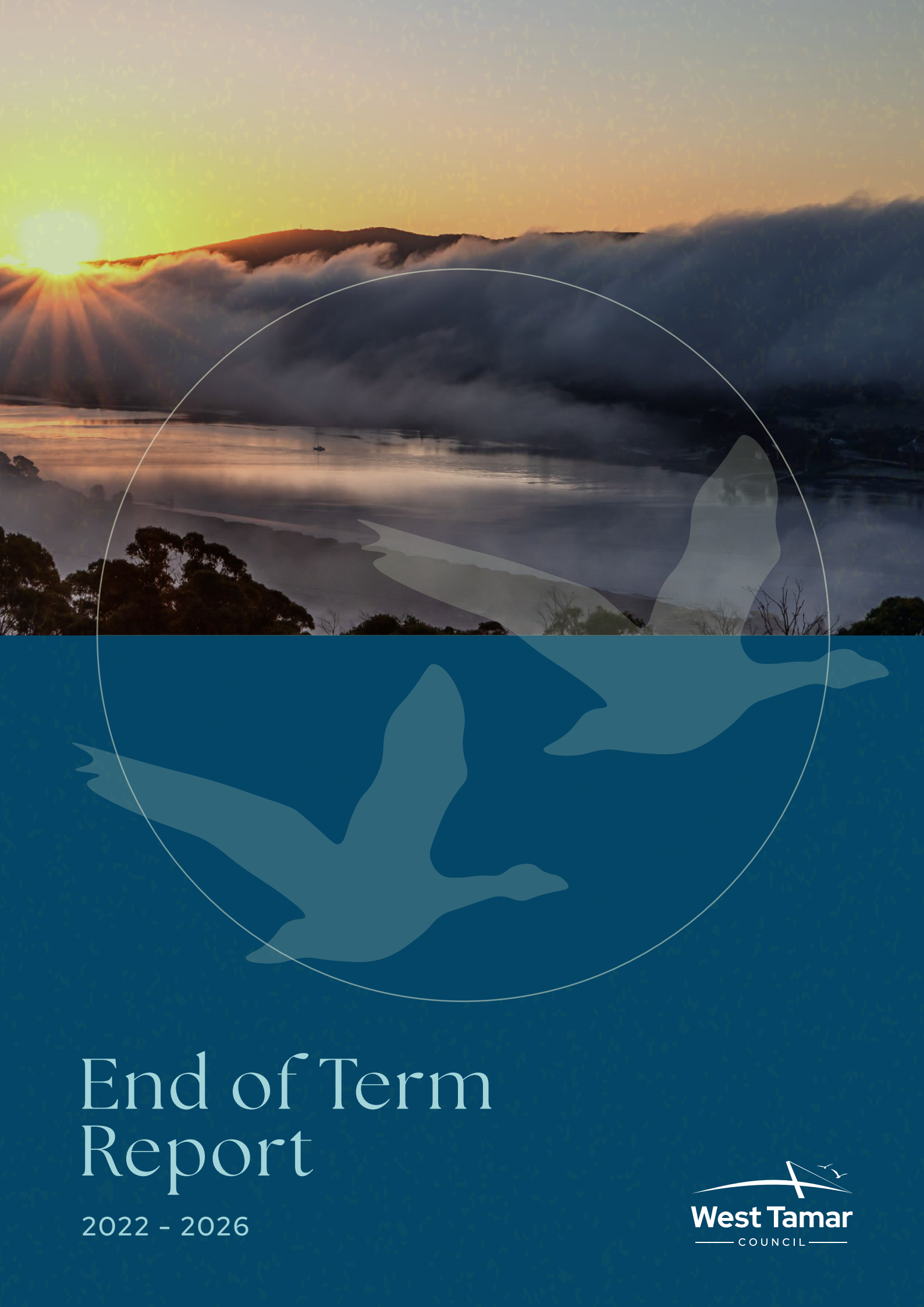




End of Term Report

2022 - 2026

*West Tamar Council
acknowledges and pays respects
to the Leterremairrener and
Pangerninghe Aboriginal people,
the Traditional Custodians of our
land. Council pays its respects to
their Elders past and present and
acknowledges all Aboriginal and
Torres Strait Islanders.*



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About this Report

The West Tamar Council's End of Term Report (2022-2026) is a report from the outgoing Council to the community on its achievements over the past four years.

Together, the Council's elected members and the organisation have achieved many things during this Council term through teamwork, hard work and a strong focus on building for its community.

Over the course of the four-year term, Council has invested tens of millions of dollars through its capital works program, which have included a number of high-profile infrastructure projects that have improved our region's livability and will provide benefits for our community and the economy for many years to come.

About the West Tamar

The West Tamar municipal area includes the western side of the Kanamaluka/Tamar Estuary from the suburban area of Riverside in Launceston, extending north to Bass Strait and as far west as Frankford.

West Tamar Council was inaugurated on April 2, 1993 and operates within 709 square kilometres of land, including 473 kilometres of road network.

Council offices are located at Riverside, Beaconsfield and the Windsor Precinct.

The major industries are tourism, retail, agriculture, fishing, world-class vineyards and world-leading maritime educational facilities.

The valley has various natural attractions including the Narawntapu National Park, Notley Fern Gorge, Tamar Island Wetlands and the Kanamaluka/Tamar Estuary.

The valley has an abundance of historical attractions and points of interest that account for the foundation of Tasmania, in particular the York Town settlement site and the Beaconsfield Mine & Heritage Centre.

The Kanamaluka /Tamar Estuary and its tributaries are home to an abundance of birdlife and combined with its beautiful landscape, the West Tamar is a peaceful and idyllic residential and rural setting.



Council's Vision

By 2036, West Tamar will be a cared-for river municipality where change is *well managed*, daily life *works better*, and people can belong, participate and *build opportunity* without losing what makes this place distinct.

By 2036, West Tamar will be a place that has evolved with care.

It will remain a connected river municipality of distinct local communities, where the Tamar, the landscape and local character shape how people live and how change is considered.

Growth will be visible, but it will feel planned.

New housing, infrastructure and development will better match location, service capacity and community expectations. Change will be measured not just by how much happens, but by how well it fits.

Everyday life will be easier to move through.

People will be able to reach school, work, services, recreation and community life more easily, whether they drive or not. Access and movement will be understood as part of liveability, not just transport.

West Tamar will work better across different stages of life.

Young people will have stronger reasons to stay, return and build a future locally. Older residents will be able to remain connected, active and supported. Housing, services and public spaces will respond to changing needs over time.

Community life will remain a defining strength.

Clubs, parks, trails, community spaces, local events and everyday social connection will support health, participation and belonging. These will be recognised as core infrastructure, not optional extras.

Local opportunity will be stronger and closer to home.

More people will be able to work, run businesses and build skills locally. Town centres and local hubs will be active and useful. The economy will reflect trades, services, remote work, local enterprise and regional connections.

The Tamar River and West Tamar's natural systems will be more resilient.

Water, catchments, landscapes and environmental systems will be cared for as part of how the municipality grows, not treated as separate issues.

This is a vision of managed change, not change for its own sake.

West Tamar will evolve in a way that strengthens what people value: place, community, access, opportunity and trust that change is being handled well.



1. our shape

GROWTH & PLACE

Growth in West Tamar must be shaped, serviced and felt to belong – not simply allowed to happen.

The shape of West Tamar is about more than where growth goes. It is about how change feels on the ground – whether housing is in the right places, whether infrastructure keeps pace, whether daily movement works, and whether the river and landscape remain central to place.

2. our heart

COMMUNITY & WELLBEING

A strong community is not built by services alone – it depends on whether people can stay active, connected and part of everyday life.

The heart of West Tamar is not a program list. It is the everyday life of the municipality – the places people meet, the clubs that hold communities together, the routines that keep people active, and the conditions that make it easier to belong.

3. our economy

ECONOMY & INNOVATION

Local prosperity depends on getting the basics right – jobs, skills, access and the conditions that let people work and build a life here.

Work in West Tamar is not just about jobs. It is about whether the conditions are in place for people and businesses to operate, adapt and grow locally.

Your Council

Councils have a significant impact on the lives of all Tasmanians, enabling the economic, social and cultural development of the community, supporting individuals and groups, and providing a wide range of services for the wellbeing of the community.

Councillors play a vital leadership role, working together to create and implement their community's vision, strategic direction and the values within which they operate.

Mayors, Deputy Mayors and Councillors are all elected for four-year terms.

The West Tamar Council has 9 Councillors including the Mayor and Deputy Mayor, who are popularly elected.

At the October 2022 Local Government Elections, the following Councillors were elected to represent the West Tamar Council for the term which will conclude in October 2026.

YOUR COUNCILLORS

(back row, left to right)

Cr Caroline Larner
Kristen Desmond (CEO)
Cr Josh Manticas
Cr Lynden Ferguson
Cr Richard Ireland

(front row, left to right)

Cr Geoff Lyons
Cr Joy Allen
Cr Christina Holmdahl (Mayor)
Cr Rick Shegog (Deputy Mayor)
Cr Julie Sladden

Cr Christina Holmdahl was elected mayor, while Cr Jess Greene was elected deputy mayor.

Following the resignation of Cr Jess Greene in August 2025, Cr Caroline Larner was elected to the Council on a countback.





Your Councillors



CHRISTINA HOLMDAHL

Mayor

Since being elected to the West Tamar as both Councillor and Mayor, Christina's priority and focus has been to provide for the health, safety and welfare of the community, to represent and promote your best interests and to ensure order and good governance of Council and in the community.

Since being elected as Mayor, Christina says she has given her full-time commitment to continue as she has in the previous four years and will take every opportunity to make where we live an even better place.

DELEGATIONS:

Youth Advisory Committee, Emergency Management Committee, ANZAC Day Committee, NTDC Council Representative.



RICK SHEGOG -

Deputy Mayor

Rick has been your councillor since 2007 and past deputy mayor. He has two children and lives at Trevallyn. Rick grew up in Exeter on a farm, went to Exeter Primary and Riverside High Schools.

Rick wants to make your Council become more contemporary and inclusive, with increased community participation and consultation when making decisions.

DELEGATIONS:

Riverside Swimming Centre Redevelopment Advisory Committee, Winkleigh Hall Committee (proxy), Rowella Hall Committee, NRM North, Tamar Natural Resource Management Inc.



JESS GREENE

(Deputy Mayor - resigned in August 2025)

Jess joined Council in 2020 and was elected Deputy Mayor in 2022.

Jess sat on the Council Audit Panel, the Youth Advisory Council, the Community Development Unit and the Tourism Development Unit, working to enhance transparency and promote the region.

Jess was also Council's voting representative for LGAT and sat on the City of Launceston Homelessness Advisory Committee.

Resident in Riverside with her young family, Jess is a passionate community advocate and volunteer, devoted to creating a brighter future for all in the West Tamar Council.

Jess resigned from Council in August 2025 after winning a seat in the State Election in the seat of Bass.

DELEGATIONS:

Frankford Memorial Hall and Recreation Ground Committee, City of Launceston Homelessness Advisory Group, Audit Panel, Youth Advisory Council, LGAT General Meeting.



JOY ALLEN

Councillor

Joy is an active member of the community and Council, having been a councillor for 17 years, eight of these as Deputy Mayor.

Joy says she gives proven full-time leadership and commitment to address the community's needs. The community needs to work together to build a strong healthy community. All essential services need to be delivered equally throughout the community including appropriate infrastructure.

She has past experience in Community Development, Youth, health and welfare and is the current chair of both the Exeter Childcare Centre & Beaconsfield Health & Wellbeing Association. She is also a community member of the Tamar Valley Business Association, the Northern Advisory Committee and Exeter Improvement Committee.

DELEGATIONS:

Positive Ageing Committee, Youth Advisory Committee, Rowella Hall Committee (proxy).



LYNDEN FERGUSON

Councillor

Lynden is married to Andrea and lives with his family in the West Tamar.

Lyden says that effective and independent representation is vital for Council to continue to deliver quality services across the municipality. With the support and input of the community, Lynden says he will continue to ensure we keep our local council healthy and well positioned for the future.

DELEGATIONS:

Winkleigh Hall Committee, Youth Advisory Council.



RICHARD IRELAND

Councillor

Now in his third term, Richard continues to work hard with integrity and competence for the community. He says he has the energy and vision to make West Tamar an even better place to live, work and visit. He is always available to listen to ratepayer concerns and does his best to find resolutions as he believes every member of the community has a right to be heard.

Richard has an engineering background and business experience, which he says puts him in a good position to understand technical, planning and financial issues. He is also politically independent and believes Council should be there for the whole community.

DELEGATIONS:

Riverside Swimming Centre Redevelopment Advisory Committee, Exeter Community Hub Management Committee, TasWater Deputy Chief Owners Representative.



GEOFF LYONS OAM

Councillor

Geoff has a breadth of experience working across a number of key managerial roles in Tasmania, including as secretary of the Beaconsfield Hospital; business manager of the Launceston General Hospital, former head of office to the Attorney General, he was a Member of the House of Representatives from 2010 to 2013, chair of the Procedures Committee.

He is a member of the Health and Ageing Committee, Agriculture, Resources, Fisheries and Forestry, the Speakers Panel, chair of the Australian Parliamentary Friends of Surf Life Saving and chair of the Caucus Economics Committee.

Geoff is also the volunteer president of the NTFA and NTNA, a life member of SLSA, SLST, LLSC, NLFC and he was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in 2016.

DELEGATIONS:

Riverside Swimming Centre Redevelopment Advisory Committee, Emergency Management Committee.



JOSHUA MANTICAS

Councillor

Over the past Council term, Josh says he has had the privilege of serving the West Tamar community as a dedicated councillor, committed to driving positive change in our community.

He expressed his gratitude to residents for their support and trust.

Josh described his term as an incredible journey, and he is deeply thankful for the opportunity to represent the interests of the community. He believes that the Council has made great strides in creating a more vibrant, inclusive, and prosperous community.

DELEGATIONS:

Audit Panel.



DR JULIE SLADDEN

Councillor

As a passionate advocate for community health and wellbeing, Julie said it is a privilege to serve as a West Tamar Councillor. Since being elected, she has prioritised listening to the views and concerns of the community, to help ensure truly informed decisions by Council.

Julie believes community wellbeing is a product of several factors which the Council is well-placed to influence beyond 'rates, roads and rubbish'. This includes understanding specific community needs, planning and delivering infrastructure to promote wellbeing, and facilitating services and businesses to help the community flourish. Playgrounds, footpaths, greenspaces, and great roads are her priority.

DELEGATIONS:

Riverside Swimming Centre Redevelopment Advisory Committee, Exeter Community Hub Management Committee, Beaconsfield Community Health and Wellbeing Association, City of Launceston Homelessness Advisory Group (proxy).



CAROLINE LARNER

*Councillor
(elected in August 2025)*

With more than 30 years dedicating herself to community service, small business management, and advocating for innovative funding models in local and state government, Caroline says she brings a wealth of expertise to her role as Councillor.

As a former registered nurse, Caroline says she applies her skills in active listening to truly understand people's concerns, focusing on uncovering root causes rather than relying on superficial fixes.

Caroline says that the community's essential service infrastructure is in urgent need of attention, plagued by chronic underfunding, which has led to burdensome costs for users, rendering vital services unaffordable for many locals.

COUNCILLOR ATTENDANCE

	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Cr Holmdahl	13 *	13 **	13 *	13 *
Cr Greene	13	13	12	0 (resigned August 2025)
Cr Allen	13	14	13	12
Cr Ferguson	13	14	13	13
Cr Ireland	13	14	13	12
Cr Lyons	13	14	13	12
Cr Manticas	9 ***	13	13	10
Cr Shegog	13	13	12	12
Cr Sladden	9 ***	10	10	10
Cr Larner	NA	NA	NA	10 (sworn in August 2025)

* out of a possible 13

** out of a possible 14

*** out of a possible 9

Note: Includes Ordinary Meetings, Annual General Meetings and Special Meetings

CODE OF CONDUCT COMPLAINTS

2022-23

Three (3) Code of Conduct complaints were received during the financial year with one (1) being dismissed and two (2) yet to be determined as at June 30, 2023.

2023-24

Three (3) Code of Conduct complaints were received during the 2023/24 financial year with two (2) being dismissed and one (1) yet to be determined as at June 30, 2024. Two (2) complaints lodged in the 2022-23 Financial Year, which were outstanding, were dismissed. The total cost of the Code of Conduct complaints for 2023/24 was \$9676.73.

2024-25

Two (2) Code of Conduct complaints were received during the 2024/25 financial year. One complaint was dismissed, while the other was withdrawn both within the 2024/25 financial year. One (1) Code of Conduct complaint received in 2023/24 was determined in the 2024/25 financial year.

The total cost of the Code of Conduct complaints for 2024/25 was \$8489.90.

2025-26

There were no (0) Code of Conduct complaints received during the 2025/26 financial year.

Term Snapshot

Figures from across the region

26,136

POPULATION
(ABS 2025 Estimated)

19,035

ELECTORS
(Tasmanian Electoral Commission)

69,115 hectares

SIZE

45 years

MEDIAN AGE

\$699 (\$36,355 pa)

MEDIAN WEEKLY INCOME

57.8%

LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE

473km

ROADS MAINTAINED

12,597

RATEABLE PROPERTIES

10,863

RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES

\$569m

ASSETS



NUMBER OF REGISTERED BUSINESSES

2022	-	1640
2023	-	1731
2024	-	1752
2025	-	1770

Increase of **130** over the four-year term

(Source: *economy.id*)

POPULATION GROWTH

2022	-	25,953
2023	-	26,011
2024	-	26,047
2025	-	26,136

INDUSTRY SECTOR FIGURES

Total Output in the area is estimated at

\$1,561.806m

The major contributors to output are:

INDUSTRY SECTOR	\$M	%
Construction	\$286.175	18.3%
Rental, Hiring & Real Estate Services	\$210.394	13.5%
Manufacturing	\$190.953	12.2%
Other	\$874.284	56.0%

(Source: *REMPAN*)

PLANNING AND BUILDING FIGURES

	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
PLANNING				
Planning permits issued	256	261	218	267
Compliance / exemption assessments	167	114	127	152
Other (minor amendments / extensions of time)	50	49	32	25
Total	473	424	377	444

BUILDING (includes privately certified - not just council assessments)

Building approvals (Notifiable, substantial compliance, Permit)	318	276	308	370
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	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26 (YTD May)
BUILDING APPROVALS (Value)				
Residential	\$68.786m	\$61.470m	\$59.020m	\$79.829m
Non-Residential	\$38.579m	\$23.210m	\$14,772m	\$3.231m
Total	\$107.365m	\$84.680m	\$73.792m	\$83,060m

(Source: *economy.id*)

Grants Received

GRANT PROGRAM	SOURCE	2022-23 \$	2023-24 \$	2024-25 \$	2025-26 \$	TOTAL GRANT \$
Federal Assistance Grants - Roadworks	C'wlth	2,109,366.00	1,564,961.02	1,198,901.00	2,484,462.75	Ongoing
Federal Assistance Grants - Base Grant	C'wlth	3,760,527.00	2,259,658.00	1,771,818.25	3,312,308.25	Ongoing
State Road Toll	State	25,552.00	25,552.00	25,552.00	149,482.00	Ongoing
Interest rebate Windsor Loan	State	72,820.00				
Irene Phelps Trust - Beaconsfield Youth funding	Other	120,375.00	128,681.00	132,670.11	134,527.49	Ongoing
Tas Community fund - Building Resilient Youth	TCF	21,780.00	2,250.00	2,867.00	7,800.00	70,000.00
Healthy Tasmania Fund Lift Local Grant	State	-	17,000.00			20,000.00
Northern Tas Councils (Northern Region Climate Change Action Program) enhancing climate resilience grant - Disaster Ready Fund - Round One 2023-24	C'wlth via State	-	19,265.49	141,823.08	177,735.49	473,382.00
International Womens Day	State	1,000.00				1,000.00
Aust Day Community Grants Program	C'wlth	8,560.00				10,100.00
Communities for Children Community Small Grant Funding - WTC Youth Sector	Other	500.00				500.00
Tas Councils supporting climate healthy & resilient communities - Healthy Focus Grants - Round 1	State	673.89	50,862.15	5,796.93	42,667.03	100,000.00
Better Active Transport in Tas - Round 2 024 - Design Shared Use Trails Legana to Launceston	State			25,121.51	91,555.00	500,000.00
Assistance towards 2 x bench seats York Town Site	West Tamar Historical Society			3,500.00		3,500.00
Bell Bay Aluminium Community Grant	Company			2,950.00		2,950.00
Beaconsfield Community sport and recreation plan (Liberal election commitment)	State				50,000.00	50,000.00
TRRA storm claim	State				121,255.00	121,255.00
Isolated Communities Resilience Grants - Stream 2 - To support operation of evacuation and recovery centres	State				13,209.00	13,209.00
Roads to Recovery 25-26	C'wlth				90,346.00	90,346.00
Australia Day event funding	C'wlth via State				350.00	350.00
Roads to Recovery	C'wlth	519,602.00	519,602.00	675,485.00	818,703.33	2,533,392.33

GRANT PROGRAM	SOURCE	2022-23 \$	2023-24 \$	2024-25 \$	2025-26 \$	TOTAL GRANT \$
Dept of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development & Communications - Gravelly Beach Foreshore Project	C'wlth	446,812.88	267,675.28	8,091.26	955,251.19	2,000,000.00
Dept of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development & Communications - Beauty Point Foreshore Project	C'wlth	170,455.89	1,452,141.95	1,212,470.63	31,751.66	3,000,000.00
Local Roads & Community Infrastructure Program (LRCI) Phase 3 \$1,039,204	C'wlth	964,339.89				1,039,204.00
Bridgenorth Rd/Longs Plains Rd intersection	C'wlth via State	351,781.14				365,000.00
Improving the Playing Fields Grants Program 20-21 & 21-22Bridgenorth Ausco Modular Changerooms Complex	State	485,462.61				500,000.00
AFL Aust Facilities Football Fund, Bridgenorth Changerooms complex (22-23 grant)	AFL / Bridgenorth FC	45,000.00				45,000.00
Gravelly Beach Pontoon	State	2,625.46				160,000.00
Beaconsfield Tennis Court - 21-22 Improving the playing field (small) grant program	State	41,050.00				50,000.00
Tennis Tas (grant 22-23)	Other	5,000.00				5,000.00
Beaconsfield Street Tree Program (Queens Silver Jubilee Project) 22-23 project	West Tamar Rotary	2,045.45				2,045.45
Planting trees for the Queen's Jubilee Assisi Ave (22-23 project)	C'wlth	13,000.00				13,000.00
Beauty Point Master Plan Project - accessible playground components	West Tamar Lions Club		35,000.00			35,000.00
Beauty Point Master Plan Project - accessible playground components	Rotary Club of West Tamar		35,000.00			35,000.00
Local Roads & Community Infrastructure Program (LRCI) Phase 4 \$519,603 Part A	C'wlth		519,603.00			519,603.00
Local Roads & Community Infrastructure Program (LRCI) Phase 4 \$299,718 Part B	C'wlth		299,718.00			299,718.00
Legana - oval contribution	State		410,000.00			410,000.00
Safer Rural Roads Projects	State		100,000.00			100,000.00
Safer Rural Roads Projects	State		60,000.00			60,000.00
All Access All Weather Bus Stop Upgrade Program	State		70,000.00			70,000.00

GRANT PROGRAM	SOURCE	2022-23 \$	2023-24 \$	2024-25 \$	2025-26 \$	TOTAL GRANT \$
Bridges Renewal Program Ongoing Tranche 4 - Yorktown Rivulet Bridge No1345	C'wlth via State		350,240.00			350,240.00
Pontoon Clarence Point anchor chains	State		10,500.00			10,500.00
Pontoon Beauty Point anchor chains	State		10,500.00			10,500.00
Kelso toilet block and carpark	State	19,827.71	66,002.54	45,936.42	2,828.00	150,000.00
Beaconsfield Street Tree Program (Queens Silver Jubilee Project) - Project 2	Rotary Club of West Tamar		12,132.50			12,132.50
Rowella Hall heaters	WD Booth trust		2,800.00			2,800.00
Safer Rural Roads Projects	State			250,000.00		250,000.00
Riverside, Ecclestone Rd, \$100k blackspot funding	State			100,000.00		100,000.00
Greens Beach Foreshore Masterplan reserve redevelop (election commitment)	State			7,492.95	52,697.46	150,000.00
Exeter Bowls Club new synthetic green (election commitment)	State			200,000.00		200,000.00
Legana Community sport and recreation masterplan (election commitment)	State			75,250.00	60,329.84	150,000.00
Riverside, Windsor Oval surface renewal	AFL Tas			74,000.00		74,000.00
Beaconsfield Fysh St Cricket Pitch Upgrade	Cricket Tas			15,541.02	156.98	15,698.00
Riverside, Windsor Olympic 2 Oval, resurface - 24-25 Tas Active Infrastructure Grants Program	State				499,637.00	499,637.00
Better Fishing Grants	State				170,360.33	179,747.00
Better Fishing Grants	State				91,098.57	96,118.00
Isolated Communities Resilience Grants - Stream 3 - Emergency Equipment	State				28,000.00	28,000.00
Caravan and Motorhome Plan - Council Infrastructure Grants	State				55,000.00	55,000.00
Riverside Tennis Club Lighting Upgrade - 24-25 Tas Active Infrastructure Grants Program	State				26,657.00	26,657.00
MAST Clarence Point, Kelso & Dark Hollow pontoon	State				15,000.00	28,920.00
MAST Rosevears Pontoon	State				55,075.00	75,000.00
TOTAL		9,188,156.92	8,289,144.93	5,975,267.16	9,538,244.37	15,163,504.28

Financials

ACTUAL 2022-23

▲	▼
\$38.320m	\$29.244m
INCOME	EXPENSES

\$9.076m
NET RESULT

ACTUAL 2023-24

▲	▼
\$41.539m	\$31.485m
INCOME	EXPENSES

\$10.054m
NET RESULT

ACTUAL 2024-25

▲	▼
\$42.182m	\$36.021m
INCOME	EXPENSES

\$6.161m
NET RESULT

ACTUAL 2025-26

▲	▼
\$46.618m	\$35.396m
INCOME	EXPENSES

\$11.222m
NET RESULT

Key Projects & Strategies

2022 – 2026

An aerial photograph of a coastal area. A wide, sandy beach curves along the shoreline, bordered by dense green vegetation. The water is a deep blue, and a small boat is visible in the distance. The sky is clear and blue.

Greens Beach Foreshore Master Plan 2023-2026

The Greens Beach Foreshore Master Plan made significant progress in the 2022/23 financial year, with the Master Plan available on Council's website.

In addition to meetings with representatives from local businesses and community groups, two rounds of public community engagement were undertaken.

Greens Beach is well-loved by locals as well as visitors, particularly in summer as it is an easy day trip from Launceston.

Anecdotal evidence suggests that use has been increasing significantly in recent years.

It is important to note that the northern strip of the Study Area incorporates part of the Greens Beach Conservation Area.

The need for any development in this area needs to be carefully considered and sensitively implemented.

Detailed plans were submitted to the Parks & Wildlife Services for approval prior to implementation.

The Council endorsed the Master Plan in September 2023, which provides a vision for the future of the Reserve which facilitates its continued use for recreation while protecting its cultural and ecological values.

The Greens Beach Foreshore Reserve Master Plan 2023 will be undertaken in stages, subject to Council capital budget allocation and successful grant applications.

The State Government committed \$150,000 to fund and deliver Stage 1 works outlined in the master plan.

More information on the master plan can be viewed on our website.

West Tamar Trails Strategy

The West Tamar municipality is home to many diverse trails that provide active transport, exercise, social interaction and sight-seeing for walkers, runners and cyclists in the community as well as visitors.

There is also an opportunity to review the number and quality of cycling, walking and shared trails servicing residents and the wider community.

West Tamar Council engaged Fitzgerald Frisby Landscape Architecture to develop the West Tamar Trails Strategy in February 2021 with the goal of providing strategic direction to guide the development of trails within the municipality.

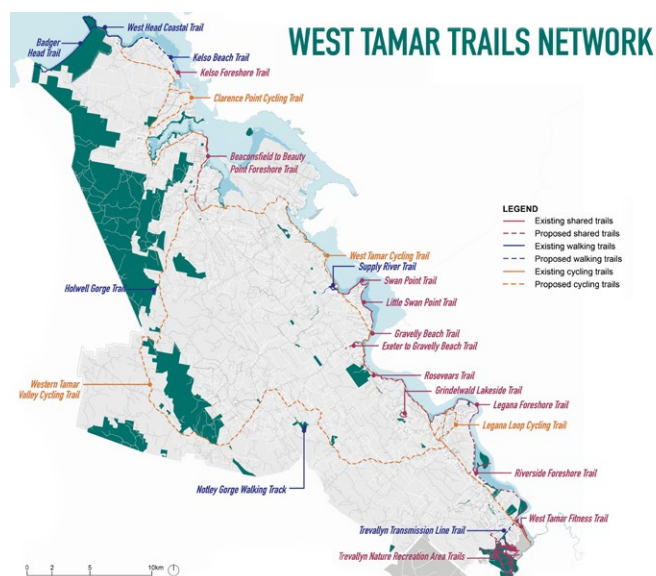
The Strategy was developed with significant community consultation and engagement with end users and was finalised in August 2022.

The Strategy assists Council, particularly when considering funding opportunities, in working towards a comprehensive trail network that is accessible to all, and promotes active living, recreation and encourages tourism.

The Strategy audits existing trails and proposes new trails between Riverside and Badger Head and identifies opportunities and constraints that exist within the municipality for walking, running and cycling trail improvements.

The Strategy provides the guiding principles and standards for potential investment in these trails.

The trail works contained within the Strategy are ambitious and aspirational.



In order to deliver projects of this size and complexity Council will need to seek funding partnerships and collaborate with other key stakeholders including government agencies, recreational groups and peak bodies.

The Strategy was endorsed by Councillors in September 2023.

Council received \$500,000 from the State Government to conduct a feasibility study for the Riverside to Rosevears section of the strategy in mid-2024, and a further \$500,000 from the Federal Government in late 2024 for the continuation of the trails strategy feasibility extending further up the coast toward Badger Head.

Once those bodies of work are complete, Council will look to secure funding to assist with the implementation of the project.

For more information, you can read the Strategy on our website at <https://www.wtc.tas.gov.au/trails>





Positive Ageing Strategy

2022-2027

The Positive Ageing Strategy 2022-2027 is the review of the objectives achieved in the previous strategy and new objectives highlighted through community consultation undertaken in 2022.

The Strategy is designed to create a platform that will support and value the residents and visitors of the West Tamar as they grow older, and to build opportunities for partnerships, planning and participation for positive ageing.

The review of Strategy was undertaken by Council's Community Services Department, West Tamar Positive Ageing Committee and the broader West Tamar community through surveys, pop-up sessions and through direct consultations with service providers and community service groups/clubs.

The Strategy has six key aims and objectives:

- » To develop and formalise a vision and strategy for positive ageing in the West Tamar
- » To understand the key issues facing the ageing population, including barriers and enablers to positive ageing by taking an holistic perspective to community health and wellbeing
- » To recognise the knowledge and experience of older residents and to enable opportunities for this expertise to be built on and valued
- » To promote positive attitudes to ageing across the community
- » To engage community members in the ongoing process to ensure that visions and goals for positive ageing are relevant and current, and
- » To promote and develop where feasible, positive inter-sectoral partnerships and links between the Council and other stakeholders for enhancing and building platforms for positive ageing.

The Committee, formerly known as the West Tamar Seniors' Advisory Group, is the responsible committee of Council for the review and implementation of the Strategy.

The committee is made up of representatives from the community, two West Tamar Council elected members and the Council's Community Development Officer.

The Strategy is reviewed every five years to ensure that the goals outlined reflect the feedback and needs of the community.

More information on the master plan can be viewed on our website.

Draft Beaconsfield Recreation Plan

West Tamar Council is developing a Recreation Plan for Beaconsfield and surrounding areas to guide the future of sport and recreation.

The plan will review current facilities and needs, identify priorities and opportunities for new or shared spaces, and align with Council's vision for an inclusive, active, and sustainable community.

Developed with input from the community, clubs, and recreation bodies, it will support health, wellbeing, and participation by delivering modern, accessible, and fit-for-purpose facilities.

The strategy will:

- » Engage with community and stakeholders to shape future recreation planning
- » Align community needs with Council's strategic direction and capacity
- » Protect and enhance local social, environmental, and heritage values
- » Improve the function, accessibility, and amenity of recreation facilities and infrastructure
- » Ensure environmentally sustainable practices guide recommendations
- » Deliver practical, flexible, and inclusive outcomes that support a healthy, active, and connected community

@leisure Planners is assisting West Tamar Council in preparing the Plan, which will help guide the future of sport and recreation decisions.

The consultants undertook a series of workshops, interviews, club and stakeholder meetings, inspections as well as a community survey to assist in the development of the draft.

A draft - including a vision, consultation, recommendations and priorities - is expected to be finalised in late 2026.





Legana Sports Oval

Northern Tasmania's finest community sporting oval was officially opened by the West Tamar Council on February 1, 2025.

The \$2.5 million Legana Sports Oval was funded by the West Tamar Council, with a \$519,000 grant from the Federal Government and \$410,000 from the State Government.

The oval is available for use by both the school community during school hours and the broader community outside of school hours.

West Tamar Mayor Christina Holmdahl said the Oval was an exciting project for not only the Legana community, but for the entire West Tamar region.

"This amazing facility includes a full-sized sports oval that will be widely used by our community, along with four light towers, a cricket pitch and perimeter fencing," Mayor Holmdahl said.

To celebrate the official opening, Council hosted an official ribbon-cutting ceremony in February 2025, acknowledging representatives from all levels of government who have contributed to the oval.

"This will be the community's first opportunity to experience and enjoy this incredible recreational area, which will soon become a vibrant part of Legana

Primary School, local sporting club activities and an anchor to the Legana recreation precinct into the future," Mayor Holmdahl said.

"We are really excited to not only officially open the oval but to celebrate this milestone with our community."

Tasmanian Labor Senator Helen Polley said the new oval will be a new community hub for sport and recreation, improving physical and mental health and creating positive outcomes for the community.

"The benefits of sport are endless. It creates healthier communities, builds resilience, strength, cooperation and will ensure a strong community for decades to follow," Senator Polley said.

Minister for Education, the Hon. Joe Palmer MLC, said the Tasmanian Government is proud to have contributed \$410,000 towards the Legana Sports Oval.

"These state-of-the-art facilities can be used not only by students from the brand new Legana Primary School, but also community sporting clubs in Legana for their regional competitions and events," Minister Palmer said.

Civil work began on the oval in December 2023, with the project completed by late May.

The Oval also features large capture netting around the western end of the ground behind the goal posts similar to those at UTAS Stadium.

Gravelly Beach Foreshore Master Plan

The Gravelly Beach foreshore has long been recognised as one of the most important community open spaces and recreational areas along the Tamar River.

West Tamar Council began working with Gravelly Beach stakeholder and community groups back in 2003 to plan improvements to the Gravelly Beach foreshore.

These included representatives of the Exeter Gravelly Beach Advisory Group, the Gravelly Beach Foreshore Committee and other members of the Gravelly Beach community.

Some of the recurring themes of that public feedback included maintaining foreshore views, the restoration of the shingle beach, maintaining the existing Phoenix Palms and adding more ornamental landscaping, interpretive signage at Rose Bay Park, increased area for recreation adjacent to the shopping strip through land reclamation, general beautification of the area as well as pedestrian connections further along the Tamar River.

Based on that feedback, Council and its consultants Playstreet Landscape Architects developed the Gravelly Beach Foreshore Master Plan, which outlines key public amenity developments and improvements to Rose Bay Park in addition to the creation area adjacent to the shopping strip.

West Tamar Council used it to secure federal funding for the project - namely a \$2 million investment from the Federal Government's Community Development Grants Program, supported by \$160,000 from Marine and Safety Tasmania (MAST) and \$152,764 from the West Tamar Council.

The revitalisation was delivered across two key precincts:

Precinct 1 (Playground and Boat Ramp):

Included the installation of a new public pontoon with an aluminium gangway, a modern toilet block with accessible facilities, and a new BBQ shelter with picnic seating.

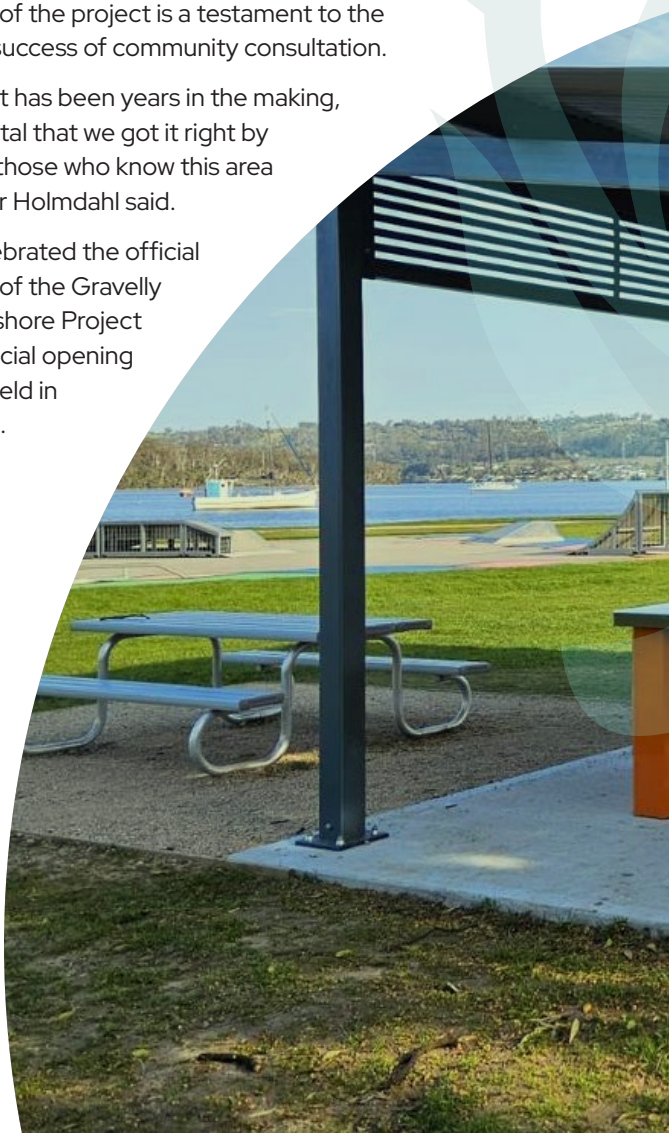
Precinct 2 (Village Centre):

Focused on accessibility and infrastructure, delivering over 500m of new shared pathways and footpaths, parking for at least 30 vehicles, and essential stormwater upgrades.

West Tamar Mayor Christina Holmdahl said the completion of the project is a testament to the power and success of community consultation.

"This project has been years in the making, and it was vital that we got it right by listening to those who know this area best," Mayor Holmdahl said.

Council celebrated the official completion of the Gravelly Beach Foreshore Project with the official opening ceremony held in March 2026.





Community Health and Wellbeing Plan

In early 2023, West Tamar Council embarked on a journey of discovery with its community with the aiming of shaping a brighter future for the region.

The Health and Wellbeing Plan is a Council-led initiative that tapped into the collective ideas of a Community Project Reference Group and developed using the understandings and insights secured through:

- » Data and information on the area's present social, economic and environmental situation.
- » Interviews with place stakeholders, regional and state organisations.
- » Specific workshops with the West Tamar Council, Community Project Reference Group, Youth Advisory Council and Positive Ageing Committee.
- » A whole of system workshop involving West Tamar community members.

Using a 'draft' of the strategy, more groups and residents were involved through:

- » A community-wide survey.
- » Additional 'Best Together' locational activities.

The overall process touched all areas of the municipality, with more than 300 people directly contributing to shaping 'What's Best for the West Tamar'.

As part of the broad consultation process, six community forums were held at the Windsor Community Precinct, Beauty Point United Church Hall, Exeter Community Hub Beaconsfield House and the Tresca Community Centre at Exeter.

Attendees explored the past (what should we carry forward into our future e.g. values that serve us well as a community); examined the present (from an internal and external perspective – our opportunities and challenges); and co-designed the future of the West Tamar community (what could and should our future be – what is the legacy we want to leave to the generations that follow?).

Council engaged the services of the Launceston-based Noagroup to help guide it through the journey.

Ultimately, Council used learnings from this workshop – and others like it – to develop The Community Health and Wellbeing Plan, which was ultimately endorsed by Councillors in late 2023.

West Tamar Council Climate Resilience Strategy

The West Tamar Climate Resilience Strategy was developed through the Northern Tasmanian Alliance for Resilient Councils (NTARC).

NTARC is a partnership by the eight north-east councils to better understand and respond to the changing climate and the wide range of associated social, economic, cultural and environmental challenges.

It coordinates and harmonises the councils' responses to provide climate equitable and resilient outcomes for north-east Tasmanian communities.

To support the Council develop evidence-based pathways, NTARC worked closely with the Council's staff and its operations to establish a baseline and identify actions to achieve climate resilience.

Annual greenhouse gas emissions and energy use inventories from 2019 onwards were prepared to identify trends and opportunities to reduce emissions and energy use.

Climate risk assessments of the Council's corporate governance, assets, services and programs identified the adaptation responses required to ensure that the Council is climate ready/reducing its exposure.

The West Tamar Climate Resilience Strategy captures key findings and actions from this work, along with the Council's existing commitments and sets a pathway to creating a thriving climate resilient community.





Windsor Oval Redevelopment

West Tamar Council officially opened its \$2 million redevelopment of Windsor Park in June 2025.

Mayor Christina Holmdahl said she was delighted to open the upgraded ground on behalf of the Council.

"Sporting facilities like this and the one we built at Legana provide the ability for members of our community – whether they're part of a recognised team or not – to engage in improving not only their physical health, but their mental health as well, and facilities like these create positive outcomes for our community as a whole," Mayor Holmdahl said.

Originally constructed in 1968, Windsor Park has been home to the Launceston Football Club for more than half a century.

The Mayor officially opened the redevelopment alongside Launceston Football Club president Scott Stephens and AFL Tasmania's State Participation and Programs Manager Aaron Roberts prior to the Blues first home game on the new surface against Scottsdale.

Mayor Holmdahl said that the oval had been plagued with drainage issues for a number of years due to the poor condition of the playing surface, specifically over the winter months.

The redevelopment of the oval began in late 2024 with the purpose of delivering the best value playing surface in Northern Tasmania, and improved lighting in accordance with relevant

Australian Standards and AFL Guidelines and with minimal environmental and stakeholder impact.

Civil works included the re-leveling of the oval surface, installing new drainage systems, sand slitting, irrigation, the establishment of a 100mm sand mattress, reseeding, as well as new perimeter fencing and improved lighting.

Mayor Holmdahl said that while the total cost for this project is in the vicinity of \$2 million, Council fully appreciates just how important these facilities are for our community.

"We are also very grateful for the assistance from AFL Tasmania, which has committed a \$74,000 grant to assist council with this project," Mayor Holmdahl said.

Later that year, the redevelopment of Windsor Park was recognised as the state winner of the 2025 Ken Gannon Award as Tasmanian community football facility project of the year.

The Ken Gannon Awards recognise best practice in community football facility development and are named after long-serving AFL administrator Ken Gannon who championed outcomes related to over 800 community football facility projects across the country.

AFL Tasmania's Venue and Government Partnerships Manager Anthony Osborn said the redeveloped oval was a worthy winner.

"We view this project as a blueprint for councils and clubs across Tasmania to strive towards improvements and upgrades to unlock greater access and improve the experiences of all participants."



Innova Business Park

Several years ago, the West Tamar Council made one of its most strategically important decisions in recent memory when it purchased a significant plot of land midway between Legana and Riverside with the aim of developing it as an industrial estate.

But not just any industrial estate – with an eye firmly on bringing to the region the type of businesses that will lead innovations in modern technologies.

In 2023, the Council unanimously approved a 23-lot light industrial subdivision along the West Tamar Highway, spanning 9.6 hectares with lots ranging from 1480 to 8897 square meters.

The initial stage one subdivision works form part of Council's strategic plan for Legana and will create a new district collector road as identified in the Legana Structure Plan, which will eventually connect to Tatana Way and Old Dairy Way behind the new primary school, which is now fully operational.

This site, now known as Innova Business Park – already hosts a state-of-the-art fermentation hub and will soon welcome a new Legana Ambulance Station, a Tas Petroleum facility with EV charging stations, and other exciting projects to be announced in the not-too-distant future.

The FermenTas Hub, an 1800-square-meter incubator, represents a multi-million-dollar investment supported by all three levels of government as part of West Tamar Council's Innova Business Park.

More than 100 businesses have already requested space at the new hub, which is expected to become a centre of work excellence in fermentation.

Legana Park Drive along the site frontage will be upgraded with pavement widening, kerb and a footpath and will be realigned to be removed from the roundabout and instead intersect with the new collector road.

There's still a lot of work to be done, but Innova Park is proving to be the ideal blueprint of what can be achieved when councils successfully form partnerships with business.

Importantly, ratepayers will also see the benefits of what is ultimately realised at Innova Business Park through an increased rate base, an upsurge in skills and employment, a stimulated local economy as well as the significant increase in funding Council will raise through the sale of the 23 lots.





Exeter and District Structure Plan

2026

The Exeter and District Structure Plan 2023 builds on the foundations of the existing Structure Plan, which was adopted in 2014 and provided a 20-year vision for the area.

The Structure Plan has been reviewed and updated to understand what has happened in the eight years since the original Structure Plan was released and what the future needs of the community might be.

The focus of the Structure Plan is on land use and development and seeks to address future needs for growth, particularly residential growth. Other community priorities will be managed through separate processes.

The 2014 review was informed by initial consultation with the community to understand what they liked most about Exeter, what improvements they thought could be made in Exeter and what does the Exeter community need.

More than 30 submissions were received, which informed the development of the Exeter and District Structure Plan 2023.

The consultation process also identified a need to extend the Structure Plan area to include Gravelly Beach, Blackwall and Lanena as the broader Exeter community.

People in the district identify with Exeter and have a strong connection with and reliance on Exeter.

As Exeter is a regional service centre, there is a large range of community services and business activities in the Structure Plan Area.

The community has also highlighted opportunities for future public or private investment as: Parks and recreation that specifically caters for young people – for example a strength and agility obstacle course proposed by the West Tamar Youth Strategy 2023–2026; veterinary services; additional food or retail offerings; and expanded service offerings at the Community Hub.

While the Structure Plan cannot require investment, these services are promoted as priorities for future consideration.

Council formally adopted the Exeter and District Structure Plan at its August 2026 ordinary meeting.

West Tamar Growth Strategy

In December 2025, Council unanimously adopted the West Tamar Growth Strategy and Infrastructure Plan at its ordinary council meeting, setting a clear path for sustainable development in one of Tasmania's fastest-growing regions.

Mayor Christina Holmdahl highlighted the municipality's rapid expansion.

"West Tamar has been one of the fastest-growing areas in Tasmania for several years. Projections indicate that by 2046, our population could increase by up to 7300 people," she said.

"To accommodate this growth, we'll need to build a significant number of new homes – approximately 130 to 160 each year.

"That's why it's crucial to act now, ensuring we have suitable land for housing and robust infrastructure in place, rather than playing catch-up later."

The Strategy offers long-term blueprint on housing locations, land use, and infrastructure planning.

"It creates a roadmap for managing growth while preserving our natural spaces and the unique qualities that make West Tamar an exceptional place to live, work, and invest," Mayor Holmdahl said.

"Ultimately, it's about optimising existing services, promoting housing choice and affordability, and safeguarding the character of our towns, villages, and rural areas."

Council partnered with SGS Economics and Planning to develop the strategy.

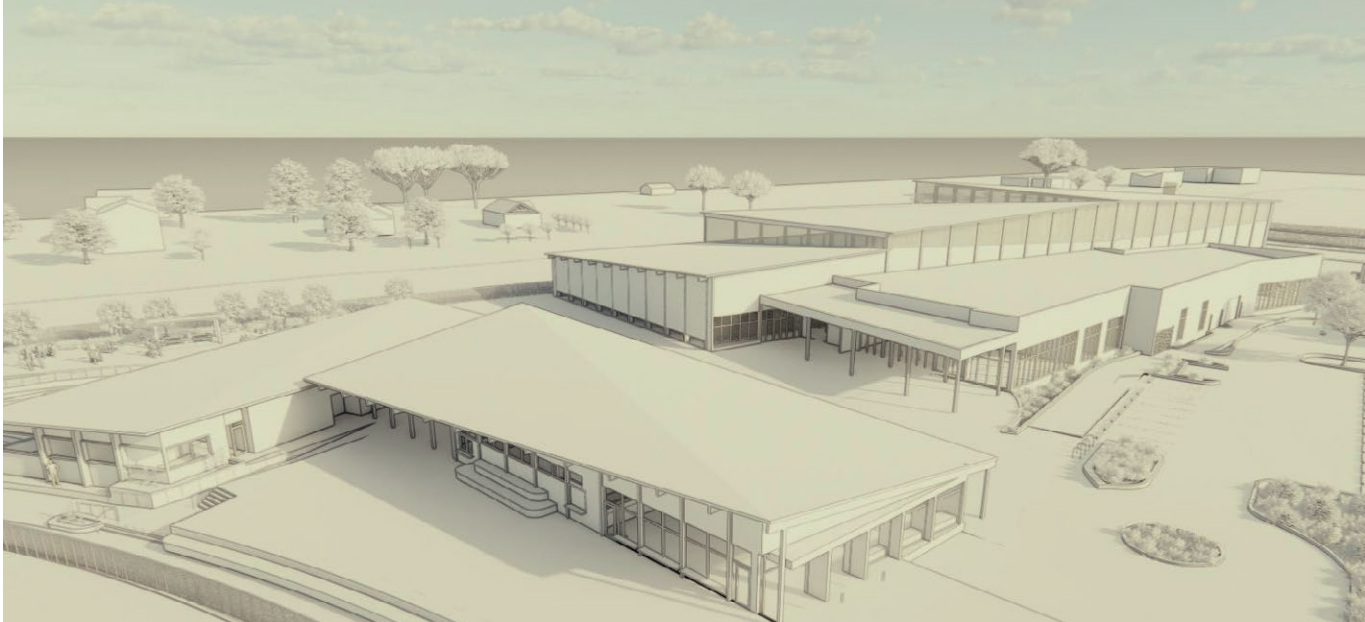
Through an extensive public engagement process, multiple growth scenarios were explored and consulted upon.

Community and stakeholder feedback, combined with technical analysis, led to the selection of 'gentle densification' as the preferred approach.

This involves targeted densification around the townships of Riverside, Legana, and Exeter, alongside growth consolidation and lifestyle areas throughout the municipality.

The final strategy incorporates input from community consultations on the draft version.

It will also support developers, landowners, planning consultants, and Council in preparing and evaluating proposals for Planning Scheme Amendments and land rezoning.



Legana Community Sports and Recreation Precinct Master plan

In April 2026, West Tamar Council supported an intergenerational investment into Legana by endorsing the Legana Community Sports and Recreation Precinct Master Plan and the scoping of stage one works.

The business case for the master plan supported two linked decisions for the Legana Community, Sports and Recreation Precinct on Council land adjacent to the Legana Primary School.

The master plan includes an indoor multi-purpose facility, new clubrooms and function and hospitality spaces, change rooms, an outdoor central hub and market area, cricket training nets and staged parking.

As outlined in the business case, stage 1 would commence in the 2026/27 financial year as the first, fundable package – which would include the indoor multi-purpose courts and the cricket clubrooms and change rooms, which will address the region's documented indoor court shortage.

Mayor Christina Holmdahl said the master plan will deliver many benefits for both the community and the regional economy.

"Legana is unquestionably the key growth area of the West Tamar municipality," Mayor Holmdahl said.

"It's important that Council takes a long-term view of providing facilities that keep step with the growth of Legana, while addressing a key shortage of this type of facility in the Northern region."

Mayor Holmdahl said that once the overall project is brought to fruition, it is expected to be the single largest project the West Tamar Council has undertaken to date.

"These types of facilities are developed and built to serve the community for decades and a staged approach will allow Council to make a long-term investment that will provide improved access, participation and community connection," Mayor Holmdahl said.

Modelling outlined in the business case states that total output impacts of the plan would be in the vicinity of \$32 million for the Legana area, \$33.8 million for the municipality and \$41.6 million for the northern region, with up to 68 jobs created in the West Tamar alone.

The federal government committed \$5 million towards the indoor multi-purpose facility, with Council to provide a further \$5 million for the sports clubrooms, function centre and outdoor cricket nets.

Beauty Point Foreshore Project



November 2025 marked a significant milestone for the West Tamar community with the official opening of the Beauty Point Foreshore Redevelopment.

This generational project has transformed the iconic waterfront into a vibrant, accessible destination for residents and visitors alike.

The redevelopment, which was guided by the Beauty Point Foreshore Master Plan, delivers enhanced public access to the Tamar River estuary, upgraded amenities, and a renewed focus on the area's natural and cultural heritage.

Key features include new footpaths along the foreshore for improved pedestrian and cycling connectivity, a state-of-the-art all-abilities playground, a new resilient seawall structure, and refreshed public spaces that better integrate with local attractions like Seahorse World and Platypus House.

Developed in partnership with TasPorts and Tourism Northern Tasmania, the project builds on \$3 million in Federal Government funding, to create a sustainable hub that supports tourism, recreation, and community well-being.

The initiative addresses long-standing community priorities, including better foreshore connectivity and enhanced safety and usability of public facilities.

West Tamar Council Mayor Christina Holmdahl officiated a ribbon-cutting ceremony alongside Bass Labor MHR Jess Teesdale, joining with residents, project partners, and council representatives.

"This redevelopment is more than just barbecue shelters and new pathways – it's a testament to our community's vision and resilience," Mayor Holmdahl said.

"For years, Beauty Point residents have championed better access to our stunning foreshore, and today we celebrate that dream becoming reality.

"This space will foster connection to our Tamar River heritage, boost local tourism, and provide joyful, inclusive places for play and relaxation.

"On behalf of the Council, I extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone involved, and an invitation to all to come explore and enjoy.

"The West Tamar Council is immensely proud of this remarkable facility, which we believe will serve as a vibrant centrepiece for our community for generations to come."



Community Strategic Plan

West Tamar Council adopted its Community Strategic Plan 2026-2036 in July 2026 – a comprehensive roadmap designed to guide the region’s growth, infrastructure and community wellbeing over the next decade.

In a unique and modern approach to strategic planning, Council highlighted that the draft was developed through a human-led, evidence-based process supported by artificial intelligence (AI) – which was developed by international speaker, consultant and urban futurist Stephen Yarwood.

This is the first time in Tasmania that a Community Strategic Plan has been developed in this way.

AI was used purely as a research and synthesis tool to efficiently scan, compare, and summarise large volumes of Federal, State, and local strategies along with targeted community stakeholder feedback.

Recognising that the municipality is evolving and growing, West Tamar Council has stepped away from traditional strategic local government planning process to present a strategy deeply rooted in community values.

“The best plans come from honest conversations, and the West Tamar Community gave us plenty,” West Tamar Mayor Christina Holmdahl said.

“This plan reflects a clear message from our residents: growth is expected, but it must be well considered. It has to be supported by the right infrastructure, respect the unique character of our landscape, and ultimately make everyday life better for the people who call the West Tamar home.”

Rather than listing isolated projects or departmental goals, the 10-year strategy is structured around three core civic themes that reflect how residents experience the municipality – Our Shape, Our Heart and Our Economy.

Mr Yarwood said the plan was built on a new kind of process.

“We used AI as a second brain to read and synthesise dozens of existing strategies and hundreds of pages of community input, then turn all of it into one clear direction for the next decade,” Mr Yarwood said.

“The technology did the heavy lifting on the evidence, but every strategic decision stayed with people. The result is comprehensive, cost-effective and creative, and I am proud to commend it to the community for consultation.”

West Tamar Council stressed that all interpretation, judgment, and final drafting were undertaken entirely by Council, informed directly by stakeholder engagement with Council oversight.

Legana Town Centre & Township Structure Plan



The Legana Town Centre & Township Structure Plan, is a long-term strategic framework that will guide how Legana grows and evolves over the next 20 years.

Legana is one of Tasmania's fastest-growing areas, with forecasts showing the West Tamar region will welcome more than 7000 new residents by 2045, many of whom are expected to settle in Legana.

To meet this demand, the updated Structure Plan sets out a clear vision for sustainable development, improved infrastructure, and enhanced community facilities.

The former Legana Structure Plan and Legana Town Centre Structure Plan was originally published in 2014.

Given the amount of time that had passed and the considerable changes Legana has experienced in recent years, it was essential to review and update the Structure Plans to ensure they remain aligned with current conditions, projected growth, community priorities, and the broader strategic planning objectives of the township.

This included addressing the increasing demand for housing, commercial and retail land, and ensuring the delivery of high-quality community services and infrastructure.

The Structure Plan also responds to the current shortage of available land within the Town Centre by identifying opportunities to unlock additional development areas and support a more diverse range of housing options.

It provides a detailed framework that highlights:

- » Targeted expansion areas for civic, commercial, retail and administration functions, with redevelopment potential identified along Fulton Street, Bulman Drive, and the western edge of Freshwater Point Road that would provide up to 40,000m² of additional Town Centre land;
- » A proposed Civic and Community Precinct to accommodate new administrative and community facilities that reinforce Legana's role as a key growth area and commercial hub within the West Tamar LGA;
- » Infrastructure improvements, notably the extension of Tatana Way to connect the Town Centre with the Legana Primary School and Southern and Innova Precincts, enabling access to future residential, industrial, and commercial areas;
- » Relocation of the Legana Recreation Precinct to Old Dairy Way (Southern Precinct) to unlock centrally located land for future development;
- » Commercial activation and public realm enhancement through: Improved pedestrian connectivity; Maximised shopfront exposure along Tatana Way; The creation of inviting public gathering spaces; Integration of boulevard-style tree planting along Tatana Way and Fulton Street; and Public art to create a vibrant and engaging streetscape.
- » Rezoning of select residential areas adjacent to the Town Centre to Urban Mixed Use and Inner Residential to enable the delivery of more diverse housing options in locations that benefit from close access to services, amenities and public transport.



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