WARATAH WYNYARD COUNCIL

ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL

MINUTES OPEN MEETING

16 March 2026

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THE PUBLIC IS ADVISED THAT IT IS COUNCIL POLICY TO RECORD 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 AUDIO RECORDING IS AUTHORISED BY THE *LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MEETING PROCEDURES) REGULATIONS 2025*

MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF THE WARATAH-WYNYARD COUNCIL TO BE HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 21 SAUNDERS STREET, WYNYARD ON MONDAY 16 MARCH 2026, COMMENCING AT 6:00 PM

	From	To	Time Occupied
Open Council	6.00PM	6.11PM	11MINS
Planning Authority	6.11PM	6.13PM	2MINS
Open Council	6.13PM	6.44PM	31MINS
Closed Council	6.44PM	6.57PM	13MINS
Open Council	6.57PM	6.57PM	OMNS
TOTAL TIME OCCUPIED			57MINS

AUDIO RECORDING OF COUNCIL MEETINGS POLICY

The Chairman is to declare the meeting open (time), welcome those present in attendance and advise that the meeting will be recorded, in accordance with the Council Policy '**GOV.017 - Audio Recording of Council Meetings**' to "record meetings of Council to assist in the preparation of minutes and ensure a true and accurate account of debate and discussion at meetings is available".

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.

1.0 RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

1.1 ATTENDANCE

Mayor Mary Duniam
Deputy Mayor Celisa Edwards
Councillor Gary Bramich
Councillor Andrea Courtney
Councillor Michael Johnstone
Councillor Leanne Raw
Councillor Dillon Roberts

IN ATTENDANCE

Vanessa Adams – Chief Executive Officer
Daniel Summers - Director Infrastructure and Development Services
Mitchell Smith – Chief Financial Officer
Sallie Moore-Wood – Director Governance and Information Services
Alan Cattermole – Director Community and Engagement
Jasmin Briggs – Town Planner
Sally Blanc - Executive Officer

1.2 APOLOGIES

Nil received.

1.3 LEAVE OF ABSENCE PREVIOUSLY APPROVED

Councillor Kevin Hyland

2.0 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

2.1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

MOVED BY	CR ROBERTS
SECONDED BY	CR EDWARDS

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Waratah-Wynyard Council held at Council Chambers, 21 Saunders Street, Wynyard on Monday 16 February 2026, 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

CR BRAMICH	CR COURTNEY	MAYOR DUNIAM	CR EDWARDS
	CR ROBERTS	CR JOHNSTONE	CR RAW

3.0 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor and Agenda Item Number

Nil

Staff and Agenda Item Number

Nil

4.0 COUNCILLORS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORT

4.1 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY MAYOR

INCIVILITY – A Threat to Democracy (VLGA Workshop, 27 February 2026)

The workshop considered the impacts of incivility from both the public and within councils, with a focus on promoting respectful engagement in local government settings. Session 1 addressed the cost of incivility and its effects on councillors, staff and community trust. Session 2 examined approaches to rebuilding respectful dialogue in an increasingly polarised environment. Session 3 introduced *Safe to Serve* and outlined practical tools and strategies for responding to incivility. It was noted that concerns regarding incivility are being recognised by political leaders and governments at all levels.

A key theme throughout the workshop was the importance of ensuring council meetings remain respectful and constructive forums for discussion, debate and decision-making. Presenters highlighted the role of positive leadership, appropriate standards of conduct, and respectful behaviour in maintaining public confidence and supporting effective governance.

The workshop also emphasised the importance of early intervention, governance integrity, organisational functionality and psychosocial safety. Councils were encouraged to strengthen practices and workplace culture that support respectful disagreement, constructive debate and the wellbeing of councillors and staff.

The introduction of oversight monitors for local councils by the Victorian State Government was noted, together with the expectation that councillors comply with governance rules and standards of conduct. It was also reported that the Victorian Government is developing new psychosocial regulations intended to support earlier intervention and improved safeguards.

The overarching message from the workshop was that civility is not the absence of disagreement, but the ability to disagree respectfully while continuing to work in the best interests of the community.

INTERNATIONAL WOMENS DAY

The International Women's Day 2026 celebrations at Waratah-Wynyard Council Chambers on Wednesday 4th March focused on the theme: *Give to Gain.*

Guest speakers were Cyndia Hilliger, a local business owner and Wynyard High School Assistant Principal Helena Moore. Both shared inspiring messages reflecting this year's theme that encourages us all to support one another, not just in words, but through everyday actions. I also wish to thank the staff for this well organised event, which was enjoyed by everyone in attendance.

4.2 MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

MOVED BY	CR JOHNSTONE
SECONDED BY	CR RAW

That Council notes the Mayor's Communications:

MAYOR DR MARY DUNIAM	
10/2/26	Meeting with Minister Bridget Archer
11/2/26	Cr Budget Workshop
12/2/26	Meeting with Craig Garland MP
12/2/26	ALGWA Online Training
16/2/26	Council Meeting
17/2/26	Mayors' Workshop – Dattner Group
19/2/26	Citizenship Ceremony
23/2/26	Senate Hearing Presentation - Rural Inquiry into Aus. aviation sector—regional service delivery
23/2/26	LGAT GMC Meeting
24/2/26	CCA Agenda Meeting
25/2/26	Meeting with Constituent
27/2/26	Forum: FastTrack 2026 - Incivility: A Threat to Local Democracy
28/2/26	**DEPUTY MAYOR** Gone Nuts Presentation
2/3/26	Cr Workshop
3/3/26	Meeting re ALGWA Video
4/3/26	International Women's Day Morning Tea
5/3/26	CCA Representatives Meeting
6/3/26	International Women's Day Lunch Government House

The MOTION was put and was CARRIED.

IN FAVOUR

CR BRAMICH	CR COURTNEY	MAYOR DUNIAM	CR EDWARDS
	CR ROBERTS	CR JOHNSTONE	CR RAW

4.3 REPORTS BY DELEGATES

Nil received.

4.4 NOTIFICATION OF COUNCIL WORKSHOPS

Councillor attendance – 1/7/25 –2/3/26 (last updated to 6/3/26)

	Ordinary Meetings 2025/26 (8)	Special Meetings / AGM 2025/26 (1)	Workshops 2025/26 (20)	Community Conversations 2025/26 (1)	Weeks Leave Approved
Mayor Mary Duniam	7	1	20	1	2
Deputy Mayor Celisa Edwards	7	1	16	1	2
Cr Gary Bramich	7	1	18	1	0
Cr Andrea Courtney	8	1	14	1	0
Cr Kevin Hyland	6	1	16	1	5
Cr Michael Johnstone	7	1	19	1	0
Cr Leanne Raw	8	1	15	1	4
Cr Dillon Roberts	8	1	20	1	1

MOVED BY	CR JOHNSTONE
SECONDED BY	CR EDWARDS

That Council notes the following Workshops:

2/3/26	**Wynyard Basketball Association Presentation** **Community Christmas Decorations** **Cemetery Strategy** **Tas Water Pricing** **Land Enquiry**

The MOTION was put and was CARRIED.

IN FAVOUR

CR BRAMICH	CR COURTNEY	MAYOR DUNIAM	CR EDWARDS
	CR ROBERTS	CR JOHNSTONE	CR RAW

5.0 PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS

5.1 RESPONSE(S) TO PUBLIC QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

5.1.1 K EWINGTON - RAGWORT MANAGEMENT BY COUNCIL

QUESTION

Mr Ewington asked the following question at the previous council meeting which was taken on notice:

Question One

Ragwort Management By Waratah Wynyard Council

Ragwort was reported in December 2025 management plan was put in place and Owner of property completed a spray programme.

NRM department informed me project completed via Email 6/02/2026.

I done site Audit on area 11/02/2026 found Healthy ragwort plants though out the affected aera clearly Identified by the Bright yellow seed head on each plant including along banks of the Micthell Creek.

I have once again informed Department that each plant holds 250,000 seed head per plant.

It has also been reported that the seed will travel some distance and has been identified in the upper Hemisphere.

Can the council give reasons a site audit was not completed by NRM department confirming

Ragwort outbreak has been attended by the farmer correctly.

OFFICERS RESPONSE

Council is responsible for Ragwort management on land that it owns, however, Ragwort removal and control on private land is the landholder's responsibility, not that of the Waratah-Wynyard Council.

Council officers have inspected the property reported by Mr Ewington and have made attempts to establish contact with the land managers. As contact with and compliance by the landholder with Ragwort removal has not been achieved, Council officers have escalated the issue to Bio security Tas to take the lead.

Council records show an email received from Mr Ewington on Friday 30 January 2026 noting ongoing concerns with Ragwort on the private property.

The matter was escalated to Bio Security Tas for further follow up on the same day.

This information update and the escalation to Bio Security Tas was provided to Mr Ewington via email on the following Monday 2 Feb 2026 (ref 2026-000179).: -

From: "Reception"
Sent: Mon, 2 Feb 2026 13:09:08 +1100
To: [redacted]
Subject: Ragwort - 16718 Bass Highway

Hello Ken,

We appreciate your patience on this matter, I can advise this has been forwarded to Biosecurity regarding the slender thistle and ragwort who are following up further.

This job will now be closed with Council.

Job reference: **2026-000179**

It is not a matter of the issue being "closed" for any further action; the matter has been escalated to the peak State body for invasive species such as Ragwort, as outlined above.

Council's Director of Infrastructure & Development Services met with Mr Ewington on this matter on 3 March 2026. It was also offered to Mr Ewington that while he is free to raise questions at any Council meeting on any issue, he may also raise them internally with Council as per Council's Customer Service Charter at any time if he remains concerned.

Mr Ewington noted some weed action taken by property owners and emphasized some remaining ragwort plants around the banks of Mitchell Creek which are not accessible by vehicles and would likely require manual removal or spraying by the property owner.

5.1.2 K EWINGTON - RAGWORT

QUESTION

Mr Ewington of Flowerdale asked the following question which was taken on notice:

Question Two

Ragwort

Is a widespread noxious weed which has been a major problem within the Agricultural Farming Industry.

It is highly toxic to cattle and Horses.

Seed Base per head of plant is250,000 seeds and is windblown though out the community

In relation to property 16718 Bass High Way Flowerdale Jan 2026 I made detailed report of out break of Ragwort To NRM officer Department of Waratah Wynyard Council.

In the past years Bill Walker would act on project with Owner and the matter was sorted within a few weeks.

Received a response from NRM office Department indicated due to lack of contact with owner of property case has now been closed.

Please can the Council Highlight the ability of NRM officer which is employed to attend the weed problems within the community?

As if action is not taken seriously Ragwort will spread though out the community which has been a huge Time and cost to control the Ragwort so far .

Ragwort control cost in Tasmania is in excess $3 Million Dolars per year.

OFFICERS RESPONSE

Ragwort removal and control on private land is the landholder's responsibility, not that of the Waratah-Wynyard Council.

Council officers have inspected the property and have made attempts to establish contact with the land managers. It is Council's understanding that the lease holder that previously engaged with Council officers, no longer holds a lease for this land. As contact with and compliance by the landholder with Ragwort removal has not been achieved, Council officers have escalated the issue to Bio Security Tas to take the lead.

Council's officers have good working relationships with officers of Biosecurity Tas to ensure that best, cross organisational coordination can occur across weed issues that span very large areas of land.

5.1.3 P GLADWELL - ROAD SIDE SPRAYING

QUESTION

Mr Gladwell of Elliot asked what chemicals are being used for road side spraying, what water is being used and what is the Ph level of the water being used.

OFFICERS RESPONSE

From the daily spray sheets of the Roadside weed spraying program, the following was provided to Mr Gladwell: -

1. The chemicals used for roadside spraying are: -
    a. For grass control using Glyphosate, Crucial is used
    b. For woody weed control using metsulfuron methyl, Comrade is used
    c. A wetting agent, Outright 770 is also added
2. The water is drawn from the TasWater town water supply at the works depot
3. While we don't have a pH level of the town water supply, we believe it would not be below 6.5 or above 8.5 based on published drinking water guidelines and, it is presumed to be close to 7 (neutral).

5.2 PUBLIC QUESTIONS RECEIVED IN WRITING

Nil received.

5.3 PUBLIC QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Nil.

5.4 PUBLIC STATEMENTS RECEIVED IN WRITING

Nil received.

5.5 PUBLIC STATEMENTS WITHOUT NOTICE

5.5.1 MR K EWINGTON - WEED MANAGEMENT

Mr Ewington of Flowerdale read the following statement:

"Since 1990 the Wynyard council Made a commitment on weed control by tackling different weeds like Pampas Grass, Slender Thistle, including ragwort etc.

this season has been a complete failure by the NRM 'Department in controlling the current outbreak of Ragwort.

The weed is now in the stage of finishing flowering and now in process to seed and spreading mode which will cause over 10 Years backward step in controlling the weed throughout the community 2016 and may never be able to control the weed out break again.

Though no follow up action by NRM Department with property owners with the Rag Wort outbreak though out 2025 -26 season on properties listed below.

- 6 Ewington's Road Flowerdale
- 16718 Bass Highway Wynyard Miss Docker

In relation to Miss Docker the NRM Officer which is fully Trained by Biosecurity management has power to enforce the landowner act on the weed if no action taken the RNM officer has the power to employ contractors in removal of the weed.

Once this is completed cost of removal of the weed, are forward to the landowner for payment.

Though this non action a small outbreak will now become major outbreak with the spread of 250,000 seeds per head of plant from one landowner to many landowners throughout the community.

This is a huge disappointment for the many years of landowners and council staff in controlling the outbreak and reducing this area to three known landowners.

I had forward update reports though out season to the Council via Email indicating the stage of the weed outbreaks.

In conclusion it shows to me that the council has lost its way with weed control 2025 and have themselves to blame.

Still to this Day the RNM officer has made no contact on arranging a meeting with me and discuss my concerns in Weed Management 2025.

Would like the Council to make major changes to weed management 2026

- By arranging Management plan for owners for controlling the weed outbreak according to the Council Weed Management policy for 2026 - 2027season.
- Arrange staff to show interest in the community by doing regular field visits to access the potential weed out breaks.
- Encourage community members to forward reports on weed outbreaks and staff take time to visit the community members concerns and thank them for reporting the outbreak.

In conclusion, we have a beautifu·1 community, and if the council does not tackle the weed management problem the community will quickly become the Waratah ,Wynyard capital for weeds."

6.0 PETITIONS / DEPUTATIONS / PRESENTATIONS

6.1 DEPUTATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

6.1.1 PETITION - SCHOOL BUSES ON MURCHISON HIGHWAY

DETAILS

The following petition has been received:

Subject matter	The Petition requests that the (Yolla) school buses need to be moved so there is a clear view of sight.
Statement of subject matter and action requested	The school buses left parked on Murchison Highway are restricting the view of traffic leaving School Lane and turning onto the Murchison Highway. Drivers are unable to see oncoming traffic which is causing a dangerous situation.
Signatories	10

A copy of the petition is attached. The petition complies with *s.57 of the Local Government Act 1993.* The petition is accordingly able to be tabled. The petition is listed on the meeting agenda for receipt and noting.

MANAGEMENT RESPONSE

School Lane is located within the township of Yolla, where the Murchison Highway has footpaths on both sides of the highway, this defines that the Department of State Growth is responsible to maintain the highway corridor, 3.7m either side of the centre line. And that Council is responsible to maintain the space outside this corridor up to property boundaries, including the parking lane and footpath.

Historically bus stabling for the provision of school pickup/drop off had occurred within School Lane, however due to requests of residents in this area, this was subsequently moved to the current kerbside parking arrangements on the Murchison Highway.

The Transport Services division of the Department of State Growth is responsible for the contract management of public transport services within Tasmania, including the transportation routes and stabling areas. Council will contact the Transport Services division to explore the options of alternative bus stabling locations for the provision of school drop off and pick up at Yolla District School

MOVED BY	CR EDWARDS
SECONDED BY	CR RAW

That the Council receives and notes the petition requesting that Yolla school buses be moved so that traffic exiting School Lane onto the Murchison Highway has a clear line of site;

The MOTION was put and was CARRIED.

IN FAVOUR

CR BRAMICH	CR COURTNEY	MAYOR DUNIAM	CR EDWARDS
	CR ROBERTS	CR JOHNSTONE	CR RAW

7.0 PLANNING AUTHORITY ITEMS

PLANNING AUTHORITY OPENED AT 6.11PM

7.1 PUBLIC QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE – RELATING TO PLANNING MATTERS

Nil received.

7.2 PUBLIC STATEMENTS - RELATING TO PLANNING MATTERS

Nil received.

7.3 APPLICATION FOR PLANNING SCHEME AMENDMENT PSA 1/2025 FOR 319 MURCHISON HIGHWAY, SOMERSET

To:	Council
Reporting Officer:	Town Planner
Responsible Officer:	Director Infrastructure and Development Services
Report Date:	18 February 2026
File Reference:	3018847
Supporting Documents:	1. Consolidated application documents 2. TasWater SPAN 3. Infrastructure plan 4. TPC Extension of time

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide an assessment of an application for planning scheme amendment No. PSA 1/2025, which is seeking to rezone land at 319 Murchison Highway, Somerset (CT 158979/2) from the Agriculture Zone under the *Tasmanian Planning Scheme – Waratah Wynyard* to the Low Density Residential zone.

BACKGROUND

On 17 June 2025 Council received an application from JDA Planning Pty Ltd on behalf of the landowners for a planning scheme amendment to rezone land from Agriculture to Low Density Residential under S.37 of the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993* (LUPAA).

The site is vacant pasture, with small sections of mature vegetation along the property border. The south-eastern corner of the site contains a small local waterway.

The subject land is bordered to the north-west by the Murchison Highway and to the east by Haywoods Lane. Four smaller lots containing dwellings adjoin the site and a fifth small vacant lot also adjoins the site. These are not proposed for rezoning.

Land to the north-east of the site is zoned Low Density Residential. This application is seeking to have that Low Density Residential zone expanded to cover the subject site.

Land to the east and south of the site are zoned Rural Living Zone A, with four adjoining lots assigned to the Agriculture zone and one adjoining lot assigned to the Rural Living A zone.

The site was the subject of two previous applications, with one being an unsuccessful application for a combined rezoning (PSA 4/2017) and subdivision (SD2019) under the previous *Waratah-Wynyard Interim Planning Scheme 2013,* prior to the most recent amendments to the Cradle Coast Regional Land Use Strategy (effective on 28 February 2024). The second (PSA 3/2024) was withdrawn by the applicant without a determination being made. The current application for rezoning is to be considered by the planning authority on its own merits, independently of any previous applications submitted to Council.

DETAILS

The site is identified in Figure 1 below, along with the current zoning of the site and the immediate surrounds.

The site is currently zoned Agriculture under the Tasmanian Planning Scheme. The proposal is to rezone the site from Agriculture to Low Density Residential. No further development of the site is included in the proposal.

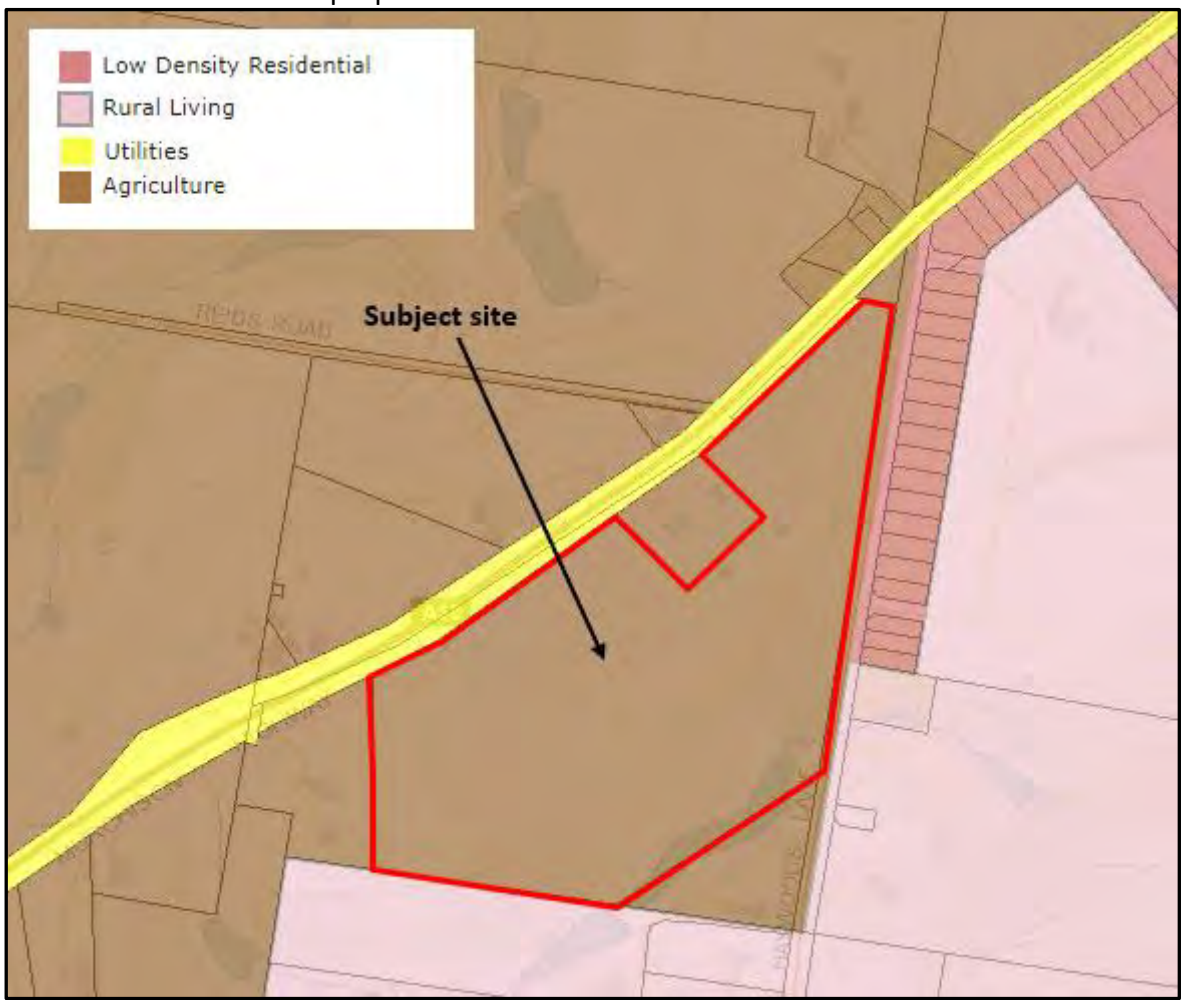


Figure 1: Current zoning of 319 Murchison Highway and surrounds

Figure 2: Aerial image of site and surrounds (Source: LISTmap)

Figure 3: Site photo, from Murchison Highway, February 2026

Figure 4: Site photo, taken from Haywoods Lane, February 2026

Figure 5: Site photo of waterway at rear of property, taken from Haywoods Lane, February 2026

The process by which Council must assess a planning scheme amendment is detailed under s38 (Decision in relation to request) and s34 (LPS Criteria) of LUPAA. This process is described in more detail under the Legislative Requirements section.

CONSULTATION PROCESS

Should the planning authority choose to progress with the planning scheme amendment, the next step will be a public exhibition for a minimum of 28 days. At the expiration of the public exhibition period, Council is to provide the TPC with its Statement of Opinion including any representations that may have been received. At the expiration of that public exhibition process, Council would provide the TPC with a report in relation to the draft amendment, representations and their merit, as well as additional recommendations.

Should the planning authority choose not to progress with the planning scheme amendment, the planning authority must notify the applicant within 7 days of the decision.

INTERNAL REFERRALS

Engineering Services Department

The application was referred to the Engineering Services Department with no conditions required.

Environmental Health

Not applicable.

EXTERNAL REFERRALS

The application was referred to TasWater on 17 June 2025. A response through a Submission to Planning Authority Notice was received on 7 July 2025.

No other external referrals were required.

PLANNING ASSESSMENT

Legislative Requirements

An application for an amendment to an LPS is available under Part 3B, Division 2 of LUPAA.

When considering a draft amendment, assessment must be undertaken under s.34 of the Act. A detailed assessment of the proposal against these provisions is provided below.

Further to satisfying the LUPAA requirements, the draft amendment requires consistency with the Section 8A Guidelines (the Guidelines) for LPS zone and code application. The Guidelines for the relevant zones and codes are reproduced below, with further commentary.

1. Compliance with s34 (2) (LPS criteria) of LUPAA, with the section requiring that the alteration:
    a) Contains all the provisions that the SPPs specify must be contained in an LPS;
    b) Is in accordance with section 32; and
    c) Furthers the objectives of Schedule 1; and

d) Is consistent with each State policy; and
da) Satisfies the relevant criteria in relation to the TPPs; and
e) As far as practicable, is consistent with the regional land use strategy, if any, for the regional area in which is situated the land to which the relevant planning instrument relates; and
f) Has regard to the Strategic Plan, prepared under section 66 of the Local Government Act 1993, that applies in relation to the land to which the relevant planning instrument relates; and
g) As far as practicable, is consistent with and coordinated with any LPSs that apply to municipal areas that are adjacent to the municipal area to which the relevant planning instrument relates; and
h) Has regard to the safety requirements set out in the standards prescribed under the *Gas Safety Act 2019.*

2. If the decision under s38 is to agree to the amendment and to prepare a draft amendment, the decision is required to comply with s37 (Requests for amendments of LPSs) of LUPAA, and further sections:
   a) 40D (Preparation of draft amendments)
   b) 40F (Certification of draft amendments)
   c) 40J (Representations); and
   d) 40 K (Report to Commission about draft amendments).

3. Should the planning authority decide to refuse to prepare the draft amendment, under s38(2)(b), the applicant must be notified under s38(3) of LUPAA.

It is noted that the Tasmanian Planning Commission (TPC) can review a decision to refuse a request to initiate a draft amendment if a request for review is made within 14 days of the planning authority decision in which case the TPC may direct the planning authority to reconsider the amendment.

An assessment of the proposal against the relevant provisions of LUPAA as outlined above is provided below. Reference is made to each subclause, with comments provided underneath.

Section 34 LUPAA The LPS criteria to be met by a relevant planning instrument are that the instrument -	
s34(2)(a)	*Contains all the provisions that the SPPs specify must be contained in an LPS;*
The application does not alter any of the provisions that the SPPs specify must be contained in an LPS.	
s34(2)b)	*Is in accordance with section 32;*
The application does not impact compliance with s32.	
s34(2)(c)	*Furthers the objectives set out in Schedule 1;*
Part 1 – Objectives of the Resource Management and Planning System of Tasmania *1. The objectives of the resource management and planning system of Tasmania are –*	

(a) *To promote the sustainable development of natural and physical resources and the maintenance of ecological processes and genetic diversity; and*

(b) *To provide for the fair, orderly and sustainable use and development of air, land and water; and*

(c) *To encourage public involvement in resource management and planning; and*

(d) *To facilitate economic development in accordance with the objectives set out in paragraphs (a), (b) and (c); and*

(e) *To promote the sharing of responsibility for resource management and planning between the different spheres of Government, the community and industry in the State.*

2. *In clause 1(a), sustainable development means managing the use, development and protection of natural resources in a way, or at a rate, which enables people and communities to provide for their social, economic and cultural well-being and for their health and safety while –*

(a) *Sustaining the potential of natural and physical resources to meet the reasonably foreseeable needs of future generations; and*

(b) *Safeguarding the life-supporting capacity of air, water, soil and ecosystems; and*

(c) *Avoiding, remedying or mitigating any adverse effects of activities on the environment.*

The proposal has potential to interact with the objectives set out in Schedule 1, particularly 1(a), (b), and (d) as well as 2(a) and (b) through the conversion of agricultural land.

These objectives are reflected by the *Protection of Agricultural Land Policy* (PAL Policy). The policy outlines principles for agricultural land management and provides a means of assessing the proposal in relation to the natural resource of agricultural land (objectives 1a, 1b, 2a & 2b). A detailed assessment is provided below.

The CCRLUS and the LWWSS also provide the detail for assessment of a proposal in relation to the fair, orderly and sustainable use and development of land in this situation (objectives 1a, 1b & 2a). These policies are also addressed in detail further below.

s34(2)(d)	*Is consistent with each State Policy;*

State Coastal Policy 1996 (revised 2003 and 2009)

It is considered that the proposal does not conflict with the *State Coastal Policy 1996* due to the distance from the coast.

State Policy for Water Quality Management 1997

The rezoning in itself would not conflict with the *State Policy on Water Quality Management 1997*. Future development would be required to comply through various provisions in the Tasmanian Planning Scheme, were the rezoning to be approved.

National Environment and Protection Measures

Section 12A of the *State Policies and Projects Act 1993* states that a National Environment Protection Measure (NEPMs) is taken to be a State Policy. The proposed amendment does not relate to any issues covered under the NEPMs and the proposal is considered to comply.

Gas Pipelines Act

The subject site is not impacted by the Gas Pipeline and is considered to comply.

State Policy on the Protection of Agricultural land 2009

The proposal is also required to be consistent with the *State Policy on the Protection of Agricultural Land 2009* (PAL Policy).

The site is currently utilised as 12.89ha of vacant pasture and is included in the broad scale land capability mapping was undertaken by the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment. According to this mapping, available on the LIST, the site is identified as containing primarily class 3 soils to the north/north-west with a section of class 4 to the south and an unclassified section along the eastern border.

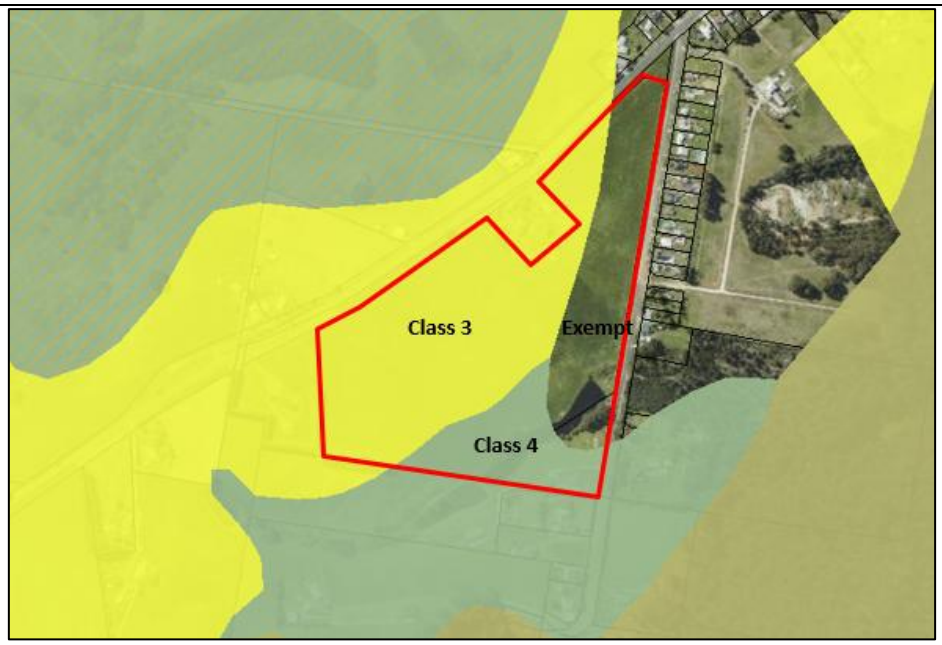


Figure 6: Land capability mapping, theList.

The application documentation included a site specific agricultural assessment which differed from the above classification and states that despite the waterway onsite, no irrigation is available. The assessment provided with the application identified key land capability limitations associated with the property as follows from page 13 of the Agricultural Assessment Report prepared by Pinion Advisory, dated June 2025-

- Erosion (e) associated with the risk of rill and sheet erosion on the steeper land and potential for degraded soil structural due to pugging from livestock movement on waterlogged soils and/or inappropriate and excessive ground cultivation activities.
- Wetness (w) associated with the land being prone to extended periods of soil waterlogging.
- Soils (s) associated with challenging growing conditions for pasture and/or crops due to limitations such as soil depth, texture, presence of stones and/or gravels.

Response to Additional Information Request, page 2 prepared by Pinion Advisory, dated 5 August 2025, identified the following limitations to agricultural land use activity-

- A small area of available land.
- Majority of the property (79%) is covered by non-prime agricultural land (as per class 4, 5 and 6) with the balance covered by class 3 land although this is present is two irregular shaped parcels.
- Very small amount of irrigation water (2.2 ML) available.
- No properties adjoining are used for agriculture land use activity.
- Isolated from any other contiguous larger area of agricultural land.
- Does not contain any infrastructure which is utilised and/or required by adjoining or nearby properties for agricultural use, such as dams, pipeline or logistics access.
- Undulating topography would prevent the construction of glasshouse/polyhouse structures and associated successful operation of dripper irrigation systems; potential for fettering due to conflict with residential land use activity.

Figure 7: Site specific land capability assessment. Refer to agricultural report for details.

As per the supporting report by Pinion Advisory, that the current and future potential primary production use is highly constrained and not of a sufficient level of prominence nor importance to be considered of local or regional significance; and that the rezoning and subsequent subdivision could be undertaken such that it is not anticipated to result in negative impacts and/or fetter the current and/or future agricultural land use activities that can and could be conducted on the agriculture land to the west and further to the south.

Additional / supplementary information was prepared by Pinion Advisory, dated 5 August 2025, which further identified that the subject property is severely constrained for agricultural productivity and therefore the ability of the property to contribute to local and regional agricultural output is minimal in both a practical sense as well as volume of agricultural production. In terms of the practical sense for the outcomes for agricultural outcomes the subject property it is appropriate to consider:

- The previous experiences for potato production were failures and clearly an unsuitable enterprise. Potato production would represent the highest returning enterprise available.
- It would not be possible to obtain any commercial contracts for any vegetables, poppies or pyrethrum crops due to the lack of scale.
- Severely limited access to irrigation water.
- Close proximity of residential dwellings and the high risk of creating conflict such as due to the routine application of agricultural chemicals (conventional or organic) or fertilisers and/or operation of machinery, plant and equipment.
- Benefits from a scale of economy of any agricultural activity (e.g. using standard large scale machinery to cultivate, sow and/or harvest crops) would not be realised hence rendering the variable production costs unacceptably high and therefore leading to uneconomic outcomes.
- Unsuitable for protected agriculture due to the sloping and undulating topography.

- Attempts to develop the property and engage in more intensive or diversified agricultural production systems would be considered uneconomic and high risk.

The Principles of the PAL Policy are addressed below in detail.

1. *"Agricultural land is a valuable resource and its use for the sustainable development of agriculture should not be unreasonably confined or restrained by non-agricultural use or development"*

   Comments: The agricultural report undertaken at a local level identifies the land as suitable only for small scale and low intensity pastoral use but not of regional or local importance. The land has been identified as being potentially constrained criteria 3 under the 'Land Potentially Suitable for Agriculture zone' mapping.

2. *"Use or development of prime agricultural land should not result in unnecessary conversion to non-agricultural use or agricultural use not dependent on the soil as the growth medium"*

   Comments: It has been independently confirmed that the site contains a small amount of prime agricultural land. The agricultural report and supplementary information undertaken at a local level identifies the land is suitable only for small scale and low intensity pastoral use but not of regional or local importance.

   The agricultural report further finds that

   - The land has been identified as being potentially constrained criteria 3 under the 'Land Potentially Suitable for Agriculture zone' mapping.
   - The 2.7ha of prime agricultural land is significantly diminished due to the class 3 land being present on two separate areas of the site.
   - The northern parcel of class 3 land is in the far corner of the property and in close proximity to the residential dwellings nearby to on the eastern side of Haywoods Lane (approximately 25-30m) and the western side of the Murchison Highway (approximately 30-35m).
   - The current and future lack of available irrigation water.
   - A complete inability to adhere the property with adjacent prime agricultural land to form a larger contiguous parcel of prime agricultural land.
   - Presence of Rural Living and Low Density Residential zoned land and associated number of residential dwellings in relatively close proximity and adjacent to the property in question.
   - Despite being class 3 due to the small area of this land, fragmented position, fettering from existing close proximity residential use and lack of irrigation water the current and future agricultural productivity this land (scale and intensity) is not commensurate with its prime agricultural status

3. *"Use or development, other than residential, of prime agricultural land that is directly associated with, and a subservient part of, an agricultural use of that land is consistent with this Policy."*

   Comments: No use or development is proposed. The rezoning would introduce potential for a number of new uses / developments that would be considered separately from any agricultural use.

4. *"The development of utilities, extractive industries and controlled environment agriculture on prime agricultural land may be allowed, having regard to criteria, including the following:*

   (a) Minimising the amount of land alienated;

   (b) Minimising the negative impacts on the surrounding environment; and

   (c) Ensuring the particular location is reasonably required for operational efficiency."

   Comments: It has been independently confirmed that the site contains a small section of prime agricultural land. No utilities, extractive industries or controlled environment agriculture are proposed.

5. *"Residential use of agricultural land is consistent with this Policy where it is required as part of an agricultural use or where it does not unreasonably convert agricultural land and does not confine or restrain agricultural use on or in the vicinity of that land."*

Comments: The proposal would result in the conversion of the land to Low Density Residential zoning. The case needs to be made that the conversion is not unreasonable and does not confine or restrain agricultural use on or in the vicinity of that land.

It has been independently confirmed that the site contains a small amount of prime agricultural land. The agricultural report and supplementary information undertaken at a local level identifies the land is suitable only for small scale and low intensity pastoral use but not of regional or local importance.

The agricultural report further finds that the property in question is highly constrained in the current and potential opportunities for agricultural land use activity due to-

- The current and future lack of available irrigation water.
- Inability to adhere the property with adjacent agricultural land to form a larger contiguous parcel of agricultural land.
- Presence of Rural Living and Low Density Residential zoned land and associated number of residential dwellings in relatively close proximity and adjacent to the property in question.
- The relatively small size of available land.

When assessing if conversion of the land is not unreasonable, it must also not confine or restrain agricultural use on or in the vicinity of that land.

The key risk area is to the west where agricultural land use activity is closest, with the separation distances, layout and nature of the development providing a significant buffer to the nearby agriculture zoned land.

6. *"Proposals of significant benefit to a region that may cause prime agricultural land to be converted to non-agricultural use or agricultural use not dependent on the soil as a growth medium, and which are not covered by Principles 3, 4 or 5, will need to demonstrate significant benefits to the region based on an assessment of the social, environmental and economic costs and benefits."*

Comments: Much of the site has been independently confirmed as non-prime agricultural land. The proposal is not put forward as a significant benefit to the region.

7. *"The protection of non-prime agricultural land from conversion to non-agricultural use will be determined through consideration of the local and regional significance of that land for agricultural use."*

Comments: Much of the site has been independently confirmed as non-prime agricultural land. Page 52 of the Agricultural Assessment by Pinion Advisory Principle 7 details the small area of the site in reference to the total available agricultural land in the region, as well as the likely inability for the site to be integrated into a larger agricultural operation. The property itself has no unique agriculturally related (e.g. soil, aspect, irrigation water, aspect and total land holding) features and/or properties which make it of prominence with respect to the local or regional area agricultural estate.

Site inspection reveals that the property presents as outside of the town border of Somerset and that the end of Haywoods Lane effectively provides a transition between the various types of residential land and the agricultural operations of the area.

8. *"Provision must be made for the appropriate protection of agricultural land within irrigation districts proclaimed under Part 9 of the Water Management Act 1999 and may be made for the protection of other areas that may benefit from broad-scale irrigation development."*

Comments: The land is not within a proclaimed irrigation district.

9.	*"Planning schemes must not prohibit or require a discretionary permit for an agricultural use on land zoned for rural purposes where that use depends on the soil as the growth medium, except as prescribed in Principles 10 and 11.* Comments: No change to the zone provisions are proposed.
10.	*"New plantation forestry must not be established on prime agricultural land unless a planning scheme reviewed in accordance with this Policy provides otherwise. Planning scheme provisions must take into account the operational practicalities of plantation management, the size of the areas of prime agricultural land, their location in relation to areas of non-prime agricultural land and existing plantation forestry, and any comprehensive management plans for the land."* Comments: The proposal does not involve new plantation forestry.
11.	*"Planning schemes may require a discretionary permit for plantation forestry where it is necessary to protect, maintain and develop existing agricultural uses that are the recognised fundamental and critical components of the economy of the entire municipal area, and are essential to maintaining the sustainability of that economy."* Comments: The proposal does not involve new plantation forestry.

There is no conflict with the PAL Policy.

s34(2)(da)	*Satisfies the relevant criteria in relation to the TPPs*

As at this date, the Tasmanian Planning Policies have not yet been made under s.12 of LUPAA.

s34(2)(e)	*As far as practicable, is consistent with the regional land use strategy, if any, for the regional area in which is situated the land to which the relevant planning instrument relates;*

The Cradle Coast Regional Land Use Strategy (CCRLUS) promotes the wise use of resources, the distribution and development of urban centres and residential settlements, the management of rural land and coastal environments and support for economic activity in the North-West Region.

Comment is provided below.

As a sub-category of the CCRLUS (as detailed in the CCRLUS), the Liveable Waratah Wynyard Settlement Strategy (LWWSS) is reviewed in detail in this section as well.

Cradle Coast Regional Land Use Strategy (28 February 2024)

The CCRLUS identifies that "land is to be used in the manner best matched to its highest capability to support social, cultural and economic endeavour while always protecting the health of the environment".

The submissions made with the application include the statements that "based upon the residential encroachment which so restricts the potential agricultural use of the land, residential development of the subject site in accordance with the provisions of the Low Density Residential Zone is suggested as its highest and best use" and "the location of the subject site at the fringe of the established urban area of Somerset qualifies the property in the context of the objectives of strategic consideration and goals of the *Cradle Coast Regional Land Use Strategy* (CCRLUS), *Sustainable Murchison 2040 Framework Plan* and *Liveable Waratah-Wynyard Settlement Strategy.* The zone change as proposed will achieve orderly growth and development within the constraints of available infrastructure", further that "the opportunity to increase further residential density options which comply with the growth criteria identified by the *Cradle Coast Regional Land Use Strategy*, *Sustainable Murchison 2040 Framework Plan* and *Liveable Waratah-Wynyard Settlement Strategy*, enables consolidated growth in a manner consistent with moderate demand and changes in the demographic."

Rezoning will enable infill development on the fringe of the established urban area of Somerset.

The extension of the Low Density Residential Zone to the subject title will enable the sustainable development of the site in a manner which is in keeping with that of the surrounding and nearby lots, enabling compliance with the planning scheme development standards and relevant Codes.

2. Wise Use of Resources – Respect for What is Valued

The land has little value in terms of resources for agricultural use as demonstrated in the agricultural assessment. The site is not considered suitable for higher residential densities due to servicing limitations and close proximity to waterway and potential use conflicts that higher density residential use of the site may trigger to the existing agricultural use to the west.

3. Support for Economic Activity – A Diverse and Robust Economy

The proposed change in land zoning would enable the potential yield of up to an additional 50 liveable lots to further support a liveable regional community. Economic activity would be limited to the minor impact these additional lots would provide. No significant economic activity would be lost, as demonstrated in the agricultural assessment accompanying the proposal, where it identified that the subject property is severely constrained for agricultural productivity and therefore the ability of the property to contribute to local and regional agricultural output is minimal in both a practical sense as well as volume of agricultural production.

3.3.3 Agricultural Production

The current and future potential primary production use is highly constrained and not of a sufficient level of prominence nor importance to be considered of local or regional significance; and that the rezoning and any subsequent subdivision could be undertaken such that it is not anticipated to result in negative impacts and/or fetter the current and/or future agricultural land use activities that can and could be conducted on the agriculture land to the west and further to the south.

3.3.4 Minerals, Construction Aggregate and Stone Resource Extraction

The site has not been identified as an area of known prospective significant for mineral and aggregate resources. However, due to the existence of existing sensitive uses adjoining and adjacent the site, Extractive Industry 7use would not be appropriate on this site.

4. Places for People – Liveable and Sustainable Communities

The parcel of land is adjacent Low Density Residential zoned land to the east, adjacent and adjoining Rural Living A zoned land to the east and south, Agricultural land to the north and the and west and adjacent on the northern side of the Murchison Highway.

The applicant submits that the proposed rezoning is in keeping with the area and a logical continuation of the established settlement on the urban fringe through infill development within the capacity of infrastructure.

4.3 Land Use Policies for Managing Growth and Development

The proposed rezoning is considered to be on the fringe of the existing urban settlement and providing connection through the existing network as well as appropriate connection to infrastructure in accordance with demand and local strategy.

4.3.1 Urban Settlement Areas

A settlement management strategy is applied through Table 4.3 and indicates the growth scenarios and settlement management strategies for the settlements of the Region at the time of drafting.

The Cradle Coast Settlement Management Strategy identifies Somerset has a Medium Growth Scenario and a Contained Settlement Strategy identified in Table 4.3.

Land use planning processes for urban settlement areas are to –

a. *Promote established settlement areas as the focus for growth and development.*
The subject site is on the fringe of the existing urban settlement of Somerset.

b. *Promote optimum use of land capability and the capacity of available and planned infrastructure service.*
The subject site if rezoned to Low Density Residential could promote optimum use of the land capability and be developed at the capacity of available infrastructure.

c. *Match land supply to need and provide sufficient land within the designated urban settlement boundaries of each centre to meet forecast need for a time horizon of not less than 10 years but not exceeding 20 years, unless a contemporary land supply and demand analysis demonstrates that additional urban land should be made available to accommodate growth.*
The Cradle Coast Residential Supply and Demand Report identified that Somerset has just over 200 lots of theoretical supply, however 57% of this is provided through underutilised property. When only vacant supply is considered, Somerset supply is forecast to be consumed as early as 2030.

d. *Accommodate growth and development for each of the settlements as identified in Table 4.3 through either –*

    i. *A Stable Strategy which restricts new development to existing land supply within the designated urban boundary without priority for intensification; or*

    ii. *A Contained Strategy which promotes a mix of intensification and strategically planned expansion to retain compact urban form and provide a mix of development and growth opportunities. The mix does not need to occur in balanced proportion. The approach allows for optimum use of available and planned infrastructure in both established and new release areas.*
    Somerset is identified to have a Contained Strategy.

A Contained Strategy which promotes a mix of intensification and strategically planned expansion to retain compact urban form and provide a mix of development and growth opportunities. The mix does not need to occur in balanced proportion. The approach allows for optimum use of available and planned infrastructure in both established and new release areas.

The Contained Strategy, providing strategically planned expansion whilst retaining urban form and development that is contiguous with the established settlement area. At the time of adoption (17 May 2021), the Liveable Waratah Wynyard Strategy identified there are between 9-12 years supply of GRZ land based on a range of population and lot size variables with too few LDRZ developments to draw reliable conclusions about how long that zoning will last. This is at the lower end of required identified and supply of 10-20 years (p.96). Further, the CCRLUS identifies a need for additional regional supply of lower density / rural residential style expansion (p.153). The proposed rezoning would contribute to this supply, supporting the existing settlement, without meaningful loss of agricultural land.

4.4 Land Use Policies for Protecting People and Property

The proposed amendment is on land with reduced risk from natural hazards, with the land being identified as within a bushfire prone area and a small buffer area around a local waterway.

4.6 Land Use Policies for Housing Land – Places to Live

As discussed above, it is acknowledged that Somerset now has less than the minimum 10 year supply for residential land. The proposed rezoning would enable appropriate infill development in accordance with the ability to be serviced and the requirements contained within the Tasmanian Planning Scheme.

5. Planned Provision for Infrastructure – Support for Growth and Development

The proposed rezoning has the capacity for limited services appropriate to the Low Density Residential zone and to further utilise existing infrastructure without negative impact.

5.6 Land Use Policies for Water Supply

Land use acknowledges that a clean, reliable and secure water supply is a fundamental resource for the Region's environmental, economy and human systems. Land use assists arrangements for capture, storage and distribution of urban and rural water supplies and the collection, treatment and disposal of waste water. To enable growth and development a secure water supply and waste water disposal system is required.

TasWater has advised through the Submission to the Planning Authority Notice that full reticulated water services present a significant challenge due to the elevation of the site relative to the reservoirs water levels.

> *"In general, for a site to be reliably supplied with water directly from a reservoir, the elevation of the connection point should be at least 30 metres below the reservoir's water level when it is one-third full. For the Murchison Reservoir, this design supply head is approximately 98.5 metres. The elevation difference at this site ranges from only 8.8 to 23.8 metres, which is significantly below the recommended minimum. This means that water pressure at the site would be insufficient for standard service requirements."*

Further work will need to be investigated by the applicant if the amendment is successful to better understand what reticulated water service could be provided to the site, if any, and what capacity it could operate at.

Alternatively, the site would need to provide onsite water supply and waste water disposal systems that are effective.

Liveable Waratah-Wynyard Settlement Strategy

The LWWSS takes the principles of the CCRLUS and expands upon these, bringing these into specific detail for the Waratah Wynyard Municipal area. The LWWSS recognises the need for additional 'lifestyle' lots such as those provided for within the Rural Living and Low Density Residential zonings, however it cautions that there are specific challenges that present alongside such expansion. The LWWSS provides site specific reviews of potential locations for this expansion. This site is not one of those recommended for expansion, however, is very similar to one that is. A significant focus of the LWWSS is to consolidate existing towns and settlements where possible, rather than expanding or creating new settlements. Specifically, high rates of vacant dwellings and undeveloped land were identified for towns and villages in the municipality, including Somerset, with demand for housing near the centre of Somerset identified as an ongoing need due to the older demographic of the area. A demand for RLZ lots was identified as opposed to expansion of land for urban uses alone (contributing to sprawl).

The submissions accompanying the application for rezoning relies on the notion that the expansion of the Low Density residential would be in keeping with the tenets of the LWWSS for retaining compact urban form though it is at least 1km from the recommended growth front for Somerset identified by the LWWS.

In the LWWS the growth scenario for Somerset is medium being-

"demand is driven by internal population change and growth and/or moderate positive inward migration. Growth relies on intensification of existing land supply within designated urban boundaries and/or expansion."

The settlement development and growth management strategy in the LWWS for Somerset is Contained Strategy being –

"promotes a mix of intensification and strategically planned expansion to retain compact urban form and provide a mix of development and growth opportunities. The mix does not need to occur in balanced proportion. The approach allows for optimum use of available and planned infrastructure in both established and new release areas."

The proposed rezoning is to expand the designated urban boundary on which it is on the fringe and at an appropriate intensification whilst retaining a compact urban form.

Detailed assessment against the LWWSS is provided within this report.

It is noted that the planning authority has adopted two Outline Development Plans in December 2025, as recommended within the LWWSS, one for River Road, Wynyard and the other for Malakoff Street, Somerset. The Malakoff Street Outline Development Plan will not be furthered by the current landowners, leaving the question of where will the growth be accommodated within Somerset?

Sustainable Murchison Community Plan 2040

The Sustainable Murchison Community Plan (SMCP) provides additional guidance for assessment of a rezoning application.

The *Sustainable Murchison Community Plan 2040* provides a framework for actions through initiatives associated with business and industry, tourism, strong communities and social capital, access and infrastructure, natural resource management, health and wellbeing, education, place making and liveability, governance and working together. The plan provided the basis for the most recent review of the CCRLUS.

The site for the rezoning was not assessed within the SMCP, however have similarities to the Malakoff Street area other than the proximity to the town centre for walkability.

The SMCP does not prohibit peripheral growth, however, will only be acceptable if it can be demonstrated that there is a pressing need to accommodate a particular land use, no other reasonable options exist to accommodate that land use within an existing built up area and the land proposed for that land use is the least valuable of all options in terms of its ecological, economic and landscape value.

The application makes a case that this site can accommodate a residential land use, there are no other reasonable options that are development ready within an existing built area and that the land is not valuable from an ecological, economic or landscape value.

Application documents address the LWWSS within JDA Planning: June 2025, on pages 29, 30 and 31 of the original submission.

Residential Demand and Supply for Somerset

The Cradle Coast Regional Land Strategy (CCRLUS) requires that Council must "*match land supply to need and provide sufficient land within the designated urban settlement boundaries of each centre to meet forecast need for a time horizon of not less than 10 years but not exceeding 20 years, unless a contemporary land supply and demand analysis demonstrates that additional urban land should be made available to accommodate growth."*

However, the CCRLUS allows for additional land where *a contemporary land supply and demand analysis indicates that additional land should be made available to accommodate growth, the designated growth scenario or settlement strategy may be varied…"*

The parameters for additional land release are –

The land supports urban consolidation or is contiguous to established urban areas;

The land will service any shortages identified in a land supply and demand analysis;

Growth is identified in any current local land use strategies or settlement structure plans endorsed by the Council;

The land can be supplied with reticulated water, sewerage and stormwater services;
Growth is aligned with the capacity of transport and road infrastructure and minimises impacts on the efficiency and safety of road and rail networks;
Regard is given to minimising the potential for land use conflicts; and
Regard is given to the accessibility to social infrastructure, such as health and educational facilities, and its capacity to provide for the intended growth.

What is the current residential demand and supply for Somerset with the understanding that Council must provide for a time horizon of not less than 10 years but not exceeding 20 years, is a key question? Taking key findings from the Cradle Coast Residential Demand and Supply Report (CCRDSR) at the time of finalisation (September 2024) Somerset was found to have "*relatively low supply in Somerset sees forecast demand consumed supply by 2042, and as early as 2030 if only vacant supply is considered."*

Key findings of the CCRDSR were-

"Waratah-Wynyard has adequate supply of residential land across the LGA to accommodate overall demand. However, for individual assessment areas the relationship between supply and demand differs.

Both Somerset and Wynyard have similar levels of demand, averaging around 10 to 11 dwellings a year over the forecast period. While Wynyard has adequate vacant supply to accommodate demand (around 640), and even greater supply when potential from underutilised parcels is included (around 960), Somerset has much lower supply.

Somerset has just over 200 lots of theoretical supply, however 57% of this is provided through underutilised property. When only vacant supply is considered, Somerset supply is forecast to be consumed as early as 2030. Recent dwelling supply in Somerset isn't necessarily characterised by standard detached dwellings, with a degree of alternate forms, such as units and villa units, being constructed over the past decade... These types of development are often infill, suggesting that realisation of some underutilised parcels is likely in the future."

Council Officers are currently undertaking a review of supply and demand in Somerset from the time horizon of the data supplied to inform the CCRDSR up until February 2026, to more comprehensively understand Somerset's supply.

SGS Economics & Planning Pty Ltd Supplementary Information

Cradle Coast Regional Land Strategy (CCRLUS)

The supplementary information provided by SGS Economics & Planning Pty Ltd dated 17 November 2025, has reviewed the findings from the CCRDSR from the perspective that the overall supply at the LGA wide level does not mean that local shortfalls do not exist.

From this perspective the annual demand in Somerset is projected to be around 11 dwellings on average, based on the demand scenario applied in the report. Somerset has a total supply of 207 lots, with the majority falling into categories that are not highly likely to become available and on underutilised existing residential uses.

Only 32 residential lots are highly likely to become available (i.e. retail), and this equates to 15% of the supply. The report shows that by 2030 there would be an acute shortage of residential land to accommodate demand, based on vacant supply. When taking into account all the land, including land not easily developed and/or unlikely to become available to the market, there would be an acute shortage by 2039.

Liveable Waratah Wynyard Settlement Strategy (LWWSS)

The supplementary information provided by SGS Economics & Planning Pty Ltd dated 17 November 2025, discusses the intended settlement patter for the municipality.

It is based on a number of principles. Relevant principles in this context are:

- *"Avoid unnecessary expansion of the footprint of towns or villages." Prioritising consolidation over expansion is a well-accepted planning principle that drives sustainable development and thriving communities.*

- *Respect the views and needs of all who are in the community and the needs of those who will be." Community members have preferences for where and how they want to live, and where reasonable and not undermining the public benefit, these preferences should typically not be ignored."*

"The settlement strategy was developed prior to the CCRDSS and appears to rely on now outdated population projections by Treasury Tasmania. Treasury updated its projections in recent years in response to years of higher than anticipated population growth. Further, these Treasury projections do not take internal migration between councils into account, which has resulted in lower estimates than observed (real) population change especially in urban fringe and peri-urban areas around Tasmania.

The proposed rezoning aligns with the two strategic principles listed before. The proposed expansion is necessary and also is adjacent to the existing residential area enabling consolidated growth. By allowing the rezoning, the needs and preferences of the community are also met."

The above supplementary information provided by SGS Economics & Planning Pty Ltd dated 17 November 2025 is supported.

s34(2)(f)	*Has regard to the strategic plan, prepared under section 66 of the Local Government Act 1993, that applies in relation to the land to which the relevant planning instrument relates;*

No impact outside matters already discussed.

s34(2)(g)	*As far as practicable, is consistent with and coordinated with any LPSs that apply to municipal areas that are adjacent to the municipal area to which the relevant planning instrument relates*

The proposed rezoning would be in proximity to, but not directly interact with, the adjoining Burnie municipal area.

s34(2)(h)	*Has regard to the safety requirements set out in the standards prescribed under the Gas Safety Act 2016.*

No impact.

Section 37(1) LUPAA

A person may request a planning authority to amend an LPS that applies to the municipal area of the planning authority.

Section 37(2) LUPAA

A request under subsection (1) is to be in a form approved by the planning authority or, if a form has been approved by the Commission, is to be in that form.

The request was made the planning authority as per s37(1). The application format complies with s37(2).

Section 37(3) LUPAA

A request under subsection (1) by a person to a planning authority to amend the zoning or use or development of one or more parcels of land specified in an LPS must, if the person is not the owner, or the sole owner, of the land-

(a) Be signed by each owner of the land; or
(b) Be accompanied by the written permission of each owner of the land to the making of the request.

The application was accompanied by the written permission of each landowner to the making of the request. The application complies with s37(3).

Section 38 LUPAA

Before making a decision as to whether or not to prepare a draft amendment of an LPS the planning authority must-	
s38(1)	*Be satisfied that such a draft amendment of an LPS will meet the LPS criteria*
The LPS criteria are addressed in detail throughout this report. The proposed rezoning has been found to meet the LPS criteria.	
s38(2)	*Within 42 days after receiving a request under section 38(1) or a longer period allowed by the Commission, must-* *(a) Decide to agree to the amendment and prepare a draft amendment of the LPS; or* *(b) Decide to refuse to prepare the draft amendment of the LPS.*
An extension to the 42 day assessment timeframe was sought due to the timing of the Council Meeting. The Tasmanian Planning Commission granted the request for an extension of time so that the proposal could be considered at the Council meeting of Monday 16 March 2026.	
s38(3)	*Within 7 days of deciding under subsection (2) whether or not to prepare a draft amendment of an LPS in accordance with a request under section 37(1), must give notice of the decision to the person who made the request.*
The decision is to be considered and made at the Council Meeting of 16 March 2026. The applicant will be notified within 7 days of this decision.	

Further to satisfying the LUPAA requirements, the draft amendment requires consistency with the Section 8A Guidelines for LPS zone and code application. The guidelines for the relevant zones and codes are reproduced below, with further commentary.

Existing zoning: 21.0 Agriculture Zone

	Zone Application Guidelines	Comment
AZ 1	The spatial application of the Agriculture Zone should be based on the land identified in the 'Land Potentially Suitable for Agriculture Zone' layer published on the LIST, whilst also having regard to: (a) any agricultural land analysis or mapping undertaken at a local or regional level for part of the municipal area which: (i) incorporates more recent or details analysis or mapping; (ii) better aligns with on-ground features; or (iii) addresses any anomalies or inaccuracies in the 'Land Potentially Suitable for Agriculture Zone' layer, and where appropriate, may be demonstrated in a report by a suitably qualified person, and is consistent with the relevant regional land use strategy, or	The land was identified in this layer, as 'Potentially Constrained – Criteria 3'. The application includes agricultural land analysis at a local level. The CCRLUS and the LWWSS provide the necessary assessment referenced in AZ1(c). These are addressed in this report in detail.

	supported by more detailed local strategic analysis consistent with the relevant regional land use strategy and endorsed by the relevant council. (b) any other relevant data sets; and (c) any other strategic planning undertaken at a local or regional level consistent with the relevant regional land use strategy or supported by more detailed local strategic analysis consistent with the relevant regional land use strategy and endorsed by the relevant council.	
AZ 2	Land within the Significant Agriculture Zone in an interim planning scheme should be included in the Agriculture Zone unless considered for an alternate zoning under AZ6.	The site was considered during the assessment of the transition from the interim planning scheme to the TPS. The request at that time was that the site be considered for revision from the Agriculture Zone to the Rural Living Zone. The planning authority and the Tasmanian Planning Commission concluded that the rezoning of the site was not supported by local strategy at the time and that the site was able to support agricultural activity.
AZ 3	Titles highlighted as Potentially Constrained Criteria 2A, 2B or 3 in the 'Land Potentially Suitable for Agriculture Zone' layer may require further investigation as to their suitability for inclusion within the Agriculture Zone, having regard to: (a) existing land uses on the title and surrounding land; (b) whether the title is isolated from other agricultural land; (c) current ownership and whether the land is utilised in conjunction with other agricultural land; (d) the agricultural potential of the land; and (e) any analysis or mapping undertaken at a local or regional level consistent with the relevant regional land use strategy or supported by more detailed local strategic	The layer identified the site as Potentially Constrained -3. The application includes further investigation of the listed matters as does this assessment report. In particular: – the land is currently utilised as 12.8 ha of vacant pasture. – the land adjoins a number of dwellings, and the Murchison Highway and consideration has been given to the existing land uses on the title and surrounding land.

	analysis consistent with the with the regional land use strategy and endorsed by the relevant council.	– the land is not part of a wider agricultural holding. – land capability assessment has been undertaken at a local level and found to have limited and significantly constrained agricultural potential. – Further analysis has been undertaken at a local level since the Cradle Coast Residential Land Supply and Demand Report was released to better understand if the proposed amendment would be consistent with the Regional Land Use Strategy. – The proposed rezoning has been assessed against the relevant land use strategy and local strategy in this report. The proposed rezoning is considered to be in keeping with these strategies.
AZ 4	The 'Potential Agricultural Land Initial Analysis' layer may assist in making judgments on the spatial application of Agriculture Zone, including, but not limited to: (a) any titles that have or have not been included in the 'Land Potentially Suitable for Agriculture Zone' layer, including titles that are surrounded by land mapped as part of the LIST layer; (b) any titles highlighted as Potentially Constrained Criteria 2A, 2B or 3; (c) outlying titles that are either included or excluded within the 'Land Potentially Suitable for the Agriculture Zone' layer; and	The subject land was identified in this analysis as potential agricultural land. **Figure 9: Land in dark brown identifies the potential agricultural land** The site was identified as Potentially Constrained – 3,

	(d) larger titles or those with extensive areas of native vegetation cover.	which references the proximity of residences for a potential conflict of uses.
AZ 5	Titles may be split zoned to align with areas potentially suitable for agriculture, and areas on the same title where agriculture is constrained. This may be appropriate for some larger titles.	N/A. Titles are not split zoned. The current application does not propose split zoning, and the planning authority has no reason to consider such a proposal, given the specifics of the site and surrounds.
AZ 6	Land identified in the 'Land Potentially Suitable for Agriculture Zone' layer may be considered for alternate zoning if: (a) local or regional strategic analysis has identified or justifies the need for an alternate consistent with the relevant regional land use strategy, or supported by more detailed local strategic analysis with the relevant regional land use strategy and endorsed by the relevant council; (b) for the identification and protection of a strategically important naturally occurring resource which requires an alternate zoning; (c) for the identification and protection of significant natural values, such as priority vegetation areas as defined in the Natural Assets Code, which require an alternate zoning; (d) for the identification, provision or protection of strategically important uses that require an alternate zone; or (e) it can be demonstrated that: (i) the land has limited or no potential for agricultural use and is not integral to the management of a larger farm holding that will be within the Agriculture Zone; (ii) there are significant constraints to agricultural use occurring on the land; or (iii) the Agriculture Zone is otherwise not appropriate for the land.	The land was identified in this layer, as potentially constrained. The application provides a more detailed local analysis in accordance with (a). There are no strategically important resources known to be located on the site. There are no significant natural values on the site that require specific protection. There are no strategically important uses that require alternative zoning. The application identifies that the land has limited potential for agricultural use and is not integral to the management of a larger farm holding that will be within the Agriculture Zone. The application identifies that there are significant constraints to agricultural use occurring on the land.

AZ 7	Land not identified within the 'Land Potentially Suitable for Agriculture Zone' layer may be considered for inclusion within the Agriculture Zone if: (a) local or regional strategic analysis has identified the land as appropriate for the Agriculture Zone consistent with the relevant regional land use strategy, or supported by more detailed local strategic analysis consistent with the relevant regional land use strategy and endorsed by the relevant council (b) the land has similar characteristics to land mapped as suitable for the Agriculture Zone or forms part of a larger area of land uses in conjunction with land mapped as suitable for the Agriculture Zone; (c) it can be demonstrated that the Agriculture Zone is appropriate for the land based on its significance for agricultural use; or (d) it addresses any anomalies or inaccuracies in the 'Land Potentially Suitable for Agriculture Zone' layer; and (e) having regard to the extent of the land identified in the 'Potential Agricultural Land Initial Analysis' layer.	The land was identified in this layer, as Potentially Constrained.

Conclusion: the main consideration for this site in the 8A Guidelines is that of the agricultural capacity of the land and the regional and local strategies. Compliance with these strategies is considered in detail above in response to the PAL Policy.

Proposed zoning: 10.0 Low Density Residential zone

	Zone Application Guidelines	Comment
LDRZ 1	The Low Density Residential Zone should be applied to residential areas where one of the following conditions exist: (a) residential areas with large lots that cannot be developed to higher densities due to any of the following constraints: (i) lack of availability or capacity of reticulated infrastructure services, unless the constraint is intended to	The site is not a residential area but adjacent one. The proposal intends to alter this situation, expanding the residential footprint of the area. The site is possibly able to be partly serviced by water. It appears unable to be serviced by sewer and would be considered in keeping with (i).

	be resolved prior to development of the land; and (ii) environmental constraints that limit development (e.g. land hazards, topography or slope); or (iii) existing low density residential areas characterised by a pattern of subdivision specifically planned to provide for such development, and where there is justification for a strategic intention not to support development at higher densities.	There are no significant environmental constraints to limit development. Bushfire risk and the relationship to the waterway on site would need to be managed in any future development. The application documentation makes the case that the proposed rezoning would be an expansion of the existing low density residential land adjacent the site.
LDRZ 2	The Low Density Residential Zone may be applied to areas within a Low Density Residential Zone in an interim planning scheme or a section 29 planning scheme to lots that are smaller than the allowable minimum lot size for the zone and are in existing residential areas or settlements that do not have reticulated infrastructure services.	N/A.
LDRZ 3	The Low Density Residential zone should not be applied for the purpose of protecting areas of important natural or landscape values.	The site is not identified as having important natural or landscape values.
LDRZ 4	The Low Density Residential Zone should not be applied to land that is targeted for greenfield development unless constraints (e.g. limitations on infrastructure, or environmental considerations) have been identified that impede the area being developed to higher densities.	The site is considered by the planning authority to be a greenfield site with limitations on infrastructure.

Conclusion: The site is not able to be fully serviced and is adjacent to other land within the Low Density Residential Zone, with limitations on infrastructure. The appropriate modification of this site to Low Density Residential zoning would be reliant upon demand and strategic planning supporting the proposed change. These matters are assessed elsewhere in this report in detail.

Potential alternative zonings:

The site was also summarily considered for potential alternative zonings. These were limited to the 11.0 Rural Living zone, due to the proximity of land within this zoning to the subject

site, and the 20.0 Rural zone, as potentially appropriate alternatives to the Agriculture zone, should that be deemed inappropriate.

Conversion of land to the Rural Living Zoning is heavily reliant upon compliance with the regional and local strategic planning. As such, this zoning was dismissed from consideration.

Conversion of land to the Rural Zone is appropriate where land has limited agricultural value, as has been identified on this site. The next consideration for this site in the following:

RZ3 The Rural Zone may be applied to land identified in the 'Land Potentially Suitable for Agriculture Zone' layer, if:

(a) it can be demonstrated that the land has limited or no potential for agricultural use and is not integral to the management of a larger farm holding that will be within the Agriculture Zone;

(b) it can be demonstrated that there are significant constraints to agricultural use occurring on the land;

(c) the land is identified for the protection of a strategically important naturally occurring resource which is more appropriately located in the Rural Zone and is supported by strategic analysis;

(d) the land is identified for a strategically important use or development that is more appropriately located in the Rural zone and is supported by strategic analysis; or

(e) it can be demonstrated, by strategic analysis, that the Rural Zone is otherwise more appropriate for the land.

Items (c) and (d) are able to be dismissed. The assessment then returns to that matters of agricultural potential, constraints and strategic analysis for the site. These have been addressed in detail in response to the PAL Policy and regional and local strategic planning throughout this report. The site is not considered appropriate for rezoning to the Rural Zone.

STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

The proposal requests that land identified as 319 Murchison Highway, Somerset be rezoned from Agriculture to Low Density Residential.

For a planning scheme amendment to be initiated (supported), the proposal needs to be assessed as complying with the relevant sections of LUPAA (please refer to legislative requirement above for further detail). It is considered that the proposed amendment as demonstrated in the planning assessment is consistent with the legislative documents and should therefore be initiated.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

A planning scheme is a policy statement by a planning authority with respect to local requirements for the use, development, conservation and protection of land so as to achieve compliance with the requirements of State legislation and land use strategies.

Council has a statutory duty as a planning authority to ensure local planning controls are appropriate to the provision of a sustainable future for the Waratah-Wynyard municipality. The planning scheme amendment is consistent with common provisions of the planning scheme. It is therefore recommended that the planning scheme amendment be initiated.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There may be financial costs associated with a planning scheme amendment application. This includes costs to represent the interests of the planning authority before the Tasmanian Planning Commission (TPC) if a hearing is required, and costs in preparing the amended

planning scheme maps for inclusion in the planning scheme. These are operational costs within the budget considerations of Council.

RISK IMPLICATIONS

Applications for planning scheme amendments are ultimately determined by the TPC. The Council is required in the first instance to decide whether to proceed with and initiate the planning scheme amendment. Should the application for planning scheme amendment be initiated for public exhibition, it is also required to be certified under s40F LUPAA.

There is limited risk for the Council acting as planning authority, provided that decisions made are in accordance with legislative requirements. This report details the reasons for the officer's recommendation to initiate the amendment and approve the planning application. Should Council as a planning authority wish to make a decision against the professional advice provided, the reasons will need to be detailed.

COMMENT

The rezoning of the site from Agriculture to Low Density Residential zone will enable infill development on the fringe of the established urban area of Somerset and an addition of up to 50 lots (equal to 5 years supply) subject to servicing capabilities.

The extension of the Low Density Residential zone to the subject title will enable the sustainable development of the site in a manner which is in keeping with that of the surrounding and nearby lots.

It is therefore recommended that the proposed amendment be initiated in accordance with the recommendations at the beginning of this report.

MOVED BY	CR JOHNSTONE
SECONDED BY	CR RAW

That Council acting in its role as Planning Authority:

1. **In accordance with s38(2) and s40D(a) of the Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993, initiates a planning scheme amendment PSA 1/2025 to rezone land at 319 Murchison Highway, Somerset (CT 158979/2) from Agriculture to Low Density Residential zone.**
2. **In accordance with s40F(3) of the Land Use Planning Approvals Act 1993, certifies planning scheme amendment PSA 1/2025 as meeting the requirements of s34 of the Land Use Planning Approvals Act 1993.**
3. **In accordance with s40F(4) of the Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993, forwards a copy of the sealed instrument of Certification and the draft amendment to the Tasmanian Planning Commission within seven (7) days.**
4. **That, in accordance with Section 40FA(1) of the Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993, forwards a copy of the draft amendment to any relevant agencies or State**

authorities the Planning Authority considers may have an interest in the draft amendment; and

5. **That in accordance with Section 40G of the Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993, publicly exhibits the draft amendment PSA 1/2025 for a period of 28 days.**

The MOTION was put and was CARRIED.

IN FAVOUR

CR BRAMICH	CR COURTNEY	MAYOR DUNIAM	CR EDWARDS
	CR ROBERTS	CR JOHNSTONE	CR RAW

PLANNING AUTHORITY CLOSED AT 6.13PM

THE TOWN PLANNER LEFT THE MEETING AT 6.13PM

8.0 MATTERS RAISED BY COUNCILLORS

8.1 RESPONSE(S) TO COUNCILLOR QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

8.1.1 CR JOHNSTONE - BURNIE AIRPORT SECURITY

QUESTION

Cr Michael Johnstone asked if the matter of airport security could be discussed with Burnie City Council. He noted that while upgrades were not necessarily required there still needs to be adequate and working security.

OFFICERS RESPONSE

The concern was raised with the Burnie City General Manager who advised that the issue is an active consideration, despite the considerable cost involved.

The Burnie Airport Operations Manager spoke at the recent Regional and Rural Aviation Enquiry Hearing held in Wynyard on 23 February and suggested that the Commonwealth consider increasing fares across Australia for internal flights to fund security upgrades.

8.2 COUNCILLOR QUESTIONS RECEIVED IN WRITING

Nil received.

8.3 COUNCILLOR QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

8.3.1 CR COURTNEY - WATER SECURITY

Cr Andrea Courtney asked that an Urgent Review of Water Security and Development Controls for High Intensity Data Centres be discussed at a Council Workshop and foreshadowed a motion for the next Council Meeting.

The CEO took the question on notice and acknowledged the foreshadowed motion.

8.3.2 CR COURTNEY - PROJECT MARINUS

Cr Andrea Courtney asked that the subject of council passing a resolution of no confidence in the financial transparency and community impact of Project Marinus be discussed at a Council Workshop and foreshadowed a motion for the next Council Meeting.

The CEO took the question on notice and acknowledged the foreshadowed motion.

8.3.3 CR COURTNEY - LIVINING INCOME PILOT PROGRAM

Cr Andrea Courtney asked that advocacy for council to be a pilot site for a the Guaranteed Living Income Program be discussed at a Council Workshop and foreshadowed a motion for the next Council Meeting.

The CEO took the question on notice and acknowledged the foreshadowed motion.

8.3.4 CR EDWARDS - SISTERS BEACH WORKING GROUP

Cr Celisa Edwards noted an update on Sisters Beach Camping and Open Space and that a working group had been established. She asked who was on the working group and how was it progressing.

The question was taken on notice.

8.3.5 CR EDWARDS - ATHENEUM HALL

Cr Celisa Edwards asked why Atheneum Hall was showing a negative variation.

The Chief Financial Officer advised that a June invoice had been received late and had been unable to be included in the June accounts and was therefore carried over to the 26/27 financial year. He noted that the Contract with Aurora Energy had ended and costs would now be at a higher market cost. This will result in the need to adjust forecasts.

8.3.6 CR EDWARDS - VANDALISM COSTS

Cr Celisa Edwards noted that vandalism costs were higher than expected and asked if this was normal compared to other years.

The Director of Infrastructure and Development Services advised that only a small amount was allowed to vandalism on purpose with the aim being to reduce vandalism, not to accept that it would occur. He took on notice to get comparison for previous years.

8.3.7 CR COURTNEY - MOTION RE AMBULANCE TRANSFERS

Cr Andrea Courtney asked if there had been a response from the Minister to the question raised regarding ambulance transfers.

The CEO took the question on notice.

8.3.8 CR JOHNSTONE - OLD BASS HIGHWAY SPEED LIMIT

Cr Michael Johnstone asked if the speed limit reduction has been approved for the Old Bass Highway.

The Director of Infrastructure and Development Services advised that reduction in speed to 60kph has been approved with a report to go to the April Council Meeting.

9.0 NOTICE OF MOTION

Nil received.

10.0 REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

10.1 QUARTERLY INFORMATION REPORT - ORGANISATIONAL PERFORMANCE

To:	Council
Reporting Officer:	Governance Officer
Responsible Manager:	Director Governance and Information Systems
Report Date:	16 February 2026
File Reference:	Quarterly Statistics
Enclosures:	Nil

PURPOSE

To provide statistical information and a quarterly update on the activities of Council for activities undertaken within the following Directorates and Departments:

- Organisational Performance:
  - People and Safety
  - Economic Development
  - Governance and Information Systems
  - Risk Management

BACKGROUND

This report is part of a regular reporting framework to inform Council of activities undertaken across the organisation on a quarterly basis. Each month, a quarterly information report is provided on rotation for each Directorate:

- Community and Engagement (July, October, January, April)
- Infrastructure & Development Services (August, November, February, May)
- Organisation Performance (September, December, March, June)

PEOPLE AND SAFETY

People and Safety provides organisation-wide human resource, health, safety and wellbeing services to support Council in maximising the value of its workforce. The team continues to focus on attracting, retaining and developing the people and capability needed to deliver high-quality services to the community. This quarter's workforce profile shows a stable, experienced and diverse workforce, with positive indicators across retention, absenteeism and workforce participation.

Staff Numbers and Statistics

Staff Numbers as at:	28 February 2026						
	Permanent Positions		Temporary Positions			Total	Fulltime equivalent
	Full-time	Part-time	Full-time	Part-time	Casual		
Indoor	37	17	2	1	5	63	53.7
Outdoor	34	2	3	0	2	41	39.1
Childcare	8	17	0	3	3	31	21.2
Total	79	36	5	4	10	135	114

As of 28 February 2026, Council employed 135 people equivalent to 114 full time employees.

Statistics	Average years service	Gender			Average age
		Male	Female	Other	
Indoor	7.32	20	42	0	46.71
Outdoor	8.11	34	7	0	43.45
Childcare	9.10	0	31	0	40.01
Total	**7.97**	**54**	**80**	**0**	**44.16**

Age Demographic			Gender Demographic		Management Demographic		
Under 30 years	33	24.5%	Female	59.3%	Female	7	58.3%
30-45 years	34	25.2%	Male	40.7%	Male	5	42.7%
45-55 years	29	21.4%	Other	0%	Other	0	0%
55 years and over	38	28.9%					

Diversity Statistics	Yes	No	Undisclosed
Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander	5.9%	91.8%	2.3%
Culturally or linguistically diverse	2.2%	96.3%	1.5%
Special needs or additional learning support requirements	2.9%	95.6%	1.5%

ATSI - Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, CALD - culturally or linguistically diverse, Special needs or additional learning support requirements

Turnover Rate of Permanent Staff

4.3% Average *(Permanent Departure rate divided by total permanent employee rate)*

The composition of Council's workforce positions the organisation to leverage both experience and fresh perspectives, supporting knowledge transfer, innovative practices, and succession planning. Maintaining this blend of skills and age diversity will be critical to meeting service delivery goals and supporting future growth opportunities.

New Starters/Departures

New Starters & Departures this Quarter							
		Permanent Positions		Temporary Positions			Total
		Full-time	Part-time	Full-time	Part-time	Casual	
New Starters	Indoor	1	2	0	0	0	**3**
	Outdoor	0	0	0	0	0	**0**
	Childcare	0	2	0	0	0	**2**
	Total	**5**		**0**		**0**	**5**
Departures	Indoor	0	2	0	0	0	2
	Outdoor	2	0	0	0	0	2
	Childcare	0	1	0	0	0	1
	Total	**5**		**0**		**0**	**5**

Council inducted five (5) new employees throughout the reporting period and had five (5) employee departures.

Absenteeism Rate

Absenteeism Rate				
	Personal Leave Taken	Hours Worked	Absent Rate	Full Time Equivalent
Indoor	1,471	28,211	**5.2%**	.75
Outdoor	789	23,563	**3.4%**	.40
Childcare	511	11,093	**4.8%**	.26
Total	**2,771**	**62,868**	**4.3%**	**1.41**

WORK HEALTH AND SAFETY

Incident/Hazard Report Forms received this Quarter

Incident/Hazard Report Forms received this Quarter							
	Incident	Hazard	Near Misses	Injury/ Illness	Property/ Plant Damage	Verbal Abuse	Total Reports
Indoor	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Outdoor	4	1	1	2	16	0	**24**
Childcare	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	**0**	**1**	**1**	**2**	**16**	**0**	**24**

The strong reporting rate from Works & Services reflects a positive safety culture, ongoing support from leaders and an increased willingness to report hazards and near misses which is essential for early intervention and risk reduction.

Lost Time Injury and Workers Compensation Cases
Lost Time Injury Frequent Rate (LTIFR) and Workers Compensation Cases for this Quarter

	No. of LTI's	Lost Time Injuries (hrs)	Hours Worked in Period	LTIFR	Total New WC Cases	Ongoing WC Cases	Finalised WC Cases
Indoor	0	0	0	**0.00**	0	0	0
Outdoor	1	1	19.5	**38.4**	1	0	1
Childcare	0	0	0	**0.00**	0	0	0
Total	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0.00**	**1**	**0**	**1**
LTIFR Industry Benchmark				**12.6**			

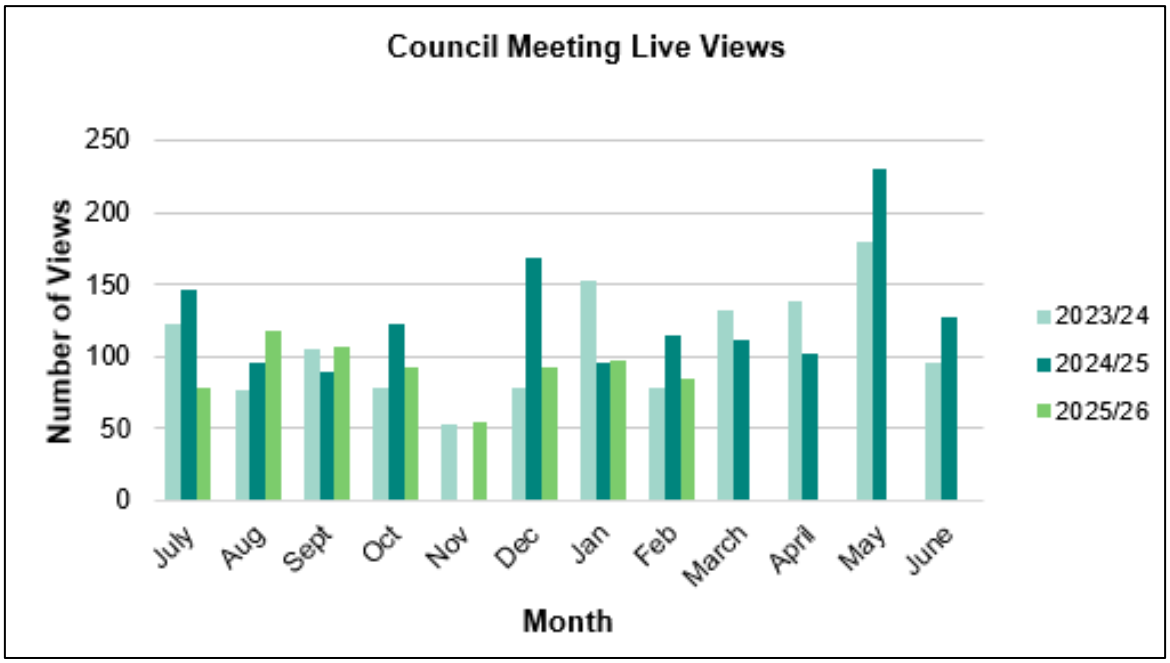
During the reporting period, Council recorded two (2) injuries. Of these, one (1) resulted in a workers' compensation claim with 19.5 hours lost time.

Drug & Alcohol Testing

Council conducts random Drug & Alcohol testing up to three times per year. Testing was conducted on 5 August 2025 with 5 randomly selected employees from the Works & Services Department and 5 from the Council Chambers. All were negative and Council has not encountered a non-negative test since 2020.

GOVERNANCE

Council Meeting Live Stream Views – Ordinary Meetings



*November 2024 stats not available due to technical issues.

Policies Adopted by Council

There were no policies adopted by Council for the period 30 November 2025 - 28 February 2026.

Workplace Policies Reviewed

The following workplace policies were reviewed and adopted by the Senior Leadership Team for the quarter:

- ICT – Information Security Policy
- ICT – Network Access & Wi-Fi Policy
- ICT – ICT Incident Response & Data Breach Policy
- ICT Asset Management Policy
- Data Backup & Recovery Policy
- Recruitment Policy & Procedures

Complaints

Council received one formal complaint through the Ombudsman during the period 01 December 2025 – 28 February 2026 relating to building compliance matters.

Tenders & Contracts

In accordance with Council's Procurement Policy the following table is provided for all contracts awarded YTD for 2025/26 over $100,000 excluding service contracts.

Contract No And Description	Name and Address of Contract Holder	Contract Dates	Contract Extension Options	Contract Value at Start Date
837 – 2025/2026 Bitumen Surfacing Services	Hardings Group (Tas) Pty Ltd	07/08/2025 – 28/02/2026	N/A	$844,839.00
838 – D&C ANZAC Park Shade Structures and Staged Development	Active Areas Pty Ltd	TBC	N/A	$463,045.00
840 – D&C Frenchs Road Reserve Foot Bridge over Seabrook Creek	Arc Design Solutions	16/10/2025 – 18/02/2026	Contract expiry ext to 31/03/26	$145,500.00
842 – Bridge Replacement Sisters Beach	Hazell Btos Group Pty Ltd	20/04/26 – 15/05/26	N/A	$452,810.00
843 – Inglis River Walking Track – Project 5 Golf Links Road	AJR Construct Pty Ltd	04/11/25 – 02/04/2026	N/A	$532,249.59
844 – Construction Langley Park - Clubroom Redevelopment and Amenities Upgrade	Stubbs Constructions Pty Ltd	13/01/26 – 30/06/26	N/A	$2,234,888

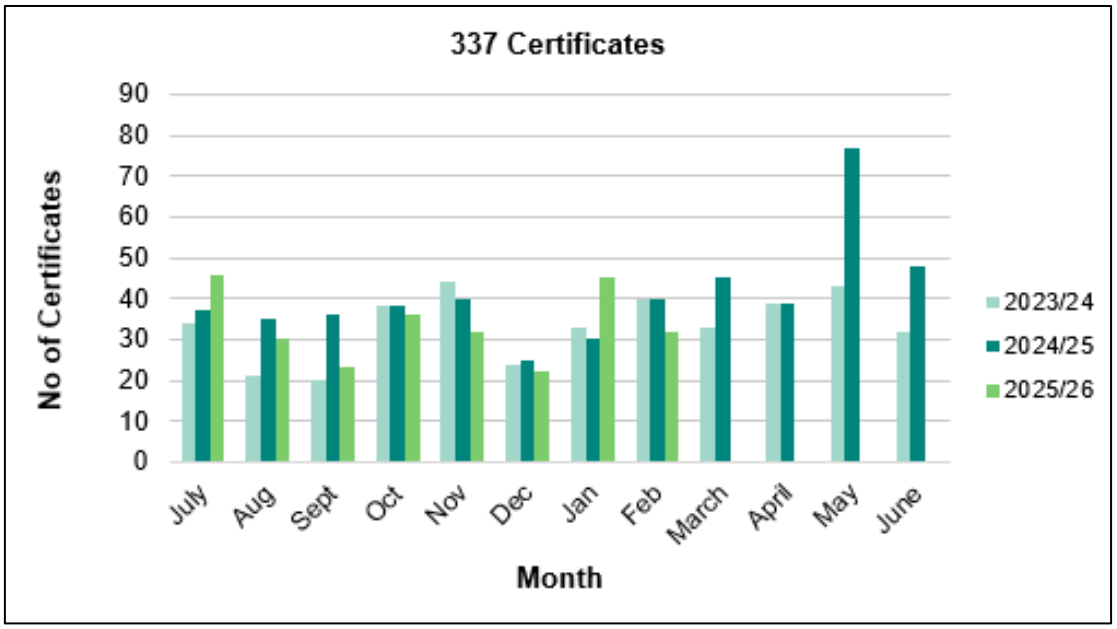
Non-Application of Public Tender Process

Pursuant to *Section 27* of the *Local Government (General) Regulations* there have been no contracts awarded where the public tender process was not applied.

Council and Land Information Certificates (337)

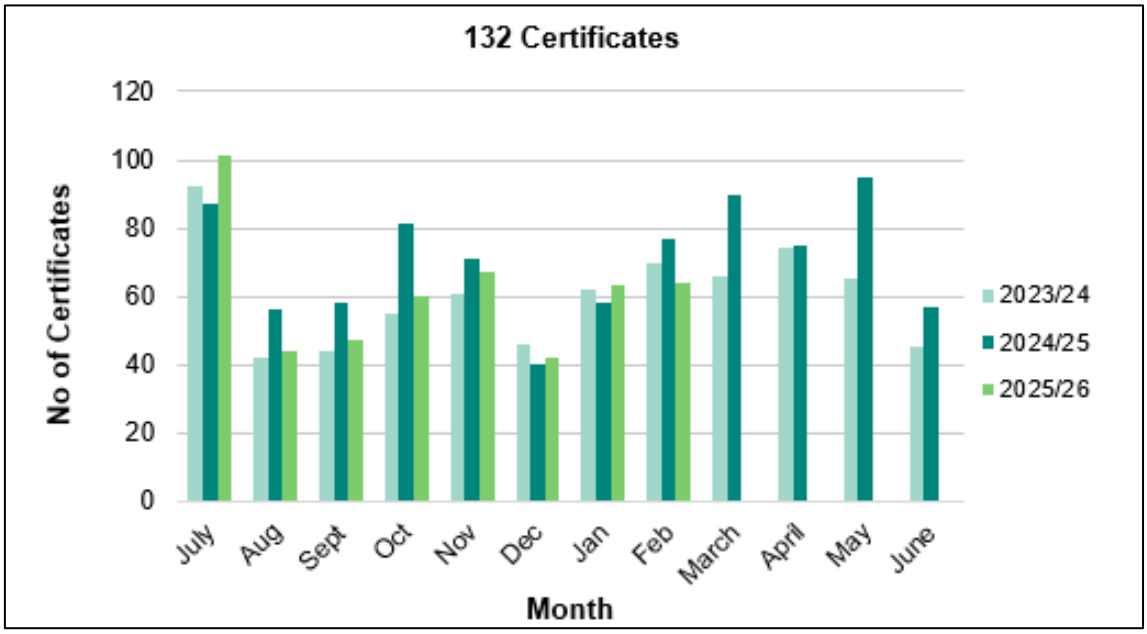
Graphical analysis is provided demonstrating the total number of certificates issued for the reporting period compared to last year.

A Council Certificate 337 provides information about whether there are any outstanding notices, permits or orders in relation to a property. For the 2025/26 period there have been 266 Section 337 certificates completed as at 28 February 2026 compared with 281 in February 2025.



Certificate of Liabilities (132)
Graphical analysis is provided demonstrating the total number of certificates issued for the reporting period compared to last year.

Section 132 certificates are issued by Council on request usually as a part of selling a property. The certificate outlines rate and property liabilities. For the 2025/26 period there have been 488 Section 132 certificates completed as at 28 February 2026 compared with 528 in February 2025.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Key economic development activities undertaken are outlined below:

Penguin Viewing Experience and Park and Pedal facility
In the current 2025/26 financial year there is budget allocation towards a feasibility study, concept designs, and necessary reporting requirements.

This project has been transferred to the Recreational Planning and Environment team.

Investment Prospectus
The development of our Investment Prospectus is well underway and progressing strongly. This project will provide potential investors with comprehensive insights into the opportunities available within our municipality.

To further enhance the prospectus, we've committed to creating a dedicated marketing website that will showcase the unique strengths and offerings of our region. As part of this initiative, Mason Doherty was engaged to produce a series of storytelling videos that will bring our local opportunities to life and add significant value to the online platform.

Storytelling videos from Little Sister General Store and Alchymia Distillery are complete and are expected to launch through the Investment website in 2026.

Business/Industry Visits

Site visits offer an opportunity for Councillors and the Executive Team to tour premises, gain valuable insights into operations and acknowledge the significant contributions businesses make to our local economy. By strengthening connections with local businesses, these visits also highlight what makes our region an exceptional place to live, work, and thrive.

Planning for 2026 business visits is in progress.

Sisters Beach Camping and Open Space

A working group has been established to explore freedom camping options at Sisters Beach. This project has been combined with the review of the Sisters Beach Open Space and the need to find an alternative site due to coastal erosion concerns.

Leases / Licenses

The Watershed - a suitable tenant is being worked through.

A Lease and Licence Register is being developed with an internal working group. Guiding principles are being developed to support this register.

INFORMATION SYSTEMS UPDATE

Strengthening Systems, Security and Service Delivery

Over the past two months, Council has continued progressing key digital and technology initiatives to improve reliability, strengthen cyber security, and support better services for our community and partner councils.

Major System and Capital Projects

Collaboration Hub and Intranet – Phase 1

Planning and vendor engagement have continued for the new Collaboration Hub and Intranet. This initiative will modernise how staff communicate, access information, and collaborate across teams, improving efficiency and internal service delivery.

Electronic Timesheets (Element Time Project)

Following continued rollout activity, we undertook a structured project reset in February to ensure clarity of scope, budget alignment, stakeholder engagement, and delivery expectations. This reset strengthens governance and positions the project for successful completion.

Shared CCTV Program

CCTV governance and operational processes were reviewed during this period, including formal responses to community enquiries. This ensures transparency, appropriate use, and alignment with privacy and regulatory obligations.

Capex and Corporate Planning

ICT capital priorities have been reviewed and refined in preparation for elected member workshops and upcoming budget discussions. This ensures digital investments remain aligned to Council's long-term strategic objectives.

Supporting Other Councils and Regional Collaboration

Council continues to support neighbouring councils through knowledge sharing and collaboration.
During this period, we:

- Progressed ICT collaboration discussions with Central Coast Council, including shared roadmaps, target operating models, and policy alignment.
- Continued supporting Circular Head Council (CHC), including refinement of helpdesk reporting and cyber capability planning.
- Responded to a significant ICT outage affecting CHC, working extended hours to restore services and strengthen backup controls.

These partnerships support regional resilience, shared learning, and improved value for ratepayers.

Cyber Security, Risk and Resilience

Cyber Security Awareness Program
The internal cyber education program has continued, including KnowBe4 training rollout and awareness sessions. Additional engagement with operational areas ensures frontline teams are supported in safe digital practices.

Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery

Business Continuity Planning (BCP) documentation has been updated and progressed through leadership review. Following the February outage event, additional backup measures were implemented to further strengthen resilience.

ICT Risk and Compliance

ICT compliance matters identified through audit processes are being actively addressed, including privileged access management, Active Directory governance, and documentation improvements.

Incident Response and Service Reliability

In February, a major ICT outage impacted Circular Head Council systems. Council's ICT team worked intensively with vendors and stakeholders to:

- Diagnose replication and infrastructure issues
- Restore services from backup
- Implement additional manual backup safeguards
- Begin post-incident review to identify long-term control improvements

This response demonstrates Council's commitment to service continuity and continuous improvement in digital resilience.

Workforce and Capability

We continue investing in staff capability through:

- Targeted mentoring support in project and stakeholder management
- Ongoing digital skills development
- Participation in sector conferences and special interest groups

This strengthens Council's internal expertise and supports sustainable digital transformation.

Looking Ahead

Over the coming months, Council will continue to:

- Progress the Contractor Management Framework
- Finalise and implement the refreshed ICT Strategic Plan
- Complete the Element Time project reset and delivery pathway
- Strengthen cyber security capability and training
- Advance regional ICT collaboration initiatives

Our focus remains on delivering secure, reliable, and modern digital systems that support staff, elected members, partner councils, and the broader community.

STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

Statutory Requirements

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

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

Strategic Plan Reference

GOAL 1: Leadership and Governance
Desired Outcomes
1.1 We make publicly transparent decisions on spending and future directions while encouraging community feedback.
Our Priorities
1.6.2 Develop leadership that inspires and motivates, and which maintains a strong community and workplace culture.

GOAL 2: Organisational Support
Desired Outcomes
2.1 We are a knowledgeable organisation—we demonstrate best practices in our business processes.
Our Priorities
2.1.1 Develop a learning culture that ensures staff have the knowledge and skills to maximise potential, and which empowers staff to achieve and grow.

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.
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,

Community Future Direction Theme	Key Challenges & Opportunities:
	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
There are no consultation requirements as a result of this report.

CONCLUSION
That Council notes the Corporate Quarterly Information Report for the Organisational Performance Department.

MOVED BY	CR ROBERTS
SECONDED BY	CR COURTNEY

That Council notes the Quarterly Information Report for the Organisational Performance Department as of 28 February 2026.

The MOTION was put and was CARRIED.

IN FAVOUR

CR BRAMICH	CR COURTNEY	MAYOR DUNIAM	CR EDWARDS
	CR ROBERTS	CR JOHNSTONE	CR RAW

10.2 COMMUNITY CONSULTATION - CEMETERIES

To:	Council
Reporting Officer:	Manager Community Activation
Responsible Manager:	Director Community Services
Report Date:	23 December 2025
File Reference:	001
Enclosures:	Nil

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek Council endorsement to undertake community consultation to assess interest in expanding ashes interment options within Wynyard cemeteries. The consultation will inform future decision-making regarding the potential development of garden-style ashes interment areas that align with community expectations, environmental considerations, and long-term cemetery sustainability.

BACKGROUND

Cemeteries across Australia are facing increasing pressure due to limited availability of land, rising costs associated with burial and memorialisation, and a growing preference for environmentally sensitive and personalised interment options. These pressures are also being experienced within the Waratah–Wynyard Local Government Area (LGA).

Within the LGA, Waratah–Wynyard Council is the sole provider of cemetery services and is responsible for the planning, development, management, and long-term sustainability of cemetery assets. Ensuring that cemetery services continue to meet evolving community needs is an important part of this responsibility.

A review of cemetery practices across Tasmania indicates that many councils, including smaller and rural municipalities, offer a range of ashes interment options beyond traditional graves. These commonly include niche walls, memorial walls, and garden-style interment areas. Such options are typically managed under council policies to ensure consistency, dignity, and compliance with legislative and operational requirements.

Given changing community expectations and the need to plan for the future capacity of cemetery services, it is timely for Council to consider whether additional ashes interment options should be explored in Wynyard.

DETAILS

It is proposed that Council undertake structured community consultation to determine interest in expanding ashes interment into native and/or ornamental garden settings within Wynyard cemeteries. This consultation would seek feedback on preferred interment styles, design features, accessibility considerations, and cultural or personal preferences.

Potential garden-style ashes interment options that may be explored through consultation include sealed memorial rocks within landscaped gardens, tree or shrub plantings with memorial plaques, flower garden memorial areas, and community remembrance gardens. Complementary options such as memorial benches may also be considered, recognising their dual role in providing places of remembrance and enhancing public amenity.

Community consultation will provide Council with evidence-based insight into local demand and expectations before any commitment is made to design, budgeting, or implementation.

The findings will be reported back to Council with recommendations on next steps, including potential budget implications, further planning requirements, or pilot projects.

This approach ensures that any future expansion of ashes interment options is informed, inclusive, environmentally responsible, and aligned with Council's role as the sole cemetery service provider within the municipality.

STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

Statutory Requirements

The management of cemeteries and ashes interment within the Waratah–Wynyard municipality is governed primarily by the *Cemeteries and Crematoria Act 2003*, which sets out council's responsibilities for lawful interment, record-keeping, and cemetery operations. Any new interment areas must comply with these requirements, including approved containers and proper documentation.

Additionally, the *Public Health Act 1997* ensures that interment practices meet health and safety standards, while relevant planning legislation under the land use planning and approvals act 1993 may apply to changes in land use or landscaping within cemetery grounds. All activities would also be managed in accordance with council policies to ensure consistency, dignity, and ongoing maintenance. Any proposed garden-style interments would be designed and implemented in a manner that meets statutory and environmental obligations.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

Strategic Plan Reference

GOAL 1: Leadership and Governance
Desired Outcomes
1.1 We make publicly transparent decisions on spending and future directions while encouraging community feedback.
Our Priorities
1.6.1 Encourage increased participation by all stakeholders.

Sustainable Murchison Community Plan 2040

Community Future Direction Theme	Key Challenges & Opportunities:
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.

Community Future Direction Theme	Key Challenges & Opportunities:
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.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Expanding ashes interment options would be undertaken in alignment with existing Waratah–Wynyard Council cemetery policies, which provide guidance on interment procedures, memorial standards, and the management of cemetery grounds. Any new garden-style interment areas would require updates to operational procedures to ensure consistency in approval, maintenance, and memorialisation standards. This approach supports Council's broader objectives of providing sustainable, inclusive, and community-focused cemetery services while maintaining dignity and compliance.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

The development of garden-style ashes interment areas has the potential to provide environmentally sustainable options compared with traditional burial practices. These areas can incorporate native vegetation, reduce land disturbance, and minimise resource use. Any proposed design would consider soil health, water management, and ongoing maintenance to ensure environmental protection and alignment with Council's sustainability objectives.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The proposed community consultation can be accommodated within the existing cemetery services budget. Any future development of garden-style ashes interment areas would require a separate budget allocation, which would be considered following the consultation process. Costs could include site preparation, landscaping, installation of memorial features, and ongoing maintenance. A detailed financial assessment would be provided to Council before any commitment to implementation.

RISK IMPLICATIONS

The primary risks associated with expanding ashes interment options relate to community perception, operational management, and compliance. Without proper consultation, there is a risk that proposed options may not align with community expectations. Operational risks include ongoing maintenance requirements and ensuring consistent management of memorials. Compliance risks relate to adherence with statutory requirements, Council policies, and environmental obligations. Undertaking structured community consultation and managing any future development in accordance with Council policies and legislation will mitigate these risks.

CONSULTATION PROCESS

It is proposed that Council undertakes structured community consultation to determine interest in expanding ashes interment options within Wynyard cemeteries. The consultation

would seek feedback on preferred interment styles, design features, accessibility considerations, and cultural or personal preferences.

Methods may include online surveys, written submissions, and targeted engagement with community groups and stakeholders. The consultation period would be sufficient to ensure broad participation and meaningful feedback. Findings from this process will be summarised and presented to Council at the May 2026 meeting to inform evidence-based decision-making regarding any potential future development of garden-style ashes interment areas**.**

CONCLUSION

Expanding ashes interment options within native or ornamental garden settings offers an opportunity to respond to evolving community expectations, support sustainable cemetery management, and provide more personalised memorial choices.

Undertaking structured community consultation will provide Council with the evidence needed to assess local interest, inform future planning, and ensure that any potential development aligns with statutory requirements, Council policies, and environmental standards. Endorsing this consultation is the recommended next step in exploring these options responsibly and inclusively.

MOVED BY	CR COURTNEY
SECONDED BY	CR ROBERTS

That Council endorses community consultation to determine community interest in broadening the current area available for ashes interment within native and/or ornamental garden settings in Wynyard to complement existing niche and wall options.

The MOTION was put and was CARRIED.

IN FAVOUR

CR BRAMICH	CR COURTNEY	MAYOR DUNIAM	CR EDWARDS
	CR ROBERTS	CR JOHNSTONE	CR RAW

10.3 ACCESSIBILITY STRATEGY UPDATE

To:	Council
Reporting Officer:	Manager Community Activation
Responsible Manager:	Director Community Services
Report Date:	17 February 2026
File Reference:	001
Enclosures:	1. Accessibility Strategy and Inclusion Action Plan

PURPOSE

To provide Council with an update on the progress of the Accessibility Strategy and Inclusion Action Plan 2023–2026 and outline key achievements and actions currently underway for the 2025/26 period.

BACKGROUND

Council adopted the Accessibility Strategy, including the Inclusion Action Plan, on 11 December 2023. The Strategy provides guidance on how Council meets its obligations under the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (DDA) and reinforces Council's commitment to promoting an inclusive and accessible community.

The Inclusion Action Plan is structured around four key pillars:

1. Be Inclusive
2. Treat People with Dignity and Respect
3. Create Accessible Spaces and Services
4. Take Accountability

The Accessibility Working Group continues to advise Council on implementation, monitoring, and review of the Strategy.

DETAILS

Progress across the Inclusion Action Plan is on track, with several actions completed and others progressing ahead of schedule.

1. Be Inclusive

- Accessibility "Smart Access" tool now live on Council's website banner to assist community members in planning visits to facilities.
- Continued promotion of inclusive events including International Day of People with Disability and RUOK? Day.
- Inclusion training delivered through Equal Employment Opportunity Tasmania – Discrimination Law: Rights and Responsibilities.
- Ongoing advocacy for improved public transport accessibility.

2. Treat People with Dignity and Respect

- Communication aids (magnifiers, hearing loops etc.) available.
- Council communications use clear, straightforward language and include contact details for accessibility support.

- Installation of the UserWay accessibility widget (in line with previous action to investigate Browsealoud or similar) to improve website usability and WCAG alignment.
- Staff training and internal processes implemented to improve accessible web content compliance.

3. Create Accessible Spaces and Services

- Accessibility Guides developed for major events including the Tulip Festival, outlining parking, quiet spaces and support services.
- Quiet/sensory areas planned for large Council events.
- Accessibility-specific community consultation held in February 2025.
- Criteria relating to Tactile Ground Surface Indicators (TGSI) embedded into the Transport Infrastructure Service Level documentation.
- Sensory Garden funded through community grant program, completed at the end of calendar year 2025.
- Public Free Wi-Fi map published and promoted via Council website.

4. Take Accountability

- Accessibility Working Group established and maintained, with two Councillors and two officers assigned.
- Meeting notes recorded and shared publicly through Council processes.
- Regular updates provided via social media and Council reporting mechanisms.
- Ongoing review of the Inclusion Action Plan scheduled in accordance with the Strategy.

STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

Statutory Requirements

The Disability Discrimination Act 1992 requires Council to ensure non-discriminatory access to goods, services and facilities.

This update demonstrates Council's continued commitment to implementing the intent of the DDA as outlined in the adopted strategy

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

Strategic Plan Reference

GOAL 1: Leadership and Governance
Desired Outcomes
1.3 We encourage broad community input to create a focussed and strong sense of belonging.
Our Priorities
1.6.1 Encourage increased participation by all stakeholders.

GOAL 4: Community Recreation and Wellbeing
Desired Outcomes
4.1 Our community is welcoming and supportive.
Our Priorities
4.1.1 Collaborate with community organisations that provide recreation opportunities to our community.

Sustainable Murchison Community Plan 2040

Community Future Direction Theme	Key Challenges & Opportunities:
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.
Health and Wellbeing	**Maintaining good health and wellbeing** – Healthy communities, people taking responsibility for their wellness, convenient access to medical services and facilities.
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.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

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

The actions outlined continue to align with Council's adopted Accessibility Strategy and Inclusion Action Plan 2023–2026 and will be implemented through existing operational processes and planning frameworks.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

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

Any future accessibility upgrades involving infrastructure works or landscaping will be assessed in accordance with Council's environmental guidelines and relevant statutory requirements.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Implementation of the inclusion action plan continues to be delivered through Council's annual budget.

Where appropriate, Council seeks grant funding and partnership opportunities to support specific projects, such as the Sensory Garden initiative.

RISK IMPLICATIONS

Ongoing implementation of the Strategy mitigates reputational and legislative risk by demonstrating Council's active commitment to accessibility and inclusion.

Council has legislative obligations under the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 and must deliver accessible services, facilities and infrastructure in line with relevant State and Federal standards.

There is a risk of community dissatisfaction where expectations exceed what is mandated, affordable or practical within Council's financial and resourcing capacity. Council must

consider accessibility from all perspectives, including but not limited to physical, sensory and auditory access, and remains committed to continuous improvement.

However, enhancements must be delivered in a staged and financially responsible manner, balancing legislative requirements, risk, community need and available resources.

LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Council has obligations under the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 to ensure equitable access to Council facilities, services and information.

The Accessibility Strategy and Inclusion Action Plan support Council's ongoing compliance with relevant accessibility legislation, standards and guidelines, including applicable Australian Standards and State requirements.

Ongoing implementation and review of the Strategy assists Council to identify barriers to access, respond to community needs, and reduce the risk of discrimination complaints.

CONSULTATION PROCESS

Consultation and engagement continues through the established Accessibility Working Group, which provides advice and feedback to Council on accessibility priorities and inclusion initiatives.

Council has also undertaken targeted community consultation activities, including an accessibility-specific community conversation held in February 2025, and ongoing feedback is received through Council's standard customer request and service processes.

Progress updates and meeting notes are recorded and shared through Council reporting mechanisms to ensure transparency and accountability.

CONCLUSION

Council continues to make positive progress in implementing the Accessibility Strategy and Inclusion Action Plan 2023-2026. Actions are either complete, underway, or progressing in line with anticipated timeframes.

Council remains committed to accessibility and inclusion across service delivery and infrastructure and will continue to work with the Accessibility Working Group and the broader community to guide future priorities, while balancing legislative requirements, community need, affordability and available resources.

MOVED BY	CR EDWARDS
SECONDED BY	CR RAW

That Council notes the update on the implementation of the Accessibility Strategy and Inclusion Action Plan 2023-2026.

The MOTION was put and was CARRIED.

IN FAVOUR

CR BRAMICH	CR COURTNEY	MAYOR DUNIAM	CR EDWARDS
	CR ROBERTS	CR JOHNSTONE	CR RAW

10.4 COMMUNITY WELLBEING PLAN UPDATE

To:	Council
Reporting Officer:	Manager Community Activation
Responsible Manager:	Director Community Services
Report Date:	20 January 2026
File Reference:	001
Enclosures:	1. Community Wellbeing Plan

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an update on the implementation of the Community Wellbeing Plan.

BACKGROUND

The Waratah-Wynyard Community Wellbeing Plan 2025–2030 provides a whole-of-community framework to guide Council's role in supporting health, inclusion, connection and wellbeing across all life stages. The Plan consolidates three former strategies: Youth, Age-Friendly Communities, and Health and Wellbeing, into a single, inclusive approach designed to better reflect the needs, priorities and diversity of the Waratah-Wynyard community.

The Plan informs the planning and delivery of services, programs and advocacy undertaken by the Community Services Department and supports a coordinated, place-based approach to community wellbeing.

DETAILS

Implementation of the Waratah-Wynyard Community Wellbeing Plan 2025-2030 is progressing well and remains on track. The Plan has been embedded as the central guiding framework for the Community Activation Department, shaping service planning, advocacy priorities, partnerships and practical delivery within the community.

The consolidated Plan has strengthened coordination and reduced duplication, allowing Council to take a more holistic and place-based approach to community wellbeing.

Examples of implementation include:

- Advocacy and partnerships to improve access to health and mental health services, particularly for young people and vulnerable residents.
- Delivery and support of community events, festivals and activations that strengthen social connection, shared identity and participation.
- Youth and family focused initiatives that promote safety, respectful relationships and community resilience.
- Inclusive placemaking, cultural celebration and community storytelling, supporting diversity, pride and belonging.
- Support for lifelong learning, skills development and employment pathways, particularly for young people and those facing barriers to participation.

The Community Wellbeing Plan is now central to how the Community Activation Department prioritises work, allocates resources and measures impact. Outcomes are being delivered at

multiple levels, from high level advocacy and regional collaboration through to practical community led projects, demonstrating the Plan's role as the foundation for Council's community service delivery.

STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

Statutory Requirements

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

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

Strategic Plan Reference

GOAL 3: Connected Communities
Desired Outcomes
3.5 Our community uses its voice to shape its future alongside a strong Council willing to listen and implement where reasonable and practical.
Our Priorities
3.3.2 Facilitate activities and events that promote inclusion, health, safety and a sense of place.

Sustainable Murchison Community Plan 2040

Community Future Direction Theme	Key Challenges & Opportunities:
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.
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 direct financial implications arising from this report. The Community Wellbeing Plan provides the overarching framework that informs and guides future planning and service delivery within the Community Services Department. Most actions are delivered within existing operational budgets. Where additional funding is required to achieve specific outcomes, funding is sought through established Council budget processes and external funding opportunities, with the Plan used as the strategic basis and catalyst for those applications.

RISK IMPLICATIONS

There are minimal risks associated with this report. The primary risk relates to the potential for reduced effectiveness or missed opportunities if actions are not coordinated through a strategic framework. This risk is mitigated by the Community Wellbeing Plan, which provides a clear, inclusive and consistent basis for planning, service delivery and advocacy across the Community Services Department.

CONSULTATION PROCESS

Consultation occurred during the development of the Community Wellbeing Plan through engagement with residents, community groups, service providers and key stakeholders. Ongoing consultation continues through partnerships, community engagement activities and program delivery informed by the Plan.

CONCLUSION

This report provides Council with an update on the implementation of the Community Wellbeing Plan, which is progressing well and is embedded as the guiding framework for community service planning and delivery. Council is requested to note the update.

MOVED BY	CR COURTNEY
SECONDED BY	CR ROBERTS

That Council notes the update on the implementation of the Community Wellbeing Plan.

The MOTION was put and was CARRIED.

IN FAVOUR

CR BRAMICH	CR COURTNEY	MAYOR DUNIAM	CR EDWARDS
	CR ROBERTS	CR JOHNSTONE	CR RAW

10.5 AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS POLICY AND GUIDELINES

To:	Council
Reporting Officer:	Manager Community Activation
Responsible Manager:	Director Community Services
Report Date:	4 February 2026
File Reference:	001
Enclosures:	1. Australia Day Awards Policy 2. Australia Day Awards Guidelines

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek Council endorsement of the updated Australia Day Awards Policy and Guidelines to enable the inclusion of a Cultural Contribution Award as part of the annual Australia Day Awards.

BACKGROUND

The existing Australia Day Awards Policy and guidelines were reviewed and adopted by Council in April 2023. Following the Australia Day Award Ceremony in 2026, Councillors requested that the categories be broadened to include a section to honour a local artist as part of the annual awards. The Policy and Guidelines have been updated to reflect this request.

DETAILS

The Australia Day Awards Policy and Guidelines have been updated to formally include a new Cultural Contribution Award. This new category provides Council with the ability to recognise individuals who have made a significant artistic or cultural contribution to the Waratah-Wynyard community.

The updates ensure the new award is governed by clear eligibility and selection criteria, consistent with existing award categories, and assessed through the established Australia Day Awards selection process. No changes have been made to existing award categories or the selection panel arrangements.

The amendments provide greater flexibility in recognising diverse forms of community contribution while maintaining transparency and consistency in the awards process.

4.1 Cultural Contribution Award Criteria:

(a) Meets eligibility criteria.

(b) Demonstrates artistic excellence, innovation, or sustained contribution.

(c) Has contributed positively to the cultural life or identity of the Waratah-Wynyard community.

(d) Shows commitment to community engagement, participation, or cultural leadership.

(e) Impact of the artist's work on the community, whether immediate or lasting.

(f) Acts as a positive role model within the community.

STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

Statutory Requirements

There are no statutory implications arising from this report. The Australia Day Awards Policy and Guidelines operate as an internal governance framework and are not prescribed under legislation.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

Strategic Plan Reference

GOAL 4: Community Recreation and Wellbeing
Desired Outcomes
4.2 Our community values, encourages and supports physical, social and cultural activities.
Our Priorities
4.1.2 Encourage community providers to be welcoming, supportive and inclusive, and to provide for all ages, abilities and cultures.

Sustainable Murchison Community Plan 2040

Community Future Direction Theme	**Key Challenges & Opportunities:**
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.
Health and Wellbeing	**Maintaining good health and wellbeing** – Healthy communities, people taking responsibility for their wellness, convenient access to medical services and facilities.
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.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The adoption of the updated Australia Day Awards Policy and Guidelines replaces the previous version and enables the inclusion of a Cultural Contribution Award. No additional Council policies are impacted.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no environmental implications arising from the adoption of the updated Australia Day Awards Policy and Guidelines.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no significant financial implications arising from this report. Any costs associated with the Cultural Contribution Award will be met within existing operational budgets.

RISK IMPLICATIONS

There are minimal risks associated with this report. The primary risk is reputational if award processes are not applied consistently; however, this risk is mitigated through clear eligibility criteria and established selection procedures.

CONSULTATION PROCESS

This request was initiated by Councillors following the 2026 Australia Day Awards ceremony. Consultation has occurred internally to update the Australia Day Awards policy and guidelines in line with Council's direction.

CONCLUSION

This report presents updated Australia Day Awards Policy and Guidelines that respond to Councillor feedback by enabling the inclusion of a Cultural Contribution Award. Council is asked to adopt the updated documents to support broader recognition of community contributions through the annual Australia Day Awards.

MOVED BY	CR BRAMICH
SECONDED BY	CR ROBERTS

That Council adopts the Australia Day Awards Policy and Guidelines with immediate effect.

The MOTION was put and was CARRIED.

IN FAVOUR

CR BRAMICH	CR COURTNEY	MAYOR DUNIAM	CR EDWARDS
	CR ROBERTS	CR JOHNSTONE	CR RAW

10.6 COMMUNITY ACTIVATION GRANTS POLICY AND GUIDELINES

To:	Council
Reporting Officer:	Manager Community Activation
Responsible Manager:	Director Community Services
Report Date:	4 February 2026
File Reference:	001
Enclosures:	1. Community Activation Grants Policy 2. Community Activation Grants Guidelines

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval to amend the Community Activation Grants Policy and Guidelines to move from two funding rounds per year to a single annual funding round aligned with the financial year. The amount of funding available in the Community Activation Grants program is managed via the annual budgetary process.

BACKGROUND

The Community Activation Grants Program provides financial and in-kind assistance to support community initiatives, individuals representing the region, and local events that deliver social, cultural and economic benefits to the Waratah-Wynyard community.

Under the previous arrangement, grant funding was offered through two rounds per year. Following internal review, it was identified that aligning the grants program with the financial year would simplify administration, improve alignment with Council's annual budget process, and provide greater clarity for applicants.

DETAILS

The Community Activation Grants Policy and Guidelines have been updated to provide for a single annual funding round, opening from 1 July each year and aligned with the financial year.

No other changes have been made to the grants program. Funding categories, eligibility criteria, assessment processes, funding limits and acquittal requirements remain unchanged.

The updated framework continues to allow Council discretion to offer targeted funding rounds where required, while establishing a clear and consistent annual grants cycle.

STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

Statutory Requirements

There are no statutory implications arising from this report. The provision of community grants is authorised under Section 77 of the Local Government Act 1993.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

The Community Activation Grants Program supports Council's strategic objectives relating to community wellbeing, inclusion, participation and economic vitality. Aligning the program to the financial year strengthens governance and improves consistency with Council's planning and budget processes.

Strategic Plan Reference

GOAL 4: Community Recreation and Wellbeing
Desired Outcomes
4.2 Our community values, encourages and supports physical, social and cultural activities.
Our Priorities
4.1.2 Encourage community providers to be welcoming, supportive and inclusive, and to provide for all ages, abilities and cultures.

Sustainable Murchison Community Plan 2040

Community Future Direction Theme	Key Challenges & Opportunities:
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.
Health and Wellbeing	**Maintaining good health and wellbeing** – Healthy communities, people taking responsibility for their wellness, convenient access to medical services and facilities.
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.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The adoption of the amended Community Activation Grants Policy and Guidelines replaces the previous versions. No other Council policies are impacted.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

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

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no additional financial implications arising from this report. Grant funding will continue to be delivered within existing budget allocations.

RISK IMPLICATIONS

There are minimal risks associated with this report. The proposed change reduces administrative complexity and applicant confusion by establishing a single, clearly defined funding round each year.

CONSULTATION PROCESS

This change was identified through internal operational review of the Community Activation Grants Program. No external consultation was required, as the change relates to administrative timing only and does not alter eligibility or funding arrangements.

CONCLUSION

This report seeks Council approval to adopt updated Community Activation Grants Policy and Guidelines that move the program to a single annual funding round aligned with the financial year. The change improves administrative efficiency and clarity while maintaining existing funding categories, criteria and outcomes.

MOVED BY	CR COURTNEY
SECONDED BY	CR ROBERTS

That Council adopts the amended Community Activation Grants Policy and Community Activation Grants Guidelines to transition from two funding rounds per year to a single annual funding round aligned with the financial year, effective from 1 July 2026.

The MOTION was put and was CARRIED.

IN FAVOUR

CR BRAMICH	CR COURTNEY	MAYOR DUNIAM	CR EDWARDS
	CR ROBERTS	CR JOHNSTONE	CR RAW

10.7 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF TASMANIA - GENERAL MEETING MOTIONS

To:	Council
Reporting Officer:	Executive Officer
Responsible Manager:	Chief Executive Officer
Report Date:	3 March 2026
File Reference:	LGAT
Enclosures:	Nil

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to ensure that Councillors are aware of the motions to be considered by LGAT and to enable Council to consider and to provide direction to the Mayor or her representative on voting and/or participating in discussion on the respective motions.

BACKGROUND

The Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT) is the peak body for Tasmania's 29 councils.

LGAT advocates on behalf of Councils so their voices are heard at all levels of government. It provides procurement, research and policy development services and advice, promotes high governance standards through professional development for council staff and elected representatives, and shares information about Tasmanian councils with the community.

DETAILS

LGAT has provided the motions presented in advance of issuing the agenda for the General Meeting on 10 April 2026 to give council sufficient time to consider the motions.

Council's position on each motion is detailed in Table One at the end of this report.

STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

Statutory Requirements

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

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

Strategic Plan Reference

GOAL 1: Leadership and Governance
Desired Outcomes
2.1 We are a knowledgeable organisation—we demonstrate best practices in our business processes.
Our Priorities
13.1 Facilitate the meeting of community needs through strong advocacy and local and regional collaboration for shared outcomes.

Sustainable Murchison Community Plan 2040

Community Future Direction Theme	Key Challenges & Opportunities:
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 at this time. Some motions may result in policy changes or updates in the future.

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

Councillors have been provided with details of the motions.

CONCLUSION

It is recommended that Councillors confirm the voting preferences for delegates to the 10 April 2026 LGAT General Meeting.

MOVED BY	CR COURTNEY
SECONDED BY	CR BRAMICH

That Council authorises the Mayor, or her representative, to discuss and vote on the items listed for the Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT) General Meeting Agenda on 10 April 2026 in line with Council's position as detailed in Table One in this report.

The MOTION was put and was CARRIED.

IN FAVOUR

CR BRAMICH	CR COURTNEY	MAYOR DUNIAM	CR EDWARDS
	CR ROBERTS	CR JOHNSTONE	CR RAW

TABLE ONE - OFFICER COMMENTS ON LGAT MOTIONS WHICH REQUIRED A DECISION

GENERAL MEETING – 20 November 2025		
Items Number	**Item**	**Comment**
1	**CITY OF HOBART** That Tasmanian councils cease using second-generation rodenticides at council facilities if they are still being used. That Tasmanian councils be encouraged to engage with their communities to encourage avoidance of second-generation rodenticides, identified by the word 'poison' on packaging as opposed to 'caution'.	**RECOMMENDATION: Support** The underlying principles of avoiding risks to non-target animals is consistent with recent decision making of Council around rabbit control in a foreshore area.
2	**WEST TAMAR COUNCIL** That LGAT advocates for the following: 1. That the Tasmanian Government remove or modify section 57 of the *Public Health Act 1997* which requires Councils to develop and implement an approved program for immunisation in its municipal area. 2. That the Tasmanian Department of Health take primary responsibility for delivery of school-based immunisation programs in Tasmania. 3. That Section 57 (1) if not removed be replaced with: "*A Council may develop and implement an approved program for immunisation in its municipal area by liaising with the Tasmanian Health Service who is required to carry out school-based immunisation programs statewide*."	**RECOMMENDATION: - Support** The consolidation of this service through the Tasmanian Department of Health, which is a larger department than small regional councils appears a more sustainable model.

10.8 FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2026

To:	Council
Reporting Officer:	Accountant
Responsible Manager:	Chief Executive Officer
Report Date:	2 March 2026
File Reference:	Financial Management - Reporting - Council
Enclosures:	1. Project Progress Report - February

PURPOSE

To provide an overview, summarising the financial position of the organisation on a monthly basis.

BACKGROUND

The financial reports presented incorporate:

- Income Statement
- Balance Sheet
- Cashflow Statement
- Investments
- Rate Summary
- Grant Summary
- Operating Performance by Department
- Capital Works Summary
- Project Progress Report (attached)

DETAILS

Council's year to date financial performance is generally consistent with the budget estimates. A number of favourable and unfavourable variances have been identified. Overall Council is forecasting a favourable variance of $6,350.

STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

This special purpose financial report is prepared under *Australian Accounting Standards* and the *Local Government Act 1993*.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

Strategic Plan Reference

GOAL
Desired Outcomes
We make publicly transparent decisions on spending and future directions while encouraging community feedback.
Our Priorities
1.8 Review and adjust service levels to provide value for money.
2.2 Facilitate effective knowledge management practices.

Council Strategy or Plan Reference

Council Strategy or Plan	**Date Adopted:**
Financial Management Strategy 2026-2036	Adopted February 2026

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

There are no consultation requirements as a result of this report.

CONCLUSION

All details are included in the attached reports.

MOVED BY	CR JOHNSTONE
SECONDED BY	CR ROBERTS

THAT COUNCIL NOTES THE FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2026

The MOTION was put and was CARRIED.

IN FAVOUR

CR BRAMICH	CR COURTNEY	MAYOR DUNIAM	CR EDWARDS
	CR ROBERTS	CR JOHNSTONE	CR RAW

10.9 SENIOR MANAGEMENT REPORT

To:	Council
Reporting Officer:	Executive Officer
Responsible Manager:	Chief Executive Officer
Report Date:	12 February 2026
File Reference:	0304
Enclosures:	Nil

PURPOSE

To provide information on issues of significance or interest, together with statistical information and summaries of specific areas of operations.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Listed below is a summary of activities undertaken by the Chief Executive Officer from 10 February 2026 to 9 March 2026.

Corporate

- Meeting with Shane Crawford, GM Burnie CC
- Regional Tourism Strategy meeting – Burnie CC

Community

- Minister Archer
- Craig Garland MP
- Community member re planning and regulatory matters
- Community member re planning matter

Industry/Infrastructure

- Regional Land Use Strategy meeting
- City Mission
- CCA Representatives' meeting

Other

- State Fire Commission x 2
- Tas Water Shareholder briefing
- Fair Work
- CCA Board meeting
- NW GMs meeting
- IWD Morning Tea

COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

The following Community Conversations have been scheduled for 2026.

DATE	TOWN	VENUE
11 March	Boat Harbour	Boat Harbour Beach Surf Club
15 April	Waratah	Atheneum Hall
1 June	Sisters Beach	To be Confirmed
6 July	Somerset	To be Confirmed
3 August	Wynyard	To be Confirmed

Update on matters raised at Community Conversations.

DATE	LOCATION	PROGRESS ON MATTERS RAISED
9 February	Yolla	Matters raised: 31 • Service Requests: 8 - progressing through normal operational channels o 5 completed o 3 in progress • Other Requests: 23 o 4 Closed o 11 In Progress o 8 Waiting additional information

EASTER CLOSURE

Kerbside Collections

- Collections due Friday 3 April will now be collected on Thursday 2 April.
- All other collections remain unchanged.

Easter Closures

Council Offices and Depot Wynyard

Closed from 5pm Thursday 2 April until 8.30am Wednesday 8 April.
Please note that the Depot will be operating with reduced staff until Monday 13 April.

Wonders of Wynyard

Friday 3 April	CLOSED
Saturday 4 April	9.00am – 4.00pm
Sunday 5 April	9.00am – 4.00pm
Monday 6 April	9.00am – 4.00pm
Tuesday 7 April	9.00am – 4.00pm

Council Offices and Post office Waratah

Friday 3 April	CLOSED
Saturday 4 April	CLOSED
Sunday 5 April	CLOSED
Monday 6 April	CLOSED
Tuesday 7 April	CLOSED

Waste Transfer Station

Friday 3 April	CLOSED
Saturday 4 April	10.00am – 4.00pm
Sunday 5 April	10.00am – 4.00pm
Monday 6 April	10.00am – 4.00pm
Tuesday 7 April	10.00am – 4.00pm

Childcare

The School Holiday Program will operate over school holidays from the 20 April until the 1 May from 7am – 6pm

Friday 3 April	CLOSED
Saturday 4 April	CLOSED
Sunday 5 April	CLOSED
Monday 6 April	CLOSED
Tuesday 7 April	CLOSED

ADMINISTRATION – Use of Corporate Seal

20/2/26	Planning Delegations	Council Meeting 16/2 – Acting Manager Development & Regulatory Services
20/2/26	Planning Delegations	Council Meeting 16/2 – Senior Town Planner
26/2/26	Rates Mortgage	Council Borrowing s $2.5m approved 16/2/26 council meeting
2/3/26	Adhesion Order	26-28 Alfreda Street Sisters Beach

POLICY

Council currently has 47 policies. Ten (10) of those policies will need to be reviewed over the next six months; six policies are outstanding as at the end of January 2026 with the Senior Leadership Team currently in the process of conducting reviews of all outstanding policies.

POLICIES TO BE RESCINDED

NIL		

WORKING GROUPS

	Elected Member Representatives	Responsible Officer(s)	Status
Somerset Sporting Precinct	Cr Johnstone Deputy Mayor Edwards	• CEO • Manager Community Activation • Manager Recreation Planning and Environment • Recreation Liaison Officer	The tender for Construction works for the Langley Park Upgrades was approved at the December Council meeting, with construction now scheduled to commence in March/April 2026. The delayed construction has allowed additional time to complete a soil report (required from the building surveyor) and has enabled integration with the active football roster in full collaboration with the local clubs.
Wynyard Sports Precinct	Cr Johnstone Cr Roberts	• Director Infrastructure and Development Services • Strategic Projects Manager • Manager Community Activation	Meeting has occurred with DECYP and WHS to discuss project progression. Awaiting advice from WHS on a number of matters related to use of the facility Detailed design of the indoor training facility is at 99% completion. Construction remains dependant on external grant funding. Officers are progressing the statutory referral process to TASCAT for determination.(Austin street road closure)
Boat Harbour Masterplan	Cr Hyland Cr Roberts	• Director Infrastructure and Development Services • Executive Officer (CEO Office) • Strategic Projects Manager	Building at lockup stage. Services rough in completed. Café internal linings installed. External cladding being installed. Internal cladding in surf club being installed. Landscaping works have commenced. Moore street / Port Road intersection works to commence mid-March.
Frederick Street Reserve Working Group	Cr Johnstone Cr Roberts	• Director Community and Engagement • Manager Community Activation	The Frederick Street Reserve Master Plan was adopted by Council at the September Meeting. Progress will be staged, subject to resource availability.

PLANNING PERMITS APPROVED UNDER DELEGATION – February 2026

DA No.	Applicants Name	Location	Development	Date Permit Issued	No of Days to Process	(D)Discretionary (P)Permitted
DA 162/2025	RCC Design Pty Ltd	Waratah Road Waratah (CT 1083961/1)	Single Dwelling & Outbuilding	2.02.2026	41	D
DA 201/2025	PLA Designs Pty Ltd	35 Baulds Road Table Cape	Dwelling Extension	5.02.2026	21	P
DA 202/2025	PLA Designs Pty Ltd	61 Timothy Drive Wynyard	Dwelling Extension & Paved BBQ Area	5.02.2026	31	D
DA 10/2026	C Gray	293 Port Road Boat Harbour Beach	Change of Use (Visitor Accommodation)	10.02.2026	20	P
DA 204/2025	R Walker	23 Walker Street Wynyard	9 x Outbuildings (Shed)	10.02.2026	18	P
DA 1/2026	Abel Design Tas	210 Ballast Pit Road Wynyard	Dwelling Extension (Deck)	11.02.2026	42	D
DA 2/2026	J & G Cranson	768 East Yolla Road Yolla	Dwelling Alterations & Extension (Deck)	12.02.2026	37	D
DA 4/2026	Cradle Coast Authority	16797 Bass Highway, 19 Preolenna Road Flowerdale & 180 Stennings Road Wynyard	Revetment Protection Works	23.02.2026	40	D

BUILDING PERMITS APPROVED – February 2026

Permit Number	Applicants Name	Location	Development	Date Permit Issued	No of Days to Process	Related Planning Approval
PSC-2026-01-01	B & L Correy	59 Allens Road Sisters Creek	As Constructed Studio/Storage Shed	03.02.2026	1	DA 66/2011-A
BLD-W-2026-16-01	J & J Moore	48 Walker Street Waratah	New Shed	03.02.2026	6	DA 149/2025
PSC-W-2026-04-01	A Dare & K Dare	17 Jackson Street Wynyard	As Constructed pool and fence	26.02.2026	0	NPR

COUNCIL MEETING ACTIONS – OPEN COUNCIL

DATE	ITEM	TOPIC	ACTION/STATUS	OFFICER	STATUS
16/12/24	8.1	NOM - Cr Johnstone – Speed Limit Old Bass Highway	MOTION CARRIED: That Council undertake an assessment of the Old Bass Highway for a future report to Council for the consideration of speed limit reduction. 5/3/26 - *currently with the Transport Commissioner for consideration.*	MES	In Progress
16/12/24	9.2	ROC – AGM Motion C Hutchison RTI Findings	MOTION CARRIED: Note that parts 1-3 of motion were for noting only. Part 4 of motion: Once appraised of any requirements from the Local Government Priority Reform Program 2024-2026, develop any policies or practices as required by any changes to the *Local Government Act*, that seeks to promote good governance principles of openness, honesty, and transparency, to continually improve existing practices.	CEO	Pending
28/4/25	6.1.1	Petition - Boat Harbour Beach Store Signage, Public Toilets and Rubbish Services	Petition Noted – "Council to consider the urgent provisions of public toilet and rubbish facilities near the Boat Harbour Store along with approaching signage on the Highway". *Sign has been installed.*	DIDS	Closed
16/2/26	5.3.1	PQWON – P Gladwell Roadside Spraying	Mr Gladwell of Elliot asked what chemicals are being used for road side spraying, what water is being used and what is the Ph level of the water being used. *Refer response this agenda*	DIDS	Closed
16/2/26	5.3.2	PQWON – K Ewington Ragwort Management by Council	Can council give reasons why a site audit was not completed on properties where Ragwort confirmed. *Refer response this agenda*	DIDS	Closed
16/2/26	5.3.3	PQWON – K Ewington Ragwort	Can council highlight the ability of officers to attend to weed problems in the community? *Refer response this agenda*	DIDS	Closed
16/2/26	8.3.1	CQWON – Cr Johnstone – Airport Security	Cr Michael Johnstone asked if the matter of airport security could be discussed with Burnie City Council. He noted that while upgrades not necessarily required there still needs to be adequate and working security. *Refer response this agenda*	CEO	Closed

STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

Statutory Requirements

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

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

Strategic Plan Reference

GOAL 1: Leadership and Governance
Desired Outcomes
1.4 We cherish fairness, trust and honesty in our conduct and dealings with all.
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:
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.

RISK IMPLICATIONS

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

CONSULTATION PROCESS

There are no consultation requirements as a result of this report.

CONCLUSION

It is recommended that Council notes the Senior Management Report.

MOVED BY	CR COURTNEY
SECONDED BY	CR JOHNSTONE

That Council notes the Senior Management Report.

The MOTION was put and was CARRIED.

IN FAVOUR

CR BRAMICH	CR COURTNEY	MAYOR DUNIAM	CR EDWARDS
	CR ROBERTS	CR JOHNSTONE	CR RAW

10.10 MINUTES OF OTHER BODIES/COMMITTEES

10.10.1 NOTES OF THE WARATAH COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING FRIDAY 6 FEBRUARY 2026

To:	Council
Reporting Officer:	Manager Community Activation
Responsible Manager:	Director Community Services
Report Date:	20 February 2026
File Reference:	001
Enclosures:	1. Waratah Community Board Meeting Friday February 6 2026

PURPOSE

For Council to receive notes from the meeting of the Waratah Community Board held on 6 February 2026, which were received on 20 February 2026.

BACKGROUND

The inaugural Waratah Community Board was established by Council in 2019. In June 2025 Council endorsed the community members of the Board for a three-year term. In July 2025 the 2025-2028 Waratah Community Plan was adopted by Council. The Waratah Community Board meets bi-monthly to discuss progress of the Waratah Community Plan.

DETAILS

See attached meeting minutes

STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

Statutory Requirements

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

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

Strategic Plan Reference

GOAL 1: Leadership and Governance
Desired Outcomes
1.3 We encourage broad community input to create a focussed and strong sense of belonging.
Our Priorities
1.6.1 Encourage increased participation by all stakeholders.

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.

Community Future Direction Theme	Key Challenges & Opportunities:
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.
Health and Wellbeing	**Maintaining good health and wellbeing** – Healthy communities, people taking responsibility for their wellness, convenient access to medical services and facilities.
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.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

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

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

There are no policy 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

There are no consultation requirements as a result of this report.

COMMENT

That Council receives the notes of the Waratah Community Board Meeting held Friday 6 February 2026**.**

MOVED BY	CR EDWARDS
SECONDED BY	CR BRAMICH

That Council receives the notes of the Waratah Community Board Meeting held Friday 6 February 2026.

The MOTION was put and was CARRIED.

IN FAVOUR

CR BRAMICH	CR COURTNEY	MAYOR DUNIAM	CR EDWARDS
	CR ROBERTS	CR JOHNSTONE	CR RAW

10.10.2 MINUTES OF OTHER BODIES/COMMITTEES - SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY PANEL HELD 17 FEBRUARY 2026

To:	Council
Reporting Officer:	Contracts and Administration Officer
Responsible Manager:	Director Infrastructure and Development Services
Report Date:	2 March 2026
File Reference:	SEAP
Enclosures:	1. DRAFT SEAP Minutes 17 February 2026 2. Advocacy Statement - Tasmanian State of the Environment

PURPOSE

The Unconfirmed Minutes of the Meeting of the Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Panel held on 17 February 2026, are laid on the table and circulated.

BACKGROUND

Council appointed its first Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Panel (SEAP) on 26 September 2022 following an Expression of Interest process. On 22 October 2024, Council resolved to extend the panel's term to maintain continuity on key actions, support the prioritisation of the Integrated Council Environmental Plan (iCEP) initiatives, and mitigate disruption from the timing of local government elections. The extension, concluding in August 2026, also enables SEAP to review its Terms of Reference and provide recommendations to Council.

To support this, Council resolved at the October 2024 meeting to advertise short-term vacancies where members were unable to continue. On 23 June 2025, two new community representatives were appointed for an interim term from 1 July 2025 to 31 August 2026.

DETAILS

The Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Panel met on 17 February 2026 at the Waratah-Wynyard Council Chambers.

The meeting reviewed the standard agenda items which include:

- Confirmation of previous meeting minutes,
- Active action updates (based on the action plan),
- Non-active actions noted (based on the action plan),
- New and general business.

From the February meeting, the SEAP made one (1) new recommendation for Council consideration, as follows:

(a) That Council endorse the State of the Environment advocacy statement and authorise the Mayor and CEO to advocate, where appropriate, to the Tasmanian Government for the matters outlined within the statement.

The Tasmanian 2024 State of the Environment (SoE) Report has been considered by the Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Panel (SEAP) over the past 18 months.

Initial discussions were prompted by the delayed release of the most recent State report, noting that the previous report had not been delivered within the intended five-year reporting cycle. While the 2024 State of the Environment Report has now been released, the delay highlighted the importance of maintaining consistent and adequately resourced five-year reporting to support evidence-based environmental management and transparent decision-making.

During 2025, SEAP reviewed the findings and relevance of the report in the context of local government responsibilities and Council's Integrated Council Environmental Plan (iCEP). The Panel also identified a number of broader environmental policy matters where Council may have an advocacy role.

These matters were consolidated into a draft advocacy statement outlining key priorities including environmental monitoring and data coordination, fire management practices, vegetation protection, marine and coastal management, climate adaptation responses, and improved environmental reporting frameworks.

The advocacy statement was refined through Panel consultation and confirmed at the February 2026 SEAP meeting. The Panel recommended that the document be presented to Council for consideration and endorsement. The statement has been included as an attachment to this report.

The Panel's next meeting is scheduled to be held on 28 April 2026 at the Waratah-Wynyard Council Chambers.

STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

Statutory Requirements

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

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

Strategic Plan Reference

GOAL 1: Leadership and Governance
Desired Outcomes
1.3 We encourage broad community input to create a focussed and strong sense of belonging.
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
13.1 Facilitate the meeting of community needs through strong advocacy and local and regional collaboration for shared outcomes.
1.5.1 Build our knowledge base to apply in decision-making processes.
1.6.1 Encourage increased participation by all stakeholders.
1.6.2 Develop leadership that inspires and motivates, and which maintains a strong community and workplace culture.
GOAL 7: Environment
Desired Outcomes
7.1 Council and the community minimise its resource consumption and carbon footprint.
7.2 The community understands its vulnerabilities and strengths when it comes to climate change adaptation and resilience.
7.3 Our natural environment, unique surroundings and community assets are future ready in a changing climate.
7.5 Stewardship of our land, water and marine ecosystems respects past, present and future generations.
Our Priorities

7.1.2 Advocate for effective environmental management and contribute to regional, state, and national climate change initiatives.
7.2.1 Support and foster community led adaption and initiatives.
7.3.1 Facilitate education and awareness of climate change risks to the community and property owners.
7.3.2 Embed environmental considerations and potential climate impacts in Council's infrastructure planning and decision making.
7.3.3 Innovative and sustainable design is encouraged through forward thinking and planning.
7.5.1 Protect, enhance and recover biodiversity through forward thinking and planning.
7.5.2 Mitigate biosecurity risks through landscape restoration and industry collaboration.

Sustainable Murchison Community Plan 2040

Community Future Direction Theme	Key Challenges & Opportunities:
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.
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.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

The purpose of the Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Panel (SEAP) and its subsequent recommendations is to advise Council on actions that reduce environmental impact, protect and enhance natural values, improve access to environmental information, and strengthen community resilience to climate-related risks.

Endorsing the advocacy statement supports Council's commitment to environmental stewardship and evidence-based decision-making as outlined in the Integrated Council Environmental Plan (iCEP) and broader strategic framework. Timely publication of future State of the Environment Reports, alongside the other recommendations within the advocacy statement, provides an essential evidence base to inform local planning, prioritisation of resources, and alignment between State and local environmental objectives.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Council's Environmental Sustainability Policy is relevant to the items discussed within this report.

The recommendation is consistent with Council's existing environmental and sustainability policy settings. Endorsement does not introduce new policy obligations but reinforces Council's advocacy role in promoting transparent reporting, environmental accountability, and adherence to established legislative timeframes for State-level environmental assessments.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct financial implications arising from endorsement of the advocacy statement. Any future initiatives resulting from State responses or related environmental priorities would be subject to separate consideration through Council's normal budget and planning processes.

RISK IMPLICATIONS

Timely and transparent environmental reporting supports informed governance and reduces strategic risk associated with decision-making in the absence of current data. A lack of regular reporting may limit Council's ability to align local actions with broader environmental trends and could reduce opportunities for coordinated State–local responses to emerging environmental challenges.

CONSULTATION PROCESS

There are no statutory consultation requirements arising from this report.

The advocacy statement has been developed through ongoing consideration by the Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Panel, including officer review and iterative feedback across multiple meetings. Endorsement demonstrates Council's leadership in environmental governance and responsiveness to community interest in sustainability, transparency and long-term environmental outcomes. It also strengthens Council's position in engaging constructively with the State Government and regional stakeholders on environmental priorities.

COMMENT

It is recommended that Council note the Unconfirmed Minutes of the Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Panel meeting held on 17 February 2026 and endorse the Panel's recommendation to support the adoption of the advocacy statement related to the Tasmanian State of the Environment report.

MOVED BY	CR COURTNEY
SECONDED BY	CR EDWARDS

That Council

1. **Notes the Unconfirmed Minutes of the Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Panel meeting held on 17 February 2026.**
2. **Endorse the recommendation from the meeting:**
   - **(a) That Council endorse the State of the Environment advocacy statement and authorise the Mayor and CEO to advocate, where appropriate, to the Tasmanian Government for the matters outlined within the statement.**

The MOTION was put and was CARRIED.

IN FAVOUR

CR BRAMICH	CR COURTNEY	MAYOR DUNIAM	CR EDWARDS
	CR ROBERTS	CR JOHNSTONE	CR RAW

11.0 MATTERS PROPOSED FOR CONSIDERATION IN CLOSED MEETING

MOVED BY	CR ROBERTS
SECONDED BY	CR BRAMICH

That the Council RESOLVES BY AN ABSOLUTE MAJORITY that the matters listed below be considered in Closed Meeting:

Matter	***Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025 Reference***
Confidential Report R17 (2) - Confirmation Of Closed Minutes Of Previous Meeting	*17 (2)*
Confidential Report R17 (2) – Notices Of Motion ***NIL RECEIVED***	*17(2)*
Confidential Report R17 (2) (h (ii)) information that is – provided to the council on the condition that it be kept confidential	*17 (2) (h (ii))*
Confidential Report R17 (2) (h) - Leave of Absence Request - Councillors	*17(2)(h)*
Confidential Report R17 (2) - Closed Senior Management Report	*17(2)*

The MOTION was put and was CARRIED.

IN FAVOUR

CR BRAMICH	CR COURTNEY	MAYOR DUNIAM	CR EDWARDS
	CR ROBERTS	CR JOHNSTONE	CR RAW

12.0 CLOSURE OF MEETING TO THE PUBLIC

MOVED BY	CR JOHNSTONE
SECONDED BY	CR ROBERTS

That the Council RESOLVES BY AN ABSOLUTE MAJORITY to go into Closed Meeting to consider the following matters, the time being 6.44PM

Matter	***Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025 Reference***
Confidential Report R17 (2) - Confirmation Of Closed Minutes Of Previous Meeting	*17 (2)*
Confidential Report R17 (2) – Notices Of Motion ***NIL RECEIVED***	*17(2)*
Confidential Report R17 (2) (h (ii)) information that is – provided to the council on the condition that it be kept confidential	*17 (2) (h (ii))*
Confidential Report R17 (2) (h) - Leave of Absence Request - Councillors	*17(2)(h)*
Confidential Report R17 (2) - Closed Senior Management Report	*17(2)*

The MOTION was put and was CARRIED.

IN FAVOUR

CR BRAMICH	CR COURTNEY	MAYOR DUNIAM	CR EDWARDS
	CR ROBERTS	CR JOHNSTONE	CR RAW

13.0 RESUMPTION OF OPEN MEETING

At 6.57pm the Open Meeting was resumed.

14.0 PUBLIC RELEASE ANNOUNCEMENT

RECOMMENDATION

That Council, pursuant to Regulation 17(8) of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025* and having considered privacy and confidential issues, authorises the release to the public of the following discussions, decisions, reports or documents relating to this closed meeting:

Min. No.	Subject	Decisions/Documents
NIL		

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIRPERSON DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 6.57pm.

Confirmed,

MAYOR

27 April 2026