



MINUTES

**Tuesday 18 August 2026
Ordinary Council Meeting**

WEBSITE: www.wtc.tas.gov.au

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UNCONFIRMED

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We start today's meeting by acknowledging and paying respects to the Ieterremairrener and pangerninghe Aboriginal people, the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we are gathered today.

Council pays its respects to their Elders past and present and acknowledges all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders here today.

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;

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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 Richard Ireland
Cr Caroline Lerner
Cr Geoff Lyons
Cr Josh Manticas
Cr Julie Sladden

1.2 In Attendance

Chief Executive Officer	Kristen Desmond
Director Corporate & Community	David Gregory
Director Community Assets	Dino De Paoli
Director Planning & Development	Michelle Riley
Director People, Culture & Safety	Richard Heyward
Executive Assistant to the CEO	Eleanor Moore
Manager Communications & Engagement	Simon Tennant
Personal Assistant to the CEO & Mayor	Kathryn Prince
Manager Community Development	Marcus Grantham
Team Leader - Engineering	Craig West

1.3 Apologies and Leave of Absence

Leave of Absence - Cr Lynden Ferguson

2 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

2.1 Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting held 21 July 2026

RECOMMENDATION

That the Minutes of Council's Ordinary Meeting held on 21 July 2026 numbered 26/112 to 26/130 as provided to Councillors be received and confirmed as a true record of proceedings.

Minute No. 26/131

DECISION

Moved: Cr Ireland

Seconded: Cr Sladden

That the Minutes of Council's Ordinary Meeting held on 21 July 2026 numbered 26/112 to 26/130 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 Ireland, Cr Lerner, Cr Lyons, Cr Manticas and Cr Sladden

Against: Nil

Abstained: Nil

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 8/0

3 LATE ITEMS

Nil

UNCONFIRMED

4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN A MATTER OF A COUNCILLOR

Cr Larner Item 11.1 Pecuniary and other Interest - Exeter Structure Plan Submissions.

As property owner in Exeter and Gravelly Beach, I have made representation and joint representation to DRAFT Exeter Structure Plan regarding change to zoning LPS and/or minimum lot size. I have also made non-pecuniary representation to various provision in the Draft Plan regarding Residential Lot sizes, proximity to transmission lines and provision of new court infrastructure.

5 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

5.1 Public Question Time

Commenced at: 1.34pm

Concluded at: 1.49pm

Herbert Staubmann, Liffey

Statement: So, my name is Herbert Staubmann, and I am not a West Tamar Council ratepayer, so to declare my interest, I am part of the Habitat Plants team who have been growing and supplying Tasmanian native plants to the West Tamar Council for a very long time. We supplied, and I helped Tony Roberts - the gardener in question here - planting trees here at Windsor Park, trees that were subsequently removed to build this building that we are now in. But some of the trees we planted back then are still out there and are big trees now.

So I've had the pleasure to see the development of this unique landscape over all these years. I know of a few interesting and private gardens that were created with just Tasmanian plants. I know a few interesting public gardens that were created with just Tasmanian plants. The Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens in Hobart have recently redone a section in their gardens that is dedicated to Tasmanian plants. And in that section, they have a small subsection where they are demonstrating that with some imagination and with a bit of experimenting, many Tasmanian plants can be used and treated just like common garden plants or widely available garden plants. So when I say treated like common plants, it means they can be mass-planted, they can be clipped into hedges, they can be espaliered, shaped into small trees, and so on.

Windsor Park is a demonstration of all this and much more on a massive scale. That is really the main point I want to make. What botanical gardens are doing on a very small scale, what's happened here is just big. So, it's not just a collection of Tasmanian plants, and for better words, it is the only working landscape anywhere in Tasmania made entirely with Tasmanian plants. From the traffic lights out on the West Tamar Highway, around the buildings here, around the car parks, around the sports fields, the walking tracks, the dog walking area, the stormwater wetland ponds, the works depot, down to the Tamar River - all created with Tassie plants. There really is nowhere or there's nothing anywhere in Tasmania that comes anywhere near it. I think West Tamar Council should be very proud of what has been achieved here and should do everything they can to maintain and continue this unique project.

Response: *Thank you, Mr Staubmann. And we appreciate your very, very complimentary words. We at Council are very aware of the wonderful precinct that our staff, led by Tony Roberts, has created here. It is unique, and there will be an item in today's agenda to recognize this area as a botanic garden. So thank you very much for coming along. Your little speech is quite timely. Thank you.*

Janet Hallam, Riverside

Statement: Thank you, Councillor Holmdahl. I wasn't quite sure of the precedent, and the reason I wanted to make a statement, or at least put my name there, I wanted to be ready to congratulate you if that motion is passed. So I've sort of pre-empted. That was really all I wanted to say. Thank you.

Response: *Well, you can still make a statement if you wish to add to the weight of the issue.*

Statement: Well, as you know, the idea for naming this area as a botanic garden was suggested to us by a visiting tourist group, which had been made up of a combination of people from the Friends of Botanic Gardens around Australia. And I will say there's another tour by this group due in November, but they came several years ago. They looked at this area, they looked at the idea behind it, they looked at what had been achieved, and one of them turned to me and they said, "Why on earth isn't this a botanic garden?" And of course, I said, "Well, I don't know." So that is how the idea was prompted at the beginning. So I'm just here to listen and support. Thank you.

Response: *Thank you very much. And for those of the public gallery that don't know, we work very closely with the Australian Native Plant Society, and they have their propagation premises here down at the back of the garden. And anybody that hasn't walked all the trails around here, I could thoroughly recommend it. It's a lovely, lovely walk.*

Kay Pallett, Rosevears

Statement: All I wanted to is to support Janet.

Response: *Okay, fine, that's quite alright.*

Roy Pallett, Rosevears

Statement: Likewise, just support what's been done, so that's fine. What's been said already.

Gillian Zacks, Greens Beach

Statement: My name is Gillian Zacks and I am a West Tamar resident. And just thank you very much is my main message, and to back up what Herbert Staubmann has said, and really to thank whoever it was that started this whole concept, and all the Councillors and obviously people who have been in the decision-making process along, that it has happened and been such a positive, wonderful outcome. And thank you very much, that's my main message.

Response: *Thank you for your compliments.*

Cheryl Swan, Paper Beach

Statement: Good afternoon. I'm just looking at some wording on page 99 of the agenda today. Strategic Plan: Our Heart, Community and Wellbeing. Goal 9: People can reach services, information and civic life more easily across the whole municipality. For me, that would include accessibility for everyone in our municipality to move around our community.

As you know, as I've previously stated, I've been attending these meetings for the best part of 10 years. I've been requesting, advocating, pleading for residential areas, especially some of our oldest residential areas such as Swan Point, Paper Beach, to have some footpaths installed. And year after year after year, those requests are ignored and not included in annual plans and strategic plans and whatsoever. Not just in Paper Beach, Swan Point. Every year I'm completely disheartened and disappointed, broken-hearted actually, for the inequity that is happening in our community. It seems that the same areas get the same attention over and over again - redone, redone, redone. And yet some areas that are residential areas are overlooked, that might be a little bit off the main highway, off the main areas, have less of a population. So why should people in those areas be downgraded and not treated the same? Because they're not. So I'd like to know when is this Council going to show equity, care, and respect for residents in the areas where less and less and less attention is given by the works of this Council? Because over the years, it's definitely deteriorated down my area. That's all I'm going to say.

Response: *Thank you, Ms. Swan.*

Cush Allison, Port Sorell

Question 1: I have two questions today. The first one regarding West Tamar Council as partners with 29 other councils in Tasmania of TasWater: Can the Council answer what negotiations has the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, any Councillors, any Executive had through West Tamar as owners of TasWater and Firmus?

Response: *I will take that question on notice, Mr. Allison, and you will be responded to in the appropriate time.*

Question 2: And my other question is: With West Tamar's support or non-support of the Firmus AI factory, can the West Tamar Council answer the benefits and the costs to the West Tamar community of the long-term effect of the AI data centre to the West Tamar community?

Response: *Again, I will take that question on notice and we will respond to you.*

Statement: And can I just invite all Councillors, there's a community gathering happening at Exeter on Sunday. You may have heard about it through social media, and I'd just like to table the flyer that's been going around and personally invite all Councillors and Executives to Sunday.

Response: *Yes, you can. We'll take that.*

Paul Cruse, Beauty Point

Question 1: I have one question in four parts, and firstly I would like an explanation of, with the upcoming election, the process for accepting potential candidates. For example, do they undergo a police check?

Question 2: The second part is, are they required to declare evidence of any criminal record, if applicable?

Question 3: The next part is, are they required to declare any involvement in unscrupulous business activities or dealings?

Question 4: And the sitting Councillors who are seeking re-election, are they required to inform the voters of any unscrupulous behaviour prior to them being re-nominated?
Thank you.

Response: *All of the questions that you have asked are a matter for the Tasmanian Electoral Commission, not the West Tamar Council.*

5.2 Public Questions on Notice

5.2.1 B Brown, Legana

Question 1: What was the total cost to Council of the engagement with consultant Stephen Yarwood referred to in Council's media release of 27 May 2026, covering the AI supported development of the Draft Community Strategic Plan and associated workshops and analysis?

Response: *West Tamar Council paid \$19,500 excluding GST (\$21,450 including GST) for the preparation of its 10-Year Community Strategic Plan 2026–2036. This fee included a fixed fee of \$2,000 for travel, car hire and accommodation for Stephen Yarwood travel to Tasmania for all face-to-face workshops. It should also be noted that Council retains all intellectual property from the process.*

There were no variations, no additional invoices and no reimbursable expenses. Clause 3.2 of the Professional Services Agreement was explicit: "All expenses are included within the Fee. There are no additional Reimbursable Expenses." Council's exposure was capped at \$19,500.

The agreement was priced based seven consultant days. The work took approximately thirteen days. The difference was absorbed by the consultant.

	Contracted	Actual
Consultant days	7	~13
Professional fee	\$17,500	\$17,500
Effective rate per day	\$2,500	~\$1,350

For context, the standard day rate for this practice is \$4,000. Thirteen days at standard rates is \$52,000 of professional time. Council was charged \$17,500.

A breakdown of outputs of the consultancy is set out below:

Reports and documents produced for Council	18
Pages of analytical reporting	154
Published Plan	28 pages
Words of written analysis	more than 50,000
Source pages reviewed	more than 1,800
Presentations built	8, totalling 326 slides

Hours of face-to-face facilitation

13.5

Question 2: What controls currently apply within West Tamar Council to the use of artificial intelligence by staff and Councillors?

Response: *Select Council officers have been authorised by the Chief Executive Officer to utilise Microsoft Copilot and Google NotebookLM for efficiency and the processing of large datasets. These tools are deployed and operate under strict commercial privacy agreements and function as secure, ring-fenced environments. This ensures that all information is retained exclusively within the Council's secure tenant, preventing data leakage and explicitly prohibiting its use in the ongoing training of public AI models. Council officer access to other AI models is blocked on a case-by-case basis through IT controls.*

The use of AI by Councillors must be in accordance with any requirements of the Local Government Act 1993 and other relevant legislation including the Local Government (Code of Conduct) Order 2024.

Question 3: May Council staff enter Council information into artificial intelligence tools, including draft reports, community submissions and documents containing personal information about residents?

Response: *Per the response to question 2, Council officers may utilise approved tools exclusively within Council's secure tenant, where authorised.*

5.2.2 B McDonnell, Winkleigh

Question 1: Who voted to reduce winkleigh road speed limit from 100 to 80kmh?

Response: *In the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 16 September 2025, Council voted unanimously (9/0) to endorse the recommendations of the road safety review for Winkleigh Road between the West Tamar Highway and Glengarry Road, and authorised the Chief Executive Officer to write to the Commissioner for Transport to formally request approval to reduce the 100km/hr posted speed limits on both Winkleigh Road and Flowery Gully Road to 80km/hr.*

Question 2: Why was there no mail out to the residents of Winkleigh Road asking their thoughts? I've asked several people who live on Winkleigh Road and no one knew or was asked.

Response: *In August 2023, due to receipt of numerous requests from members of the public to look at specific areas, Council undertook public consultation on a speed limit review to ascertain the community's opinion on whether the speed limits in the municipality were considered appropriate. The results of the survey were included in Council's Ordinary Council meeting in December 2023 and Council Officers identified a number of priority areas for speed limit review.*

In April 2025, Council tabled a petition from residents of Winkleigh Road, requesting that Council consider a reduction in the speed limit on Winkleigh Road. As Council has already engaged a consultant to undertake a review of Auburn Road and Rowella Road as part of the larger piece of work which came out of the 2023 public consultation, their scope of work was expanded to include Winkleigh Road.

The consultants provided key recommendations to Council, which included:

- *Proposed reduction in the posted speed limit from 100km/hr to 80km/hr;*
- *Installation of additional speed limit and warning signage;*
- *Centreline improvement and installation of RRPM's (retro reflective pavement markers); and*
- *Installation of barrier fencing.*

As set out above, the recommendations were unanimously endorsed by Council in September 2025.

Question 3: Before any limits are changed can council not go any further and ask the people/businesses who live on the road their opinion

Response: *Council had received substantial feedback from residents living on Winkleigh Road before the decision to write to the Commissioner for Transport was made.*

5.2.3 G Hay, Beauty Point

Question 1: At a Public meeting 25Th July at Beaconsfield The Mayor was fielded a question on the expected financial return to Rate Payers for their investment in an industrial sub division at Leganna know Innova Park, part way through The Mayors well informed reply into the expected financial gain for the Rate Payers she was stopped by the CEO on the grounds that information on potential returns on that investment where “Commercially in confidence”.

To my knowledge after a lot of effort I understand that 3 lots have been sold, one to FERMEN HQ on extremely favourable terms , Tas Petroleum & lastly to State Growth for a proposed Ambulance Station, a rate Payer should not have to pay for a search of the Land Titles Office to discover where their rates are used and then some how make an estimate the return to them.

Can the CEO please explain the rational in claiming the returns of rate payers investment would be commercially in Confidence. ?

Response: *The price of light industrial land at Innova Business Park is commercial in confidence to ensure that Council can receive the best possible price for the sale of its land. Whilst sale negotiations are underway, it would be inappropriate to discuss land prices.*

Question 2: The Innova Park is an industrial sub division funded by Rate Payers , there is no signage showing its for sale, there is no promotion through a specialist real estate agent, if a industrial was to come to Tasmania and the State badly need their investment they would have no idea of the land being for sale & development and thus future employment.

How is the West Tamar Council expecting to sell the vacant lots ?

Response: *Council is working with agencies such as the Office of the Coordinator General, Austrade, NTDC and has received numerous EOI's from proponents wishing to buy blocks. Major investors looking for light industrial land usually have contact with the above agencies and would certainly know of the land availability. Council has a firm vision on what type of development it would like to see at this site and the avenues being used to negotiate sales is appropriate.*

Question 3: The Council's Grants and Assistance Policy offers a variety of Rate Pters funds as grants to support various sectors in Business as you acknowledged in my Questions in July 2026 to the question –

“As these private enterprise companies close shop or go broke, will the ratepayers have their funds returned” ?

Your reply - “Should the project not proceed, substantially change, or is not delivered, conditions of the Funding Agreement require full or partial repayment”.

My question is - that you require a refund of the grant if the project changes or is not delivered in line with the terms of the grant agreement or becomes insolvent

has the West Tamar Council a PPSR registration as a creditor over the assets of the grant recipient to protect the Rate Payers Funds ?

Response:

West Tamar Council's Business Grants program features a number of safeguards to protect Council's investment on behalf of its ratepayers. Successful grant applicants are required to complete a detailed grant acquittal, which will be provided as part of the funding agreement package. Applicants must also successfully demonstrate the project outcomes and provide a statement of income and expenditure.

Council retains the right to request an independent audit if the financial information in the report is not deemed sufficient. If an applicant is unable to provide the reporting information required, they will be ineligible for any potential future funding.

Successful applicants are required to present Council with a tax invoice to enable the payment to the approved grant amount.

In making a submission to the Grants program, all applicants must show that they operate with fewer than 20 full-time equivalent employees, have a valid ABN, and a principal place of business operations located within the West Tamar Council area. They must also contribute at least 10% of the overall project cost.

Applicants must also attest that they are not be subject to any legal impediment or adverse circumstances, they must be able to complete and acquit the project by the due date outlined in an approved funding agreement, while they must also provide a letter of support with all applications.

5.2.4 S Carter, Beauty Point

Question 1: The West Tamar Council (WTC) actively supports and funds regional bodies to drive strategic development and environmental management. Specifically, the Council partners with Tamar NRM to implement regional frameworks and advocates for local interests. Additionally, WTC paid \$85,101 in annual membership fees to the Northern Tasmania Development Corporation (NTDC) for both the 2023/24 and 2024/25 financial years to support regional industry development.

Recent local developments and major capital investments—such as the \$4.85 million allocation for a Recyclable Material Facility—raise critical questions regarding regional collaboration, transparency, and asset allocation.

How do the strategic objectives of Tamar NRM and the NTDC align with the recent major industrial data centre proposal in George Town? Specifically, on what exact date did the NTDC become aware of this proposal? If regional bodies or neighbouring councils were briefed as early as January 2026, why did WTC not proactively share this information with our community given its immense regional significance?

Response: *NTDC became aware of the proposal when there was media attention around the DA being submitted. It was not formally briefed on the project.*

Question 2: Given that major regional industrial developments appear to progress independently of NTDC initiatives, how does the Council justify the ongoing annual expenditure of \$85,101 for this membership, and how is its return on investment measured?

Response: *NTDC's role is not to originate or control every major private development in Northern Tasmania. Private investment can and should progress independently through proponents, councils and statutory approval processes. The value of NTDC membership is in what councils can achieve collectively that would be harder or less efficient to achieve individually — including advocating for regionally significant projects that have been agreed to by members, coordinated planning, shared research, stakeholder engagement and project development.*

For West Tamar, NTDC supports issues that cross municipal boundaries, including regional land use planning, population and workforce planning, infrastructure priorities, economic development and coordinated advocacy to State and Federal Government. NTDC also provides specialist capability that councils may otherwise need to procure or duplicate themselves, including strategic planning, regional research, advocacy, major project management and facilitation across government and industry. Membership provides West Tamar with a stronger collective voice, particularly to state and federal government, where the majority of our infrastructure investment such as roads, sewerage, bridges, walkways, power, etc comes from. NTDC's job is to act as a conduit between councils, industry and government, and to advocate for agreed Northern Tasmanian priorities.

The return on investment from NTDC is assessed against outcomes agreed with member councils across the North.

Question 3: Will the new \$4.85 million Recyclable Material Facility be equipped and permitted to accept commercial e-waste from large-scale industrial projects like the George Town data centre? Additionally, what specific growth projections and forward estimates were used to justify this multi-million-dollar capital expenditure?

Response: *I am unable to answer this question as I have no knowledge of the Facility you are referring to. Council has not and has no plans to build a Recyclable Material Facility.*

UNCONFIRMED

5.3 Responses to Questions from Previous Public Question Time

5.3.1 A Taylor, Beauty Point (presented by H Knyn, Rowella)

Question 1: Will the Council publicly support lobbying the State Minister to urgently declare the proposed Data Centre at Bell Bay as Major Project under the Land Use Planning and Approvals Amendment Major Projects Act 2020?

Response: *A Motion on Notice from Cr Caroline Lerner was brought to the July 2026 Ordinary Council Meeting in relation to the above. The motion was not supported by the Councillors.*

Question 2: How will the Council ensure that high water and power consumption does not negatively impact local residents, agriculture and the Tamar River ecosystem?

Response: *It is not the role of councils in Tasmania to monitor water or power consumption. That task sits with the relevant State Government authorities.*

Question 3: How does the Council plan to expand public consultation given widespread community concerns over secret development and the lack of State Specific Regulation for AI infrastructure?

Response: *The Council is not aware of any "secret developments" for any infrastructure developments - AI or otherwise - in the region. It is a statutory requirement that all Development Applications lodged with Council are advertised publicly for 14 days in the local newspaper, a site notice placed on the relevant property boundary and notifying all adjoining owners/occupiers by mail. Submitted applications are also listed on the Council's website.*

At the July Ordinary Council Meeting, Councillors unanimously supported a Motion without Notice from Cr Josh Manticas, requesting Council to write to the Ministers for Planning and Environment to ask whether Tasmania's current planning and environmental laws are fully equipped to assess modern, high-tech, emerging industries and whether in their view introducing clearer statewide standards would provide greater certainty for communities, councils, and developers.

Once correspondence has been provided by the relevant ministers, Council will publish those responses in its next available meeting agenda.

5.3.2 B Brown, Legana (presented by H Knyn, Rowella)

Question 1: Will Council request that the Minister for Housing and Planning declare the proposed Firmus Technologies data centre at Bell Bay, George Town DA 2026/29, a Major Project under the Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993, so that its regional impacts across the West Tamar are independently assessed before a decision is made?

Response: *A Motion on Notice from Cr Caroline Lerner was brought to the July 2026 Ordinary Council Meeting in relation to the above. The motion was not supported by the Councillors.*

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday 18 August 2026

5.3.3 C Allison, Port Sorell

Our Ref: GO.COU.192

Enquiries: Office of the Chief Executive Officer
Phone : (03) 6323 9300

31 July 2026

Cush Allison
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



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Dear Mr Allison,

Response to Questions on Notice – Ordinary Council Meeting 21 July 2026

I refer to the questions set out below taken on notice at the West Tamar Council meeting on 21 July 2026, and now provide the following responses:

Question 1: With the AI data centre opening up, the community response - I was the coordinator of a meeting at West Tamar where 200 people attended. I also attended the Exeter meeting where 150 people attended in your municipality. There is lots of questions asked there being asked by the community.

Are the councillors aware and informed of the health impacts—direct health impacts—of the EMF (electromagnetic field), the LNF (low-noise frequency), and specifically the ELF (the extreme low frequency), within a 12 km radius of any of the associated infrastructure that is proposed with the AI data centres, including substations, transmission lines, and wind turbines?

I did mention 12-kilometre radius and the associated infrastructure, which includes the transmission lines and substations, which are in West Tamar's Municipality

Response: *The proposal for the data centre will be assessed by the George Town Council, which will be required to take into consideration all the concerns raised by its residents, and those raised by West Tamar residents who have made representations during the statutory advertising period. In the context of its role as the Planning Authority and the requirements of the Tasmanian Planning Scheme.*

Yours sincerely



Kristen Desmond
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday 18 August 2026

5.3.4 G Hay, Beauty Point

Our Ref: GO.COU.192

Enquiries: Office of the Chief Executive Officer
Phone : (03) 6323 9300

5 August 2026

Graeme Hay
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

By email: [REDACTED]

Dear Mr Hay

Response to Questions on Notice – Ordinary Council Meeting 21 July 2026

I refer to the questions set out below taken on notice at the West Tamar Council meeting on 21 July 2026, and now provide the following responses:

Question 1: The West Tamar Council last month increased the rates again. It appears with complete disregard of the capacity of ratepayers in the shire or the council area to pay. You seem to be ignorant of the fact that Tasmania has the highest unemployment rate of any state and getting worse—300 jobs lost in the last two weeks. It's got the lowest economic growth in Australia. As you probably all know, credit growth is being reduced, and that appears and will lead to what obviously is going to be a credit squeeze and possibly a recession. In the last quarterly report, delinquency rates in payment of rates to the West Tamar Council are approaching 25%. What plan has the Council got in place when delinquency rates—payment of rates—becomes considerably higher, in fact, will be a record for the late payment of rates? What's the Council's plan?

Response: Council closely monitors rates balances and has processes in place to follow up any overdue amounts. When a ratepayer has difficulty meeting the required payment, officers discuss payment arrangements and where appropriate encourage them to apply for assistance through Council's Financial Hardship Assistance Policy.

The amount of outstanding rates indicated in the 3rd Quarter Performance Report is slightly higher at 18.9% than the prior year at 18.3% with the payment of final instalments not yet past due.

Question 2: The question relates again to what appears disregard to reasonable use of ratepayer funding. There's been a large amount of ratepayer funding paid as grants to private enterprises in the West Tamar Council area. These are, I remind you, private enterprises—not semi-government or government institutions, or organisations that support



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the community—private enterprise. As these private enterprise companies close shop or go broke, will the ratepayers have their funds returned?

Response: Council's Grants and Assistance Policy offers a variety of grants to support various sectors of our municipality. Council recently introduced a competitive Business Grants program where eligible small businesses are able to apply for financial support for projects that support local business growth and/or encourage innovation and investment within the municipality. Potential projects go through a rigorous assessment process, and successful applicants must enter into a Funding Agreement with Council, submit regular project updates, and provide a final acquittal. Should the project not proceed, substantially change, or is not delivered, conditions of the Funding Agreement require full or partial repayment of the grant funds and the return of unspent funds. Once a project is complete and fully acquitted there are no further obligations regarding the return of funds.

Yours sincerely



Kristen Desmond
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

5.3.5 J Gray, Exeter

Our Ref: GO.COU.192

Enquiries: Office of the Chief Executive Officer
Phone : (03) 6323 9300

31 July 2026

Joanna Grey
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

By email: [REDACTED]

Dear Ms Grey

Response to Questions on Notice – Ordinary Council Meeting 21 July 2026

I refer to the questions set out below taken on notice at the West Tamar Council meeting on 21 July 2026, and now provide the following responses:

Question 1: When an AI development proposal is submitted to the West Tamar Council, is the Council aware of the scale of community concern, and will you, as our representatives, base your actions on those concerns?

Response: Yes, Council is aware of the concerns raised by a number of people in the community regarding data centres. The question, however, is hypothetical as Council is not aware of ANY proposal for a data centre development in the West Tamar. What we can say is that under the existing Tasmanian Planning Scheme, Council would be limited to assessing an application for a data centre under the provisions laid out in the scheme. That doesn't mean Council wouldn't be aware of community concerns - it means it is simply doing the job it has been directed to do under legislation by the State Government.

Question 2: Are you aware that the communities and businesses here in Australia and overseas are increasingly successful in legal challenges to these AI factories?

Response: Council is aware of a number of legal challenges to the approval of data centre applications.

Yours sincerely



Kristen Desmond
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



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ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday 18 August 2026

5.3.6 H Knyn, Rowella

Our Ref: GO.COU.192

Enquiries: Office of the Chief Executive Officer
Phone : (03) 6323 9300

31 July 2026

Heather Knyn
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

By email: [REDACTED]

Dear Ms Knyn



Eden Street, Riverside TAS 7250
PO Box 16, Riverside TAS 7250
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p. 03 6323 9300

wtcc.tas.gov.au

Response to Questions on Notice – Ordinary Council Meeting 21 July 2026

I refer to the questions set out below taken on notice at the West Tamar Council meeting on 21 July 2026, and now provide the following responses:

Question 1: Does George Town Council have the resources and the manpower to research definitively the effects of this planning application?

Response: *The West Tamar Council cannot speak to the ability of any other council to administer its statutory planning obligations. That said, councils employ professional planning experts who are extremely well versed in the provisions of the Tasmanian Planning Scheme, which this application will be considered against.*

Question 2: Are the current regulations and legislation that this application is being judged upon be comprehensive enough to ensure the safety of surrounding residents?

Response: *Council has written to the Minister for Planning and the Minister for Environment and asked them to consider if the planning and environmental regulations are fit for purpose.*

Yours sincerely



Kristen Desmond
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



6 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.

7 PLANNING AUTHORITY

Council is now sitting as a planning authority. Each council acts as the planning authority for their municipality. In this role, councillors consider development applications and make administrative decisions that are based on the council's planning scheme. While councillors are obliged to consider the community's views, this does not mean they can vote in favour of those views while fulfilling the role of a planning authority. Councillors must make planning decisions based on whether a planning application is consistent with the local planning scheme, even if members of the community object to the planning proposal.

Nil

8 OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

8.1 CEO 1 - Council Workshops held in July and August

REPORT AUTHOR: Chief Executive Officer - Kristen Desmond

REPORT DATE: 12 August 2026

ATTACHMENTS: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives the report on Council Workshops held on 21 July, 4 August and 11 August 2026.

Minute No. 26/132

DECISION

Moved: Cr Allen

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Cr Shegog

That Council receives the report on Council Workshops held on 21 July, 4 August and 11 August 2026.

VOTING

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

Against: Nil

Abstained: Cr Larner

CARRIED 7/1

8.2 CEO 2 - Designation of Windsor Gardens as a Botanical Garden

REPORT AUTHOR: Chief Executive Officer - Kristen Desmond

REPORT DATE: 11 August 2026

ATTACHMENTS:

1. [8.2.1] Botanic Garden presentation - Australian Plant Society Tasmania Northern Group
2. [8.2.2] Letter of Support - West Tamar Landcare
3. [8.2.3] Petition to Declare Windsor Park Gardens a Botanical Garden

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Designates the gardens located at the Windsor Community Precinct as the "Windsor Community Precinct Botanical Gardens".
2. Requests the Chief Executive Officer to:
 - a. take all actions necessary to update signage at the Windsor Community Precinct; and
 - b. investigate the potential to establish a new Special Committee of Council or a community group of volunteers to assist with the maintenance of the Botanical Gardens and bring the outcome of the investigation to a future Workshop.

Minute No. 26/133

DECISION

Moved: Cr Lyons

Seconded: Cr Lerner

That Council:

1. Designates the gardens located at the Windsor Community Precinct as the "Windsor Community Precinct Botanical Gardens".
2. Requests the Chief Executive Officer to:
 - a. take all actions necessary to update signage at the Windsor Community Precinct; and
 - b. investigate the potential to establish a new Special Committee of Council or a community group of volunteers to assist with the maintenance of the Botanical Gardens and bring the outcome of the investigation to a future Workshop.

VOTING

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

Against: Nil

Abstained: Nil

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 8/0

UNCONFIRMED

8.3 CEO 3 - 4th Quarter Performance Report - April to June 2026

REPORT AUTHOR: Chief Executive Officer - Kristen Desmond

REPORT DATE: 11 August 2026

ATTACHMENTS: 1. [8.3.1] 4th Quarter Performance Report - April to June 2026

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Receives the West Tamar Council 4th Quarter Performance Report 1 April 2026 to 30 June 2026; and
2. Provides public access to the report as part of Council's commitment to ongoing good governance

Minute No. 26/134

DECISION

Moved: Cr Manticas

Seconded: Cr Allen

That Council:

1. Receives the West Tamar Council 4th Quarter Performance Report 1 April 2026 to 30 June 2026; and
2. Provides public access to the report as part of Council's commitment to ongoing good governance

VOTING

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

Against: Nil

Abstained: Nil

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 8/0

8.4 CEO 4 - Economic Diversification and Investment Strategy - Submission on Consultation Draft

REPORT AUTHOR: Chief Executive Officer - Kristen Desmond

REPORT DATE: 12 August 2026

ATTACHMENTS:

1. [8.4.1] Economic Diversification and Investment Strategy Submission
2. [8.4.2] Economic Diversification and Investment Strategy Consultation Draft

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Endorse the submission on the Economic Diversification and Investment Strategy Consultation Draft included as Attachment 1; and
2. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to sign the submission and submit to the Tasmanian Government before the close of the consultation period.

Minute No. 26/135

DECISION

Moved: Deputy Mayor Cr Shegog

Seconded: Cr Lyons

That Council:

1. Endorse the submission on the Economic Diversification and Investment Strategy Consultation Draft included as Attachment 1; and
2. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to sign the submission and submit to the Tasmanian Government before the close of the consultation period.

VOTING

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

Against: Cr Lerner

Abstained: Nil

CARRIED 7/1

8.5 CEO 5 - Funding Agreement for Tamar Valley Wine Route

REPORT AUTHOR: Chief Executive Officer - Kristen Desmond

REPORT DATE: 13 August 2026

ATTACHMENTS: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council authorises the Chief Executive Officer:

1. to negotiate a Funding Agreement with Tamar Valley Wine Route which includes the following conditions:
 - a. An allocation of \$10,000 for the 2026/27 financial year, \$10,000 for the 2027/28 financial year and \$5,000 for the 2028/29 financial year;
 - b. Tamar Valley Wine Route is excluded from applying for any further West Tamar Council funds, including any Grants, for the duration of the Funding Agreement; and
 - c. Tamar Valley Wine Route provide an annual acquittal and activity report each year relating to the previous financial year; and
 - d. The Taste of the Tamar event is to be held in the West Tamar municipality.
2. to take all steps necessary to sign the Funding Agreement once terms satisfactory to the Chief Executive Officer, City of Launceston Council and George Town Council are agreed.

Minute No. 26/136

DECISION

Moved: Cr Lyons

Seconded: Cr Allen

That Council authorises the Chief Executive Officer:

1. to negotiate a Funding Agreement with Tamar Valley Wine Route which includes the following conditions:
 - a. An allocation of \$10,000 for the 2026/27 financial year, \$10,000 for the 2027/28 financial year and \$5,000 for the 2028/29 financial year;
 - b. Tamar Valley Wine Route is excluded from applying for any further West Tamar Council funds, including any Grants, for the duration of the Funding Agreement; and
 - c. Tamar Valley Wine Route provide an annual acquittal and activity report each year relating to the previous financial year; and
 - d. The Taste of the Tamar event is to be held in the West Tamar municipality.

2. to take all steps necessary to sign the Funding Agreement once terms satisfactory to the Chief Executive Officer, City of Launceston Council and George Town Council are agreed.

VOTING

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

Against: Nil

Abstained: Nil

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 8/0

9 GOVERNANCE

9.1 Gov 1 - Review of Audit Panel Charter

REPORT AUTHOR: Governance Officer - Tom Chalmers

REPORT DATE: 6 August 2026

ATTACHMENTS:

1. [9.1.1] WT-HRM31.00 - Audit Panel Charter - August 2026 (DRAFT)
2. [9.1.2] WT-HRM31.00 - Audit Panel Charter - August 2026 (DRAFT) - Tracked changes

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Rescinds the existing Audit Panel Charter (Minute 94/22);
2. Adopts the updated Audit Panel Charter as presented, effective 18 August 2026;
3. Updates the version number to 5.00; and
4. Approves a review date of August 2030.

Minute No. 26/137

DECISION

Moved: Cr Sladden

Seconded: Cr Manticas

That Council:

1. Rescinds the existing Audit Panel Charter (Minute 94/22);
2. Adopts the updated Audit Panel Charter as presented, effective 18 August 2026;
3. Updates the version number to 5.00; and
4. Approves a review date of August 2030.

VOTING

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

Against: Nil

Abstained: Nil

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 8/0

UNCONFIRMED

10 SPECIAL COMMITTEES

10.1 Special 1 - Youth Advisory Council Minutes - July

REPORT AUTHOR: Youth Development Officer - Kirsten Howard

REPORT DATE: 9 July 2026

ATTACHMENTS: 1. [10.1.1] YAC Minutes - July 9 2026

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives and notes the minutes as presented for the Youth Advisory Council Meeting held on 9 July 2026.

Director Corporate & Community entered the meeting at 2.26pm

Minute No. 26/138

DECISION

Moved: Cr Allen

Seconded: Cr Manticas

That Council receives and notes the minutes as presented for the Youth Advisory Council Meeting held on 9 July 2026.

VOTING

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

Against: Nil

Abstained: Nil

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 8/0

10.2 Special 2 - Positive Ageing Committee Minutes - July

REPORT AUTHOR: Community Development Officer - Todd Mitchell

REPORT DATE: 6 August 2025

ATTACHMENTS: 1. [10.2.1] Positive Ageing Committee Meeting Minutes - 27 July 2026

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives and notes the minutes as presented for the West Tamar Positive Ageing Committee meeting held on 27 July 2026.

Minute No. 26/139

DECISION

Moved: Cr Larner

Seconded: Cr Allen

That Council receives and notes the minutes as presented for the West Tamar Positive Ageing Committee meeting held on 27 July 2026.

VOTING

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

Against: Nil

Abstained: Nil

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 8/0

10.3 Special 3 - Rowella Hall Committee Office Bearers and Meeting Schedule

REPORT AUTHOR: Director Corporate & Community - David Gregory

REPORT DATE: 12 August 2026

ATTACHMENTS:

1. [10.3.1] WT-TOR 03.00 Rowella Hall Committee Terms of Reference - June 2026
2. [10.3.2] Rowella Hall Committee Special Meeting Minutes - 27 July 2026

RECOMMENDATION

That Council in accordance with the WT-HRM 75.03 Rowella Hall Terms of Reference:

1. notes the appointment of the following Committee Community Members as Office Bearers of the Rowella Hall Committee:
 - Chairperson: Andrea O'Halloran
 - Deputy Chair: Josephine Rowe
 - Secretary: Charmaine Campbell
 - Treasurer: Amanda Cooper
2. notes the meeting schedule of the second Monday of every month at 6.30pm, commencing in August 2026.

Minute No. 26/140

DECISION

Moved: Deputy Mayor Cr Shegog

Seconded: Cr Lyons

That Council in accordance with the WT-HRM 75.03 Rowella Hall Terms of Reference:

1. notes the appointment of the following Committee Community Members as Office Bearers of the Rowella Hall Committee:
 - Chairperson: Andrea O'Halloran
 - Deputy Chair: Josephine Rowe
 - Secretary: Charmaine Campbell
 - Treasurer: Amanda Cooper
2. notes the meeting schedule of the second Monday of every month at 6.30pm, commencing in August 2026.

VOTING

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

Against: Nil

Abstained: Nil

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 8/0

Director Corporate & Community left the meeting at 2.37pm

UNCONFIRMED

11 DEVELOPMENT

11.1 Dev 1 - Adoption of the Exeter and District Structure Plan

REPORT AUTHOR: Director Planning & Development - Michelle Riley

REPORT DATE: 12 August 2026

ATTACHMENTS:

1. [11.1.1] Exeter & District Structure Plan
2. [11.1.2] Engagement Summary - Exeter and District Structure Plan - August 2026

Cr Larner left the meeting at 2:37 pm

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Adopt the Exeter and District Structure Plan 2026 (Attachment 1) as its long-term strategy for managing land use and development.

Director Planning & Development entered the meeting at 2.37pm

Minute No. 26/141

DECISION

Moved: Cr Manticas

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Cr Shegog

That Council:

1. Adopt the Exeter and District Structure Plan 2026 (Attachment 1) as its long-term strategy for managing land use and development.

VOTING

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

Against: Cr Lyons

Abstained: Nil

CARRIED 6/1

Cr Larner entered the meeting at 2:51 pm

Director Planning & Development left the meeting at 2.51pm

12 CORPORATE

12.1 Corp 1 - Capital Budget Carry-Overs & Amendments August 2026

REPORT AUTHOR: Chief Financial Officer - Jason Barker CPA

REPORT DATE: 07/08/2026

ATTACHMENTS:

1. [12.1.1] Capital Amendments outside of Carry- Overs Aug 26
2. [12.1.2] Capital Budget Additional Carry-Overs & Amendments Aug 26

RECOMMENDATION

That Council by absolute majority pursuant to section 82 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, adopts the 2025-26 capital carryovers and amendments into the 2026-27 estimates.

Chief Financial Officer entered the meeting at 2.51pm

Director Community Assets entered the meeting at 2.51pm

Minute No. 26/142

DECISION

Moved: Cr Lyons

Seconded: Cr Manticas

That Council by absolute majority pursuant to section 82 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, adopts the 2025-26 capital carryovers and amendments into the 2026-27 estimates.

VOTING

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

Against: Nil

Abstained: Nil

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 8/0

REQUIRES ABSOLUTE MAJORITY OF COUNCIL

Chief Financial Officer left the meeting at 2.59pm

Director Community Assets left the meeting at 2.59pm

13 COMMUNITY

13.1 Comm 1 - Australia Day Awards and Citizenship Ceremony 2027

REPORT AUTHOR: Director Corporate & Community - David Gregory
Acting Team Leader Community Services - Eleanor Moore

REPORT DATE: 5 August 2026

ATTACHMENTS: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Holds the West Tamar Council Australia Day Awards and Citizenship Ceremony dinner on Tuesday 26 January 2027;
2. Sponsors a family fun day at the Riverside Aquatic Centre on the declared public holiday; and
3. Holds a competitive Australia Day Community Event Grant round for events held in the municipality on the declared public holiday.

Director Corporate & Community entered the meeting at 2.59pm

Minute No. 26/143

DECISION

Moved: Cr Ireland

Seconded: Cr Sladden

That Council:

1. Holds the West Tamar Council Australia Day Awards and Citizenship Ceremony dinner on Tuesday 26 January 2027;
2. Sponsors a family fun day at the Riverside Aquatic Centre on the declared public holiday; and
3. Holds a competitive Australia Day Community Event Grant round for events held in the municipality on the declared public holiday.

VOTING

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

Against: Nil

Abstained: Nil

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 8/0

UNCONFIRMED

13.2 Comm 2 - Australia Day Awards - Nominations and Assessment

REPORT AUTHOR: Director Corporate & Community - David Gregory
Acting Team Leader Community Services - Eleanor Moore

REPORT DATE: 6 August 2026

ATTACHMENTS: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Seek nominations in the following categories:
 - a. Citizen of the Year
 - b. Youth Citizen of the Year
 - c. Community Event of the Year; and
 - d. Community Group of the Year,
2. Endorse an internal Assessment Panel to assess applications with recommendations being presented to Council for a final decision in its closed session of the November 2026 Ordinary Council Meeting. The panel will be formed by the following members:
 - a. Mayor
 - b. Chief Executive Officer
 - c. Manager Community Development, and
 - d. Community Development Officer.

Minute No. 26/144

DECISION

Moved: Deputy Mayor Cr Shegog

Seconded: Cr Manticas

That Council:

1. Seek nominations in the following categories:
 - a. Citizen of the Year
 - b. Youth Citizen of the Year

- c. Community Event of the Year; and
 - d. Community Group of the Year,
2. Endorse an internal Assessment Panel to assess applications with recommendations being presented to Council for a final decision in its closed session of the November 2026 Ordinary Council Meeting. The panel will be formed by the following members:
- a. Mayor
 - b. Chief Executive Officer
 - c. Manager Community Development, and
 - d. Community Development Officer.

VOTING

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

Against: Nil

Abstained: Nil

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 8/0

Director Corporate & Community left the meeting at 3.09pm

14 COMMUNITY ASSETS

Nil

UNCONFIRMED

15 PEOPLE, CULTURE & SAFETY

Nil

UNCONFIRMED

16 PETITIONS

Nil

UNCONFIRMED

17 NOTICE OF MOTIONS

17.1 Motions on Notice

17.1.1 Cr Larner - Motion regarding Acropolis Drive to Tamar Island shared path

REPORT AUTHOR: Chief Executive Officer - Kristen Desmond

REPORT DATE: 12 August 2026

ATTACHMENTS: Nil

MOTION

Moved: Cr Larner

That Council:

1. Notes the recent completion of the West Tamar Highway upgrades between Acropolis Drive and Freshwater Point Road, including a new shared pedestrian and cycle path.
2. Notes that completing the missing link between Acropolis Drive and the existing Tamar Island Trail would provide a significant step towards a continuing dedicated pedestrian and cycling route between Legana and Launceston.
3. Requests the Chief Executive Officer write to the Tasmanian Government seeking that the Acropolis Drive - Tamar island connection be identified as a priority section of the broader trail project, and that opportunities to expedite its planning, funding and delivery be explored while the broader feasibility work continues.

Minute No. 26/145

DECISION

Moved: Cr Larner

Seconded: Cr Sladden

That Council:

1. Notes the recent completion of the West Tamar Highway upgrades between Acropolis Drive and Freshwater Point Road, including a new shared pedestrian and cycle path.
2. Notes that completing the missing link between Acropolis Drive and the existing Tamar Island Trail would provide a significant step towards a continuing dedicated pedestrian and cycling route between Legana and Launceston.
3. Requests the Chief Executive Officer write to the Tasmanian Government seeking that the Acropolis Drive - Tamar island connection be identified as a priority section of the broader trail project, and that opportunities to expedite its planning, funding and delivery be explored while the broader feasibility work continues.

VOTING

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

Against: Nil

Abstained: Nil

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 8/0

UNCONFIRMED

17.1.2 Cr Manticas - Motion to advocate for public toilet at Beauty Point Boat Ramp

REPORT AUTHOR: Chief Executive Officer - Kristen Desmond

REPORT DATE: 12 August 2026

ATTACHMENTS: Nil

MOTION

Moved: Cr Manticas

That Council writes to the CEO of TasPorts requesting a meeting in relation to the potential provision of a toilet near the boat ramp in Beauty Point.

Minute No. 26/146

DECISION

Moved: Cr Manticas

Seconded: Cr Lyons

That Council writes to the CEO of TasPorts requesting a meeting in relation to the potential provision of a toilet near the boat ramp in Beauty Point.

VOTING

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

Against: Nil

Abstained: Nil

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 8/0

17.1.3 Cr Manticas - Motion to advocate for formalised footpath on Flinders Street, Beauty Point

REPORT AUTHOR: Chief Executive Officer - Kristen Desmond

REPORT DATE: 12 August 2026

ATTACHMENTS: Nil

MOTION

Moved: Cr Manticas

That Council's CEO seeks a meeting with the Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania and Building Tasmania to discuss the potential of a formalised footpath from 116 to 166 Flinders Street, Beauty Point.

Minute No. 26/147

DECISION

Moved: Cr Manticas

Seconded: Cr Allen

That Council's CEO seeks a meeting with the Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania and Building Tasmania to discuss the potential of a formalised footpath from 116 to 166 Flinders Street, Beauty Point.

VOTING

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

Against: Nil

Abstained: Nil

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 8/0

17.2 Motions without Notice

Meeting adjourned at 3.34pm

Meeting resumed at 3.51pm

MOTION WITHOUT NOTICE

Moved: Cr Larner

That Council:

1. notes the persistent and serious road safety concerns raised by participants at Council's Exeter Community Roadshow, including pedestrian near-misses, difficulties with vehicle access at intersections, and increasing traffic through Exeter's main business centre.
2. Arranges a public meeting in Exeter at the earliest practicable opportunity to enable residents to share their experiences, concerns and proposed solutions relating to pedestrian safety, intersection access and traffic management.
3. Provides residents with an opportunity at the meeting to present insights and submissions relevant to the Exeter Structure Plan, including consideration of an alternative bypass route away from the increasingly busy main business centre.
4. Invites the Hon. Kerry Vincent MLC, Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, and all candidates standing in the upcoming Council election to attend the public meeting.
5. Prepares a summary of issues, proposals and submissions raised at the meeting for consideration by Council and, where relevant, referral to the Tasmanian Government and inclusion in the Exeter Structure Plan process.

MOTION

Moved: Cr Larner

Seconded: Cr Manticas

That Council:

1. notes the persistent and serious road safety concerns raised by participants at Council's Exeter Community Roadshow, including pedestrian near-misses, difficulties with vehicle access at intersections, and increasing traffic through Exeter's main business centre.
2. Arranges a public meeting in Exeter at the earliest practicable opportunity to enable residents to share their experiences, concerns and proposed solutions relating to pedestrian safety, intersection access and traffic management.
3. Provides residents with an opportunity at the meeting to present insights and submissions relevant to the Exeter Structure Plan, including consideration of an alternative bypass route away from the increasingly busy main business centre.
4. Invites the Hon. Kerry Vincent MLC, Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, and all candidates standing in the upcoming Council election to attend the public meeting.

5. Prepares a summary of issues, proposals and submissions raised at the meeting for consideration by Council and, where relevant, referral to the Tasmanian Government and inclusion in the Exeter Structure Plan process.

Minute No. 26/148

PROCEDURAL MOTION

Moved: Cr Ireland

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Cr Shegog

That the motion be deferred.

VOTING

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

Against: Cr Larner and Cr Manticas

Abstained: Nil

CARRIED 6/2

MOTION WITHOUT NOTICE

Rationale

The resident explained at the Exeter Community Roadshow that she has repeatedly sought assistance. The purpose of this motion is not to adjudicate a private neighbour dispute or presume wrongdoing. It is to ensure that Council responds to an older resident's access and safety concerns with a coordinated point of contact, clear information, potential active referral and timely consideration of any compliance responsibilities that properly fall within Council's authority.

Moved: Cr Larner

That Council:

1. **Acknowledges** the concerns raised by a Blackwall ratepayer and resident at the recent Exeter Community Roadshow regarding obstruction of the newly approved and constructed access to her residential property, including the effect on her and her husband and the potential risk to urgent medical egress.
2. **Requests** that the Chief Executive Officer appoint a single senior Council contact to provide the residents with timely, compassionate and coordinated assistance in navigating Council processes relevant to the obstruction.
3. **Requests** that, subject to the residents' consent, the appointed contact meet with them, inspect the location where appropriate, clearly explain Council's jurisdiction and any applicable approval conditions, verge requirements, compliance or enforcement options, and provide those matters in writing in plain language.
4. **Requests** the Chief Executive Officer to arrange a prompt, evidence-based assessment of matters within Council's statutory and operational responsibility, including whether any structure, object, work or activity on the Council verge or road reserve is unauthorised, non-compliant or obstructs the approved access, and to take any lawful and proportionate compliance action that is warranted.
5. **Requests** that, where an issue falls outside Council's authority or concerns private legal rights, Council assist the residents by identifying the appropriate agency, service or dispute-resolution pathway, and avoiding the residents being unnecessarily redirected between services.
6. **Requests** that Council consider whether any reasonable interim measure within its powers is available to reduce immediate access or safety risks while the matter is assessed, without determining private property rights or prejudicing any party.
7. **Requires** that Council's engagement with all parties remain impartial, respectful and trauma-informed, and that identifying personal, health and legal information be handled confidentially and excluded from public reporting except where disclosure is authorised or legally required.
8. **Requests the CEO to provide** a confidential progress briefing to Councillors within 30 days, followed by written advice on completion outlining the steps taken, the outcome of Council's assessment and any further support offered, subject to privacy and legal obligations.

MOTION

Moved: Cr Larner

Seconded: Cr Sladden

That Council:

1. **Acknowledges** the concerns raised by a Blackwall ratepayer and resident at the recent Exeter Community Roadshow regarding obstruction of the newly approved and constructed access to her residential property, including the effect on her and her husband and the potential risk to urgent medical egress.
2. **Requests** that the Chief Executive Officer appoint a single senior Council contact to provide the residents with timely, compassionate and coordinated assistance in navigating Council processes relevant to the obstruction.
3. **Requests** that, subject to the residents' consent, the appointed contact meet with them, inspect the location where appropriate, clearly explain Council's jurisdiction and any applicable approval conditions, verge requirements, compliance or enforcement options, and provide those matters in writing in plain language.
4. **Requests** the Chief Executive Officer to arrange a prompt, evidence-based assessment of matters within Council's statutory and operational responsibility, including whether any structure, object, work or activity on the Council verge or road reserve is unauthorised, non-compliant or obstructs the approved access, and to take any lawful and proportionate compliance action that is warranted.
5. **Requests** that, where an issue falls outside Council's authority or concerns private legal rights, Council assist the residents by identifying the appropriate agency, service or dispute-resolution pathway, and avoiding the residents being unnecessarily redirected between services.
6. **Requests** that Council consider whether any reasonable interim measure within its powers is available to reduce immediate access or safety risks while the matter is assessed, without determining private property rights or prejudicing any party.
7. **Requires** that Council's engagement with all parties remain impartial, respectful and trauma-informed, and that identifying personal, health and legal information be handled confidentially and excluded from public reporting except where disclosure is authorised or legally required.
8. **Requests the CEO to provide** a confidential progress briefing to Councillors within 30 days, followed by written advice on completion outlining the steps taken, the outcome of Council's assessment and any further support offered, subject to privacy and legal obligations.

Minute No. 26/149

PROCEDURAL MOTION

Moved: Cr Ireland

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Cr Shegog

That the motion be deferred to an upcoming workshop.

VOTING

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

Against: Cr Larner, Cr Manticas and Cr Sladden

Abstained: Nil

CARRIED 5/3

MOTION WITHOUT NOTICE

Moved: Cr Larner

That Council:

1. Notes the need to ensure the 10 year Long-Term Financial Plan fully reflects real-world compounding cost and escalations for multi-year capital works projects.
2. Directs the CEO to provide a supplementary LTFP Capital Variance Report within 30 days, incorporating a standard multi-year model specifically for the remaining stages of the Legana Recreation Precinct.
3. Tables this report at the next ordinary meeting to ensure council's strategic forecasting remains robustly aligned with changing macroeconomic conditions.

AMENDED MOTION

Moved: Cr Larner

Seconded:

That Council:

1. Notes the need to ensure the 10 year Long-Term Financial Plan fully reflects real-world compounding cost and escalations for multi-year capital works projects.
2. Requests the CEO to provide a supplementary LTFP Capital Variance Report within 30 days, incorporating a standard multi-year model specifically for the remaining stages of the Legana Recreation Precinct.
3. Tables this report at the next ordinary meeting to ensure council's strategic forecasting remains robustly aligned with changing macroeconomic conditions.

MOTION LAPSED FOR WANT OF A SECONDER

17.3 Response to Councillor Motions on Notice

17.3.1 Cr Manticas - Response to Motion without notice July Ordinary Council Meeting

REPORT AUTHOR: Chief Executive Officer - Kristen Desmond

REPORT DATE: 12 August 2026

ATTACHMENTS: 1. [17.3.1.1] Ltr to West Tamar Council - Modern Planning and Environmental Laws in Tasmania

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with a response to the Motion without Notice from Cr Josh Manticas, resolution 26/128.

COUNCILLOR'S MOTION

The following motion was moved by Cr Josh Manticas at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 21 July 2026:

"That Council:

- 1. Write to the Ministers for Planning and Environment to ask whether Tasmania's current planning and environmental laws are fully equipped to assess modern, high-tech, emerging industries and whether in their view introducing clearer statewide standards would provide greater certainty for communities, councils, and developers.*

The motion was subsequently seconded by Cr Ferguson and carried unanimously, resolution no. 26/128.

OFFICER'S COMMENTS

In accordance with the resolution, the Chief Executive Officer wrote to the Ministers for Planning and Environment. Council has now received a response from the Minister for Planning, the Hon. Kerry Vincent which is attached.

18 COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS

18.1 Councillors' Questions on Notice

18.1.1 Cr Larner

Question 1: Since participants at council's Community Roadshow Exeter raised persistent serious road safety concerns: Can Council arrange a local Exeter Public Meeting forum opportunity for residents to give voice to their experiences and personal concerns about pedestrian near-misses, vehicular access difficulties at intersections and their insights/submissions to Exeter Structure Plan regarding alternative bypass route away from the increasingly busy main business centre – while also advocating for attendance of The Hon Kerry Vincent MLC, Minister for Infrastructure and Transport as well as all councillor candidates for upcoming election?

Response: *This would be a decision for Council as per Section 60F of the Local Government Act 1993.*

60F. Public meetings

A council, on its own motion, may hold a public meeting to discuss any issue the council determines.

Members of the community can also seek Council hold a Public Meeting via a petition as per Section 59 of the Local Government Act 1993

59. Petitions seeking public meetings

(1) A petition under section 57 may request that a council hold a public meeting regarding the subject matter of the petition.

(2) A council must hold a public meeting if the petition complies with section 57 and it is signed by whichever is the lesser of the following:

(a) 5% of the electors in the municipal area;

(b) 1 000 of those electors.

(3) A petition that requests a public meeting is not to be made in respect of any matter relating to rates and charges in Part 9 if those rates or charges have been made for the current financial year.

Question 2: Since a Blackwall resident, whose home site sits near a blind corner, has achieved an approved and newly constructed access to their residential property; but which has been blocked, can council confirm enforcement rules and compliance actions where a person's private Right Of Way has been blocked (across a council verge); particularly since with age and health there is a risk of need for urgent medical egress?

Response: *Without specific information in relation to that resident, I am unable to answer this question. I am happy to meet with the resident to discuss their concerns.*

Question 3: Can the Council clarify the relevant date/s of receipt and name of holding account of the relevant State grant funding for design of the Riverside to Legana West Tamar Trails Project (or its equivalent); its design scope, and the anticipated estimated date or financial year of capital works delivery?

Response: *Council was awarded an Active Transport grant of \$500,000 in October 2024 to conduct feasibility studies in relation to the West Tamar Council Trail Strategy from Launceston to Legana. Technical work has been undertaken by Pitt and Sherry with further land holder consultation still be undertaken.*

Capital works delivery would be funding dependant and as we are not yet in a position to complete a detailed costing it is too early to advise when construction of the trails within the Riverside to Legana area would commence.

18.1.2 Cr Sladden

Question 1: In February 2026, Council resolved to write to the Minister for Local Government seeking a review of the petition provisions of the *Local Government Act 1993* (Tas), particularly section 57 and related provisions, with a view to simplifying and modernising the framework. What response, if any, has Council received from the Minister?

Response: *Council has received the below response from the Minister for Local Government:*

Minister for Housing and Planning
Minister for Infrastructure and Transport
Minister for Local Government

Level 10, 15 Murray Street, HOBART TAS 7000 Australia
GPO Box 123 HOBART TAS 7001 Australia
Email: Minister.Vincent@dpac.tas.gov.au



23 APR 2026

Kristen Desmond
Chief Executive Officer
West Tamar Council

kristen.desmond@wtc.tas.gov.au

Dear ^{KRISTEN}Ms Desmond

Thank you for your correspondence regarding the West Tamar Council's motion of 17 February 2026, requesting a review of the petition provisions within the *Local Government Act 1993*.

I appreciate the Council taking the time to share its views on community engagement and the administration of electronic petitions.

As you are aware, the Act was amended in 2017 specifically to recognise and validate electronic petitions. These amendments established the foundational requirements for e-petitions, defining them in legislation and ensuring they can be lodged and tabled in the same manner as traditional paper petitions.

I note the Council's specific concerns regarding the desire for a more prescriptive framework, including eligibility criteria, defined open periods, and enhanced identity verification.

The current provisions reflect the nature of the statutory outcomes attached to petitions – such as the potential calling of a public meeting – which act primarily as mechanisms to facilitate community voice and discussion.

At this stage, a targeted review of the petition provisions is not an immediate legislative priority.

However, the Council's suggestions regarding a more structured e-petition pathway are noted. I have asked the Office of Local Government to retain your correspondence so that the Council's feedback can be taken into consideration during future opportunities to modernise the Act.

Thank you again for writing to me on this matter.

Yours sincerely



Hon Kerry Vincent MLC
Minister for Local Government

18.1.3 Cr Manticas

Question 1: How many EV chargers does council have located on its assets including open spaces such as parks?

Response: None

Question 2: What steps are required for a food van operator to operate on either private property or public property within the West Tamar?

Response: *A food van located on private property is typically considered "Food Services" under the Tasmanian Planning Scheme and may require a planning permit, depending on the zoning and characteristics of the land. In some circumstances, a food van may be exempt as an "occasional use" if it operates irregularly or infrequently, such as for a one-off visit or event. In these cases, the private landowner's consent is still required. As requirements vary depending on location and frequency, it is recommended that advice be sought from Council's Planning Department before locating a food van on private land.*

West Tamar Council Mobile Food Vendor Policy WT-HRM-45.00 sets out the requirements to operate a food van on public property. This policy is available on the West Tamar Council website.

18.2 Councillors' Questions without Notice

Cr Larner

Question 1: On 20th July the CEO, Mayor, Deputy Mayor, local resident Carl Cooper and the Honourable Kerry Vincent Minister for Infrastructure and Transport Local Government Housing and Planning met in a closed meeting. At the 21st of July council meeting the CEO stated that the meeting was not confidential.

Point of Order called by Deputy Mayor Cr Rick Shegog at 4.05pm

Response: *(From the Chief Executive Officer through the Chair) If I may, the Minister directly asked to meet with the CEO and the Mayor prior to meeting with Councillors. Mr Cooper was never part of that meeting.*

Question 2: Thank you for the clarification I apologise for any implication. So my question is with regard to the Council meeting the following day, at the time of a lapsed motion when I needed to leave the room, I note that Cr Manticas left the room at the time of the vote also. Can I ask that Cr Manticas declare the specific nature and detail of his personal representation and/or interest pecuniary or non-pecuniary in the motion requesting Minister for Housing and Planning the Honourable Kerry Vincent MP to declare a major project for the Firmus AI factory proposal at Long Reach?

Response: *(From the Chair) Do you choose to answer that, Cr Manticas?*

Cr Manticas: *(From Cr Manticas through the Chair) Are you asking with regards to Firmus and why I declared an interest?*

Cr Larner: The detail of that interest whether pecuniary or non-pecuniary.

Response: *(From Cr Manticas through the Chair) I made a submission to George Town Council as an individual ratepayer.*

Question 2: Can I ask question number two so that the document I provided Councillors prior to leaving the room on the nature of a major project declaration be tabled in Council records?

Response: *(From the Chair) Cr Larner, which one are you talking about?*

Cr Larner: There was a one-page document with major project summary of what it entails that I distributed to each Councillor so it should be in the records, do you have that CEO?

Response: *(From the Chair) Yes, we'll take it as being tabled if you pass it on.*

Cr Ireland

Question 1: A question regarding the roadshows I must admit I only attended one but I heard about the attendance of the others. My question is really the roadshows were a good way to sort of communicate with the public but the attendance was really appalling, less than a quarter of a percent of the population attended which either means the population is not interested or they're quite happy with everything. And the questions that were brought up at the roadshows were generally things that could have been brought up as a single interaction between the person and the

CEO. So my question is – is it worth considering with continuing with roadshows or is there a better way to communicate with our public?

Response: *(From the Chief Executive Officer through the Chair) I'm happy to answer it now, after each round of roadshows we review and see whether there's something we could do better or not and what was clear from our community roadshows is the areas that we least often get to are the ones where we have the biggest amount of people who want to participate. So every year we look at do we hold them and, if we do, where do we hold them and I think they are absolutely valid questions and ones that we'll continue to do because we can always look at different ways of communicating with our community, looking to get people engaged, so I think your point is very valid Cr Ireland and we will review as we always do once we've finished those roadshows, which we've now done.*

Deputy Mayor Cr Shegog

Question 1: I attended an event on Saturday and one of the participants mentioned that the Shore Street and Archer Street intersection at Beaconsfield, albeit not a busy intersection, just where Shore Street turns into Archer Street, people are cutting the corner on Shore Street into Archer. I'm not sure what the width of the road is, it's probably not wide enough to put an island in, and I'm not asking for that but maybe simply just a white line to delineate the centre of the road to keep people as close as they can to the right side of the road?

Response: *(From the Chief Executive Officer through the Chair) We'll take that one on notice and come back to you.*

Question 2: I do believe that campervans or caravans are not allowed to exit onto Archer Street from the Rec Ground but more so onto Grubb Street due to the size and the nature of the vehicles, and the nature and size of the street, but they're still continuing to do so.

Response: *(From the Chief Executive Officer through the Chair) So again we can review that but it's very difficult to stamp out driver behaviour but we'll have a look at it and come back to you.*

Cr Manticas

Question 1: I guess I didn't have many questions until we sort of entered into motions without notice but now I have a question. Is the council aware of my concern about the nature of some of Cr Larner's motions without notice that they could be seen to be directing officers of the Council in the exercise of their performance?

Question 2: Second question is - if the council is now aware of my concerns around that, what options or tools are available to Councillors to help educate them on proper forms of motions without notice?

Question 3: And my third question - if council is not already aware, I was very frustrated that we didn't get the opportunity to debate the motions without notice because I believe that some of the items warranted some merit into at least having healthy debate, but I was also concerned about how those motions were framed.

Question 4: And my last question is – if, in the opinion of the Chief Executive, those motions that were tabled today potentially directing Council officers to perform certain actions or inserting themselves into compliance matters that are clearly operational and not elected member related, will the CEO take appropriate referral action with regards to Code of Conduct and the Director of Local Government with respect to a Councillor breaching their obligations.

Response: *(From the Chief Executive Officer through the Chair) So in four parts - I was not aware of your concerns until you've made them now.*

Secondly, in terms of educating of Council and, I think kind of goes into the third one where there are concerns around motions with or without notice that may seek to breach the Local Government Act or a Code of Conduct, it is usual for me to provide education to the particular Councillor in relation to that and that is usual practice for me.

Should any motion without notice seek to direct or breach a Code of Conduct it is entirely up to me, if it's in relation to me, it's entirely up to me.

Any Councillor at any time if they see something that they believe breaches a Code of Conduct or breaches the Local Government Act also have the opportunity to take relevant action.

Cr Manticas: Just as a supplementary if the Chair will indulge me?

Response: *(From the Chair) Yes.*

Question 5: Could I be provided a list of the motions in their entirety as they were presented to Council staff for review?

Response: *(From the Chief Executive Officer through the Chair) Yes, because they will form part of the Minutes.*

Cr Manticas: I just note that one of them was amended on the floor after the motion had already been read in a certain way so I'm just looking for the unedited correction of the motion at that stage.

Cr Larner: Is that appropriate? That was before it was actually put up.

Response: *(From the Chief Executive Officer through the Chair) What will be provided is what has been provided to us and then it will be minuted so if you've provided it to Council officers as the motion you wish to move, I don't think there is an issue with then providing that to Councillors because regardless of whether you change, the minutes will reflect what you've asked them to reflect. But you did change that from the one that you gave to us and so if it was a motion on notice, for example, it would have been printed as you had provided it and then of course you can change it when it goes up onto the screen. So I don't think I'm being asked to provide anything outside of what Councillors would normally get of a motion that's provided to Council officers.*

Response: *(From the Chair) Thank you. If I may just make a comment, I share some of Cr Manticas' concerns because I believe that the motion, I'm really concerned that first of all there was a sense that you were giving a direction to the CEO and you can't do that. But secondly it implied to me that you didn't believe that our staff had not dealt with the matter when it's come to the Council offices by those residents.*

Cr Sladden

Question 1:

I have one question. So my fellow Councillors might have noticed that I asked a question about the motion that I put in back in February regarding petitions. We've seen a few petitions this year, we've heard of a few petitions trying to be lodged not just in our Council and others and it seems to be a overly onerous problem for our community and I'm not going to lie, I've had a look at the process and it's not straightforward especially if you want to do a paper petition and not an e-petition. So we wrote to the Minister for Local Government and asked whether they will, in reviewing the Local Government Act, review the petition provisions as well and essentially my reading of the letter that was returned which is actually in the agenda was no they're not planning on making any amendments soon. So my question is, and you can take this on notice if you like, what can we do as a Council to assist potential petitioners to get their voices heard.

Response:

(From the Chief Executive Officer through the Chair) So what we can do and are currently doing is reviewing our web page to try and make it simpler for people. There was as part of, I think your motion was, can we put a template up on the website which is what we are looking at trying to do and we also will be available if people are looking at submitting a petition, they can come through to Council to ask whether that petition - before they send their page out - is actually compliant and we're happy to provide advice in relation to whether it's compliant or not. Unfortunately that's the best we can do - we can't actually provide any changes to the format that the Local Government Act requires but certainly if people reach out to Council we are happy to provide them with advice on what the requirements are and to assist them as best as possible so the petition that comes in is correct and then can be tabled for council consideration.

18.3 Responses to Previous Questions on Notice

UNCONFIRMED

19 INTO CLOSED MEETING

RECOMMENDATION

That, pursuant to Regulation 17(1) of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025*, Council close the meeting to the public at ...pm to discuss the following items:

Confirmation of Minutes

2.1 Confirmation of Minutes of Closed Meeting held 21 July 2026

This report has been submitted to the closed part of the Council Meeting in accordance with Regulation 40(6). At the next closed meeting, the minutes of a closed meeting, after any necessary correction, are to be confirmed as the true record by the council or council committee and signed by the chairperson of the closed meeting.

Corporate & Community

9.1 Confidential 1 – Proposal for naming of Memorial Park

This report has been submitted to the closed part of the Council Meeting in accordance with Regulation 17(2)(h) information of a personal and confidential nature or information provided to the council on the condition it is kept confidential.

9.2 Confidential 2 – Beaconsfield Men's Shed

This report has been submitted to the closed part of the Council Meeting in accordance with Regulation 17(2)(g) proposals for the council to acquire land or an interest in land or for the disposal of land.

Community Assets

10.1 Confidential 3 – Rosevears Pontoon Renewal – Revised Project Scope & Budget

This report has been submitted to the closed part of the Council Meeting in accordance with Regulation 17(2)(e) contracts, and tenders, for the supply of goods and services and their terms, conditions, approval and renewal.

10.2 Confidential 4 – WTC Contract no. 35/2025, Beaconsfield, Shaw Street & Julian Street – Contract Variation Approval

This report has been submitted to the closed part of the Council Meeting in accordance with Regulation 17(2)(e) contracts, and tenders, for the supply of goods and services and their terms, conditions, approval and renewal.

10.3 Confidential 5 – WTC Contract no. 37/2026, Legana Indoor Multipurpose Sport & Community Facility Detailed Design

This report has been submitted to the closed part of the Council Meeting in accordance with Regulation 17(2)(e) contracts, and tenders, for the supply of goods and services and their terms, conditions, approval and renewal.

Motions on Notice

12.1 Confidential 6 – Cr Lyons – Motion to rename the Riverside Aquatic Centre

This report has been submitted to the closed part of the Council Meeting in accordance with Regulation 17(2)(h) information of a personal and confidential nature or information provided to the council on the condition it is kept confidential.

Minute No. 26/150

DECISION

Moved: Cr Lyons

Seconded: Cr Allen

That, pursuant to Regulation 17(1) of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025*, Council close the meeting to the public at 4.19pm to discuss the following items:

Confirmation of Minutes

2.1 Confirmation of Minutes of Closed Meeting held 21 July 2026

This report has been submitted to the closed part of the Council Meeting in accordance with Regulation 40(6). At the next closed meeting, the minutes of a closed meeting, after any necessary correction, are to be confirmed as the true record by the council or council committee and signed by the chairperson of the closed meeting.

Corporate & Community

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This report has been submitted to the closed part of the Council Meeting in accordance with Regulation 17(2)(h) information of a personal and confidential nature or information provided to the council on the condition it is kept confidential.

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Motions on Notice

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This report has been submitted to the closed part of the Council Meeting in accordance with Regulation 17(2)(h) information of a personal and confidential nature or information provided to the council on the condition it is kept confidential.

VOTING

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

Against: Nil

Abstained: Nil

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 8/0

REQUIRES ABSOLUTE MAJORITY OF COUNCIL

20 OUT OF CLOSED MEETING

Council resolved to move out of Closed Session at 4.59pm.

UNCONFIRMED

21 CLOSURE

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 5.00pm

UNCONFIRMED