plea is that Council be bold where it has previously been timid and give the community some hope for this once cherished reserve area.

Particulars of the motion:

Lease Period: A lease of 3 years is considered a reasonable time frame to secure funding, restore access, and create a maintenance schedule to sustainably maintain the reserve and any potential amenity provided.

Restoration & Maintenance Plan: Restoration details would be driven by community vision, though it might include Nursery Road repairs, bridge repairs, selected restoration of some grassed areas, new public toilet facility, new reserve signage. Maintenance details would include tree maintenance, road side maintenance, road maintenance, a toilet cleaning schedule, safety checks and hazard removal, rubbish removal, anti-social behaviour monitoring and reporting.

OFFICERS COMMENTS

There are numerous reports, comments and briefings on this matter over recent years. Council has continued to maintain a very clear position.

It is not recommended for council to pursue a lease for a site in which it is not aware of the associated costs, risks or community benefit. There is also no plan for the site or interested parties who wish to manage the site despite well publicised calls for expressions of interest.

The Oldina Reserve is not owned by Council, and it remains in the ownership and management of Sustainable Timbers Tasmania (STT). Sustainable Timbers have the ability to make their own choices as to the future use of the site.

As previously reported in Council's agenda and alluded to in the supporting information as part of this motion, a meeting of community members agreed that the best course of action for this site was for people with ideas to contact STT directly as it is their land. STT clearly stated in the meeting that the land is part of a working forest and any ideas generated by individuals would have to realise that the surrounding area would be regularly logged.

The motion calls for Council to take on a lease for the area. This should not occur with an absence of information, such as a use for the site is determined, full costs are known and understood, and it is considered a desired and agreed course of action for council to undertake in line with Council's current strategic direction.

8.2 C HUTCHISON – RELEASE OF WORKPLACE IMPROVEMENT REPORT

PROPOSED MOTION

That Council Management release to Councillors and the public in the March 2024 Ordinary Open Council Meeting Agenda, an unredacted copy of the full report, which is a 12-page report dated 3 September 2013 titled ‘Waratah-Wynyard Council - Report on the organisation’s ability to resolve issues’, by Mr. Neil Johnston of Small Business Safety Systems.

BACKGROUND

I have attempted with repeated requests to Council to release information comparing past workplace culture and performance to contemporary workplace culture and performance, for the purpose of both Councillors and the public being able to see progress within Council or if necessary, highlighting any areas for improvement.

These requests have been denied by the Mayor, and I have received minimal engagement by Councillors to provide the community with a degree of transparency regarding the Council they are currently responsible for.

I have since pursued these requests through a Right to Information Application for an Assessed Disclosure. The release of the information was denied by Council’s RTI Officer, as well as the General Manager after I requested an Internal Review of the Decision. Through this process, it was revealed that there is one particular report that has not been made available to the public, the report referred to in this motion.

I have requested an External Review by the Ombudsman, but I have concerns that this will go the same way of denying the public access to information and when this will take place is anyone’s guess. In late 2023, I received email confirmation that an external review is being undertaken on this decision by the Tasmanian Ombudsman, but there is a fair chance that even in the scenario where the report is released, it could be anywhere from 12-24 months before this occurs or potentially longer.

If Council Management, the Mayor, Councillors, and potentially the Tasmanian Ombudsman will not be transparent, then ultimate responsibility and power is with the people to ensure that good governance is maintained and there is genuine accountability and transparency.

The sooner this report is released to the public, the more tools’ Councillors and the public have to assess progress within the organisation.

OFFICERS COMMENT

Council has received advice from the Ombudsman that Mr Hutchison has sought an external review of the application in accordance with the *Right to Information Act 2009*. It is not appropriate for Council to discuss this matter until the external review of the Ombudsman is concluded.

As stated previously, personnel matters and industrial relations matters, should they be required to be presented to Council, are discussed as part of the closed meeting of Council. Employee matters are the domain of the General Manager.

The report has no bearing, impact or relevance to the current workplace.

8.3 C HUTCHISON – MOORLEAH MULTI-PURPOSE RECREATION CENTRE

PROPOSED MOTION

That Council:

- 1. Undertake a feasibility study for a new contemporary multi-purpose recreational centre, to serve the communities of Moorleah, Preolenna, Lapoinya, Milabeena, Myalla, & Meunna, located near the junction of Lapoinya Road, Preolenna Road, & Pages Road in Moorleah; and**
- 2. Prepare a cost-benefit report as part of the feasibility study in (1), including inputs from an initial stage of community consultation; and**
- 3. present the final feasibility study to Councillors and the public in an Open Ordinary Meeting Agenda of Council prior to the end of 2024.**

BACKGROUND

Following some research in 2022 for submissions and presentations for the Tasmanian Planning Commission, I identified a few gaps in the services provided by the Waratah-Wynyard Council.

These gaps are comparing the facilities provided by Council in various areas in the municipality, according to population.

There are also gaps when comparing rural regions across North-West Tasmania, with a rural hub generally located half way between ‘outer’ rural areas and service towns.

This is evident in the municipalities of Circular Head, Burnie, Central Coast, Devonport, Latrobe, & Kentish, etc. It is evident in Waratah-Wynyard in the Yolla District, and the Boat Harbour District, however, in the South-Western rural region, which includes a number of rural hamlets and residences, there is no such similar provision.

A new rural hub facility, that has broader capacity than simply a Community Hall can provide, will enhance the

Why?

1. The Moorleah ‘crossroads’ represents a central area or transition point for a number of rural areas. The current Moorleah Hall is a local central point for some residents of Moorleah (not all). The current hall is not a central point for communities in the surrounding area.
2. The existing Moorleah Community Centre has a narrow range of uses due to size and layout, does not meet community needs, and has low usage rates.
3. Neighbouring managed community spaces are not proximate enough, or no longer accessible, or non-existent
 - a. Myalla Community Centre and Recreation ground (located in Sisters Creek, not the Myalla township) are not central enough to serve the wider south-west rural community in-land of Wynyard. In the former Myalla Township, all but one church transitioned into non-community use due to the closure of the train line and loss of central economic/transportation hub. The improvement in road access through the region and the centralisation of services to Boat Harbour and Wynyard have led to changes in travel patterns where the majority of traffic from the communities in focus.

- b. Calder Hall (junction of Calder & Zig Zag Road) is a privately owned hall for hire but is not located on any primary travel routes for residents of Pages Road, Moorleah, Lapoinya, Milabena, Myalla, Meunna, or Preolenna, and thus has limited user potential.
- c. Preolenna Hall was formerly owned by Council was sold to private ownership in 2020 and is no longer available for community use. A nearby negotiated community storage space was leased privately from mid-2023, and Preolenna residents no longer have access to any indoor community facilities for use or hire.
- d. Milabena and Lapoinya do not have any open community venues for use or hire.

Solution

Council could create public spaces and rezone an identified area at the Moorleah ‘Crossroads’ (The junction of Preolenna Road, Pages Road, & Lapoinya Road) vicinity to develop into a central hub between Wynyard and its south-western agricultural district.

The development of a recreation facility in this location would provide rural communities greater access to services, foster greater sense of community, and assist council and other service providers in meeting the needs of residents in this area. It could allow for greater recreational opportunities, serve as a distribution point for goods and services in all directions (rural to village; village to rural; rural to urban; & urban to rural), as a focal point for agricultural producers, artisans, and makers, of which there are a number in the area.

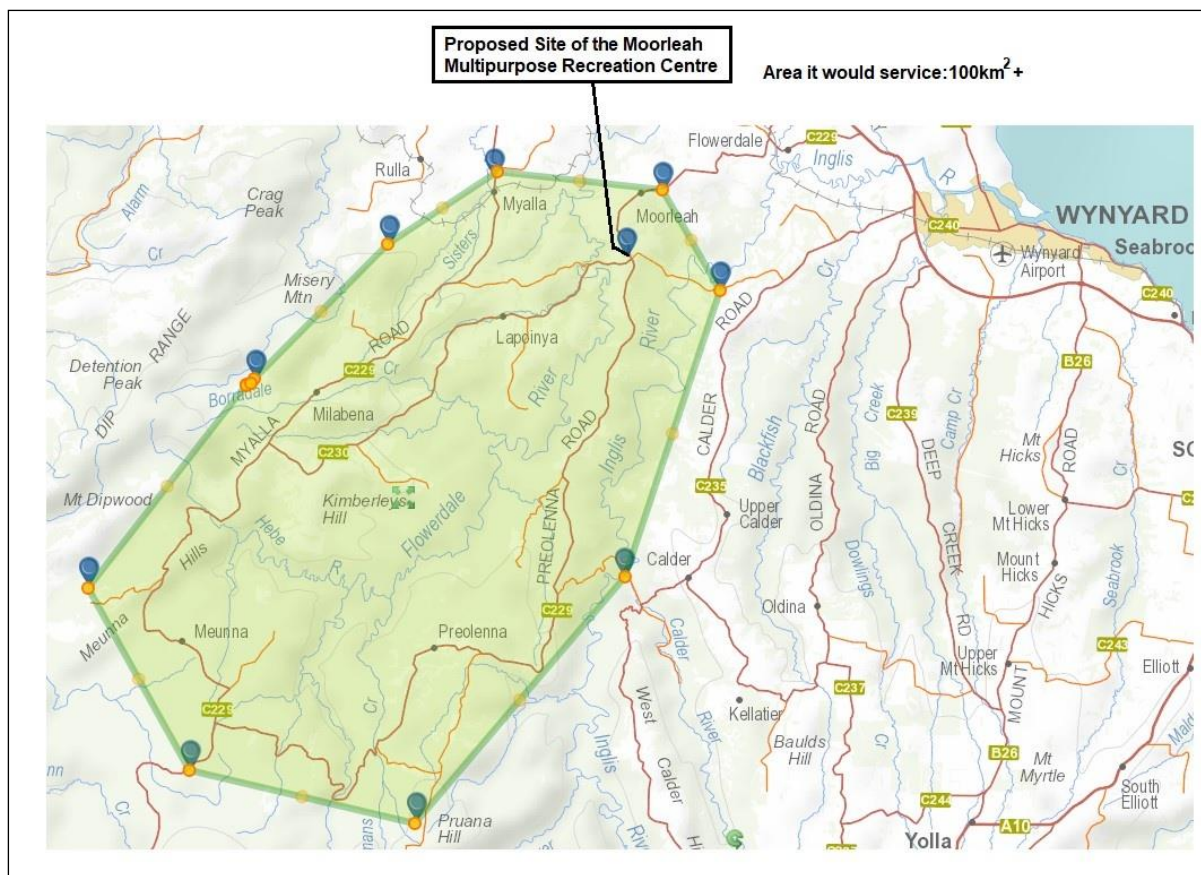
There would also be residents from Flowerdale and Calder that would likely use such a space, depending on the event – and opportunities to attract residents from across the municipality and visitors from other regions.

Such a space would be able to meet current as well as long term needs up to and potentially in excess of 50 years into the future.

Following an initial brainstorm, a list of activities below that would be possible in the centre, but not limited to:

Social Sports	Other
Basketball	Indoor/Outdoor Farmer’s Market
Indoor Soccer/Futsal	Music events
Indoor Volleyball	Fitness classes
Indoor Cricket	Children’s games afternoons
Netball	Birthday parties
Indoor Hockey / ‘Thunder’ Hockey	Community meetings
Badminton	Council Community Conversations
Table Tennis	Trivia nights
	Other social events as inspired

Figure 1: The area being considered is the rural districts to the South-West of Wynyard. Source – LIST MAP



Initial Community-Led Community Consultation

A community meeting was advertised and held at the Moorleah Hall on Thursday 14th of December, 2023 (meeting flyer shown below). Following feedback from this recent community-run meeting, key constructive suggestions were:

- Community facilities should be collocated
- Potential for a Cafe / Visitor hub – with the ability to maintain facility costs and insurances with profit. This could be a staged development prior to or following the development of a Multipurpose Recreation Centre.
- Information on things to do for tourists visiting the area and a few local history info boards.
(*Commentary: Capitalise on 'Tarkine' brand and our region's access – and directions to access points and local waterfalls.*)
- Potential for wholefood community cooperative (dry food and local fresh or processed produce) and distribution point with other 'general store' type basics
- Staged development (i.e. 2-10 years): (*Commentary: Stages - Secure Land, Secure plans and rezone, Secure funding, Build Recreation facility, Secure plans for cafe, Secure cafe funding, Build cafe*)
- Such a facility would 1st need to identify primary community uses
- Additional indoor recreation ideas suggested: Rock wall/Bouldering, Movie Nights, Handball, Dance, Yoga, Science Club, Board games evenings
- Outdoor recreation ideas: small playground, outdoor picnic shelter, native gardens

- For reference - Moorleah Hall in the past has had aerobics, badminton, cockroach races, parties, and currently also serves as a polling booth for state and federal election purposes.
- Bush Fire Shelter in emergencies
- Facility access and updates can be supported with information sharing through Facebook group and/or community newsletter

Further Commentary:

- *Centre could be open to coincide with general movements through the area and afternoon/evening after school or after work recreation time slots.*
- *Potential opening hours of entire facility could be 2pm – 7pm on select weekdays (as demanded, on a consistent and regular basis), and as booked and managed outside of these hours and on weekends.*

Current Population & Comparison

The combined current population of the South-West Rural Districts that (primarily) would be serviced by a Moorleah Multipurpose Centre at the 'Crossroads' junction is **510 people** according to figures from the ABS 2021 Census.

Place	Number of Residents (ABS 2021) <i>(Conservative estimates)</i>
Myalla	66
Milabena	77
Lapoinya	143
Moorleah	161
Preolenna	58
Meunna	5
Total	510

As a comparison, the table below shows the number of community / commercial facilities or 'shop front' services in the following rural and regional areas (churches bracketed, accommodation services not included as there is not a regular use for local residents).

Place + Distance from Service Town Supermarket	Population	Community / Commercial facilities/services	Services (No#)	Facility to Pop'n Ratio
Sisters Beach 20km (Wynyard IGA)- LONG	511	Beachside Carparking, Little Sisters General store/Cafe, Sister Beach Fire Station, Public Toilet Block, Playground, Skate Park hub, BBQs (x2), National Park access roads, walking tracks, boat ramp, sewerage system	11 HIGH	1:46 HIGH
Boat Harbour Beach 14km (Wynyard IGA)- MIDDLE	89	Beachside Car-park, Surf Club, Seekers Restaurant, Public Toilet Block, walking tracks, Playground (x2), BBQs (x2), *new development slated, sewerage system, Sandridge Estate	9 HIGH	1:10 HIGH
Boat Harbour	339	Boat Harbour Primary School, Thistle Hut Cafe, Restaurant (@	5 MED	1:68 HIGH

12km (Wynyard IGA) - MIDDLE		Killynaught), General Store, Boat Harbour Fire Station		
Yolla (286) & Surrounds (+Henrietta (137)/Takone (80)/West Takone (6) Yolla - 15km (Somerset IGA) -MIDDLE Surrounds – 19km-36km (Somerset IGA)- LONG	509	Yolla District High School, Multipurpose Gym, Football Club, Football Oval, Tavern, Private Hall, Yolla Fire Station, General Store, Pharmacy, Bush reserve access roads (Yolla Baptist Church, Catholic Church [Yolla])	10 (+2) HIGH	1:42 HIGH
Waratah (249) + Savage River (23) 60km (Upper Burnie Woolworths) VERY LONG	272	Men's Shed, Golf Club, Roadhouse, Public Toilet, Waterfalls Walks x 2, Whyte Hills Lookout, Museum, SES, Athenaeum Hall, Bischoff Hotel, Mushroom Cafe, Waratah Community House	13 HIGH	1:21 HIGH
Sisters Creek 17km (Wynyard IGA) - MIDDLE	161	Myalla Oval, Myalla Community Centre, Muddy Boots Cafe	3 LOW	1:54 MED
Elliott 10km (Somerset IGA) - SHORT	355	Community Hall	1 LOW	1:355 LOW
Calder 15km (Wynyard IGA) - MIDDLE	231	Private Hall, Calder Fire Station	2 LOW	1:115 LOW
Oldina 15km (Wynyard IGA) - MIDDLE	145	Bush reserve access roads	1 LOW	1:145 LOW
Mt Hicks 14km (Somerset IGA) - MIDDLE	356	Providence Farm Stall Cafe	1 LOW	1:356 LOW
Table Cape 7km (Wynyard Woolworths) - SHORT	87	Lookout + car park x2, Tulip farm cafe, Alchemia distillery (Boat Harbour Church)	4 LOW	1:22 HIGH
Flowerdale 7.5km (Robin Hill Rd intersection with Preolenna Rd. To Wynyard Woolworths) - SHORT	279	Lobster Ponds	1 LOW	1:279 LOW
South-West rural district areas (+distance to Wynyard IGA) Moorleah (11km), Lapoinya (14km), Lapoinya Sth. (21km) Myalla (20km), Milabeena (22km), Preolenna (25km), Meunna (31km) MIDDLE to LONG	510	Moorleah Hall, Moorleah Fire Station, Bush reserve access roads (Myalla Church)	4 LOW	1:128 LOW

Guide used to categorise each district/village/town:

DISTANCE CATEGORIES

0-9.99km = SHORT
10.0-19.99km = MIDDLE
20 – 49.99km = LONG
50km+ = VERY LONG

FACILITY to POPULATION RATIO CATEGORIES

1:1 – 1:50 = HIGH
1:51 – 1:100 = MEDIUM
1:100+ = LOW



Figure 2: Moorleah ‘Crossroads’ Multi-purpose Recreation Centre Site options overlaid with Existing uses. Source – Google Maps

Note (on figure above): The area at the Crossroads has four corners or quadrants where potential land could be secured for the purpose of a multipurpose recreation centre. Some areas are difficult in terms of accessibility or gradient, however, the northern and north-west areas are worth exploring early on in the feasibility study as presenting the most optimal space for the requested purpose.

Note (on figures below): For comparison, the current building footprint of the Wynyard Basketball Centre is 1,124 metres squared, and the current Basketball Centre and Car park combined area are 3,300 metres squared or less than one acre. It is envisaged that a future Moorleah Multipurpose Recreation Centre would only need approximately the same total footprint, up to 1 acre (4,047 metres squared) to host the facility, outdoor area, and car parking proposed.

Figure 3 & 4: Wynyard Basketball Centre. Source – LIST MAP



Copy of community meeting flyer letter boxed in the area on Dec. 3, 2023:

COMMUNITYMEETING~ All Welcome!

5PM ~ THURSDAY DECEMBER 14th ~ Moorleah Hall

Topic: Proposal of a New Multipurpose Recreational Centre in Moorleah, near the Crossroads (at the junction of Preolenna Rd., Lapoinya Rd. & Pages Rd.)

What:

A Basketball court sized enclosed multipurpose community facility that has a large open space with a hard surface, toilets/change-rooms, canteen/kitchen, and suitable car parking, that is:

- Built using State/Federal funding & Council finances
- Owned by the Waratah-Wynyard Council
- Leased by a 'Moorleah Multipurpose Centre Association' for a nominal amount per year
- Managed and maintained by the Association and community volunteers, available for low cost one-off and regular bookings subject to availability.

Why?

The communities of Lapoinya, Milabeena, Preolenna, Myalla, Meunna, & Moorleah comprise over 500 residents, yet have limited community facilities or spaces that can cater for a wide range of uses.

The current Moorleah Hall has served the area well in its lifetime, however, it is ageing, has limits on the range of uses due to its size and layout, and its location is not central for this combination of communities.

The Myalla Oval has limited users now that club football and cricket is no longer played there, and outdoor oval sports are not as big as they once were. Access to an all weather indoor recreational space will be more attractive for a wider range of people looking for activities to participate in or host for others. Although there is a reasonable use for the Myalla Community Centre, it isn't situated centrally to the communities listed, and is closer in distance to residents of Sisters Creek, Montumana, Rulla, & Myalla.

The 'Crossroads' serves as a potential centre point for our area, and has the potential to facilitate use from residents of Calder and Flowerdale also, meaning that a facility could be accessible to 800+ rural residents, excluding visitors to the area for specialty events or markets.

These factors justify exploring the possibility for such a facility, to make sure that our local Council is distributing its services fairly to the whole municipality.

How? *These are suggestions for the Volunteer Team in the early stages:*

1. 1st Community Meeting, understanding the project, and sharing ideas.
2. Call out for a Volunteer Team to begin developing a plan.
3. The Volunteer Team meets in January and discusses the next steps forward.

Possible Use ideas:

- A range of indoor sports & games for all ages (as demanded)
- After School program for kids & youth (fortnightly)
- Indoor/Outdoor Moorleah Market (monthly)
- Community meeting space (as needed)
- Music and performance events (multiple per year)
- Plus other community ideas soon to be shared!

OFFICERS COMMENT

The motion requests officers prepare a feasibility study and associated cost-benefit report prior to the end of 2024. Councillors could list this as an annual plan action for 2024/25 in order to allow appropriate resources to be allocated to undertake the work as outlined.

The concept sits outside the adopted Open Space, Sport and Recreation Plan (OSSR) and has not been raised by community as a matter of interest until this point. It was not raised by community as part of the OSSR consultation.

8.4 C HUTCHISON – COUNCIL AMALGAMATION SURVEY

PROPOSED MOTION

That Council:

1. Conduct a municipal wide online survey of Waratah-Wynyard residents, asking the following question in (a) using the listed response options in (b) –
 - a. Question – Do you support combining the Waratah-Wynyard municipality with the Circular Head municipality to make a different municipal area and establish a new Council?
 - b. Response Options – Yes; No; Undecided
2. Commence the survey in (1) prior to end of February, 2024, for a period of not less than 28 normal days, but no more than 42 normal days.
3. Advertise the online survey and survey period in (1) using physical methods and digital methods no less than 7 normal days prior to the beginning of the survey period –
 - a. Physical methods: Shop front posters with survey link and QR code to survey; municipal wide mail out to all residential addresses with survey link and QR code to survey;
 - b. Digital methods: Listed on Council’s social media Facebook account; Listed on Council’s website.
4. Use survey monkey, Google forms, or a similar user-friendly online survey tool to conduct the survey in (1) and require the collection of the elector’s name & residential address for each submitted response.
5. Make the numbered results of the survey in (1) publicly available on the Waratah-Wynyard Council website within 21 days of the closing of submissions to the survey, without publicly identifying any voter’s selection.

BACKGROUND

Both the Waratah-Wynyard and Circular Head Council have made submissions to the Future of Local Government Review, indicating their willingness to combine together to form one larger municipality.

There has been minimal municipal wide consultation on this proposal by the Waratah-Wynyard Council, and Council should be consulting the ratepayers and residents of the region prior to solidifying their position in relation to a proposed amalgamation with the Circular Head Council or other Councils that might be suggested by the Local Government Board. The Local Government Board handed down its report in November 2023, recommending this change of combining Councils, though it is still accepting submissions on this ‘Final’ report until the end of February 2024.

It is hard to know if the combining of the Waratah-Wynyard and Circular Head Councils was driven by community sentiment, Council self-preservation against broader amalgamation, or it just sounded like a good idea to management at the time. With such a dramatic proposal, the community needs to be front and centre of the decision making, not just tacked on at the end. It provides an indication to Council about whether to continue to advocate for this change.

This motion clearly steps out an appropriate and realistic process for a community wide survey on this proposal prior to any formal elector poll conducted.

OFFICERS COMMENT

The notion of ascertaining community views on amalgamation is agreed as a step that will be required as part of the process being progressed through the Future of Local Government review and this point is agreed with the mover of the motion. The questions and timing as outlined in the motion however cannot be supported at this time. In this regard it should be noted that Council's most recent submission to the Local Government Board, 13 July 2023, does not indicate "*willingness to combine together to form one larger municipality*" rather it is more nuanced in exploration of this scenario if community benefit is achieved: -

"...To summarise, Waratah-Wynyard Council is open to exploring and discussing all structural reform options and welcomes changes that result in positive outcomes for the Waratah-Wynyard community, including ensuring that service levels are maintained, local representation is maintained, and the financial status of the community is strengthened.

Whilst recognising that scenario 3 presented for the Western Catchment is a likely long-term option, it notes scenario 2 has a much easier and smoother pathway forward. The Board need to appropriately analyse issues of sustainability in this catchment due to the large geographical area and limited population base. Retention of Wynyard and Somerset in this catchment therefore remains critical.

The outcomes of the reform process should deliver Councils that are sustainable in their own way. These models above will reduce overheads, increase economies of scale, reduce parochialism and potentially provide cost efficiencies across a greater area of the state. It is for these reasons; Council is willing to test the community desire for change.

True local government reform will not be produced by merely joining a number of Council's together. It is only with combined improvements and relationships with State Government, exploration and commitment to relevant resource sharing models, refinement and clarity of service delivery and a total commitment and adherence to all aspects of accountability will reform become successful. Making no change simply exacerbates the issues being faced by the industry at present.

The original purpose of the review of local government in Tasmania was to create a more robust and capable system of local government, for the benefit of all Tasmanians. The question to ask the Board is whether the recommendation included within this submission meets that aspiration."

The final report from the Local Government Review Board was release on 16 November 2023. The report clearly states that community consultation is key and that amalgamations will not occur if the community is not in agreement. The report outlines a timeline and steps required to reach the point of a community vote.

Council has until the end of February to lodge a submission on the latest report into the Future of Local Government. It would not be of benefit to conduct a public process prior to this submission being finalised.

Council should consider testing community appetite for change prior to investing significant resource into future models and arrangements. This process would allow for broader feedback outside of the questions as listed to help identify issues and concerns that will need to be addressed prior to a formal community vote.

8.5 C HUTCHISON – BIN-YARD

PROPOSED MOTION

That Council:

1. **Rename the Waratah-Wynyard Council managed 'Wynyard Waste Transfer Station', located at 170 Goldie Street, Wynyard, to 'The Wynyard Bin-Yard'; and**
2. **Update all onsite signage to reflect the name change outlined in (1) using funds in the 2024/25 Budget; and**
3. **Update all relevant Council policies to reflect the name change outlined in (1).**

BACKGROUND

Wynyard rhymes with bin yard. A bin is defined as a space to dispose unwanted items or to store items for future use, and a process of disposal or storage. A yard is a small, paved or grassed area open to the sky, the grounds adjacent to or surrounding a building or group of buildings. It can also refer to an enclosure for livestock, an assembly or storage area. The name 'The Wynyard Bin-Yard' is a very descriptive term for what is currently referred to colloquially as 'The Tip' or the current official name 'The Waste Transfer Station'.

The place known as the 'Wynyard Waste Transfer Station' is adequate, but when an exciting opportunity presents itself to give the region a dynamic edge and focal point on an otherwise generic service of waste disposal and management, there is a chance to enhance local culture and identity.

Language provides connection. Unique place names and features increase the sense of pride that community members have of their place.

Place names provide visitors to the region with a deeper understanding of the place, and poetic linguistic tools that are a little tongue-in-cheek provide an insight into the people and place of Waratah-Wynyard.

If the community is supportive of this kind of 'out-of-the-box' thinking, it could inspire and allow room for other such small initiatives within the municipality.

The Wynyard Waste Transfer Station has in recent times undergone a transition in management, and in this potential changeover, more transformations can take place to boost community experience when undertaking everyday tasks as well as assisting residents to focus on important practices such as reducing, reusing, and recycling waste.

OFFICERS COMMENT

Council has no current plans to rename or rebrand the Wynyard Waste Transfer station and it is not an adopted action emanating from the Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy 2019-2024.

The motion proposes a new initiative that has not previously been raised by the community or by Council officers for Councillor consideration.

8.6 C HUTCHISON – IMPROVE COUNCIL MEETING PROCEDURES

PROPOSED MOTION

That Council:

1. Increase formal public voting opportunities and enhance democratic principles in public motions by improving Council meeting procedures to
 - a. Allow public motions (motions introduced by members of the public, and voted on by members of the public) in three monthly Ordinary Council meetings of the Waratah-Wynyard Council.
 - b. Require electors voting on a public motion to stand in designated areas to indicate their vote on that public motion
2. Modify specific sections in the existing Council Meeting Procedures Policy, and insert the following clauses:
 - a. Section 14 - Motions

After clause 10, insert clauses 11, 12 & 13:

“(11) Public motions are permitted in the Ordinary Council Meetings of February, May, and August.

(12) A public motion provided within the required time frame before a meeting will be listed as an agenda item for that meeting.

(13) An elector may give to the general manager, at least 7 days before a meeting that accepts public motions, written notice of a motion, together with supporting information and reasons, to be included on the agenda of that meeting.”

- b. Section 15 - Motions to amend motions

After clause 4, insert clause 5:

“(5) At a meeting that accepts public motions, an elector who did not move or second a public motion (the *original public motion*) may move a motion to amend the original public motion.”

- c. Section 20 - Debate at a Council Meeting

After clause 11, insert clause 12:

“(12) A public motion, will follow all procedures required in ordinary meetings in relation to Debate at a Council meeting, with the exception that electors are entitled to the right to debate in an equivalent way to Councillors, as guided by Section 20 of these Meeting Guidelines.”

- d. Section 21 - Point of order at a meeting

After clause 5, insert clause 6 & 7

“(6) An elector at a meeting that permits public motions, may raise a point of order if:

- (a) an elector speaking raises an issue that is irrelevant to the motion being discussed;
- (b) an elector speaking is being interrupted or distracted;
- (c) an elector is of the opinion that a meeting procedure is contrary to the Act or these regulations;
- (d) an elector has been misrepresented during the debate; or
- (e) a statement is made by an elector speaking that the elector raising the point of order believes is, or is likely to be, offensive to an elector or to another individual.

(7) An elector who is interrupted by the taking of a point of order is to cease speaking.”

e. Section 24 - Voting

After clause 2, insert clause 3:

“(3) At an ordinary Council meeting, when a vote is called on a public motion, only electors in the municipal area are entitled to a vote.”

f. Section 25 - Voting Procedure

After clause 4, insert clause 5 & 6:

“(5) The chairperson is to ensure that the votes of all electors who have voted are recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

(6) Public Motion Votes: When calling a vote for a public motion in an annual general meeting or an ordinary council meeting, the Chairperson will call for a division of the room, requiring

- a) electors supporting a public motion move and stand to right of the Chairperson; and
 - b) electors not supporting a public motion move and stand to the left of the Chairperson; and
 - c) Individuals, who are not voting, remain seated or move to a seated position to indicate that they are not wishing to participate in that particular vote.”
- g. Section 26 - Determination of voting**

After clause 4, insert clause 5:

“(5) A public motion at an Ordinary Council Meeting is determined by a simple majority, in accordance with the Act or any regulations made under the Act.”

Background

The current Council Meeting Procedures Policy, a 22 page document, can be found on the Waratah-Wynyard Council website, accessible through the following link:

<https://www.warwyn.tas.gov.au/download/35/governance-policies-and-codes/23117/council-meeting-procedures.pdf>

Under the current Local Government Act 1993, motions by members of the public are permitted to be included in the Agenda of the Annual General Meeting of all local Councils (Section 72B of the Act).

This empowers members of the public to bring suggestions directly to a local Council to be decided then and there at an Annual General Meeting. Members of the public, who are electors in the municipality, are entitled to vote on these motions. If the motion is successful, it is taken to the next ordinary General meeting to be debated and voted on by Councillors only.

This is a positive democratic process that enables residents and ratepayers to have a direct vote on specific ideas.

To increase community participation and involvement in decision making, instead of only having one opportunity per year, the number of opportunities to introduce public motions and vote on public motions can be increased a further three times, from once per year at the Annual General Meeting to four opportunities per year. This part of the motion requests that they be spaced out across each quarter of the year, for example, in the months of February, May, & August.

Related to this motion which seeks greater public participation was an earlier public motion from the October 2022 Waratah-Wynyard Council AGM. The public motion was passed and this motion was also subsequently passed in the November 2022 Ordinary Meeting of Council.

The approved motion was as follows “That Council, in consultation with the community (for example via an initial meeting), review its community engagement/consultation processes, with the aim of providing greater opportunities for community engagement/consultation.”

In the November 2022 Meeting Agenda (minutes unavailable) on page 43, it stated that *“It is recommended that if Council accept the motion to hold a community meeting (or similar) to review engagement practices, that this be in line with the Annual Plan Action to review the Communication and Engagement Strategy between April-June 2023.”*

Following a review of Council’s website, Meeting minutes, and Facebook page, it appears that there were no publicly advertisements of a community meeting to review engagement practices between in 2023, no record of a community meeting being held, and it is uncertain if the Communication and Engagement Strategy has been reviewed as suggested in 2023. Despite the limited sense of urgency to review its engagement practices, the Community and Council must push forward to empower the public to be part of decision making processes.

It is important that successful public motions are followed through with by Council to give the community confidence that Council is serving the ratepayers and residents, not the agenda of Council management.

Included in the report from the November 2022 Council meeting was the following graphic, the ‘Spectrum of Public Participation’, which highlights the direction of this motion to enable public involvement in decisions increasingly towards the ‘Collaborate’ and ‘Empower’ ends of the spectrum where Council implements decisions of the public or to the maximum extent possible.

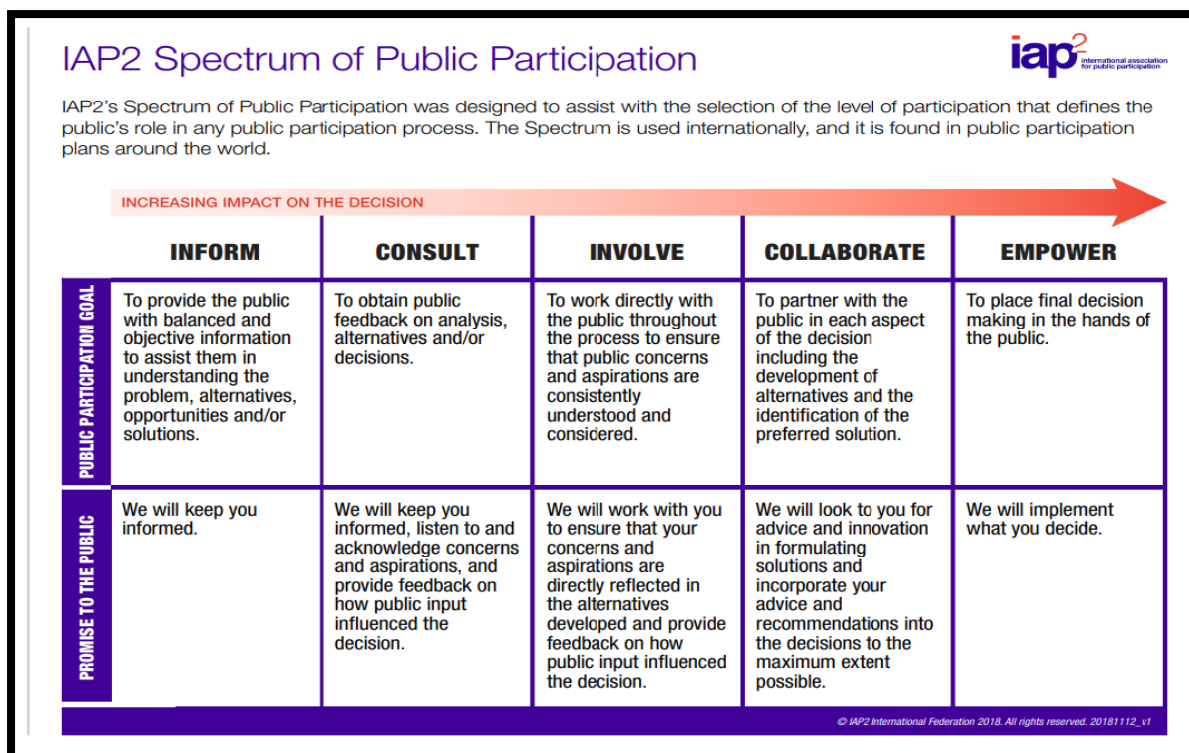


Figure 1: Spectrum of Public Participation. *Source – International association for public participation, via WWC Nov. 2022 Meeting Agenda.*

Physical division of electors on public motion vote

It states that in the Local Government Act 1993, Section 72B (5) – A motion at an Annual General Meeting is passed by a majority of votes taken by a show of hands or by any other means of ascertaining the vote the council determines.

This part of the motion wishes to emphasise the freedom that a Council has to use “any other means of ascertaining the vote the council determines.”

The reason for listing this idea is to ensure that votes on public motions are counted and recorded as accurately as possible, and that there is no confusion on how an elector is voting on the public motion.

At the 2021 & 2022 Annual General Meetings, public motions were put forward by members of the public. When the Mayor called for the vote through the normal Council practices of a showing of hands, there was some confusion about who was voting, who was being counted, and the final numbers of the vote.

To eliminate confusion on the voting process and counting of votes, the Chairperson should have the ability to clearly identify who is voting FOR a particular motion and who is voting AGAINST a particular motion. This identification should also be clearly visible by all individuals in the room.

This part of the motion proposes a physical division of voters who are participating in the vote, to each side of the meeting room. It also excludes any members of the public who are not voting on that motion, who will remain seated if they do not wish to move to the FOR side or the AGAINST side of the room.

This motion only relates to public motions, where members of the public have the right to vote on these motions, and will not impact on the ordinary votes of Councillor motions and Council recommendations in which only Councillors are entitled to vote on these particular motions.

Changes to the Council Meeting Procedures

The existing meeting procedures have been reviewed and clauses have been created to adjust each section of the procedures, consistent with the current intent and language of the Council Meeting Procedures.

These new clauses will enable Council to facilitate public motions and the proposed alternate voting procedure for public motions, in line with current Council meeting practices. This will support the chairperson to conduct public motions effectively, and attending Councillors to support good debate around proposed motions by engaged electors.

According to the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015, section 37(1), a “council may determine any other procedures relating to meetings it considers appropriate.”

The changes outlined in this motion are fit within the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015 and the current Council Meeting Procedures Policy. The changes will provide opportunities for greater community engagement in the decision making process at Council.

OFFICERS RESPONSE

Neither the *Local Government Act 1993* or the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015* provide for or allow the public to present motions at Council Meetings. As stated in the motion, this is permitted to occur at the Annual General Meeting.

Councillors are elected to represent the community and it is this election that provides them with an ability to present motions on behalf of community members. The *Local Government Act 1993* states that a councillor has the function of representing the community and to facilitate communication by the council with the community. An annual process to allow motions from the public allows for the elected officials to uphold their function and role and adding more frequent opportunity diminishes the role of the elected official.

Community members have numerous ways in which they can present ideas to Council outside motions at the annual general meeting. Council meeting procedures allow for public statements and questions at each Council meeting. Council has working groups, community conversations and a significant number of engagement and consultation processes.

As a resident, you are encouraged to speak to Elected Members at any time about matters which may be of concern and this may be a more immediate way of gaining the relevant information or action which you are seeking. The public are welcome and encouraged to arrange to meet with staff at any time to present ideas for improving our community.

Section 72B (5) of the *Local Government Act 1993* states “A motion at an Annual General Meeting is passed by a majority of votes taken by a show of hands or by any other means of ascertaining the vote the council determines”. To date, Waratah-Wynyard Council has allowed the chairperson to determine how they prefer to identify voting outcomes.

8.7 R KRABBE – FORMATION OF SOCIAL ACTIVATION PANEL

PROPOSED MOTION

That Council form a Social and Community Activation Panel

BACKGROUND

This panel (there are a number of possible names for the group, e.g. the Community Activation or Advisory Panel, i.e. CAP) similar to the Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Panel (SEAP) to help advance the Council's Health and Wellbeing Plan, Youth Plan, and Age Friendly Plan. The SEAP has been very successful to date in activating a passionate group of people with the capacity to advance the Integrated Council Environmental Plan, I contend a SCAP could also be a very effective way of achieving a range of much needed social and community outcomes for the Waratah-Wynyard municipality.

The SCAP does not have to be as large as the SEAP, but the size could be determined by the number of people with the relevant skills who nominate. However a larger number does have the advantage of making it more possible to form working groups which has been successfully done in the case of the SEAP. Working groups could be formed around each plan, e.g. health and wellbeing, youth and the aged.

There is huge social and economic unmet need including a relatively high level of disadvantage in North-West Tasmania, whereby an Advisory Panel for would have huge advantages in building community capacity.

A major aspect crucial to the success of SEAP is that it is based on dialogue. As has been stated in the literature, 'It is through dialogue that we grow sensitive to multiple realities and learn to negotiate across diverse relationships and realities. Fostering an ongoing dialogic culture promotes transformative action. A dialogic culture supports attending to what we take for granted, noticing what others notice that would be otherwise invisible to us, and opening pathways exploring new opportunities and possibilities. Dialogue can thus be the basis for making a difference in our community.

OFFICERS RESPONSE

There are a number of matters Councillors should consider prior to the establishment of a Social and Community Activation Panel.

Council's Health and Wellbeing Plan, Youth Plan, and Age Friendly Plan (the Plans) are due for renewal in the 2024/25 financial year and, in conjunction with Circular Head Council, a public consultation process will take place to engage the community in the development of new strategies and associated work plans.

Whilst the remit of local government continues to expand, the training, professional development and experience of staff in relevant fields has often been outpaced by this growth, particularly evident in newly emerging fields.

Council recognises that local people are the experts when it comes to their community. Developing and executing new Plans requires a deep understanding of community, market dynamics, trends, and internal capabilities to create impact and deliver genuine outcomes. It is likely both councils will

engage external expertise to collaborate with the community and key stakeholders to develop effective Plans and a comprehensive roadmap for achieving success.

Recommendations within the final Future of Local Government review report suggest that further work is required to clarify *“councils’ core functions, principles, and responsibilities, as well as the obligations of the Tasmanian Government when dealing with the sector as a partner in delivering community services and support”*.

It may be prudent to see both of these matters progress prior to the establishment of another working group in order to prevent duplication of effort and allow clear direction.

9.0 PUBLIC QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

A summary of questions without notice and response(s) and the name of the person asking the question will be recorded in the minutes.

10.0 PUBLIC STATEMENTS WITHOUT NOTICE

A summary that includes the name of the person making a public statement and subject title of that statement will be recorded in the minutes.

11.0 Closure

There being no further business the Annual General meeting closed at _____pm.

ATTACHMENT 1 – Minutes Of Previous Annual General Meeting



MINUTES

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Monday 24 October 2022

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MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE WARATAH-WYNYARD COUNCIL HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS 21 SAUNDERS STREET WYNYARD ON MONDAY 24 OCTOBER 2022 COMMENCING AT 5.32 PM.

DIGITAL RECORDING OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

The Public is advised that it is Council policy to record and live stream the proceedings of meetings of Council on digital media to assist in the preparation of minutes and to ensure that a true and accurate account of debate and discussion of meetings is available.

This recording is authorised by *the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015*.

1.0 PRESENT

Councillors

Mayor Robby Walsh
Deputy Mayor Dr Mary Duniam
Councillor Gary Bramich
Councillor Maureen Bradley
Councillor Andrea Courtney
Councillor Celisa Edwards
Councillor Kevin Hyland

Staff In Attendance

General Manager, Shane Crawford
Director Infrastructure and Development Services, Daniel Summers
Director Organisational Performance, Samantha Searle
Director Community and Engagement, Tracey Bradley
Executive Officer, Sally Blanc

Recorded In Attendance – 25 attendees

Lyn Walsh	Roy Duniam	Robert Donaghey
Sallie-Moore-Wood	Bronwyn Folden	K. Kerge
Julie McGregor	Dana Hicks	K. Mack
Ryan Wilson	Leanne Raw	S Edwards
Michael Johnstone	Tracey Jones	Nathan Austin
Codie Hutchison	Corey Gould	
Owen Kingston	Robin Krabbe	
Justin McErlain	John Findlater	
Cyndia Hilliger	Dylan Roberts	
Nina O’Leary	Carol Donaghey	

2.0 APOLOGIES

Nil

3.0 WELCOME

Good evening to all and welcome to Councillors, staff and members of the gallery. It is my pleasure to welcome you to the 2022 AGM for the Waratah-Wynyard Council, the final formal meeting of the current Council group.

Acknowledgement of Country

I would like to begin by acknowledging the traditional owners and custodians of the land on which we meet today, the Tommeginne people, and to pay our respect to those that have passed before us, their history and their culture.

Introduction

The Mayor read out the following:

At last week's Council meeting I reflected on the past four years, the term of the current Councillors, and I repeat my comments that the group should be proud of their accomplishments, dedication and efforts throughout the period.

Tonight, we focus on the past year, looking specifically at the 2021/22 financial year. The General Manager and I have a joint statement as part of the Annual Report and whilst I will not read that in its entirety, I would like to mention some brief extracts –

Council is currently in a strong financial position and continues to have a sustainable operating position, having now had six consecutive years of operational surpluses. Staff will provide more detail on this later in the meeting.

It fills Council with pride to see the positive results of our strategic plans coming to fruition. Our Wynyard and Environs Master Plan is now complete with the finalisation of the state of the art Multi-Purpose Facility. Other strategic and capital works continue to progress.

We continue to receive recognition at a National and State level, the highlight being the Wonders of Wynyard Exhibition and Visitor Information winning the Gold medal at the Qantas Australian Tourism Awards in March.

I want to thank the community for their continued input and contribution into Council activities.

This is the last Annual Report with the current group of elected members, and we thank all Councillors for their resolve and commitment to delivery over their term.

Once again, we wish to acknowledge the efforts and dedication of all Council staff in their quest to deliver high quality services to the community.

Council is very well placed to respond to and be actively involved in any challenges in the future.

I would now ask the General Manager to advise the meeting of the statutory provisions relating to the holding of an Annual General Meeting.

4.0 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

The General Manager advised the meeting of the statutory provisions relating to the holding of an Annual General Meeting.

Section 72B. of the *Local Government Act 1993* (the Act) provides that in relation to an Annual General Meeting.

72B. Annual General Meeting

- (1) A council must hold an Annual General Meeting on a date that –
 - (a) is not later than 15 December in each year; and
 - (b) is not before 14 days after the date of the first publication of a notice under subsection (2).
- (2) A council must publish a notice in a daily newspaper circulating in the municipal area or other prescribed newspaper specifying the date, time and place of the Annual General Meeting.
- (3) If a quorum of the council is not present at an Annual General Meeting –
 - (a) the Annual General Meeting is to be reconvened and held within 14 days; and
 - (b) a notice is to be published in a daily newspaper circulating in the municipal area specifying the date, time and place of the Annual General Meeting.
- (4) Only electors in the municipal area are entitled to vote at an Annual General Meeting.
- (5) A motion at an Annual General Meeting is passed by a majority of votes taken by a show of hands or by any other means of ascertaining the vote the council determines.
- (6) A motion passed at an Annual General Meeting is to be considered at the next meeting of the council.
- (7) The general manager is to keep minutes of the Annual General Meeting.

5.0 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

MOVED BY	CR DUNIAM
SECONDED BY	CR EDWARDS

“That the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Waratah-Wynyard Council, held at 21 Saunders Street, Wynyard on 2 November 2021, a copy of which having previously been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting, be confirmed as a true record.”

The MOTION was put and was CARRIED.

IN FAVOUR

MAYOR WALSH	CR BRADLEY	CR BRAMICH	CR COURTNEY
CR DUNIAM	CR EDWARDS		CR HYLAND

6.0 ANNUAL REPORT PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS

There were no public submissions received regarding the Annual Report.

7.0 ANNUAL REPORT PRESENTATION BY GENERAL MANAGER

The General Manager showed a presentation and discussed Council Achievements over the financial year 2021/22.

The Director of Organisational Performance made the following comments regarding Councils Financial Results for 2021/22.

It is pleasing to report that Council has recorded an underlying operating surplus of \$0.581m for the year, compared to an underlying budgeted surplus of \$0.315m.

This is the sixth consecutive year that Council has delivered an operational surplus.

Council has recognised the need to ensure future financial resilience by finding operational improvements to ensure new costs arising from expenditure on new and upgraded community assets are funded.

Council carefully plans for future sustainability through its Financial Management Strategy.

Council is currently in a strong financial position with strong liquidity and cash flow, low debt levels, assets in good condition, and an ability to satisfactorily fund its asset renewal requirements.

Council's cash and investments at year-end was \$14.2m.

Much of Council's cash is fully committed to Council's ongoing capital expenditure program for projects committed to and scheduled for completion throughout 2022/23. Forecast cash on hand at 30 June 2023 expected to be around \$4.3m.

The community's net assets increased by \$17m to \$280m throughout the year due to Council's continued investment in new infrastructure and increases in the fair value of Council community assets.

Council's total capital expenditure for the year was almost \$11m compared with \$9.5m in the previous year.

The total value of the community's property, plant and infrastructure as of 30 June was \$228.260m.

8.0 ANNUAL REPORT 2021/22

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To adopt the Annual Report in line with legislative requirements.

BACKGROUND

The Annual Report of the Council for 2021/22 has been prepared pursuant to section 72 of the *Local Government Act 1993* which requires Council to prepare an Annual Report detailing its achievements in respect of goals and objectives for the financial year.

DETAILS

Council's Strategic Planning Framework guides Council in identifying community needs and aspirations over the long term (Our Vision), medium term (Strategic Plan) and short term (Annual Plan and Budget Estimates) and holds itself accountable through the Audited Financial Statements and Annual Report.

The Annual Plan and Budget Estimates are set in June each year and progress reporting occurs to Council on a quarterly basis.

The Annual Report provides highlights of the Council's achievements throughout the year together with a performance report on activities listed in the 2021/22 Annual Plan.

As required, the Annual Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2022, together with the Independent Audit Report are included within the Annual Report. Council formally received the audited financial statements at the October meeting.

In accordance with Section 72(2)(d) and (3) of the *Local Government Act 1993*, Council placed advertisements in the Advocate Newspaper on 8 October 2022 and 15 October 2022 notifying the public of the Annual General Meeting on Monday 24 October 2022 and invited submissions from the community on the Annual Report.

STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

Statutory Requirements

Section 72 of the *Local Government Act 1993* requires Council to prepare an Annual Report containing the Annual Financial Statements and other statutory requirements. The Annual Report must be considered at the Annual General Meeting, which is to be held no later than 15 December.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

Strategic Plan Reference

GOAL 1: Leadership and Governance

Desired Outcomes

We make publicly transparent decisions on spending and future directions while encouraging community feedback.

We maintain and manage our assets sustainably.

We encourage broad community input to create a focussed and strong sense of belonging.

We cherish fairness, trust and honesty in our conduct and dealings with all.

We highly value the use of an evidence-based approach to the development and implementation of strategies and policies that support and strengthen our decision making.

We are recognised for proactive and engaged leadership.

Our Priorities	
1.4	Facilitate the meeting of community needs through strong advocacy and local and regional collaboration for shared outcomes.
1.6	Maintain accountability by ensuring council decisions are evidence based and meet all legislative obligations.
1.8	Review and adjust service levels to provide value for money.

Sustainable Murchison Community Plan 2040

Community Future Direction Theme	Key Challenges & Opportunities:
Business & Industry	Specialised diversity of the economy – Value adding, diversification, innovation and employment. A resilient economy with global brand recognition and growing exports.
Tourism	Memorable visitor experiences all year round – The must see destination, quality product, easy access, popular events and festivals with coordinated marketing. A longer season with increasing yields.
Strong communities and social capital	Enduring community capital – Growing, proud, self-reliant communities that are inclusive and engaged with volunteers and shared facilities.
Access and infrastructure	Local, regional and global transport and infrastructure access – Safe and efficient access alternatives, growing freight capacity, renewable energy, water management and contemporary communications. Community infrastructure that supports economic development.
Natural resource management	Managing abundant, natural and productive resources – Natural resource management is valued and development is environmentally sustainable. The environment is clean and healthy with unspoilt beauty and biodiversity.
Health and Wellbeing	Maintaining good health and wellbeing – Healthy communities, people taking responsibility for their wellness, convenient access to medical services and facilities.
Education	Lifelong learning and education – Education and lifelong learning is valued and there is access to vocational training and tertiary education. Education retention rates have increased.
Place making and liveability	Liveable places for all ages – Liveable attractive townships, relaxed lifestyles and community pride attract people to Murchison. Communities have history and character that drive their place-making strategies. Sport and recreation is widely supported especially by young people. Multi-purpose recreational and cultural facilities are well utilised.
Governance and working together	Working together for Murchison – Everyone plays a part in achieving the objectives of the Sustainable Murchison Community Plan. There is cooperation, resource sharing and less duplication between Councils. Leadership is provided across all community sectors.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

There are no policy implications as a result of this report.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no environmental implications as a result of this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications as a result of this report.

RISK IMPLICATIONS

There are no risk implications in receiving this report.

CONSULTATION PROCESS

The draft financial statements were referred to the Audit Panel for review at its meeting on 23 August 2022.

The Annual Report and Annual General Meeting have been advertised in accordance with legislation. No submissions have been received by the public in relation to the Annual Report.

CONCLUSION

It is recommended that Council receive and note the Annual Report for 2020/21

MOVED BY	CR DUNIAM
SECONDED BY	CR BRAMICH

That Council note the Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2022

The MOTION was put and was CARRIED.

IN FAVOUR

MAYOR WALSH	CR BRADLEY	CR BRAMICH	CR COURTNEY
CR DUNIAM	CR EDWARDS		CR HYLAND

9.0 NOTICE OF MOTION

9.1 MR C HUTCHISON – OLDINA RESERVE LEASE

PROPOSED MOTION

That Council requests a formal lease with Sustainable Timber Tasmania for the Oldina Reserve and former Picnic Area, for a minimum of 10 years, commencing as soon as possible.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Councillors are fully aware of the situation in regard to the Oldina Reserve.

In recent years, Sustainable Timber Tasmania have closed the Reserve to public access, removed all public amenities on the site, and ceased maintenance of road and bridge infrastructure.

Forestry Tasmania / Sustainable Timber Tasmania have offered Council the opportunity to lease the site in the past, to which Council declined.

Despite having requesting Council consult the community in regard to the future of the Oldina Reserve and moving a motion at the 2021 Council Annual General Meeting, which was passed, Council still refused to consult the community, preferring instead to preference its support for a community group to take over the site with no clear indication of how Council would be involved, if at all, in such a plan.

That plan was released for Community Consultation. Following the consultation, the proposed preferred user of the site, the Inglis Pony Club, pulled out of negotiations.

Council's concept plan for the Oldina Reserve has failed to deliver a positive outcome.

Every year without action in regard to the Oldina Reserve is another year of lost opportunity.

Council needs to take the requests of the community seriously and should commit to the project of restoring and transforming this public space where STT no longer will.

As recently as October 8-9 (2 weeks ago), Sustainable Timber Tasmania permitted a national motor biking event to take place in the Reserve and former picnic area. Whilst all options should be considered, there is clearly community demand for this area, but not all uses are mutual.

The de facto use of this space is becoming one of recreational motor-vehicle and motorbike use (legal or otherwise), and whilst recreational vehicle use activities have their place, Council should advocate on behalf of the community and consider a broad range of offerings and public amenity for the municipality.

Council may begin liaising with different stakeholders in the community about how this area will be used, however, without committing to a formal lease over the reserve area there is significant risk that Council will delay, stall, and eventually manoeuvre its way out of its responsibility for delivering action for the community at this site.

In Council's October Meeting Agenda, it states on page 47 in response to a question for Cr. Edwards that

At the June 2022 meeting of Council, it was resolved that:

Council:

1. Note the feedback on the draft Oldina Forest Reserve Concept Plan; and
2. Facilitate a stakeholder group to consider future use of the Oldina Forest Reserve.

As Oldina Reserve is not owned or managed by Council, officers have sought permission from Sustainable Timbers to proceed on this basis. This permission has been received and formation of the group can commence.

Councillors will be appointed to a stakeholder group at the November meeting of Council to progress discussions.

Council has the necessary permissions to consider the future use of the Reserve, and some Council staff are now educated in the constraints and opportunities that the site has to offer.

Momentum is now in the direction of a formal Council lease with STT over the site, and there are very few barriers to undertaking this lease, with the exception of the limited willingness from Councillors and Senior Management. Formalising a lease will demonstrate to STT and the community that Council is serious about the space, and that future discussions regarding what to do with it will be serious and not a waste of community and Council time exploring options that rely on third parties.

OFFICERS COMMENT

Council has received a number of reports in relation to Oldina Reserve in recent years and remains committed to convening a stakeholder group to explore options for the site following the current Local Government elections.

The Oldina Reserve remains in the ownership and management of Sustainable Timbers Tasmania and ideas regarding the future of the site need to be directed through them. Council cannot plan for future use of a site without the permission or involvement of the land owner.

Council agrees that the Oldina Reserve has significant potential and progression of a plan for future use of the site is a worthy concept. Council, however, does not have to lease or own the land for community use to be restored. Possible use for the site needs to be thoroughly explored before it is determined who is best to enter discussions with STT regarding a lease.

The proposed motion that Council enter a formal lease with Sustainable Timber Tasmania for the Oldina Reserve commencing as soon as possible unnecessarily places this decision before determining future use of the site. It assumes Council needs to be the leaseholder when there may be other alternatives.

Taking on the lease immediately subjects Council to significant financial risk, with financial contribution required for:

- Upgrade and maintenance for roads and parking
- Connection and provision of services including power and water
- Security and access considerations
- Mowing, landscaping and maintenance of the reserve
- Risk and safety considerations including tree and bridge inspections and associated remediation works

These works alone, if done properly, have the potential to cost hundreds of thousands of dollars each financial year. Council has not included this additional service in its Financial Management Strategy and associated efficiencies or reduction in other services would be required to absorb the additional costs. Council currently manages 47 other parks and reserves.

It is a much more prudent approach to determine future use of the site first, negotiate site remediation and appropriate financial contributions and arrangements, prior to lease discussions. Taking on a lease now may result in unnecessary financial impost on Council that is simply not required.

MOVED BY	Mr C HUTCHISON
SECONDED BY	CR A COURTNEY

That Council requests a formal lease with Sustainable Timber Tasmania for the Oldina Reserve and former Picnic Area, for a minimum of 10 years, commencing as soon as possible

The MOTION was put and was LOST.

9.2 Mr C HUTCHISON – FOSSIL BLUFF TOILET


PROPOSED MOTION

That Council:

1. Commence a feasibility study to cost a Parks and Wildlife Services style elevated compost toilet & accessible ramp in the Fossil Bluff Reserve Area – at the Table Cape end of the grassed section of the reserve, below the main car park.
2. Adjust the Fossil Bluff and Surrounding Trails Masterplan Point 2.9 to reflect Item 1
3. Conduct the costings and planning design for presentation to Councils prior to the adoption of the 2023/2024 Budget, and earmark funds for the toilet in the 2023/2024 budget

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- On Page 317 of the October Meeting Agenda Attachments, it states action for the exploration of suggested alternative options for hillside public toilets has not yet commenced. Following the community feedback; it was clear that the original proposed toilet location had raised concerns of nearby resident(s). I was the person responsible for the suggestion of an alternate possible hillside toilet site and I was hoping that this action would be given greater priority, considering a toilet has been requested by members of the public at Fossil Bluff, including myself in 2017 in the OSSR public consultation phase.

Attachments Reports of Officers and Committees							
9.4 Fossil Bluff and Surrounding Trails Masterplan - Annual Update							
Enclosure 1 Fossil Bluff Action Status Report							
 Fossil Bluff and Surrounding Trails Masterplan – Annual Update – October 2022							
ACTIONS	YR 1 22/23	YR 2 23/24	YR 3 24/25	YR 4 25/26	YR 5 26/27	Status	Comments
2.7	Formalise a second lookout at Inglisdale Drive: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 23/24 – Consult with residents and other stakeholders before undertaking design and planning which includes consideration of an informal parking area, , vehicle access barriers, safety fencing if necessary and associated signage (refer action 3.4). • 24/25 – Delivery of new lookout and associated infrastructure. 					Not Started	
2.8	Enhance the recreational use of Freestone Cove Foreshore by creating additional picnic spaces: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Install picnic shelter, tables, seating, bubbler and bins. 					Not Started	
2.9	Explore suggested alternative public toilet site with a built into the hillside look so as to provide a suitably camouflaged and accessible option to meet the need of the area; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • consider heritage, camouflaging options and environmentally friendly design features. 					Not Started	

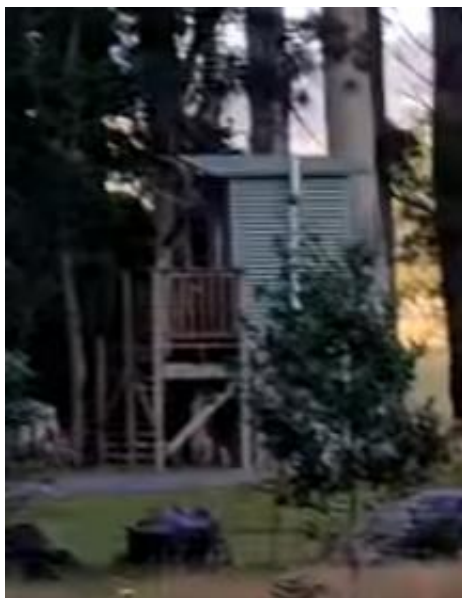
- Given the time frame to commence this process and with the high probability that it will be deemed ‘unsuitable’, I am requesting that a parallel investigation is undertaken immediately to the point where should other options for toilets in the Fossil Bluff reserve be deemed inappropriate or too expensive, the Plan B option (as listed in the motion) can be implemented and delivered shortly thereafter, without any delay.

- Potential siting and access:

FOSSIL BLUFF ~ FREESTONE COVE



- An example of the Toilet style can be seen at HoneyComb Caves, in the Mole Creek Karst National Park, which is elevated, accessible by a staircase, with a holding tank below. Contact: MCCaves@parks.tas.gov.au



- During the Draft Fossil Bluff Masterplan consultation period, I submitted an additional response specifically in regard to the toilet location challenges, and below is an excerpt from that submission:

“With the feedback provided by the community, in particular – Fossil Bluff residents, the Public toilet block as proposed would appear to be the primary source of opposition to the plan.

Suggestions have been made that a central toilet could be located at 'The Point', a small reserve area with boat ramp adjacent the Inglis River just east of the Table Cape Road bridge.

This area would be a potential candidate for a central toilet, however, is an area that probably does not qualify as a place that tourists are going to spend a great deal of time at. Drawcards like Fossil Bluff and Table Cape will be places that visitors and locals would spend more time if sufficient amenity was provided.

The benefits of a toilet at Fossil Bluff include supporting families and people of all interests to access the area for greater lengths of time. Kids and individuals of all ages can spend hours climbing, fossicking, exploring caves & rock pools, searching for tucker, collecting shells & rocks, making cubbies and sand castles in the Fossil Bluff reserve area.

Unfortunately, for most people (especially children), their need to relieve themselves comes sooner than their exhaustion from exploring the Fossil Bluff area if time has been dedicated to going there.

Sure, there will be many people who are just going for a quick visit, to walk the dog, or climb to the top of Fossil Bluff and leave. For many people, 5 minutes is not enough, maybe they could explore for 5 days, 5 weeks, or more! Fossil Bluff is one of the nicest places in the Wynyard vicinity. It is often a site for professional photography because it is accessible and incredibly scenic."

- The proximity of such a toilet within reach of a servicing truck would be important, should the composting waste needing to be relocated, so the potential site near the emergency access ramp would facilitate this. The short distance of a wheelchair ramp to the toilet would also assist in making the toilet accessible for all abilities, via the ramp, as well as a staircase to the lower grassed area for ease of access from both the beach and the car park.
- The benefits of a composting toilet would minimise capital costs and any logistical challenges in connecting to the main sewerage system.



OFFICERS COMMENTS

Reflecting on similar past projects with similar inputs required, there would be considerable risk that the provision of adequate advice and consultation outcomes to Council would not be achieved in time for a 2023/24 budget submission.

As explained in the BACKGROUND information by Mr Hutchison, the adopted Fossil Bluff and Surrounding Trails Masterplan forecasts exploring the feasibility of the hillside location as an item for the 2023/24 Annual Plan and budget including considerations of heritage, camouflaging options and environmentally friendly design features.

If the motion were adjusted such that point 2 was to add this location along with the hillside location proposed and that both dates in part 3 were adjusted to 2024/25, there would be greater chance of success of undertaking the action proposed.

The 2022/23 Annual Plan and Budget adopted in June 2022 does not include any resourcing (human and financial) to undertake a feasibility study as proposed in the motion or as proposed in the adopted Fossil Bluff and Surrounding Trails Masterplan.

In order for the items in the motion to occur as proposed and a fully informed decision made for funding of the toilet in the 2023/24 budget a deferral of other items in the current 2022/23 Annual plan and budget would need to be made.

Given the timing of the motion however, the fact that 4-5 months of the current Annual Plan and budget period has already passed, and the need for Council to consider the motion at the November 2022 Council meeting if successful, there is limited time to achieve the outcomes proposed.

There would be difficulty in adequately undertaking costings, planning and design required to fully inform Council for the 2023/24 Annual plan and budget due to current high demand on third party building designers and other associated third party professional building services.

Equally, consultation with community members and local residents around prepared concepts for either the location as proposed in the motion or as currently proposed in the Masterplan will need to occur to inform Council decision making before funding could be committed to proceed.

MOVED BY	Mr C HUTCHISON
SECONDED BY	CR EDWARDS

That Council:

- 1. Commence a feasibility study to cost a Parks and Wildlife Services style elevated compost toilet & accessible ramp in the Fossil Bluff Reserve Area – at the Table Cape end of the grassed section of the reserve, below the main car park.**
- 2. Adjust the Fossil Bluff and Surrounding Trails Masterplan Point 2.9 to reflect Item 1**
- 3. Conduct the costings and planning design for presentation to Councils prior to the adoption of the 2023/2024 Budget, and earmark funds for the toilet in the 2023/2024 budget.**

The MOTION was put and was LOST.

9.3 R KRABBE – COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

PROPOSED MOTION

That Council, in consultation with the community (for example via an initial meeting), review its community engagement/consultation processes, with the aim of providing greater opportunities for community engagement/consultation.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

I believe that the quality of life in the Waratah-Wynyard municipality, our capacity to adapt to challenges, and to proactively drive socio-economic change depends ultimately on the ability for both individuals and organisations to work together. Communication and joint decision making are key aspects of this, via community engagement. Community engagement has a number of important benefits, especially the extent to which it can increase trust between Council and the community, which is so important for so many aspects of life in our municipality.

The Waratah-Wynyard Council's Public Consultation Policy (Version No.5, 26 September 2022) expresses some very admirable intentions such as "The community has a right to be involved in and informed about key decisions affecting them", and that "A range of appropriate opportunities will be provided for people to access information and to be involved, taking into account the diversity of the community and their differing communication needs". Likewise, the statement that "At Waratah-Wynyard Council Communication is at the core of everything we do. By having good communication and engagement practices and by encouraging open conversations and interactions on local issues we will improve our service delivery and help inform, empower and connect our community".

However, it is now vital to put these principles into practice and deliver on increasing both consultation and participation by the community in local decision making, and projects that increase quality of life. In short, a substantial effort is needed to implement to a high level all the strategies of both the Councils Public Consultation Policy and the Communication and Engagement Strategy. It is very useful having these documents, but they are of no use if they are not implemented. I also note the Communication and Engagement Strategy was for 2019/2021; so, I am also interested in the process of issuing a new strategy for 2022/2025.

It is acknowledged that to date, community willingness to take advantage of opportunities provided by the Council, such as for consultation, are patchy. It is also acknowledged that there is a huge diversity of capacity to engage in constructive dialogue, which makes the Council's job more difficult, likewise a limit on resources to promote community consultation and participation.

However, for example the recent number of candidates standing for election is a heartening sign of increased willingness to engage in local decision making, likewise possibly the process of the iCEP committee (which the Council is to be congratulated on) is also very positive.

I therefore request a discussion as a starting point for how there can be greater input by the community into local decision making, and better two-way communication between the Council and the community.

OFFICERS COMMENTS

As referenced in the BACKGROUND information provided with the motion, Council recognises the need for good communication and engagement practices.

At the June 2019 ordinary meeting, Council adopted the Communications and Engagement Strategy 2019-2021. The Strategy is based on the principles outlined in the internationally recognised gold standard IAP2 (International Association for Public Participation) Public Participation Spectrum, which is designed to assist with the selection of the level of participation that defines the public's role in any community engagement or public participation process. The spectrum clearly identifies that differing levels of participation are legitimate depending on the goals, timeframes, resources, and levels of concern from the community in the decision being made.

The Strategy also outlines 21 different communications components and rates Council's level of practice from 2010 to 2021. This process provides Council with an opportunity to track improvement across a broad range of communications and engagement objectives. Whilst there are still recognised areas for improvement, the table demonstrates a clear commitment to continuous improvement by Council.

Officers are currently working on adopted Year 4 actions as a new Strategy is drafted. Development of a new Strategy is an Annual Plan Action for 2022-23 and is scheduled to begin in the last quarter of 2022-23. Once a draft is developed, this will go to Council to endorse the release for public comment, giving the opportunity for feedback before a final strategy is adopted by Council. This process will provide the community input as requested by the mover of the motion.

Council's Public Consultation Policy was recently revised and adopted by Council in September 2022. Since the last review of this policy in 2020, Council has strengthened its commitment to best practice communication and consultation strategies and the changes made to this policy align with this commitment.

The Policy is underpinned by the following principles, which the Council believes are central to achieve effective communication and consultation:

- Council decision-making should be open, transparent and accountable;
- Council will identify potential stakeholders in each specific circumstance;
- Council will ensure information is easily understood and accessible to identified stakeholders, and include contact details for obtaining further information in all communications;
- The community has a right to be involved in and informed about key decisions affecting them;
- A range of appropriate opportunities will be provided for people to access information and to be involved, taking into account the diversity of the community and their differing communication needs;
- Council will listen and respond to community views in a balanced way, taking account of all submissions made by various stakeholders;
- Council's desire to balance community views and interests with other influences such as budgetary constraints;
- Council's communication and engagement strategies are underpinned by the International Association of Public Participation (IAP2) Spectrum, which provides a best-practice framework outlining the various levels of engagement (inform, consult, involve,

collaborate and empower) and the associated communication tools and appropriate audience messages for each level of engagement.

The information below is provided to demonstrate some of the recent communication and engagement activities undertaken by Council and relevant statistics.

Recognition

Waratah Wynyard Council has been recognised amongst its local government peers as being a leader in the engagement space – particularly with social media engagement, recently winning the Local Government Professionals Community Services Delivery Award for our Social Media Strategy. Council also won the same award category in 2020 for the Communications and Engagement Strategy (2019-21). Whilst acknowledging that there is always more work that can be done, Council has committed significant resources in the Communications space in recent years as an acknowledgment to the importance of engaging with our community.

Council's social media engagement has been recognised not only at the recent Local Government Professionals Awards, but by independent media company SHUNT, who ran a project analysing local government social media statistics across much of Australia. Waratah Wynyard Council consistently performed well in these rankings, often outperforming the major City councils.

The impacts of Council's social media engagement have been substantial, demonstrating the effectiveness of a strategic communication plan. It was recorded by Shunt Applied Creative that there was an increase in Facebook reactions by 149.1% and in an increase in Facebook engagement by 105% over a 90-day period in 2021. The Waratah-Wynyard Council was acknowledged by Shunt as "Facebook engagement and productivity leaders" when compared with all other Tasmanian Councils.

Upon the completion of the Year 3 Communication and Engagement Strategy actions there have been other notable achievements in the digital space. Waratah-Wynyard Council's social media following (on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube) increased by a total of 30.6%, expanding its network of users across multiple platforms.

The Social Media Engagement Initiative was implemented to respond to Council's key strategic objectives, and the success of the initiative has positioned Council itself as a leading social media presence of Local Government in Tasmania. The Social Media Engagement Initiative has transformed Council's digital presence so that it is more engaging and more inclusive, strengthening communication with its expanding digital community. Whilst there is still room for growth, the Waratah-Wynyard Communications team commits to growing with these essential digital platforms, through education initiatives such as META Certification.



Communications and engagement tools

It is true that not everyone is on digital media, although it must be acknowledged that the internet, websites and social media are the primary sources of information for the majority of the population in the modern world. Council acknowledges it must not forget those who are unable or unwilling to adopt this media, and that some information and feedback is better provided and received in other ways.

For this reason, Council has a broad range of communication tools that it uses for various purposes as appropriate, including:

Social media (including Facebook polls) – a breakdown of our audience for Facebook (below) shows a good spread of ages, with the largest audience being women between the ages of 35-44.

In the past 12 months, Councils Facebook posts have reached over 114,000 people in the month of October 2022, with engagement at an impressive 38.5k.

Page overview

Discovery

🌐 Post reach	114,096
👤 Post engagement	38,540
✅ New Page followers	248

Interactions

😊 Reactions	4,637
💬 Comments	1,118
➦ Shares	1,104
🖼️ Photo views	10,021
🖱️ Link clicks	1,637

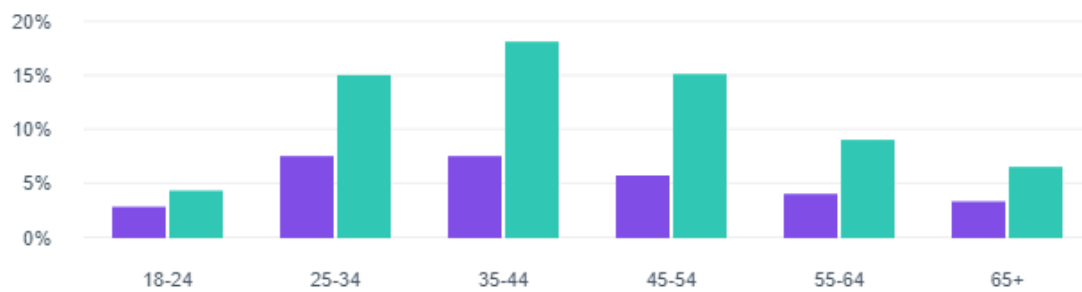
Other

👁️ Hide all posts	7
🗑️ Unfollows	0

Audience

Age and gender

Men 31.40%
Women 68.60%



Council has and does involve the public in all major projects this may be through the formation of a Working Group, an Advisory Group or through more widely publicised requests for feedback. All projects and policies receive a broad range of feedback from key stakeholders and interested parties with many of the ideas being put forward adopted into final plans and policies. Some examples of consultation and engagement include:

Working groups and committees – Councillor representatives and senior staff work alongside community interest groups. Examples include:

- Public Art Advisory group
- Youth Leaders
- Boat Harbour Beach masterplan advisory group
- ICEP working group (soon to transition to SEAP)
- Cam River Masterplan working group
- Wynyard Showgrounds Working Group
- Australia Day Committee
- Waratah Community Board
- Wynyard Waterfront and Environs Masterplan Working Group
- ANZAC Park Working Group

Community stakeholder and special interest advisory groups - these are formed for significant projects or for specific communities of interest. Examples include:

- Wynyard local business group
- Major project stakeholders – e.g.: local residents around capital works
- Somerset Futures Group
- Sisters Beach Working Group
- Waratah Museum group
- Waratah Men’s Shed

Other Projects where public input has been sought and influenced the final outcomes:

- Sustainable Murchison Community Plan
- Open Space Sport and Recreation Plan
- Planning Scheme – Local Provisions
- Public Land Disposal
- Fossil Bluff Masterplan
- Dog Management Policy
- East Wynyard Foreshore Masterplan
- Ballad Avenue
- Age Friendly / Youth plans

Community conversations – Councillors and senior staff attend open community forms in each of our communities (Boat Harbour, Sisters Beach, Wynyard, Somerset, Yolla, Waratah) and are available to provide information and listen to community concerns.

In 2021 Community Conversations round:

- 255 people attended
- 164 ideas put forward
- 77 service requests

Customer service/conquest system – the community engage with Council on various matters such as issues/complaints/requests for service.

Conquest Job Stats for 01.07.21 – 30.06.22	
Jobs Registered	1482
Completed in Conquest	1480
Still Open	2
Closed – still to be completed (usually by contractors)	23
Waratah Jobs	61

Council meetings – the public are able to attend and ask questions or make public statements. Meetings are now also livestreamed, with views skyrocketing.

In the last year Council’s YouTube channel stats are:

- 8,342 views
- 1,284.50 watch hours
- 104 new subscribers
- 88,508 impressions

Interestingly, the demographics show the largest proportion of YouTube views for Council come from the over 65 age group (31.6%)

These stats show a 145% increase in the previous 12 months for views, and a 404% increase in watch time.











Viewer age ↓	Views	Average view duration	Average percentage viewed	Watch time (hours)
13–17 years	–	–	–	–
18–24 years	–	–	–	–
25–34 years	9.5%	26:56	18.9%	13.7%
35–44 years	16.3%	18:45	13.1%	16.5%
45–54 years	26.9%	23:45	17.3%	34.4%
55–64 years	15.8%	18:54	14.1%	16.1%
65+ years	31.6%	11:22	9.6%	19.4%

Listening posts – staff set up in public spaces with information or to ask for feedback on specific projects or topics of interest (e.g., Oldina Reserve Plan)

Mainstream media including TV, newspaper, and radio

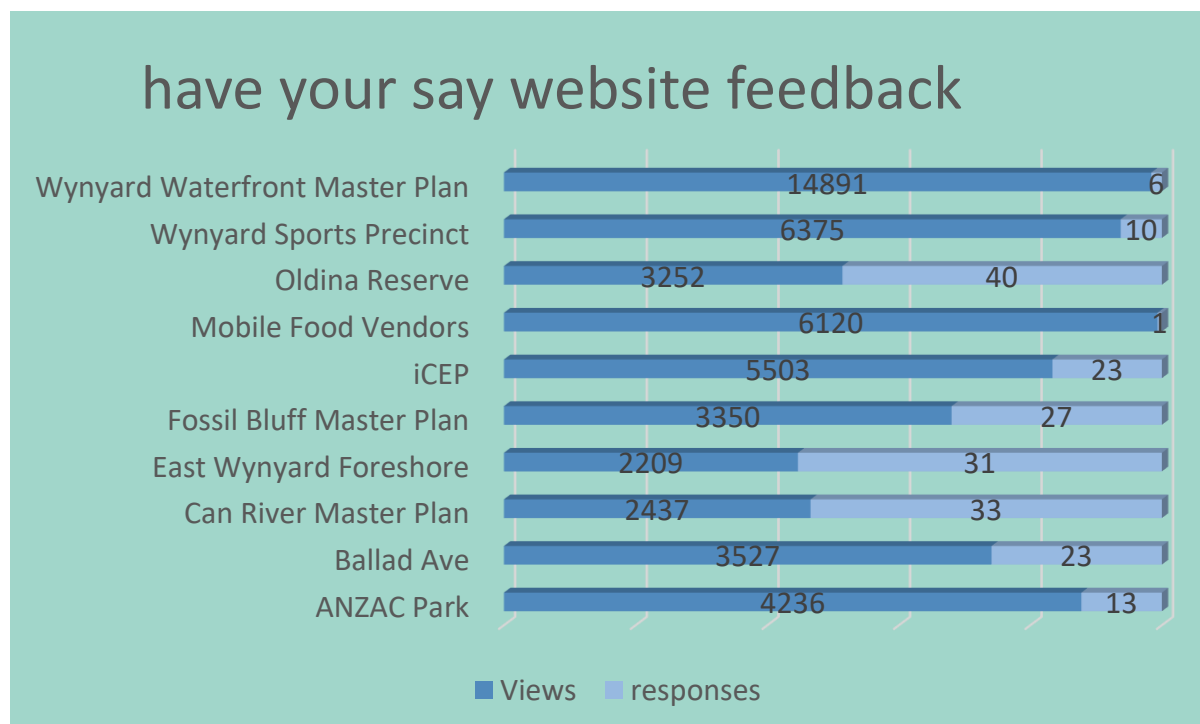
Noticeboards – digital and traditional community notice boards

Website – users of Councils website have increased 49% since the development of a new, more user friendly and customer focussed site in 2020. The Planning and Development Application page regularly has one of the highest interactions from the public – showing strong engagement with the planning process.

<input type="checkbox"/>	1. /		29,935 (19.03%)
<input type="checkbox"/>	2. /planning-and-development/advertised-permits/		10,384 (6.60%)
<input type="checkbox"/>	3. /our-council/contact-us/		7,845 (4.99%)
<input type="checkbox"/>	4. /events-calendar/spring-loaded-2021-program/		4,828 (3.07%)
<input type="checkbox"/>	5. /news/somersets-anzac-park-to-be-transformed-into-coasts-premier-all-abilities-playground/		3,741 (2.38%)
<input type="checkbox"/>	6. /jobs-council/current-vacancies/		3,625 (2.31%)
<input type="checkbox"/>	7. /our-council/agendas-minutes/		3,045 (1.94%)
<input type="checkbox"/>	8. /public-notice/		2,904 (1.85%)
<input type="checkbox"/>	9. /waste-recycling/waste-transfer-stations/		2,390 (1.52%)
<input type="checkbox"/>	10. /financial-services/rates-payments/		2,091 (1.33%)

Have your say (website) - open consultation periods giving the community opportunity to provide commentary on Council projects/plans

Since the new website has been live there has been ten 'Have Your Say' project feedback opportunities, with 51,900 views and 207 formal responses.



MOVED BY	R. KRABBE
SECONDED BY	CR DUNIAM

That Council, in consultation with the community (for example via an initial meeting), review its community engagement/consultation processes, with the aim of providing greater opportunities for community engagement/consultation.

The MOTION was put and was CARRIED.

10.0 PUBLIC QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

10.1 MR NATHAN AUSTIN – MOTOR BIKE PARKING

Mr Auston asked if Council could provide parking spaces specifically for motor bikes. He noted that he travels regularly with a group of 80-100 motorbikes and there is nowhere between Burnie and Smithton for bikes to park safely.

The General Manager noted that it was a good question and agreed to investigate opportunities.

10.2 MR CODIE HUTCHISON – MEETINGS WITH SENIOR STAFF

Mr Hutchison asked if the Mayor and Senior Staff had met prior to the Annual General meeting

The General Manager advised that they had not.

10.3 MR CODIE HUTCHISON – MEETING WITH MAYOR AND CONSULTANT

Mr Hutchison asked if the Mayor or Senior Staff had met with a River Road Consultant before this meeting.

The Mayor noted he had spoken to consultant on his arrival, the consultant wished the Mayor a happy retirement.

10.4 MR OWEN KINGSTON – COUNCIL FINANCIAL STATUS

Mr Kingston asked if the Councillors and Executive Staff had congratulated themselves on the excellent financial status of Council.

The Mayor noted that council is very proud of its achievements.

11.0 PUBLIC STATEMENTS WITHOUT NOTICE

Nil received.

12.0 CLOSURE

There being no further business the Annual General meeting closed at 7.10pm.