



## **MINUTES**

# **Tuesday 18 November 2025 Annual General Meeting**

WEBSITE: [www.wtc.tas.gov.au](http://www.wtc.tas.gov.au)

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

I would like to begin by acknowledging and paying my respects to the *leterremairrener* and *pangerninghe* Aboriginal people, the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we are gathered today.

I would like to pay my respects to their Elders, past, present and acknowledge all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders here today, also paying my respects to your Elders, past, present and emerging.

## PUBLIC ATTENDANCE

Attendees are reminded that Council Meetings are a place of work for staff and Councillors. Council is committed to meeting its responsibilities as an employer and as host of this public forum, by ensuring that all present meet expectations of mutually respectful and orderly conduct. It is a condition of entry to this meeting that you cooperate with any directions or requests from the Chairperson or Council officers.

The Chairperson is responsible for maintaining order at Council Meetings. The Chief Executive Officer is responsible for health, wellbeing and safety of all present. The Chairperson or Chief Executive Officer may require a person to leave Council premises following any behaviour that falls short of these expectations. It is an offence to hinder or disrupt a Council Meeting.

Public attendees are requested to register their attendance prior to entering the meeting.

## AUDIO RECORDINGS OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

Council reminds attendees that this meeting will be audio recorded as provided for by Regulation 43 of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025*.

Council also resolved in June 2025 to adopt a new Audio Recording and Minutes Policy which sets out Council's policy in relation to the recording of Council meetings.

A copy of the recording of the open session of the meeting will be placed on Council's website as soon as practicable but no later than 5 business days after the meeting. The recording does not replace the written Minutes and a transcript of the recording will not be prepared. The Minutes of a meeting, once confirmed, prevail over the audio recording of the meeting.

A copy of the recording of a Council meeting is to be retained by Council for at least a period of 2 years from the date of a meeting and may be deleted after that period has expired;

Unless expressly stated otherwise, West Tamar Council claims copyright ownership of the content of recordings of Council meetings ("the Recordings").

The Recordings may not be uploaded, displayed, transcribed and/or reproduced without the written permission of the Chief Executive Officer for the express purpose proposed.

Council reserves the right to edit Recordings to remove any information that would, or is likely to, place the safety of a person at risk if the recording is published, is, or is likely to be defamatory, contains offensive material or is, or is likely to be, unlawful.

Any Recordings that have been edited to remove any part of the meeting in line with the above reasons will include a statement at the commencement of the recording to the effect that the recording of the meeting has been edited and the reason for that edit.

## 1 PRESENT

### 1.1 Present

Mayor Cr Christina Holmdahl  
Deputy Mayor Cr Rick Shegog  
Cr Joy Allen  
Cr Lynden Ferguson  
Cr Richard Ireland  
Cr Geoff Lyons  
Cr Josh Manticas  
Cr Julie Sladden

### 1.2 In Attendance

Chief Executive Officer  
Director Corporate & Community  
Director Community Assets  
Director Planning & Development  
Director People, Culture & Safety  
Executive Assistant to the CEO  
Governance Officer  
Manager Communications & Engagement  
Chief Financial Officer  
Lauren Richardson  
Jane Horwood  
Peter Kearney OAM  
Sven Wiener  
James Walker

Kristen Desmond  
David Gregory  
Dino De Paoli  
Michelle Riley  
Richard Heyward  
Eleanor Moore  
Tom Chalmers  
Simon Tennant  
Jason Barker

### 1.3 Apologies and Leave of Absence

Apology - Cr Caroline Larnier

## 2 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

### 2.1 Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting held 19 November 2025

#### RECOMMENDATION

That the Minutes of Council's Annual General Meeting held on 19 November 2024 numbered 24/134 to 24/137 as provided to Councillors be received and confirmed as a true record of proceedings.

#### Minute No. 25/146

#### DECISION

Moved: Cr Allen

Seconded: Cr Lyons

That the Minutes of Council's Annual General Meeting held on 19 November 2024 numbered 24/134 to 24/137 as provided to Councillors be received and confirmed as a true record of proceedings.

#### VOTING

For: Mayor Cr Holmdahl, Deputy Mayor Cr Shegog, Cr Allen, Cr Ferguson, Cr Ireland, Cr Lyons, Cr Manticas and Cr Sladden

Against: Nil

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 8/0**

### 3 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S DECLARATION

"I certify that with respect to all advice, information or recommendation provided to Council with this agenda:

1. the advice, information or recommendation is given by a person who has the qualifications or experience necessary to give such advice, information or recommendation;
2. where any advice is given directly to council by a person who does not have the required qualifications or experience that person has obtained and taken into account in that person's general advice the advice from an appropriately qualified or experienced person; and
3. a copy or written transcript of the advice received has been provided to council."



Kristen Desmond  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

"Notes: Section 65(1) of the *Local Government Act 1993 (Tas)* requires the General Manager to ensure that any advice, information or recommendation given to the council (or a council committee) is given by a person who has the qualifications or experience necessary to give such advice, information or recommendation. Section 65(2) forbids council from deciding any matter which requires the advice of a qualified person without considering that advice."

At West Tamar Council, the title Chief Executive Officer is a term of reference for the General Manager as appointed by Council pursuant to section 61 of the *Local Government Act 1993 (Tas)*. For the avoidance of doubt, Chief Executive Officer means General Manager for the purposes of the *Local Government Act 1993 (Tas)* and all other legislation administered by or concerning Council.

## 4 MAYOR'S MESSAGE - 2024/2025 ANNUAL REPORT

As Mayor, I am proud to present the West Tamar Council's 2024/25 Annual Report, highlighting our ongoing dedication to delivering quality infrastructure, services and community-centric programs for our residents over the past financial year.

And as a member of our local community, I can proudly say that the Council and its elected members have maintained their commitment to improving the quality of life for West Tamar residents while ensuring sustainable growth, financial security and ongoing development across the municipality.

This financial year, Council has delivered almost \$12 million in capital expenditure, an incredible achievement that reflects our considered and sustainable approach to asset management and ongoing investment in community infrastructure projects.

Of that amount, \$7.1 million was allocated to the renewal of existing assets, ensuring the continued serviceability of key Council infrastructure, while \$4.7 million was spent developing new and upgraded assets.

The past five years have been particularly challenging for local government. Ongoing concerns regarding cost of living pressures and the increasing cost of housing - particularly building new ones - has seen the spotlight fall on local and state governments to deliver savings to their communities, while continuing to provide stability and increased services to allow for towns and cities to grow and thrive.

It's a never-ending juggling act for councils - keeping rate rises to a minimum while maintaining or increasing the services they provide - all while remaining fiscally responsible and managing a bottom line in the black.

That's why it is encouraging to see from my perspective that once again West Tamar has recorded an underlying surplus of \$700,000 following a \$3.35 million surplus in 2023/24.

Being in a strong position financially allows Council to maintain a steady ship, while retaining the ability to ride out any unexpected storms that may lay off over the horizon.

In this year's Annual Report, there's a fascinating, informative infographic that outlines how Council spends each \$100 of ratepayer money it receives.

As an example, \$8.28 of that \$100 is spent on maintaining and upgrading our parks and reserves, \$23.90 is spent on local roads (including bridges, stormwater and street lighting), while a further \$14.05 is allocated to community services such as operating the Beaconsfield Mine & Heritage Centre, our community grants programs as well as the many wonderful cultural activities Council provides throughout the year.

I was fortunate over the past year to officiate at two community celebrations that collectively recognised the hard work and ingenuity of Council officers with the official opening of the \$2.5 million Legana Sports Oval and the \$2 million redevelopment of the Windsor Oval.

The Legana Oval project was funded by the West Tamar Council, with a \$400,000 contribution from the Education Department and its use is shared between the school community and the broader general public.

The community celebration, which included an official ribbon-cutting event, was held in February with hundreds of locals joining staff and local sporting groups for a day of fun-filled activities.

Three months later, Council again celebrated the unveiling of another redeveloped sporting facility with the official opening of the Windsor Oval in May.

It was certainly no secret that the oval had been plagued with drainage issues for a number of years due to the poor condition of the playing surface, specifically over the winter months.

The redevelopment of the Windsor Oval began in late 2024 with the purpose of delivering the best value playing surface in Northern Tasmania.

I believe that has been achieved, and all that hard work culminated in a grandstand opening that featured scores of young sporting stars and hundreds of eager-eyed fans at the official opening in June.

It must be said that while there are some in our community who question the amount of money allocated to sporting grounds in our region, Council fully appreciates just how important these facilities are for our broader community.

Thousands of people - of all ages – use these type of facilities on a weekly basis in the West Tamar and the benefits of enjoying a healthy lifestyle are already well documented.

In closing, and as I reflect on the achievements of the past year, I can state categorically that West Tamar Council remains committed to the well-being and progress of our community, ensuring that we continue to create a West Tamar region that is vibrant, sustainable, and inclusive.



Christina Holmdahl  
**Mayor**

## 5 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S MESSAGE - 2024/2025 ANNUAL REPORT

It is my pleasure to present the West Tamar Council's Annual Report for 2024/25. In my two years at the helm as Chief Executive Officer, I am proud to have led a team that has successfully recorded back-to-back surpluses of just over \$4 million - a positive figure that will continue to enable us to deliver on an ambitious infrastructure plan over the coming 12 months.

For the 2024/25 financial year, Council's underlying surplus will be in the vicinity of \$700,000, coming off a \$3.3 million surplus the previous year.

This result allows Council to deliver its infrastructure projects at a time in which costs of materials and contract labour continues to increase well beyond both the Consumer Price Index and the Council Cost Index.

This year has been one of transformation for the West Tamar Council.

Embedding a constructive culture, filling vacancies that have existed across the organisation for a number of years have been a priority and one that I'm proud to say has been achieved.

Similarly, there are a number of success stories over the past 12 months.

From an internal perspective, West Tamar has enjoyed a significant jump in compliance levels against our Customer Service Request System - achieving an incredible 98.2 per cent rating, which is impressive from any perspective.

The West Tamar also experienced a tremendous jump in visitor numbers to the Beaconsfield Mine and Heritage Centre, recording more than 34,000 visitors during the year. This is a 10 per cent increase compared with the previous year.

Council also delivered more than \$11.8 million in capital works projects - including \$7.1 million in renewed assets and \$4.7 million in new and upgraded assets.

To ensure a high-level customer service Council regularly reviews and reports against its Customer Service Charter, achieving 98.2 per cent compliance rate with its Customer Service Request system over the year.

We were also able to finally sign off on the construction of the Beauty Point Foreshore Project, which is a significant milestone for the region. The completed project features a continuous foreshore trail, a new fully accessible (and fenced) children's playground, barbecue shelters, seating and picnic tables and new formalised car parking.

This project has certainly been a labour of love for many at West Tamar Council and I'm sure many of the staff, Councillor and members of the Beauty Point community are absolutely delighted with the finished product.

Two other signature, generational projects that were completed during the year were the Legana Sports Oval and the redeveloped Windsor Oval.

The \$2.5 million Legana Oval serves both the school community and the general public and will form part of a broader Legana Sport and Recreation Master Plan, which will guide the future development of Council land directly in front of the new primary school site.

Similarly, the \$2 million Windsor Oval redevelopment will be a god-send for many in the southern end of the community. For many years, the oval was plagued with drainage issues due to the poor condition of the playing surface, particularly in winter when it is used the most during football season.

It's fair to say that in 2025, the West Tamar boasts two of the finest sporting ovals outside a major Tasmanian city.

Finally, I would like to recognise the work and dedication of our Mayor, Christina Holmdahl, all our Councillors as well as our Executive Team for their leadership throughout the year.

The collaborative efforts of all these people - as well as our amazing Council officers - continue to make the West Tamar Council an incredibly capable and dedicated organisation that has an incredibly strong focus on serving and delivering for our community.



Kristen Desmond  
**Chief Executive Officer**

## 6 FINANCIAL REPORT

UNCONFIRMED

## 7 SUBMISSIONS TO THE 2024/2025 AGM

Nil

UNCONFIRMED

## 8 QUESTIONS TO THE 2024/2025 AGM

### 8.1 Questions on Notice

Nil

UNCONFIRMED

## 8.2 Questions without Notice

Nil

UNCONFIRMED

### 8.3 Responses to Previous AGM Questions on Notice



Enquiries: Office of the Chief Executive Officer  
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5 December 2024

Ms C Larner



By email: 

Dear Ms Larner

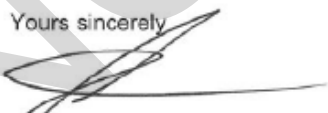
#### Response to Question on Notice – Annual General Meeting 19 November 2024

I refer to the question set out below which was taken on notice at the West Tamar Council Annual General Meeting on 19 November 2024 and now provide the following response:

**Question:** Further to the resignation of the former General Manager, there's been a formal investigation of workplace culture at this Council, which now boasts a \$60,000 annual expenditure to address the issue as I understand it, the cultural officer or whatever the cultural oversight is. However, despite this ongoing cost, which I believe should not be necessary under expected professional management standards, I understand that there's currently an ongoing high rate of turnover of permanent staff and resulting financial blowout of labour hire costs, and I'd be interested in what those figures are, wondering why they're not in the Annual Report?

Information contained in the Annual Report relates to the 2023/2024 financial year. Staff turnover rates are published in the Quarterly Reports which are publicly available on the West Tamar Council Website.

Yours sincerely



Kristen Desmond  
Chief Executive Officer

## 9 MOTIONS

*S72B of the Local Government Act 1993 states:*

### *72B Annual General Meeting*

- (4) Only electors in the municipal area are entitled to vote at an Annual General Meeting.*
- (5) A motion at an Annual General Meeting is passed by a majority of votes taken by a show of hands or by any other means of ascertaining the vote the council determines.*
- (6) A motion passed at an Annual General Meeting is to be considered at the next meeting of the council.*

## 9.1 Motions on Notice

### 9.1.1 Motion - Scandia Documentary Photography

#### MOTION

Moved: Scandia Documentary Photography Pty Ltd

An AGM motion that West Tamar Council develop and apply strategies to deal with Sovereign Citizens in West Tamar Municipality.

**MOTION LAPSED FOR WANT OF A SECONDER**

### 9.1.2 Motion - Mr P Kearney

#### MOTION

Moved: Peter Kearney OAM

The West Tamar Council develops and adopts policy initiatives, including planning reform, that deliver available, affordable, accessible and sufficient housing for all who live or wish to live in the West Tamar.

Minute No. 25/147

#### DECISION

Moved: Peter Kearney OAM

Seconded: Cr Manticas

The West Tamar Council develops and adopts policy initiatives, including planning reform, that deliver available, affordable, accessible and sufficient housing for all who live or wish to live in the West Tamar.

#### VOTING

For: Mayor Cr Holmdahl, Deputy Mayor Cr Shegog, Cr Allen, Cr Ferguson, Cr Ireland, Cr Lyons, Cr Manticas and Cr Sladden

**4 Electors**

Against: Nil

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 12/0**

## 9.2 Motions without Notice

### MOTION

Moved: Wendy French

Seconded:

That Council:

1. Conduct a traffic numbers count for Gravelly Beach Road from North Speed limit sign to Beach Road turnoff; and a traffic numbers count for Little Swan Point Road from Calvert's Lane turnoff to Gravelly Beach Road.
2. Request that the traffic numbers report provide recommendations for improved safety and/or road maintenance measures given the assessment findings.
3. Receives the report at a future Council meeting, with the findings and recommended actions presented for Council's consideration.

**MOTION LAPSED FOR WANT OF A MOVER PRESENT AT THE MEETING OR A SECONDER**

## MOTION

Moved: James Walker

That West Tamar Council executes its own investigation into the inflow and infiltration of stormwater into the Legana Sewage Treatment Plant Lagoons during the calendar year 2026.

Minute No. 25/148

## DECISION

Moved: James Walker

Seconded: Peter Kearney OAM

That West Tamar Council executes its own investigation into the inflow and infiltration of stormwater into the Legana Sewage Treatment Plant Lagoons during the calendar year 2026.

## VOTING

For: Mayor Cr Holmdahl, Deputy Mayor Cr Shegog, Cr Allen, Cr Ireland, Cr Lyons and Cr Sladden

**4 Electors**

Against: Cr Ferguson and Cr Manticas

**CARRIED 10/2**

## MOTION

Moved: Peter Kearney OAM

West Tamar Council initiates a Council Award called the "Geoff Dickinson Best and Fairest Memorial Award".

**Minute No. 25/149**

## DECISION

Moved: Peter Kearney OAM

Seconded: Cr Allen

West Tamar Council initiates a Council Award called the "Geoff Dickinson Best and Fairest Memorial Award".

## VOTING

For: Mayor Cr Holmdahl, Deputy Mayor Cr Shegog, Cr Allen, Cr Ferguson, Cr Ireland, Cr Lyons, Cr Manticas and Cr Sladden

**4 Electors**

Against: Nil

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 12/0**

## 10 CLOSURE

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 12.11 pm.

UNCONFIRMED