



ANNUAL REPORT  

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2018/19



GEORGE TOWN COUNCIL

# Municipality Snapshot

The George Town Council area is located in northern Tasmania, about 50 kilometres north of the Launceston CBD. It is bounded by the Tasman Sea in the north, the Dorset Council area in the east, the City of Launceston in the south, and the Tamar River in the west. The George Town Council area includes

the localities of Beechford, Bell Bay, Bellingham, George Town, Hillwood, Lefroy, Long Reach, Low Head, Lower Turners Marsh (part), Lulworth, Mount Direction (part), Pipers Brook (part), Pipers River (part), Retreat (part) and Weymouth.



The George Town Council area includes rural and rural-residential areas, with a township at George Town, and a smaller township at Low Head. Significant industrial areas are located just south of George Town, including the Bell Bay Port. Rural land is used largely for agriculture (particularly sheep and cattle grazing) and forestry. Tourism is also an important industry.

The district offers three schools providing early childhood, primary and secondary education and a hospital and medical centre. Recreational infrastructure including sporting clubs, public swimming pool, indoor sporting venues, safe beaches and boat ramps provide an exciting choice of recreational activities.

The George Town Aerodrome is a minor airport serving George Town and the Launceston Airport is approximately 55 minutes drive from George Town. The area is well served by state highway connections to the Tamar Valley, the City of Launceston, north east Tasmania and the rest of the state.

# Welcome

The 2018/19 Annual Financial Report outlines George Town Council's work and achievements over the past financial year and the fulfilment of its statutory and strategic requirements. This report incorporates the results of Council's performance in respect to goals and objectives set in the

2018/19 Annual Plan and detail of the financial performance. The report provides an insight into our operations and services to our community, and how Council is progressing with developing a positive future for the George Town municipality.

## *Acknowledgement of Country*

*The George Town Council pays its respect to the traditional and original owners, their elders past, present and emerging and we pay respect to those that have passed before us and to acknowledge today's Tasmanian Aboriginal people who are the custodians of this land.*

## Councils Values & Vision

### **As a community we:**

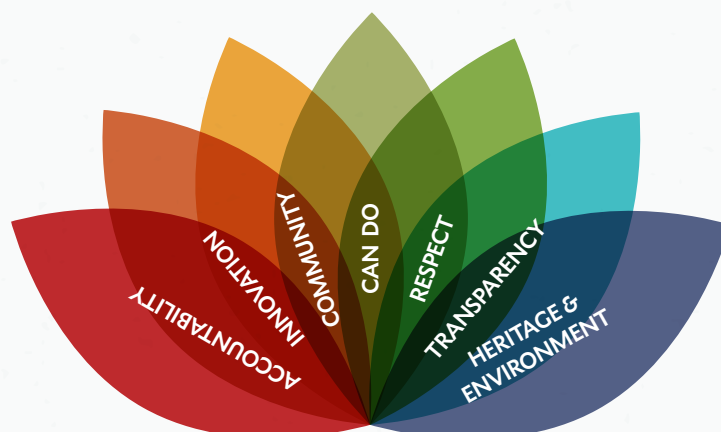
*Are welcoming of a diverse industry & business mix  
Are an active & vibrant community that enjoys liveable & amenity rich neighbourhoods  
Are celebrating our natural environment & rich heritage  
Have vibrant towns with coastal connections & rural lifestyles  
Have a council responding to our community's needs*

### **George Town Council Values**

*The Council's Mission is supported by its commitment to pursue fundamental values. These values drive the way the Council operates and how Council carries out all its activities and services for the benefit of the community.*

### **George Town Council Vision**

*In 2026, the George Town Council's vision is a municipality that is a proud community where people from all ages participate in our active recreational and community life and where we treasure the immense beauty of our natural environment and rich heritage. We will embrace our industries to drive our prosperity and growth.*



# Message from the Mayor



The 2018/19 annual report marks my final contribution as Mayor of George Town Council. In May 2019, following almost 10 years in local government in George Town and four as Mayor I was fortunate to be elected as the Federal Member of Parliament for the division of Bass and consequently relinquished my local government role. It has been a tremendous privilege to serve the George Town community as an elected representative and I am delighted that I will have the opportunity to continue that work albeit in a different capacity.

The 2018/19 year was a very productive year for George Town Council and one that I am sure will set the Council and the community in very good stead for the future. After many challenging decisions and a lot of hard work over several years the budget was returned to the black and the organisation enjoys improved governance and culture.

There are some exciting plans set to come to fruition over the coming years including the much anticipated mountain bike project and the redevelopment of Regent Square, these will both be transformational projects for the community – bringing tourists and locals alike together to enjoy all that our town has to offer. I congratulate everyone that has been involved over many years in planning for these important projects.

Likewise it will be very pleasing to see the Healthy George Town project roll out in the months and years ahead, along with the return of the YMCA programs in George Town. These have been many years in the making and it is thanks to the persistence and dedication of Council officers that they will now be realised and hopefully improve the health and wellbeing of our community.





It was very pleasing during this period to welcome new General Manager Shane Power to George Town. Shane was recruited after an extensive process and brings with him not only a wealth of local government experience across many areas of expertise but also a dynamic and inclusive attitude. Shane has relocated with his lovely family and is settling in well to the community and I wish him every success as he with newly elected Mayor Greg Kieser takes the Council forward in the next phase. I look forward to continuing to work together with the Council for our shared interests of a vibrant George Town municipality.

I would like to conclude by thanking the George Town community and the wonderful Council staff and of course my Council colleagues for your support and encouragement over many years. I wish you all a happy and successful future.

*Bridget Archer*

Bridget Archer  
Mayor



# Message from the General Manager

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I am pleased to present Council's 2018/2019 Annual Report. It has been a busy year at George Town Council, one full of great change and great achievement.

The Annual Report provides insight into Council's achievements and highlights throughout the year, details Council's operations and performance and is my first as General Manager of George Town Council.

Commencing in the role of General Manager in January, I was pleased to find the organisation in a sound financial position. For the first year in many, the organisation delivered an operating surplus (almost \$400k), which is largely due to the extraordinary efforts of former General Manager Justine Brooks and Acting General Manager Harry Galea. I take this opportunity to recognise their efforts and thank them on behalf of the organisation and the community.

The federal election was contested in May which saw our former Mayor Bridget Archer successfully gaining office as the federal member for Bass. Bridget served Council for almost 10 years, providing leadership to Council and community as mayor for 4 years. I take this opportunity to thank Bridget for her guidance and leadership and look forward to working with her in her new capacity, particularly in achieving our shared commitment to enhancing the prosperity of our community.

I have enjoyed establishing relationships with local groups, regional councils, state and federal agencies, business, industry and our broader community.

I have learned very early on that we are a diverse, proud and passionate community that 'punches above its weight' across all areas. Some examples include the re-invigoration of the Future Impact Group, a 'collective impact' initiative comprising membership from across a broad range of stakeholders that share a common goal to enhance the quality of life of our community. The establishment of a Place Making Advisory Group, a committee of Council that comprises of community members from diverse backgrounds who are passionate about enhancing the enjoyment of our public spaces. The Community Safety Committee was recognised for its outstanding work by way of nomination for an award at the 2019 Annual Road Safety Awards, as was the Bell Bay Advanced Manufacturing Zone Committee, who in collaboration with Council received the award

for Contributing to Regional Growth at the 2019 National Awards for Local Government.

The community have been treated with a multitude of exciting events that have either been hosted or sponsored by Council this financial year. From car rallies, street parades to music festivals, it gives Council great pleasure to offer these social platforms in which the community can engage in fellowship with neighbours and friends.

Council's advocacy efforts were well rewarded receiving funding commitments from the Federal Government of \$4.4M for the construction of the George Town mountain bike trail, \$2.45M for the redevelopment of Regent Square and \$250k for the installation of AFL standard lighting at the George Town football ground. These funding commitments are in addition to funding received each year from the Commonwealth under the Financial Assistant Grant Scheme in which Council is appreciative of.

The community will also benefit from programs funded through State grants including the roll out of Healthy GT. An evidence-based, community-wide, holistic, collaborative and sustainable health and wellbeing project that aims to create a safe, connected, vibrant, healthy and positive community! 2018/2019 has been a successful year for Council and community.

The Council has budgeted for long term financial sustainability despite increasing costs, providing vital community services and progressing much-needed capital projects. I would like to acknowledge and thank the Mayor and Councillors for their vision and leadership, together with the dedication and support of the Council Leadership Team and staff.

I hope you enjoy some of the highlights of the year as presented in this Annual Report.



Shane Power  
General Manager



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*I have enjoyed establishing relationships with local groups, regional councils, state and federal agencies, business, industry and our broader community.*

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# Elected Members

In accordance with the Local Government Act 1993, Part 7, Division 2, Para. 72. Sub-para 1 (da), the following statement of Mayoral, Deputy Mayoral and Councillor expenses is provided.

The Mayor and 8 Councillors are elected for a four-year term in an 'all-in all-out' election which means the elected representatives have a four-year

term including the positions of Mayor and Deputy Mayor. Local government elections were last held in October 2018.

Following the resignation of the Mayor Bridget Archer on the 4th June 2019 a by-election was held with the results of a new Mayor Greg Kieser and Councillor Peter Parkes were appointed in July 2019.



## Cr Bridget Archer

Mayor (Elected 2009 – June 2019)

<b>Appointments to internal/external committees &amp; groups</b>	Resigned as Mayor June 2019; Chair – George Town Municipal Emergency Management Committee; Member – Tamar Estuary Management Taskforce; Member – TasWater Board – Owners Representative; Member – Local Government Association of Tasmania; Proxy – George Town Community Safety Group Committee; Mayor Chair Healthy George Town Project Working Group						
<b>No. meetings attended</b>	Ordinary Meetings Attended: 9		AGM Attended: 1		Special Meetings Attended: 2		Total Meetings Attended: 12
<b>Allowances &amp; payments</b>	Statutory Allowance	Councillor Dependents	Total Km	Travel Km Reimbursement	Communications	Stationery	Total \$
	\$36,631	\$4,803	4854.4	\$3,204	\$2,175	\$0	\$46,812



## Cr Tim Harris

Deputy Mayor, (Elected October 2014 –)

<b>Appointments to internal/external committees &amp; groups</b>	Member – George Town Municipal Emergency Management Committee (Nov 2018); Member – Tamar NRM Management Committee; Acting Mayor rep on LGAT; Deputy Mayor as proxy to Healthy George Town Project Working Group						
<b>No. meetings attended</b>	Ordinary Meetings Attended: 8		AGM Attended: 1		Special Meetings Attended: 4		Total Meetings Attended: 13
<b>Allowances &amp; payments</b>	Statutory Allowance	Councillor Dependents	Total Km	Travel Km Reimbursement	Communications	Stationery	Total \$
	\$27,786	\$0	533.0	\$352	\$1,544	\$0	\$29,682





## Cr Greg Kieser

(Elected 2018 –)

<b>Appointments to internal/external committees &amp; groups:</b>			Member – George Town Audit Panel				
<b>No. meetings attended</b>	Ordinary Meetings Attended: 8		AGM Attended: 0		Special Meetings Attended: 4		Total Meetings Attended: 12
<b>Allowances &amp; payments</b>	Statutory Allowance	Councillor Dependents	Total Km	Travel Km Reimbursement	Communica-tions	Stationery	Total \$
	\$8,432	\$0	0.0	\$0	\$896	\$0	\$9,328



## Cr Heather Barwick JP

(Elected 1989 –)

<b>Appointments to internal/external committees &amp; groups:</b>			Member – George Town Audit Panel; Chair – George Town Community Safety Group Committee				
<b>No. meetings attended</b>	Ordinary Meetings Attended: 6		AGM Attended: 1		Special Meetings Attended: 4		Total Meetings Attended: 11
<b>Allowances &amp; payments</b>	Statutory Allowance	Councillor Dependents	Total Km	Travel Km Reimbursement	Communica-tions	Stationery	Total \$
	\$12,552	\$0	3899.0	\$2,573	\$1,332	\$133	\$16,590



## Cr Andrew Michieletto

(Elected November 2018 –)

<b>Appointments to internal/external committees &amp; groups:</b>			Proxy – George Town Audit Panel				
<b>No. meetings attended</b>	Ordinary Meetings Attended: 4		AGM Attended: 1		Special Meetings Attended: 2		Total Meetings Attended: 7
<b>Allowances &amp; payments</b>	Statutory Allowance	Councillor Dependents	Total Km	Travel Km Reimbursement	Communica-tions	Stationery	Total \$
	\$8,432	\$0	0.0	\$0	\$896	\$0	\$9,328



## Cr Chris Barraclough

(Elected November 2018 –)

<b>Appointments to internal/external committees &amp; groups:</b>			Member – George Town Municipal Emergency Management Committee				
<b>No. meetings attended</b>	Ordinary Meetings Attended: 4		AGM Attended: 1		Special Meetings Attended: 2		Total Meetings Attended: 7
<b>Allowances &amp; payments</b>	Statutory Allowance	Councillor Dependents	Total Km	Travel Km Reimbursement	Communica-tions	Stationery	Total \$
	\$8,432	\$0	0.0	\$0	\$896	\$0	\$9,328



## Cr Justine Brooks

(Elected November 2018 –)

<b>Appointments to internal/external committees &amp; groups:</b>			Member – Tamar NRM Management Committee; Chair – Placemaking Advisory Committee Management Committee – Communities for Children				
<b>No. meetings attended</b>	Ordinary Meetings Attended: 3		AGM Attended: 0		Special Meetings Attended: 1		Total Meetings Attended: 4
<b>Allowances &amp; payments</b>	Statutory Allowance	Councillor Dependents	Total Km	Travel Km Reimbursement	Communications	Stationery	Total \$
	\$8,432	\$0	601.5	\$397	\$896	\$0	\$9,725



## Cr Greg Dawson

(Elected October 2014 –)

<b>Appointments to internal/external committees &amp; groups:</b>			Member – Tamar NRM Management Committee; Chair – Placemaking Advisory Committee				
<b>No. meetings attended</b>	Ordinary Meetings Attended: 8		AGM Attended: 0		Special Meetings Attended: 4		Total Meetings Attended: 12
<b>Allowances &amp; payments</b>	Statutory Allowance	Councillor Dependents	Total Km	Travel Km Reimbursement	Communications	Stationery	Total \$
	\$12,552	\$0	0.0	\$0	\$1,332	\$0	\$13,884



## Cr Winston Mason

(Elected November 2018 –)

<b>No. meetings attended</b>	Ordinary Meetings Attended: 2		AGM Attended: 1		Special Meetings Attended: 2		Total Meetings Attended: 5
<b>Allowances &amp; payments</b>	Statutory Allowance	Councillor Dependents	Total Km	Travel Km Reimbursement	Communications	Stationery	Total \$
	\$8,432	\$0	0.0	\$0	\$896	\$0	\$9,328



## Cr John Glisson

(Elected October 2014 – November 2018)

<b>Appointments to internal/external committees &amp; groups:</b>			Member – George Town Audit Panel				
<b>No. meetings attended</b>	Ordinary Meetings Attended: 4		AGM Attended: 0		Special Meetings Attended: 1		Total Meetings Attended: 5
<b>Allowances &amp; payments</b>	Statutory Allowance	Councillor Dependents	Total Km	Travel Km Reimbursement	Communications	Stationery	Total \$
	\$4,190	\$0	238.0	\$157	\$443	\$0	\$4,790



## Cr Christopher Ashley

(Elected May 2016 – November 2018)

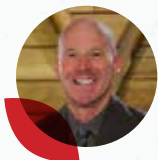
No. meetings attended	Ordinary Meetings Attended: 4		AGM Attended: 0		Special Meetings Attended: 2		Total Meetings Attended: 6
Allowances & payments	Statutory Allowance	Councillor Dependents	Total Km	Travel Km Reimbursement	Communications	Stationery	Total \$
		\$4,190	\$0	0.0	\$0	\$443	\$0



## Cr Doug Burt

(Elected October 2014 – November 2018)

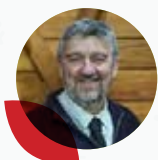
No. meetings attended	Ordinary Meetings Attended: 3		AGM Attended: 0		Special Meetings Attended: 2		Total Meetings Attended: 5
Allowances & payments	Statutory Allowance	Councillor Dependents	Total Km	Travel Km Reimbursement	Communications	Stationery	Total \$
		\$4,190	\$0	0.0	\$0	\$443	\$0



## Cr Tim Parish

(Elected 2007 – November 2018)

Appointments to internal/external committees & groups:			Member – George Town Audit Panel				
No. meetings attended	Ordinary Meetings Attended: 4		AGM Attended: 0		Special Meetings Attended: 2		Total Meetings Attended: 6
Allowances & payments	Statutory Allowance	Councillor Dependents	Total Km	Travel Km Reimbursement	Communications	Stationery	Total \$
		\$4,190	\$0	0.0	\$0	\$443	\$0



## Cr Peter Parkes

(Elected October 2014 – November 2018) Note re-elected July 2019

No. meetings attended	Ordinary Meetings Attended: 2		AGM Attended: 0		Special Meetings Attended: 2		Total Meetings Attended: 4
Allowances & payments	Statutory Allowance	Councillor Dependents	Total Km	Travel Km Reimbursement	Communications	Stationery	Total \$
		\$4,190	\$0	0.0	\$0	\$443	\$0



# Our People

George Town Council's organisational structure consists of four departments, Corporate & Finance, Community & Development Services, Works & Infrastructure & Office of the General Manager.



# The Year in Review

The George Town Council has prepared a comprehensive Annual Report detailing Council's performance towards achieving the strategic objectives as illustrated in the Strategic Plan. This Annual Report provides you with highlights of Council's achievements for 2018/19 including the financial reports.

## LGA Award - Council Recognised at National Level

George Town Council was recognised for its role in the Bell Bay Advanced Manufacturing Zone at the Australian Governments 2019 National Awards for Local Government, receiving the award for Contributing to Regional Growth.

What does this award mean for George Town Council, "It has put George Town municipality back on the national stage and it is knowing what we listened and invested our time and resources in, the Bell Bay Advance Manufacturing Zone (BBAMZ), has been recognised nationally by our peers as a world class initiative. We are developing a business culture that will continue to support the economy not only in our region, but our state. It is the collaboration between industry, business and the three tiers of government we hope will inspire other local governments to engage in a similar framework to develop strong economic foundations for future generations.

Understanding that supply, demand and technology are the key drivers in all economies and it is our role as a key community leader to ensure there is recurrent investment, employment, training and re-skilling opportunities for the ongoing prosperity of our municipality," said Council's General Manager, Shane Power.

Council wishes to thank the Office of Coordinator General, RDA Tasmania and each of the industry representatives that comprise the Bell Bay Advanced Manufacturing Zone sub-committee and a special thanks to Susie Bower, Project Officer. George Town Council's Acting Mayor Cr Tim Harris said

“ this award is recognition of the great work of forward thinking leaders from each level of government and industry, collaborating to secure a prosperous future for the George Town community. ”

If you would like to learn more about the world class Bell Bay Industrial Precinct and port, or the exciting initiatives underway please visit <https://bbamz.com.au/> or contact council offices.



# Event Highlights



The events calendar is an important part of George Town municipality's culture and identity. Over 31 events were supported or hosted by Council that were held in the municipality during the financial year which provided locals and visitors with the opportunity to experience a broad range of themes presented in collaborative ways. Events were held in a range of municipal venues from Council owned open spaces and buildings through to private facilities.

## Council Hosted Events

### George Town Street Festival

On Sunday 28th October, George Town came alive with the inaugural Street Festival. With the abundance of foods and refreshment stalls, to live music and free children's activities, Macquarie Street and Regent Square were transformed into a vibrant Spring Festival experience. The Festival attracted people from all demographics of the community, including visitors from the greater northern region. Families, particularly the children, enjoyed the many free activities, amusements and roving performers, whilst the adults delighted in a variety of local produce and gift stalls, enjoyed a refreshment, and relaxed while listening to the live music and the magic of the flash mob dancers. This event was proudly embraced by the community.



### Australia Day

In true Australian style, the community of George Town paid their respect to Australia Day with large attendances at the Australia Day Civic Reception and Breakfast, and again at the Australia Day Pool Party held at the George Town Swimming Pool.

Council was honoured to have Jack Duffy attend as our Australia Day Ambassador. Jack was born with Cerebral Palsy, and with the help of his father Chris, has founded the not for profit organisation "Just Like Jack", which raises funds to allow children like Jack to experience adventures and get the most out of life.

We welcomed three new Australian Citizens, and were honoured to announce our Australia Day Award Recipients: Jye Marshall – Young Citizen of the Year; Kevin Ellis – Citizen of the Year, and Rotary Club of George Town for Event of the Year.

The Australia Day pool party was very well attended, with families enjoying the music provided live by Tamar FM, the many pool games, free barbecue, and importantly the opportunity to celebrate our great country with families and friends.







## Council Sponsored Events

### 2019 Rotary Club of George Town – Wings & Things

Held in February 2019 at the George Town Airport, the 9th Annual Wings and Things event was an outstanding success. The event provided opportunities for both local residents and visitors to our municipality to view a large collection of vintage and veteran vehicles, aircraft and historic machinery, in a safe and family friendly environment. In addition to the various displays, the event offered live music, food & refreshment stalls, an extended children's area, and the inaugural Tug of War Competition.



### Event Summary : 2018-2019

Date	What
24 July – 30 Sept.	Lighthouse Regional Arts Exhibition in the Watch House : “Cogwaffle – Steampunk Art”.
18 Aug	Steampunk Tasmania Festival
23 Sept	George Town Council Dog’z Day Out
5 – 13 Oct	Lighthouse Regional Arts Exhibition in the Watch House : Alice & Friends, Textile Art by Glen Weavers
18 Oct	Seniors Variety Concert
23 Oct	George Town Street Festival
10 Nov	Lefroy Remembrance Day Service & Centenary of Armistice dedication. 11am at the Lefroy Avenue of Honour.
11 Nov	George Town RSL Remembrance Day Commemoration and Centenary of Armistice
15 Nov	Stage 1 – Tour of Tasmania Cycling Event
22 – 23 Nov	2018 Christmas Fun Fair
15 Dec	Annual Christmas Carols
16 Dec	George Town Triathlon
21 Dec	Annual Christmas Parade
17 Jan	Outdoor Movie Night
18 – 20 Jan	Tamar Valley Folk Festival
22 Jan	Fishcare Tasmania Family Fishing Day
24 Jan	Community Hub Cricket Challenge, supported by GTC.
26 Jan	Australia Day Civic Reception & Breakfast
26 Jan	Australia Day Family Day at the Swimming Pool
10 Feb	Launch of the Destination Action Plan and opening of Windmill Point Playground
11 Feb	George Town Triathlon
24 Feb	Rotary Club of George Town Wings & Things Event
7 Mar	Windy Park Alpaca’s Family Day at the Visitor Information Centre
18 – 20 Apr	Easter Family Fun Fair
18 Apr	Cycling Tasmania “Let’s Ride George Town” cycling program
25 Apr	RSL Anzac Commemorative Service
28 Apr	Targa Tasmania – Stage 1 of the 2019 Targa Prologue
17 May	Cancer Council Biggest Morning Tea
18 May	George Town Council Volunteer Recognition Award
26 May	Lions Club of George Town Country Music Festival
5 – 13 Oct	Watch House Exhibition Lighthouse Regional Arts



## 2019 Tamar Valley Folk Festival

18-20 January 2019

Patrons from the local community, across Tasmania, interstate and overseas flocked to the festival with venues filled to capacity. The opening concert on Friday evening showcased a wide variety of Tasmanian and interstate artists kick-started a weekend of festivities that received outstanding feedback from the thousands of people who attended. Many new events were introduced to the schedule this year, with the inclusion of popular artist Damien Leith receiving many accolades for this performance.

The festival is aimed at all demographics of the community. On the Saturday children flocked to Regent Square to participate in the children's circus, storytelling, Taiko Oni Jima and belly dancing. The crowds enjoyed the belly dancing and the talented musicians who lined Macquarie Street, and the various evening concerts held at multiple locations around the community.

The festival activities have generated a definite bond in the community, offering people a chance to attend an event that is unique to Tasmania, of which with many of the activities were free to the public.

Council is a proud sponsor of the Folk Festival and acknowledges the wonderful work of the Tamar Folk Festival committee, who bring this festival to the community.





# Capital Works & Operations Highlights

Council is pleased to report a solid performance in works and operations in the 2018/19 financial year. There has been some large projects on road infrastructure, as well as playground developments and amenities upgrades throughout the municipality. We have highlighted a selection of these projects that Council believe have been significantly beneficial to the community.

## Hillwood Road Upgrade

As part of Council's continuing efforts to improve the reliability and safety across our road network, the Hillwood Road project was activated for this purpose. By widening and upgrading a section approximately 700metres in length between East Tamar Highway to Leam Road now provides increased visibility and a wider thoroughfare for motorists. The anticipated outcomes were to provide a high degree of road safety, particularly where children were using the road to board and exit the local school bus. This project has now improved the performance of this road and lessened the risk associated with it.



## Dalrymple Road

Over the past 12 months Council has worked diligently to optimise roads in the municipality in the attempts to improve resident's safety and journey times. Council undertook road widening and re-construction works south of the East Arm Road intersection of approximately 800 metres on Dalrymple Road.

Council will continue to advocate for the continual upgrade of Dalrymple Road in order to deliver a safer road. Design plans are currently underway to replace and upgrade the bridge from single to dual lanes and the proposed completion is Jan-Feb 2020.





## Industry Road

Not unlike Dalrymple Road, Industry Road was also targeted in the attempt to improve safety and travel times. The project upgraded and sealed a 9.3km section of existing gravel road, addresses various improvements such as increasing sight distance, improved road user's safety and roadside drainage.

Design plans near completion to widen the two single lane bridges to dual lanes with the expected completion is Nov-Dec 2019.

## Beechford Community Shed

In partnership with Beechford Residents and Property Owners' Association, a community shed was constructed to serve as a meeting and BBQ facility to house community activities for local residence. The project completed in May 2019 and the shed will accommodate the Associations' AGM later this year.





## Soldier Settlement Road

Another project whereby Council continues its efforts to improve the reliability and safety across our road network was Soldier Settlement Road. The project commenced in September 2018 and consisted of upgrade and sealing of an 8 km stretch of road pavement, whilst improving roadside drainage, replacement of culverts and spreading infrastructure to allow for an 8 metre wide road pavement and a sealed carriageway of 6 metres.

Works completed in February 2019. The upgrade has addresses Council's concerns in relation to sight distance, now providing drivers with sufficient time to identify and appropriately react to all elements of the road environment, including other road users and hazards.

The 2018/19 road projects align with Council's Strategic Plan with the aim of providing good-quality road infrastructure with improved sealed width, sight distance, and roadsides drainage system.



## Windmill Point Playground

The provision of public amenities is an integral part of the provision of our services, in February 2019 the Windmill Point Playground officially opened its unisex toilet and BBQ facilities to cater for patrons of the park. In addition to the amenities some complimentary play equipment was installed to accompany the existing play equipment in the park.

Since the completion of the BBQ area, toilet facilities and activity equipment Council is pleased to report that this area has been well utilised and serving as a valuable asset to our community.





## New Toilet Blocks at Lulworth & Weymouth

After engagement with both residents and local community groups it was apparent that there was a high need to upgrade the existing public toilet facilities at both Lulworth and Weymouth. The toilets are known to be heavily patronised by both residents and seasonal visitors particularly in the summer months and therefore it was highly advantageous for the community. The upgrade of the facilities was made to the current Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) standard. The design and aesthetics of the toilets aligns perfectly to their natural surroundings and are ready for the up and coming summers patronage.



## Regent Square Playground – Stage 1

The \$350k Regent Square Project - Stage 1 is a Council led initiative informed through extensive community consultation. The project, is comprehensive in design and layout capturing community sentiment for a playground that offers fun experiences for multiple age groups.

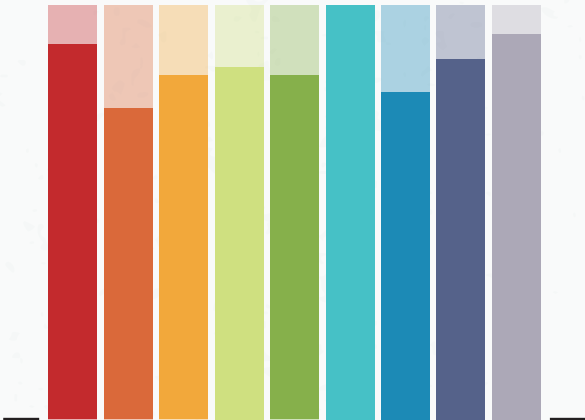
The design accolades can be attributed to council staff, including apparatus selection, landscaping and the visual aesthetics. The project has taken many months to come to fruition, with the first soil turned in Regent Square on the 15th January 2019 to commence works on the infrastructure. Throughout the later part of the financial year Council has worked diligently on developing a children's playground that will provide the community with fun activities that will be held in children's memories for a lifetime.

For the full list of Capital Works and Financials see Capital Works Summary – Annex A.





### Works Orders



100% completion for Drainage reports.

87.7% completion for actions on all reports.

Category	FIN YTD Received	FIN YTD Actioned
Roads	84	76
Public Buildings	4	3
Miscellaneous	47	39
Vegetation/Reserves	72	61
Waste Collection	18	15
Drainage	39	39
Nature Strips	24	19
Trees	15	13
Footpaths	14	13
<b>Total</b>	<b>317</b>	<b>278</b>

# Advocacy Determinations 2019/20

George Town Council continues to work collaboratively with both state and federal government and its key stakeholders advocating strongly for its residents, businesses and industry stakeholders to improve key transport, tourism and community infrastructure. Below are a selection of key advocacy initiatives undertaken by Council in the 2018/19 financial year.

## George Town Mountain Bike Trail

Council is delighted to report that they have sought to capitalise and enhance Tasmania's reputation as a key mountain bike and tourism destination by sourcing the funding of \$4.4m for the development of the mountain bike trail at Mount George from the Federal Government at the recent federal election.



The benefits of this development to the George Town municipality will be:

- Increased visitation and business opportunities for both existing and new business
- Infrastructure to support a sustainable tourism framework
- Urbanised multi abilities mountain bike pump track in central George Town for all riders and boost youth participation
- Ongoing direct economic impact – an estimated \$4.4m during planning and construction and a potential \$12.1m of indirect economic benefits annually
- Encourage social inclusion and participation in active sports
- Increased employment opportunities at Council

The project is set to commence in the 2019/20 financial year - there is an anticipated trail construction network will be approximately 80km+ in length designed to accommodate all skill levels and will consist of a mix of trails including double black gravity descents at Mount George and surrounds.





## Regent Square Development

In addition to the MBT project Council also secured \$2.45 million for the continued development of Regent Square. The project aims to activate the centrally located open space in the heart of George Town through the provision of recreational equipment and activities for various age groups, new amenities including seating, tables and BBQ's, landscaping, plaza areas, and assets that celebrate the Aboriginal and European heritage of George Town.

Council had been advocating for this project as a key strategic priority, Mayor Archer welcomed the funding announcement in March saying "there has been strong community support for this project and that is why Council resolved to pursue funding for both Regent Square redevelopment and the mountain bike trails projects as its number one priority"

The benefits of this development to the George Town municipality will be:

- Support families by providing a safe and engaging learning environment and play space for children while creating greater access for other demographics to use and enjoy the space
- Provide a location that promotes social inclusion
- Create a community hub that fosters a sense of pride and community in a location in the town centre.

- Attract both locals and visitors to the region to experience both the historical and cultural values of our community
- Provide employment during construction
- Stimulate and reinvigorate economic activity in the retail precinct

Stage 2 of the project is scheduled to commence in November which includes the installation of the flying fox in the vicinity children playground and after an engaging public consultation procedure Council hopes to reveal a new design plan for Stage 3 of the project in the new year.





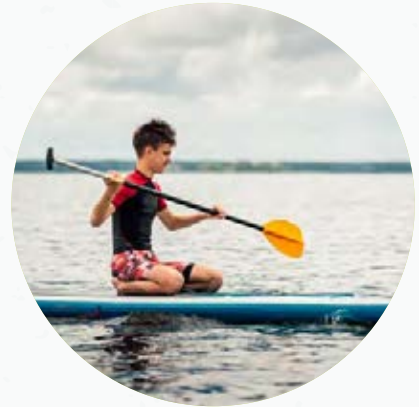


## Healthy George Town

Since 2011, Council in collaboration with Health Tasmania have been advocating for financial support from both state, federal and private funding bodies to support the implementation of Healthy George Town, a community wide program that aims to benefit the health and wellbeing of individuals in the community, as well as build culture, connectedness, skill capacity and social capital. In March 2019, Council was advised that their funding application to the Federal Governments MUSTER Program for \$150K and the State Governments Innovative Grants Program for \$24,800 had been successful. It was the persistence and vision of Council and stakeholders that was instrumental in acquiring the funding for the betterment of a healthier George Town municipality.

Healthy George Town is an evidence-based, community-wide, holistic, collaborative and sustainable health and wellbeing project that aims to create a safe, connected, vibrant, healthy and positive community - and it's FREE for participants ! In partnership with community organisations, local providers and health professionals, Healthy George Town will facilitate the delivery of a broad suite of activities and sessions, events, initiatives and strategy/ policy developments. Healthy George Town will mobilise the community to improve their wellbeing by; filling gaps in provision, creating pathways, reducing barriers and targeting those with the highest need.

This project is scheduled to launch in the October of the coming financial year



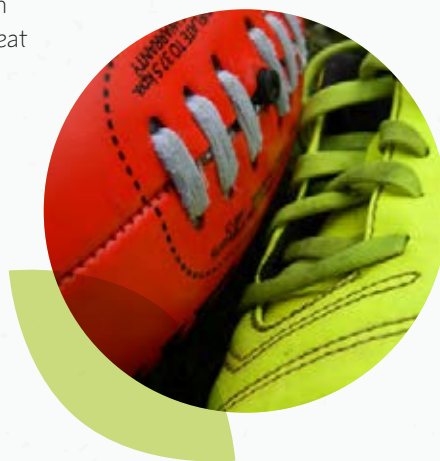
## AFL Lights George Town Football Ground

Earlier in the year the George Town Football Club approached Council to assist in the advocacy for improved lighting at the George Town Sports Ground. The discussions soon unveiled the need for AFL standard lighting which was also in accordance with the strategic direction Council had for the Sports Precinct. The benefits the lighting would deliver to the complex are:

- The lighting would enhance safety and amenity for users by replacing aged equipment and extend the use of the sporting facilities year-round,
- Decrease energy consumption requirements which would result in a net environmental and financial benefit
- Provide employment benefits during construction
- The upgrade will create opportunities for other sporting activities
- Increase participation from female football

Council advocated on behalf of the George Town Football Club at the 2019 Federal pre-election campaign, affirming that if George Town Football Club was successful in acquiring the election promise funding, then Council would provide in kind support through project management and ongoing maintenance of the infrastructure and may assist (in principle) in meeting any funding shortfall for the project. The pre-election promise came to fruition when Liberal Party, Bass Candidate Bridget Archer won her seat and George Town Football Club secured \$250,000 for their project.

The project is scheduled to complete in February 2020 ready for the new football season.



# Development & Community Services

## Public Health Statement

George Town Council's commitment to maintaining a high level of public health protection is identified under Goal 04 of the George Town Council Strategic Plan 2016/2026. As part of Council's public health goals and objectives for 2018/2019 the Community and Development Department has sought to:

1. Continue to provide an efficient animal control service promoting the amenity and safety of the community and animal welfare (Annex C 4.1.5.1),
2. Pursue funding towards the development of a Cat Management Program to encourage responsible ownership and containment (Annex C 4.1.5.2),
3. Continue to work with Tamar NRM and the State on providing input to guide the development of Cat Management programs and legislation (Annex C 4.1.5.3),
4. Review the George Town Council Dog Management Policy and incorporate lifetime registrations "Promote, implement and monitor public health standards (Annex C 5.4.1.20),
5. Review and enhance immunisation awareness and education materials (Annex C 4.1.6.10),
6. Review the George Town Council Immunisation Policy (Annex C 4.1.6.9),
7. Implement the revised Recreational Water Quality Guidelines scheduled for issue in 2018 under the Public Health Act 1 (Annex C 4.1.6.16)

Specific details and outcomes in achieving those goals are provided in the Strategic and Operational Plan report, including in the reports Annex C.

The following information is also provided in accordance with the requirements of the Act.

## Notifiable Diseases

During 2018/2019 staff at the Department of Health and Human Services sent no notifiable disease reports sent to George Town Council Environmental Health staff. This is a substantial improvement from the previous year when 3 Notifiable Diseases were investigated.

## Recreational Water Sampling

The George Town Recreational Water Sampling program was continued during the months of December 2018, January, February and March 2019 in accordance with Council Environmental Health programs and the requirements of the Guidelines for Recreational Water Quality.

Details of results and calculations as to their safety are recorded in Council's annual report to the Director of Public Health. Analysis results provided below indicate all samples for each site were compliant. Pipe Clay Bay has continued to return compliant results and will be continued to be monitored.

Note: Please see attached table

## Regulated Public Health Premises.

George Town Council received 3 applications to register 17 cooling towers operating in the local Government area. All applications were assessed against Public Health requirements and resulted in all registrations being issued.





## Places of Assembly

According to the Public Health Act 1997, the requirement for a place of assembly licence is activated for events involving more than 1000 patrons with a duration of 2 hours or more and are held outside. During the 2018/2019 period the need for a Place of Assembly temporary licence was not required for any events held within the George Town Local Government Area.

## Nuisances & Public Risk Complaints & Notifications

Nuisances and Public Risk Complaints and notifications are investigated under the following statutory legislation applicable to Tasmanian Local Government.

- Local Government Act 1993
- Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994
- Public Health Act 1997

George Town Environmental Health staff received a variety of complaints during 2018/2019.

These complaints were again mainly focused around noise, outdoor burning, wood smoke, untidy and unhealthy property and water quality.

All matters were actioned in a timely manner and Council had no ongoing issues with customers who initiated the complaints.





## Food Standards & Inspections

In 2018/2019, a number of food premises inspections were undertaken on the 66 registered food premises including fixed business activity, temporary food premises and annual state wide registrations in the municipality.

## Environmental & Public Health Education & Promotion

Council's Environmental Health Officer provided a range of educational material on food safety awareness to business owners and made this information available on Council's web resources. Council's position regarding food safety matters is to encourage a proactive approach towards food business operators in an attempt to understand the way stakeholders respond to and influence their business activities and the way they engage with the community.

Council's Environmental Health Officer also provided a range of educational material on outdoor burning activities in an attempt to not encourage open burning in the Local Government area. In particular burning activity involving the disposal of backyard waste that is covered by Council's extensive garbage and recycling collection service. Information on tip fee days was also made available on Council's web service to help residents to dispose of excessive garden waste where residents elected not to chip garden waste into mulch.

## Immunisation

Immunisations remain one of the most important public health initiatives globally and was the major public health activity coordinated by Council during 2018/2019. The immunisation programme was delivered in conjunction with the George Town Medical Centre and provided vaccinations for school age children against preventable diseases in accordance with the recommendations of the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Australian Standard Vaccination Schedule. Three school based immunisation sessions were scheduled for 2019, two have been undertaken and one remains to be undertaken on 6th November 2019. Approximately 50 students were listed for vaccinations. The vaccinations offered are Human Papillomavirus (HPV), Diphtheria, Tetanus and Pertussis (whooping cough) and Meningococcal ACWY which came back onto the schedule for 2019. The George Town Medical Centre continues to provide vaccinations for children who were absent or do not participate in the school based program.

# Building Activity for the Municipality

There was a total of 131 Building approvals issued, (includes both Category 3 and Category 4 approvals) with a total estimated value of \$19,670,591.

This consisted of 30 Category 4 permits (full Building Permit process) - \$9,576,719, and 101 Category 3 (process managed by building Surveyors (both Council and private Building Surveyors) around \$10,000,000.

For the same period in the previous financial year, there was a total of 77 approvals issued, with 29 Category 4 permits issued with a total value of \$7,036,289, and 48 Category 3, with a value of \$4,385,708.

It should be noted that any building activity reporting since 1 January 2017, with the inception of the current Building Act, will not represent the activity of the past years, given there are now many smaller buildings and sheds that do not need permits, therefore there is no effective way to report on actual building activity within the Municipality.

At the same time Planning Activity in this financial year included;

- A total of 83 applications, consisting of 60 Discretionary use applications, and 23 Permitted use applications. There was also 66 “No Permit Required (NPR)” recorded this year. This is the first year for recording the NPR’s.

This compares with last financial year where;

- A total of 70 applications were received, consisting of 55 Discretionary use applications, and 15 Permitted use applications.





# Recreational Water Sampling

Recreational Water George Town. Tested at Tasmanian Laboratory Services - Launceston

## Recreational Waters

Test Date	Weymouth Sampled from river	Pilot Station Sampled from rocks at south end	Lagoon Beach Sampled from beach near boat ramp	York Cove Sampled near pontoon
	Enterolert	Enterolert	Enterolert	Enterolert
12/12/2018	<10/100mL	<10/100mL	20/100mL	<10/100mL
10/1/2019	<10/100mL	<10/100mL	10/100mL	<10/100mL
21/2/2019	<10/100mL	<10/100mL	<10/100mL	<10/100mL
21/3/2019	10/100mL	<10/100mL	10/100mL	<10/100mL

Test Date	Pipe Clay Bay Sampled from bay	George Town Swimming Pool		
	Enterolert	Coliforms	HPC	Ps. aeruginosa
12/12/2018	<10/100mL	<1 CFU/100mL	13 CFU/mL	<1/100mL
10/1/2019	10/100mL	<1CFU/100mL	37 CFU/mL	<1/100mL
21/2/2019	41/100mL	<1CFU/100mL	3 CFU/mL	<1/100mL
21/3/2019	<10/100mL	<1 CFU/100mL	1 est CFU/mL	<1/100mL

Table Explanatory notes are set out according to Water Sampling Tables Tasmanian Department of Human Health Services Recreational Water Quality Guidelines 2007

Enterolert levels are satisfactory as the requirements are less than the 140/100mL (is the measurement of the enterococci per 100mL). With regards to George Town Swimming Pool, Coliform, Heterotrophic plate count (SPC) and Pseudomonas aeruginosa testing results were satisfactory. Microbiological Verification Provisions for Public Swimming Pools and the type of organism maximum count allowable are as follows. Heterotrophic Plate Count 100 Colony Forming Units (CFU) per ml. Thermotolerant coliforms/E.coli < 1 per 100ml and Pseudomonas aeruginosa < 1 per 100ml.

# Governance & Finance

## Statements & Disclosures

In accordance with the Local Government Act 1993 section 72 (1) (cb), Council is to provide details of allowances and expenses paid. Details of allowances and expenses paid to elected members are shown at Note 4.2 of the financial statements.

In accordance with the Local Government Act 1993 section 72 (1) (cd), Council is to provide a statement of remuneration paid to employees of the Council who hold positions designated by the council as being senior positions.

Further a statement under section (1) (cd) is to list the number of employees in groups according to the total annual remuneration as specified in section (5) where each group has a maximum of \$20,000 between the highest and lowest total annual remuneration.

This information is provided in the following table:

### Annual Remuneration of Senior Staff

Remuneration Band	2019	2018
Less than \$100,001 (part year 2018 & 2019)	4	6
\$100,000 to \$120,000 (part year 2018)	1	1
\$120,000 to \$140,000 (part year 2018)	1	1
\$140,000 to \$160,000	-	-
\$160,000 to \$180,000 (part year 2018)	-	1



## Tendering & Contracting

For the purposes of section 72(1)(e) of the Act, a council is to report the following in its annual report in relation to any contract, for the supply or provision of goods or services valued at or exceeding \$250 000 (excluding GST), that is entered into, or extended under regulation 23(5)(b), in the financial year to which the annual report relates. For the purposes of section 72(1)(e) of the Act, a council is to report the following in its annual report in relation to any contract, for the supply or provision of goods or services valued at or exceeding \$100 000 (excluding GST) but less than \$250 000, that is entered into, or extended, in the financial year to which the annual report relates:

Description	Period of Contract	Extensions	Value
Industry Road Upgrade	3/9/2018 - 6/4/2019	Nil	\$2,631,148
Dalrymple Road Upgrade	24/1/2019 - 30/4/2019	Nil	\$166,663
Roundabout construction – Franklin & Victoria Street Intersection	22/3/2019 - 30/6/2019	30/10/2019	\$313,996
Garbage Truck and Compactor	30/6/2019	Nil	\$193,920

Description	Contractor	Address
Industry Road	Andrew Walter Constructions Pty Ltd	PO Box 5 Claremont TAS 7011
Dalrymple Road	Andrew Walter Constructions Pty Ltd	PO Box 5 Claremont TAS 7011
Roundabout – Franklin & Victoria St	Andrew Walter Constructions Pty Ltd	PO Box 5 Claremont TAS 7011
Garbage Truck & Compactor	Bucher Municipal	65-73 Nantilla Road Clayton North VIC 3168

## Right to Information Requests

Number of applications for assessed disclosure received	5
Number of applications for assessed disclosure accepted	5
Number of applications for assessed disclosure transferred or part transferred to another public authority	Nil
Number of applications withdrawn by the applicant	Nil
Number of applications for assessed disclosure determined	5



## Non Application of Public Tender Process

For the purposes of section 72(1)(e) of the Act, a council is to report in its annual report all instances where regulation 27(a) and (i) have been applied, with the following details:

Council resolution 182/18:

*That in accordance with Regulation 27 clause ix of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2015 that a public tender process is not undertaken for the purchase of the items of play equipment identified as items 1 – 6 and 10 – 12 inclusive in Table 1 above (items listed in stage 1), given extenuating circumstances and unavailability of competitive tenders. Such purchase shall be in accordance with a quote received from the supplier 'Adventure+' dated 15 June 2018 enclosed as Attachment 6.*

A copy of the Council Agenda report and Attachment 6 are available on Council's website <https://georgetown.tas.gov.au/november-agenda-2018>

## Land Donated

In accordance with Section 72(1)(da) of the Local Government Act 1993, Council is to provide information with regard to details of any land donated by the Council.

Nil to report.

## Enterprise Powers

In accordance with Section 72(1) of the Local Government Act 1993, Council is to include a statement of activities and performances undertaken under Section 21 (enterprise powers).

Nil to report.

## Competitive Neutrality Complaints Received

Nil received.

## Public Interest Disclosures Statement

In accordance with Part 7 of the Public Interest Disclosures Act 2002 a copy of the George Town Council Model Procedures to be followed by Public Bodies is available to Elected Members, Council employees and the public via Council's website [www.georgetown.tas.gov.au](http://www.georgetown.tas.gov.au) or via a request to the Council Office during normal business hours.

### 2018/2019

### Response

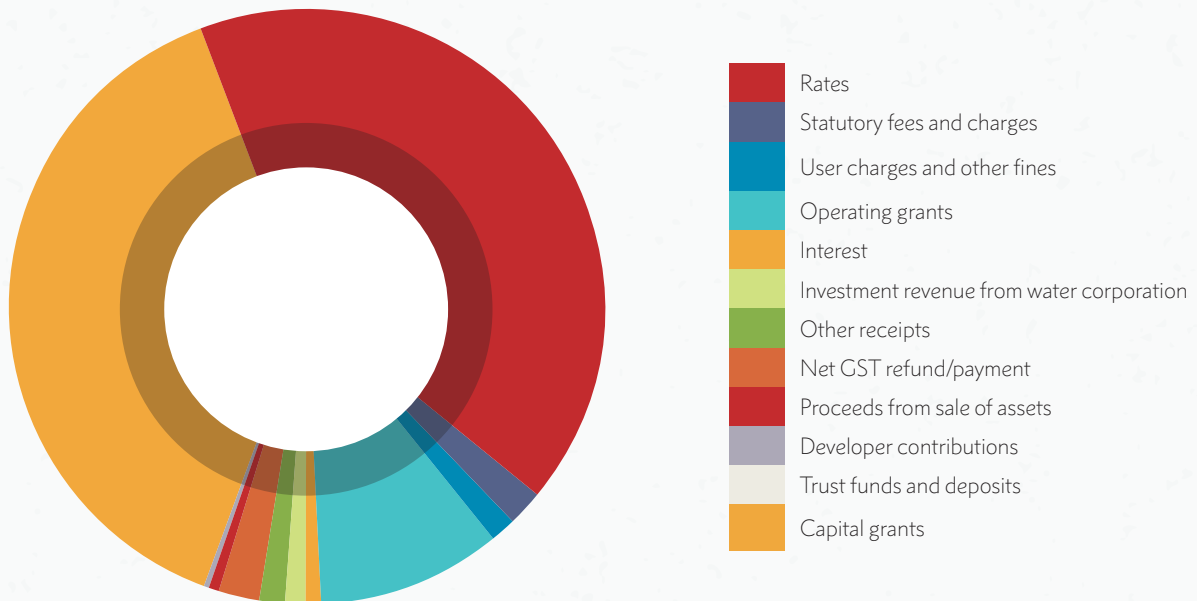
2018/2019	Response
Number and Type of Disclosures made to Council and the number of those disclosures that the public body determined to be public interest disclosures	Nil
Number of disclosures determined by the public body to be public interest disclosures that it investigated during the year	Nil
Number of and type of disclosed matters referred to Council during the year by the Ombudsman	Nil
Number and types of disclosed matters referred during the year by Council to the Ombudsman to investigate	Nil
Number and types of investigations of disclosed matters taken over by the Ombudsman from Council during the year	Nil
Number and types of disclosed matters that Council decided not to investigate during the year	Nil
Number and types of disclosed matters that were substantiated on investigation and the action taken on completion of the investigation	Nil
Any recommendations of the Ombudsman under the Public Interest Disclosures Act 2002 that relate to the Council	Nil

# Overview of Financial Performance

## Statement of Cash Flows

### Sources of income

#### Cash Inflows



#### Cash Inflows

2018/2019

2018/2019

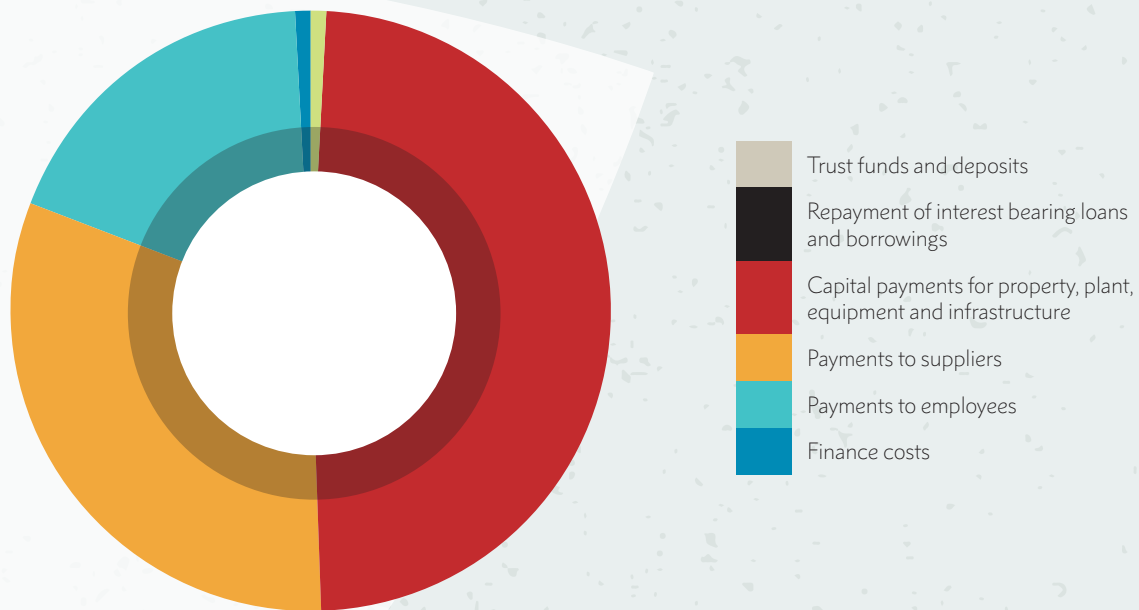
%

\$

	2018/2019	2018/2019
	%	\$
Rates	41.57	\$7,958,902
Statutory fees and charges	1.92	\$367,035
User charges and other fines	1.55	\$296,142
Operating Grants	10.06	\$1,925,721
Interest	0.58	\$110,249
Investment revenue from water corporation	1.18	\$226,000
Other receipts	1.37	\$262,027
Net GST refund/payment	2.30	\$441,284
Proceeds from sale of assets	0.59	\$113,602
Developer contributions	0.11	\$21,861
Trust funds and deposits	0.04	\$-
Capital grants	38.77	\$7,423,011
<b>Total Cash Inflows</b>		<b>\$19,145,834</b>

## Expenditure

### Cash Outflows



### Cash Outflows

	2018/2019 %	2018/2019 \$
Trust funds and deposits	0.04	\$6,329
Repayment of interest bearing loans and borrowings	0.81	\$140,337
Capital payments for property, plant, equipment and infrastructure	48.71	\$8,466,402
Payments to suppliers	31.43	\$5,462,725
Payments to employees	18.37	\$3,192,265
Finance costs	0.64	\$111,813
<b>Total Cash Outflows</b>		<b>\$17,379,871</b>



# Comments in relation to the Audited Financial Statements 2018/19

## Financial Sustainability

The assessment of financial sustainability can be based on a review of four key ratios. The key ratios being the underlying surplus ratio, the net financial liabilities ratio, the asset consumption ratio and the asset renewal funding ratio. These ratios are reported below and comments made.

Management Indicators (refer to Note 2.5 of the Financial Statements for a more detailed analysis of the ratios).

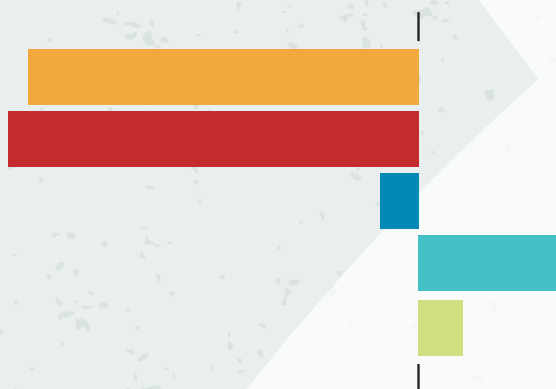
### Underlying Surplus/Deficit

The underlying surplus in the current year is a significant improvement compared with the results of 2018, 2017 and 2016. This improvement is the result of the outcomes of an organisational review and a financially responsible budget which was achieved with additional surplus.

### Underlying Surplus Ratio

This ratio serves as an overall measure of financial operating effectiveness. The underlying surplus ratio is the underlying operational surplus or deficit expressed as a percentage of total recurrent income. Council uses a target of greater than 1% for underlying surplus ratio. In the 2018/2019 budget Council set a budget target of 2.59% and achieved 3.53% at year end.

**Underlying Surplus / Deficit \$ and Surplus Ratio**

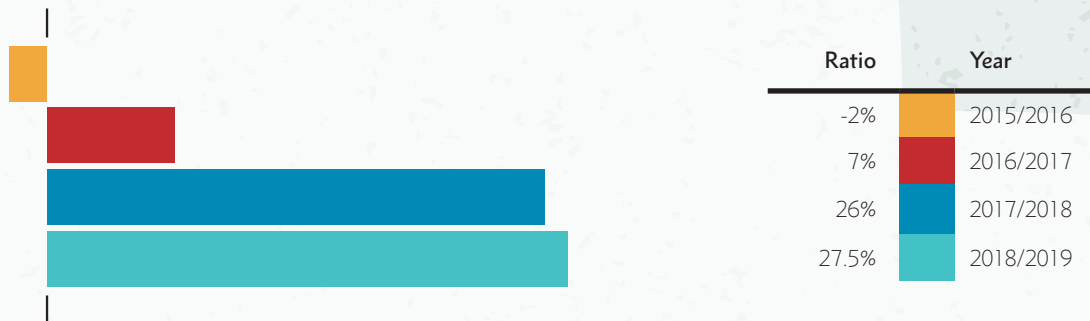


Deficit	Ratio	Year
\$(1,059,463.00)	-10.43%	2015/2016
\$(1,112,862.00)	-10.46%	2016/2017
\$(101,305.00)	-0.94%	2017/2018
\$398,084.00	3.53%	2018/2019
	>16%	Target

### Net Financial Liabilities Ratio

This measure shows whether Council's total liabilities can be met by its liquid assets. An excess of total liabilities over liquid assets means that, if all liabilities fell due at once, additional revenue would be needed to fund the shortfall. The primary reason for the strong position at the end of the 2019 year was due to the increase in cash flows from operating activities, due to improved operating performance, and capital works being substantially funded from external grant funding.

**Net financial liabilities ratio**



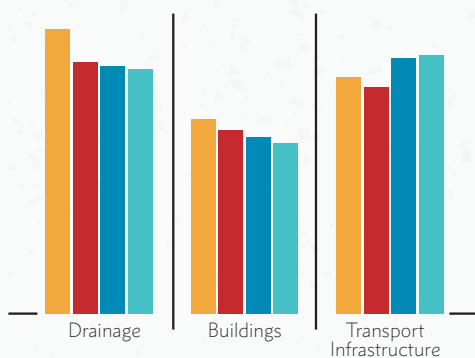
**Asset Consumption Ratio**

This ratio indicates the level of service potential available in Council's existing asset base. These ratios have been stable in the last two years for Transport Infrastructure and Drainage indicating Council is maintaining the estimated level of service potential in these assets. Buildings have declined marginally but remain in line with Council's current long term strategy. Council aims for greater than 60% for asset consumption ratio in its Financial Management Strategy.

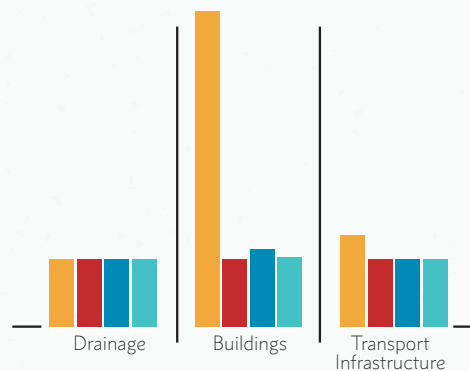
**Asset Renewal Ratio**

This ratio measures Council's capacity to fund future asset replacement requirements. Council completed asset management plans in 2019 to assess future needs and guide long term financial planning. Council set a target of 90% for the 2018/2019 year.

**Asset Consumption Ratio**



**Asset Renewal Ratio**



Ratio						Year	
Drainage		Buildings		Transport Infrastructure			
Consumption	Renewal	Consumption	Renewal	Consumption	Renewal		
69%	100%	46%	460%	56%	135%	2015/2016	
60%	100%	44%	100%	55%	100%	2016/2017	
50%	100%	42.5%	110%	62%	100%	2017/2018	
59%	100%	41%	105%	62%	100%	2018/2019	



## **Independent Auditor's Report**

**To the Councillors of George Town Council**

**Report on the Audit of the Financial Report**

### **Opinion**

I have audited the financial report of George Town Council (Council), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2019 and statements of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, changes in equity and cash flows for the year then ended, notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, other explanatory notes and the statement of certification by the General Manager.

In my opinion the accompanying financial report:

- (a) presents fairly, in all material respects, Council's financial position as at 30 June 2019 and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended
- (b) is in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993* and Australian Accounting Standards.

### **Basis for Opinion**

I conducted the audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of my report. I am independent of Council in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the Code) that are relevant to my audit of the financial report in Australia. I have also fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

The *Audit Act 2008* further promotes the independence of the Auditor-General. The Auditor-General is the auditor of all Tasmanian public sector entities and can only be removed by Parliament. The Auditor-General may conduct an audit in any way considered appropriate and is not subject to direction by any person about the way in which audit powers are to be exercised. The Auditor-General has for the purposes of conducting an audit, access to all documents and property and can report to Parliament matters which in the Auditor-General's opinion are significant.

My audit responsibility does not extend to the budget figures included in the financial report and the asset renewal funding ratio disclosed in note 2.6f to the financial report and accordingly, I express no opinion on them. Furthermore, I express no opinion on the General Manager's determination that Council did not have any Significant Business Activities for inclusion in the



financial report as required by Section 84(2)(da) of the *Local Government Act 1993*. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

### Key Audit Matters

Key audit matters are those matters that, in my professional judgement, were of most significance in my audit of the financial report of the current period. These matters were addressed in the context of my audit of the financial report as a whole, and in forming my opinion thereon, and I do not provide a separate opinion on these matters.

Why this matter is considered to be one of the most significant matters in the audit	Audit procedures to address the matter included
<p><b>Property, plant, equipment and infrastructure</b> <i>Refer to notes 2.3d, 3.6 and 3.9.</i></p> <p>Property, plant, equipment and infrastructure at 30 June 2019 includes land, buildings and material long-life infrastructure assets, such as roads, bridges and stormwater totalling \$105.14m. The fair values of these assets is based on current replacement cost valuations determined by management’s external expert.</p> <p>The valuations are highly dependent on estimated unit rates and useful lives.</p> <p>The calculation of depreciation requires estimation of asset useful lives, which involves a high degree of subjectivity. Changes in assumptions and depreciation policies can significantly impact the depreciation charged.</p> <p>Capital expenditure in 2018–19 totalled \$8.47m on a number of significant programs to upgrade and maintain assets. Capital projects can contain a combination of enhancement and maintenance activity which are not distinct and therefore the allocation of costs between capital and operating expenditure is inherently judgemental.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assessing the scope, expertise and independence of management’s expert.</li> <li>• Assessing the appropriateness of the valuation methodology and the key assumptions used.</li> <li>• Performing substantive analytical procedures on depreciation expenses.</li> <li>• Testing, on a sample basis, significant expenditure on maintenance and capital works to corroborate appropriate treatment.</li> <li>• Testing capital work-in-progress to ensure that active projects will result in usable assets and assets commissioned are transferred in a timely manner.</li> <li>• Evaluating the adequacy of disclosures made in the financial report, including those regarding key assumptions used.</li> </ul>

## **Responsibilities of the General Manager for the Financial Report**

The General Manager is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the *Local Government Act 1993* and for such internal control as determined necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the General Manager is responsible for assessing Council's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless Council is to be dissolved by an Act of Parliament or the Councillors intend to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

## **Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report**

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of Council's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the General Manager.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the General Manager's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Council's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusion is based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause Council to cease to continue as a going concern.

- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with the General Manager regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

From the matters communicated with the General Manager, I determine those matters that were of most significance in the audit of the financial report of the current period and are therefore the key audit matters. I describe these matters in my auditor's report unless law or regulation precludes public disclosure about the matter or when, in extremely rare circumstances, I determine that a matter should not be communicated in my report because the adverse consequences of doing so would reasonably be expected to outweigh the public interest benefits of such communication.



Ric De Santi  
**Deputy Auditor-General**  
**Delegate of the Auditor-General**

**Tasmanian Audit Office**

20 September 2019  
Hobart



# Annual Plan Review

In accordance with direction given in the Local Government Act 1993, Part 7, Division 2, Para 72, Sub-para 1b, to provide “a statement of the council’s activities and its performance in respect of goals and objectives set for the preceding financial year”, the following report on the delivery of operational tasks given for the 2018-2019 financial year, as linked to the George Town Council Strategic Plan, is provided.

The George Town Council Strategic Plan 2016-2026 lists five key strategic goals that shape the operational direction of the Council. Those five key strategic goals are as follows:

1. Foster the growth of a diverse business and industry mix and to foster population growth.
2. Support an active, vibrant, and culturally diverse community life that enjoys liveable and amenity rich neighbourhoods.
3. Conserve our natural environment and heritage and ensure it is enjoyed by our community, visitors and future generations.
4. Strengthen the vibrancy of our towns and enhance the benefits of living in a rural setting and living close to the river and coast.
5. Ensure Council listens to and understands community needs and continues to make responsible decisions on behalf of the community.

The Council directed for the execution of 200 operational tasks linked to the strategic plan goals. The completion rate of tasks is as follows:

Strategic Goal	No. of Tasks	Actual	No. of Tasks	Adjusted
1	16	80.06%	13	98.46%
2	25	95%	24	98.95%
3	19	42.63%	8	98.75%
4	69	82.82%	62	94.92%
5	71	95.56%	70	97.71%
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>84.75%</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>97%</b>

Explanatory Note: ‘Actual’ represents the completion rate for all tasks issued via the Annual Plan as linked to a parent Strategic Goal. ‘Adjusted’ represents the same with the removal of multi-year projects carried forward due to intergovernmental funding arrangements, and other multi-reporting period factors.

A more detailed list of operational tasks, completion status and notes is located in Annex C.









## GEORGE TOWN COUNCIL

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