

ANNUAL REPORT

2024-2025



GEORGE TOWN COUNCIL

Acknowledgement of Country

George Town Council acknowledges the Palawa People from the Litarimirina tribe from Port Dalrymple as the traditional custodians of the land.

We honour and give thanks for the caring of country, seas and skies of kinimathatakinta and surrounds.

We pay respect to the elders past, present and future for they hold the memories, traditions, culture and hope of pakana people in Lutruwita.

WELCOME

The 2024/2025 Annual Report outlines George Town Council’s operations 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 2024/2025 Annual Plan and details the financial performance of the organisation. 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 toward a progressive, prosperous and proud.

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MUNICIPALITY SNAPSHOT

The Municipal area of George Town Council is located in northern Tasmania, about 50 kilometres north of the Launceston CBD. It is bound by the Bass Strait 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 the main township at George Town. Significant industrial areas are located just south of George Town, including the Bell Bay Advanced Manufacturing Zone. Rural land is used largely for agriculture (particularly sheep and cattle grazing) forestry, strawberries and vineyards. 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, a public swimming pool, indoor sporting venues, mountain bike trails, 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 a state highway connecting the Tamar Valley, the City of Launceston, north east Tasmania and the rest of the state.

OUR VISION IN 2030

— OUR COMMUNITIES —



Progressive

in our aspirations & approaches

We are resilient and adaptive innovators and change makers. With courage, we respond creatively to our challenges and opportunities. The energy of our young people drives us all forward and we value participation from our elders who contribute and encourage the endeavours of our communities.



Proud

of who we are, what we do and how we do it

We foster positive and productive attitudes and know that inspirational leadership is found everywhere within our communities. We care for one another and back ourselves.



Prosperous

in all aspects of our life — economic, environmental & social

Economically we prosper as a community of lifelong learners. We encourage, coach and mentor our young people to reach their potential. We are making and building a diverse economy centred around doing old things in new ways and new things first. We promote our enviable lifestyle as the setting for entrepreneurial endeavours. Our population continues to grow with people who identify with all the extraordinary things we see in our place and living here. Visitors are welcome to stay and experience our environment, culture, celebrations and produce.

Our environmental prosperity, health and well-being is found and facilitated in our beautiful coastlines, beaches, rivers, rolling hills, productive agricultural land and built heritage. We cherish all living things. We respect and take care of our environmental richness so it will continue to nurture us and the generations to come. We promote active, healthy living and enjoy doing this together. Socially we find joy and learning from the ancient past of the original custodians of our place and our more recent European history. We are community builders energised by our creative endeavours and events.

VALUES & PRINCIPLES

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.

- Accountability
- Innovation
- Community
- Can Do
- Respect
- Transparency
- Heritage & Environment

Guiding Principles

These are the principles we will use to guide our future choices and behaviours. In all we do and how we work together we will:

- Respect and care for each other
- Welcome diversity in all its forms
- Pursue local opportunities
- Celebrate our heritage
- Treasure our natural environment
- Be open to new ideas and show leadership



MAYOR'S MESSAGE

ya pulingina, welcome.

It is my pleasure to present the 2024/2025 Annual Report. A year of celebration of arts, culture and events. Some of the highlights include the Solstice in the Square, a winter celebration which attracted over 2,000 attendees and featured music, fire performances, food, and art installations. The Art-Street-Art transformed George Town into an open-air gallery, showcasing murals and installations created by local artists and youth. The Tamar Valley Folk Festival spanned three days and included concerts, workshops, markets, and children's activities. The George Town (Mini) Summer Series brought live music concerts to Weymouth, Hillwood, and George Town, highlighting Tasmanian artists and of course, the much celebrated New Year's Extravaganza hosted by the George Town Neighbourhood House.

The Creative George Town Exhibition Program hosted six exhibitions across the Jim Mooney Gallery and Watch House Gallery, presenting diverse media and themes. Community exhibitions featured

contributions from Lighthouse Regional Arts, local schools, and youth-led initiatives. The second year of the Kinimathatakinta/George Town Art Prize celebrated local identity and the environment, and the inaugural Youth Art Prize received over 40 entries across various age groups.

The Creative George Town Workshops engaged 811 participants in activities such as flower crown making, acro balance, circus arts, fluid art, and cultural practices.

Council partnered with Aboriginal community members to deliver events for NAIDOC Week and Reconciliation Week, including flag-raising ceremonies, smoking ceremonies, film screenings, and workshops. Signage for the First Nations Gathering Space was installed, featuring artwork by Palawa artist Susan Mansell. The Bass & Flinders Maritime Museum celebrated Matthew Flinders' 250th birthday through an international collaboration with the community of Donnington in the UK, and the museum acquired and displayed the historic whaleboat Mirage, and participated in the Australian Wooden Boat Festival.

Following initial support from Council and the State Government, the George Town Art & Artisan's Guild became an independent incorporated association. This has proven to be a great example of successful partnerships leading to sustainability of new cultural enterprise.

I am proud of Council's commitment to youth development through the Our Futures Youth Program. With initiatives including; Launchpad Drop-in Sessions offering weekly creative and mentoring activities, Seagulls to Chips Program supporting leadership and creative development, Future Changers Camp, a youth leadership retreat, the Youth Impact Council and the Youth Voice Showcase, which presented survey results and recommendations for youth wellbeing and engagement.

It is also with great pride to report on Council's continued investment in the local community, with some examples including St Vincent de Paul for its Dining with Friends program, George Town Art & Artisans Guild Inc for marketing assistance and the George Town Junior Football Club to assist with playing jumpers and attire. Council also supported local athletes attending competitions ranging from motorcross, boxing and basketball.

Some additional highlights I would like to bring to the attention of the reader include the inaugural Caring for Cats Program. This program is a state-first, aimed at reducing the number of stray and feral cats that can have a significant impact on local fauna and improving responsible pet ownership. During this pilot program, Council desexed 113 cats and microchipped 115 cats. A special thanks goes to Just Cats, TassieCats and Scottsdale Vet for their assistance throughout the program.



Adopted in June 2024, the George Town Street Tree Strategy has guided the planting of 145 advanced trees. This year, plantings were installed along Victoria Street, Anzac Drive, Blue Gum Dog Park, Stonehouse Street and Cemetery Road. The strategy will continue to be implemented in the coming years, improving township amenity, supporting temperature reduction, storm water pollutant reduction and habitat provision. A further 3,000 trees were planted at the former landfill in George Town. The program was delivered in partnership with Tamar NRM and involved many volunteers from across the community.

There is many more activities I could highlight. I implore you to read through a few more of them presented in the report.

Greg Kieser
Mayor

GENERAL MANAGER'S MESSAGE



Welcome to the 2024/2025 Annual Report of George Town Council. This report presents a number of highlights and the organisation's performance over the 12 months ending 30 June 2025. Performance measures of note include the annual operating of an operational surplus of \$70k in line with the 1.0% target set in Council's Financial Management Strategy.

Pleasingly, this result represents the seventh consecutive year that surplus has been achieved. This allows for cash reserves to be bolstered, enabling the organisation not only to meet its liabilities and obligations but also provides opportunities to invest in strategic initiatives for the benefit of the community.

I acknowledge the financial support provided by the Commonwealth and State governments through both recurrent and non-recurrent funding, as we do investment from our industrial partners in community programs and assets. This funding assistance reduces Council's reliance on rates and charges.

Council once again invested significantly in the renewal of its assets, including almost 10 kms in resealing of roads and approximately 500 lineal metres of paths replaced and 1.4km of new footpaths. The overall investment in renewal was approximately \$2.5M representing a greater than 90% renewable ratio across all major asset classes. This is in line with the target ratio of 90-100%. Interestingly, an asset sustainability ratio is reported as low as 47% which is well below the 100% target. This is a result of having to write down the depreciation of the outdoor pool which represents approximately \$1.535M additional

depreciation than previous years. Compounding the sustainability ratio was the diversion of renewal to capital required for bridge replacements following major storm events which significantly damaged a number of bridges.

Once again, the team have delivered a completion rate above 90% for Annual Plan actions and just shy of 100% for customer service compliance. This result is impressive when considering the increase in customer requests from 642 in 2023/2024 to 1,323 in 2024/2025. A total of 169 requests for service were lodged between 28th of August 2024 and 20th of September 2024 due to weather events.

Our planning and building teams continue to be kept busy processing building works to the approximate value of \$48M. The team's performance has been recognised, having received an award through LGPro for Organisational Excellence and a further two awards for excellence in the categories of Great Place and Planning Champion, awarded by the Planning Institute of Australia.

Council's Team Leader for Community Services was awarded the Emerging Leader award through LGPro. Council's Our Futures Youth Program was a

notable finalist. The Northern Tasmanian Alliance of Resilient Councils, in which George Town Council is a member, also received an award for Organisational Excellence. In the George Town Chamber Business Excellence Awards, Council was successful in winning the award for Best Marketing/Advertising Campaign for the Solstice in the Square event.

A fantastic year acknowledged by a number of accolades for our teams. I trust you will enjoy the ensuing report.



Shane Power
General Manager



ELECTED MEMBERS

Councillors Service and Expenses

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. Council's formal committees were the Audit Committee and the newly established George Town Health and Wellbeing Committee, which has yet to hold its inaugural meeting.



Cr Greg Kieser

Mayor, Elected 2018

Appointments to internal/external committees & groups		Chair – George Town Municipal Emergency Management Committee; TasWater Board – Owners Representative; Member – Local Government Association of Tasmania; Chair – Northern Tasmanian Development Corporation; Member – Tamar Estuary Management Taskforce; Member – Friends of Low Head Penguin Colony, George Town Reconciliation Action Working Group; Member – Youth Council		
No. meetings attended	Ordinary meetings attended: 11	AGM Attended: 1 Committee Meetings Attended: 4	Special meetings attended: N/A	Total meetings attended: 16
Allowances & payments	Statutory allowance: \$52,500	Kilometres: 7,925 Reimbursement: \$6,957	Expenses: \$7,817	Total: \$67,274



Cr Greg Dawson

Deputy Mayor, Elected 2014

Appointments to internal/external committees & groups		Member – George Town Reconciliation Action Working Group; Member – Youth Council (Proxy); Member – George Town Municipal Emergency Management Committee		
No. meetings attended	Ordinary meetings attended: 11	AGM Attended: 1 Committee Meetings Attended: N/A	Special meetings attended: N/A	Total meetings attended: 12
Allowances & payments	Statutory allowance: \$29,352	Kilometres: 299 Reimbursement: \$254	Expenses: \$7,853	Total: \$37,459



Cr Heather Barwick

Elected 1989

Appointments to internal/external committees & groups		Nil		
No. meetings attended	Ordinary meetings attended: 12	AGM Attended: 0 Committee Meetings Attended: N/A	Special meetings attended: N/A	Total meetings attended: 12
Allowances & payments	Statutory allowance: \$15,000	Kilometres: 1,603 Reimbursement: \$1,391	Expenses: \$1,604	Total: \$17,995



Cr Tim Harris

Elected 2014

Appointments to internal/external committees & groups		Member – NRM North Group A; Representative – Tamar NRM		
No. meetings attended	Ordinary meetings attended: 12	AGM Attended: 0 Committee Meetings Attended: N/A	Special meetings attended: N/A	Total meetings attended: 12
Allowances & payments	Statutory allowance: \$15,000	Kilometres: 0 Reimbursement: 0	Expenses: \$1,604	Total: \$16,604



Cr Winston Mason

Elected 2018

Appointments to internal/external committees & groups		Member – Youth Council; Member – George Town Audit Panel		
No. meetings attended	Ordinary meetings attended: 10	AGM Attended: 1 Committee Meetings Attended: N/A	Special meetings attended: N/A	Total meetings attended: 11
Allowances & payments	Statutory allowance: \$15,000	Kilometres: 0 Reimbursement: 0	Expenses: \$1,695	Total: \$16,695



Progressive



Prosperous



Proud



Cr Winston Archer

Elected 2022

Appointments to internal/external committees & groups		Member – George Town Audit Panel; Member – George Town Municipal Emergency Management Committee		
No. meetings attended	Ordinary meetings attended: 11	AGM Attended: 0 Committee Meetings Attended: 2	Special meetings attended: N/A	Total meetings attended: 13
Allowances & payments	Statutory allowance: \$15,000	Kilometres: 0 Reimbursement: 0	Expenses: \$1,604	Total: \$16,604



Cr Heather Ashley

Elected 2022

Appointments to internal/external committees & groups		Member – Youth Council; Member – Reconciliation Action Working Group		
No. meetings attended	Ordinary meetings attended: 11	AGM Attended: 1 Committee Meetings Attended: N/A	Special meetings attended: N/A	Total meetings attended: 12
Allowances & payments	Statutory allowance: \$15,000	Kilometres: 0 Reimbursement: 0	Expenses: \$1,604	Total: \$16,604



Cr Simone Lowe

Elected 2022

Appointments to internal/external committees & groups		Representative – Homelessness Advisory Committee Neighbouring Council Representation; Representative – Communities for Children Council Meeting		
No. meetings attended	Ordinary meetings attended: 12	AGM Attended: 1 Committee Meetings Attended: N/A	Special meetings attended: N/A	Total meetings attended: 13
Allowances & payments	Statutory allowance: \$15,000	Kilometres: 309 Reimbursement: \$263	Expenses: \$3,149	Total: \$18,412



Cr Jason Orr

Elected 2022

Appointments to internal/external committees & groups		Member – George Town Audit Panel (Proxy); Representative – Tamar NRM; Representative – Destination Action Group		
No. meetings attended	Ordinary meetings attended: 12	AGM Attended: 1 Committee Meetings Attended: N/A	Special meetings attended: N/A	Total meetings attended: 13
Allowances & payments	Statutory allowance: \$15,000	Kilometres: 2,490 Reimbursement: \$2,150	Expenses: \$2,694	Total: \$19,844

ORGANISATION STRUCTURE

Mayor and Councillors

General Manager & Office of the General Manager

Organisational Performance, Strategy & Engagement

Strategy & Engagement
Communications & Marketing
Human resources
Risk Management
Regulatory Services & Community Compliance
Governance
Civic Events
Economic Development
Future Development
Emergency Management

Corporate & Community

Corporate Support
Customer Services
Financial Services
ICT
Records Management
Procurement
Tourism, Arts & Culture
Community Events
Facilities Management
Community Health & Wellbeing
Sport & Recreation
Future Impact Group
Youth
Payroll

Infrastructure & Development

GIS
Building Services
Engineering Services
Capital Works & Project Management
Infrastructure Management & Operations
Asset Management
Planning & Development Services
Natural Resource Management
Waste Management
Aquatic Health & Wellbeing Centre



OUR PEOPLE

Council staff come from a range of backgrounds and locations with 71% of staff residing within the Municipality which helps our people remain connected with the community they serve. Council is committed to supporting our workforce by offering local internship and traineeship programs with community partners to establish career pathways, ensuring access to meaningful employment prospects that will assist in developing skilled people to meet future needs.

The following workforce data provided for the 2024/2025 financial year demonstrates Council's commitment to our community by providing employment opportunities where possible.

Establishment and Turnover

At the close of the financial year, George Town Council had 65 employees. The workforce establishment at the end of the reporting period was 54 Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) positions (including vacancies). Council had 2 FTE vacancies at the end of the financial year.

A total of 15 new fulltime or part time staff commenced work with Council during the reporting period. Council also employed 10 casual staff to operate the George Town Pool for the period 1st October 2024 to 31st March 2025.

The year-to-date staff turnover rate is approximately 15%, aligning with the national average: *Australian HR Institute (2025) Quarterly Australian Work Outlook – June Quarter 2025. Melbourne Australia: The Australian HR Institute (AHRI).*

Work Health and Safety 2024-2025

Council had no Statutory Reportable incidents in the reportable period.

Financial Year 2024/2025	
Incidents Reported	43
Investigations Required	0
Investigations Completed	0
Corrective Actions Required	43
Corrective Actions Completed	43
Incidents resulting in a workers compensation claim	5 (Only 1 resulting in lost time)
Statutory Reportable Incidents	0

In April, George Town Council conducted its third staff survey, receiving 35 responses from a total of 74 employees, a response rate of 47.3%. The survey aims to provide meaningful insights into employee engagement, identify areas for improvement, and offer staff a platform to voice their concerns. It plays a vital role in fostering a culture of openness, continuous improvement, and alignment with Council's values and guiding principles. Key highlights from the survey revealed strong staff sentiment, with 88.5% of respondents saying they love or like working at George Town Council, and 85.7% feeling extremely, very, or somewhat valued in their roles.

Human Resources

Council is committed to a program of continuous improvement to ensure its human resource supports, processes and procedures are contemporary, fit for purpose and are relevant to the needs of our organisation.

We do this by consulting with and undertaking genuine engagement with our staff to consider their views and suggestions on improvement and efficiency and developing a safe working environment for all which ultimately underpins the positive workplace culture that exists at George Town Council.

Annual Appraisals

Annual Appraisals are conducted in the fourth quarter of each financial year, in line with the 2023 Enterprise Agreement. This year introduced a new approach to the process, supported by the implementation of a formal policy and procedure. The majority of employees participated in the appraisal process, with a small number to be completed following recent changes in key personnel.



ANNUAL HIGHLIGHTS

George Town Big Plant Day

In celebration of National Tree Day on July 28th, we invite the community to join the team from Tamar NRM in this initiative. Together, we planted over 3,000 native trees, shrubs, and grass species endemic to the local area at the old George Town landfill site. This project was about restoring the greenery and natural habitat for local wildlife, improving air quality, and creating a beautiful, sustainable space for future generations to enjoy.

Over the past years, the community's green waste collection has been transported from the waste transfer station, mulched, and used to cover and prepare the soil for this rehabilitation effort. This means that the green waste from our backyards is now being repurposed to aid in restoring the old landfill site. Our communities' contributions have played a vital role in making this project possible.

Caring for Cats Program

In August 2024, we commenced our "Caring for Cats Program", a free cat desexing and microchipping pilot program for residents of the George Town Municipality.

As is the case with other municipalities, the George Town Local Government area has a high rate of cats that by law must be desexed. Additionally, cats over the age of 4 months must be microchipped so that if lost or injured, the cat can be returned safely to its owner.

This program offered free desexing and microchipping and is designed to assist families with cost-of-living pressures. Importantly, this ensures better welfare for cats and prevents unwanted litters.

During this pilot program, we desexed 113 cats and microchipped 115 cats. A special thanks goes to Just Cats and Scottsdale Vet for their assistance throughout the program.





National Road Safety Week 11 - 18 May 2025

Council secured grant funding to assist in spreading the message "Pledge to Drive So Others Survive". From 11–18 May 2025, George Town Council proudly supported National Road Safety Week by installing awareness signs across the municipality to promote safe driving, every day, not just during the campaign. This initiative was made possible thanks to the dedicated efforts of Council staff and members of the George Town Youth Impact Council, who ensured the safe and effective placement of the signage.

George Town Mountain Bike Trails

It's been a big year for George Town's Mountain Bike Trail Maintenance Crew, with the trails looking better than ever. The crew have kept on top of regular upkeep such as vegetation trimming, removing fallen branches/trees, grooming trail surfaces, and clearing drains, ensuring the trails stay safe and enjoyable for riders year-round. This was no small feat, given the crew had to dedicate a whole month to clearing fallen trees after the extensive weather damage incurred in August 2024.

On top of that, the crew rebuilt 12 kilometres of trail, giving new life to Buzzcut, Desperado, Flow Head, Roulette, Slap Happy, Liquidus, and parts of Helter Skelter and Humbugs & Haystacks. Raised decking was installed in swampy areas of Claysnake and Rickerty Split, and major junctions at the Saddle, Cul-de-sac, and Summit were reworked to improve drainage and make them more visually appealing. The crew also tackled major drainage issues across all trails by installing piped culverts to keep the trails rideable in all conditions.

The biggest highlight of the year was the construction of a brand-new, hand-built A-line off Humbugs & Haystacks, which was well received and even featured as a stage in the Tas Gravity Enduro event.

A big thank you to our Trail Mates, whose generous support helps keep our trails maintained, improved, and ready for riders all year round.



Bell Bay Aluminium
Roll Cycles



Bell Bay Aluminium
Hillwood Berries
Sprung MTB Shop
Platinum Security



East Arm Resources
Launceston Chamber of Commerce
Tas Gravity Enduro Series



Forico
QUBE Ports





Tourism Strategy

Council is finalising a comprehensive tourism strategy to showcase the municipality's unique attractions and grow the visitor economy. Developed in partnership with Kingthing Marketing, the strategy has progressed through community and business consultation and is now in its final stages. It will be presented for endorsement in the 2025–26 financial year and will provide a clear, targeted framework for promoting George Town municipality as a destination for an unforgettable visitor experience.

Health and Wellbeing Committee

As part of the George Town Health and Wellbeing Strategy, a core group has been engaging key community stakeholders who will play a vital role in shaping and supporting our local health and wellbeing priorities. These stakeholders represent a wide range of sectors and community interests, ensuring a collaborative and inclusive approach.

In addition to stakeholder engagement, we have also undertaken interviews with a number of independent community members to gain valuable insight into local needs and experiences. These interviews are in the final stages of completion and will soon inform our strategic direction.

The Health and Wellbeing Committee will officially commence its work in the 2025/2026 financial year. This marks an important step forward in our commitment to addressing health and wellbeing gaps and building a stronger and healthier George Town.

Signage

The new signage at the First Nations Gathering Space and Windmill Point highlights two significant landmarks in our townships. The First Nations Gathering Space sign was initiated by the Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) Working Group, while the Windmill Point sign replaces historic signage that had deteriorated over time. The bases were locally fabricated by George Town company CPT Engineering, with the text panels produced by Tasmanian business Flying Colours. Both signs feature artwork by local Palawa artist Susan Mansell.

Road and Footpath Network Plan for Low Head & George Town

Adopted in the May 2025 Council Meeting, these plans are technical guides that identify the road and footpath hierarchy in George Town and Low Head. They identify what standards some of the main roads should be built to, based on the network hierarchy and traffic volume.

They guide the standards that may be applied when new infrastructure or upgrades are required to make sure the roads and footpaths will function appropriately as traffic volumes increase with growth. When Council undertakes upgrades or receives requests for upgrades, the documents will assist in determining the applicable standards.



George Town Open Space Plan

Adopted at the June 2025 Council Meeting, this plan serves as a strategic guide to assist Council in making informed decisions regarding public open space within the George Town area. It aims to provide a diverse range of opportunities to support Council's future investment and planning for public open spaces.

Continuing Advocacy Projects

- **'Splash' Aquatic Health and Wellbeing Centre Future Stages**
- **'Place-Making Transformation' York Cove and Macquarie Street Precinct**
- **'Heart of our Hillwood Community' Upgrades to the Hillwood Community Hub and community places all linked-up**
- **'Come into Town' A shared trail between Mountain Bike Trails with easy access to George Town township**
- **'Learning in Place' Establishing the George Town Regional University Study Hub**
- **'Our Road Show' Road Upgrades**
- **'Growing our Own' Re-purposing George Town's Trade Training Centre to develop a local care workforce**
- **'GT Ninja Warrior' Outdoor fitness adventure course**
- **'Close to Home' Sports Complex Upgrades.**
- **'Three Trails: One Big Story' Precinct development to attract and keep people in our area longer using trail-based immersive interpretation experiences**
- **'24-hour Child Care Centre' A Business Case**
- **East Arm Road Upgrade**

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

Planning Institute of Australia - Awards for Excellence

George Town Council's planning department had the honour of attending the prestigious Planning Institute of Australia (PIA) Awards for Excellence in December 2024 and was awarded in the *Great Place* category for Regent Square and Tamara Burt in the *Planning Champion* category.

The redevelopment of Regent Square has truly transformed this public space, setting the stage for vibrant community events like Solstice in the Square. This flexible, multi-purpose venue will only grow in its importance, with its role as an event space set to expand in the years ahead. These events are not just a benefit for the local community; they are a key economic driver, attracting visitors and positioning George Town as a destination for tourists. The park's playground, skate park, and basketball court have become popular gathering spots for local families and visitors alike. This award is a testament to the vision, dedication, and hard work of the Council and the many individuals who played an essential part in bringing this project to life.

The Planning Champion award is a highly regarded recognition of a person who has made a substantial contribution to urban and regional development. It acknowledges someone who is not a professional planner but who advocates passionately for good planning outcomes and the value of the planning profession. This year, Tamara was rightfully honoured with this award for her tireless work and advocacy in the planning field. Her contribution has been invaluable, and it was a highlight of the evening for our team.



George Town Chamber of Business Awards

In the George Town Chamber Business Excellence Awards, Council was successful in winning the award for Best Marketing/Advertising Campaign for Solstice in the Square.

This award is a fitting reward for the hard work and professional approach that the team took in the marketing of the inaugural Solstice in the Square event.

Craig Dixon, volunteer at the Bass and Flinders Maritime Museum, was also awarded Tourism Ambassador.



Local Government Professionals – Tasmania Awards

At the 2024 LGPro Awards, our planning team was honoured with the Organisational Excellence Award, recognising the significant body of strategic work accomplished over the past 12 months. The Organisational Excellence Award was for the development of our Township Character Plans, George Town Street Tree Strategy and Hillwood Open Space Plan. This award recognises outstanding organisational excellence in Local Government and aims to recognise the breadth of work undertaken by Local Government, and can be evidenced by excellence in project delivery & dedication to innovative practices.

In addition, Dravid Rao received the Emerging Leader Award, recognising the outstanding achievement of an up-and-comer in leadership and distinction.

These achievements reflect our team's commitment to excellence and innovation in delivering services to our community.

COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE GRANTS

The George Town Council is committed to supporting community organisations and individuals who contribute to building a vibrant and active community.

Council provides financial support through grants in three streams:

- **Assistance to Individuals under 25** - up to \$1,000 to participate in state, national or international events.
- **Council Fee Remissions** - up to \$500 to assist organisations in offsetting the cost of Council fees.
- **Community Grants** - available up to the amount of \$2,000 for Community Organisations.

The amount of funding available in any one year is determined by Council in its budget estimates in June/July each year.



ROUND 1

George Town Neighbourhood House

PROJECT: Test and Tag

AMOUNT: \$2,000

The Project enhanced appliance safety at the Neighbourhood House community giveaway by certifying three volunteers in appliance testing and tagging. This certification provided them with essential skills for conducting compliant inspections. Additionally, they were able to purchase high-quality testing and tagging equipment to support their work. This project will ensure compliance with safety regulations of the giveaway appliances and electronics, and provide peace of mind to community members.

St Vincent de Paul

PROJECT: Dining with Friends

AMOUNT: \$1,600

Dining with Friends is a social program where volunteers prepare a meal for and share a meal with those in our community who may be homeless, socially isolated, lonely or would just like to share a meal with others. Dining with Friends has been operating within the George Town community for three years with between 70-80 people attending each week.

Image: Boardwalk Extension



Progressive



Prosperous



Proud

Tam O'Shanter Golf and Community Club

PROJECT: **Upgrade of heating**

AMOUNT: **\$2,000**

The Tam O'Shanter Golf and Community Club were able to upgrade their ageing heat pump to a newer and efficient model.

Lions Club of George Town Inc

PROJECT: **Large Screen TV for the Senior Citizens' Hall**

AMOUNT: **\$2,000**

The Senior Citizens Hall infrastructure has been improved with the addition of a large screen TV, creating a multi-functional space to host all kinds of events, workshops and training.

George Town Art & Artisans Guild Inc

PROJECT: **Marketing**

AMOUNT: **\$2,000**

Development of a marketing program for the George Town Art and Artisans Guild Inc. to make the Guild-Shop better known for the wider community, this included brochures, photography and video material.



George Town Folk Club Inc

PROJECT: **New website for the Tamar Valley Folk Festival**

AMOUNT: **\$2,000**

The George Town Folk Club were able to upgrade the Tamar Valley Folk Festival website to create a very user friendly site. With easy access to festival information, ticketing and artist information.

East Tamar Landcare Group

PROJECT: **Reg Yates Memorial Interpretation Centre – Boardwalk Extension**

AMOUNT: **\$2,000**

The project was to undertake Stage 2 of the existing boardwalk located at the Reg Yates Memorial Interpretation Centre at Pipers River. Stage 2 was to extend the boardwalk by an additional 30m by constructing several wide stepped landings on the gentle slope from the carpark area.

Pipers River Neighbourhood Watch

PROJECT: **Building and engaging with the community**

AMOUNT: **\$377**

The Pipers River Neighbourhood Watch were able to purchase a new BBQ and projection screen to better host events and community groups/gathering.

ROUND 2

Bellingham Progress Association

PROJECT: **Line Marking**

AMOUNT: **\$611**

The project involves line marking the present tennis court lines and also incorporating line marking for a pickleball.

George Town Junior Football Club

PROJECT: **Club playing jumpers and attire**

AMOUNT: **\$2,000**

Purchased playing jumpers and attire for all children to feel inclusive and part of the George Town Junior Football Club.

Outer Cove Creative Inc

PROJECT: **Colour & Fusion Creative Workshops**

AMOUNT: **\$2,000**

Held three community workshops which focused on accessible, affordable arts and crafts with a niche emphasis on well-being, as there was a demand for a broader, more inclusive arts initiative that caters to diverse artistic expressions and fosters deeper community connections in George Town.

Rotary Club of George Town Inc

PROJECT: **Picnic Shelter and change cubicles**

AMOUNT: **\$2,000**

Construction of a 10.2m x 6.8m picnic shelter, with 5 disability access picnic tables and provision for future electric BBQ's and two change cubicles for users of Tippogoree Hills Mountain Bike Trails and Lauriston Park.



Progressive



Prosperous



Proud

INDIVIDUAL SPONSORSHIP

We are proud to have sponsored 3 young sporting locals representing Tasmania on their sporting journey.

- Clementine Dell**
 Basketball Australia Foot Locker
 Under 14 National Club Championships
 in September 2024
- Holli Geeves**
 Penrite ProMX Championship
 in August 2024
- April Littlejohn**
 Golden Glove Tournament in July 2025



Image: Holli Geeves

“At the Golden Glove in Queensland, April lost her bout going for gold. It was a good hard bout and she held her own. April has gained valuable experience from this fight and walked away with the silver medal. April's second bout was a challenge bout; April lost in a very close contest; it was a ripper of a fight. We look forward to seeing what the future holds for April and her boxing.”

April Littlejohn



COUNCIL SPONSORED EVENTS 2024-2025

- **George Town Chamber of Commerce Business Excellence Awards**

- October 2024

Sponsored the Tourism Ambassador Award at the George Town Chamber of Commerce Business Excellence Awards. The George Town Chamber of Commerce Business Excellence Awards showcase and celebrate the diversity of business within the George Town municipality.

- **George Town New Year's Eve Extravaganza - 31 December 2024 (2023/2024 Sponsorship Budget)**

A vibrant community street party took place along Elizabeth Street and Macquarie Street on New Year's Eve, turning the area into a lively hub of celebration. The event offered a fantastic variety of food, drinks, and entertainment, ensuring there was something for everyone to enjoy. Food trucks and local vendors served up delicious dishes, showcasing the best of the region's culinary offerings.

The event also celebrated the local talent, with performers taking centre stage to provide live music, dance, and other performances that brought the community together. People of all ages gathered to enjoy the festivities and share in the fun.

- **Tamar Valley Folk Festival - 17, 18 & 19 January 2025**

The Tamar Valley Folk Festival made a return for the 35th time on the 17th of January 2025. The festival went for 3 days offering Concerts, themed Concerts, workshops, sessions, markets, Children's free activities, entertainment and much more all-around George Town, from Regent Square to the Bass & Flinders Maritime Museum there was something for everyone of all ages.

- **Weymouth Progress Association - 2 November 2024**

The Weymouth Progress Association held their annual community event to celebrate the 78th anniversary of the Weymouth Progress Association. It included a BBQ, cheese platters and live music.

- **Relieve the Rivalry AFL - 5 October 2024**

George Town's newly renovated George Town Sports Complex hosted the Relive the Rivalry match. A Tasmanian team made up of former VFL/AFL players and local legends faced off against a Victorian/All-Stars squad featuring past greats from across Australia. This match was the 11th meeting between the Tasmanians and the All-Stars and the fourth to take place outside their regular venue, North Hobart Oval, with previous matches held at UTAS Stadium, Huonville, and Dial Park.

All participants contributed to the event's fundraising efforts through gate receipts, raffle ticket sales, and a post-match auction. Local sponsors provided food and beverages, including the George Town Lions Club, Boags, The Coffee Devil, and the George Town Football Club. The event received enthusiastic support from both local residents and visitors, and we eagerly anticipate their return.

George Town Council assisted by providing the sporting oval and facilities.



Image: Relieve the Rivalry

COUNCIL HOSTED EVENTS

8 JULY NAIDOC Week 2024

15 OCTOBER Seniors Concert

6 DECEMBER Christmas Carnival

26 JANUARY Australia Day Civic
Ceremony & Awards Ceremony

26 JANUARY Australia Day Pool Party

24 MAY Volunteer Award Night

20 JUNE Solstice in the Square



8 JULY 2024

NAIDOC Week

We celebrated the beginning of NAIDOC Week in partnership with George Town's local Indigenous community. On Monday, the 8th of July, we started with a Welcome to Country and a Smoking Ceremony in the wind shelter at Regent Square, followed by a Flag Raising Ceremony and a yarn over morning tea at the Memorial Hall.

Also, as part of NAIDOC Week, we hosted a special screening of *The Last Daughter* served with some Aboriginal cuisine for dinner. Plus held two community workshops, one in conjunction with Creative George Town where local children tried their hand at kelp crafts and the other was held with the local Aboriginal community.



15 OCTOBER 2024

Seniors Concert

On Tuesday the 15th of October 2024, we hosted our free annual Seniors Concert at the George Town Memorial Hall, which is held during Seniors Week. Seniors Week is a week recognised by all Tasmanians to help celebrate older Tasmanian's and recognise their contributions they make to their communities.

Our 150 guests enjoyed two hours of entertainment and relished in an afternoon tea provided by T'N'T Fresh it Up Cafe.

The fantastic performers were:

- Kylie Long: Piano sing along
- Bee Bop Dance Studio: Performed three dance numbers
- South George Town Primary School
- Port Dalrymple School
- Star of the Sea Catholic College
- Waldo the Bush Poet
- Dave Bailey
- City of Launceston RSL Pipes & Drums
- Alan Neal
- Retro Rockers



6 DECEMBER 2024

Christmas Carnival

On Friday, December 6th, we celebrated our annual Christmas Carnival with an Aussie-themed Christmas Parade through Macquarie Street, bringing the Aussie spirit to life with an array of family-friendly activities, including pony rides, laser tag, a Ferris wheel, twister, and plenty more. The event featured live music, dance performances, and carols courtesy of Dave Bailey, Bee Bop Dance Studio, and St. Patrick's Choir. Our diverse food vendors served everything from woodfired pizzas and slushies to hot jacket potatoes and ice cream. Additionally, market stalls offered various products, from homemade jams to jewellery and candles. The evening concluded with a screening of the classic Christmas movie Home Alone 2.

This year's Christmas Parade winners were:

Best Themed Float	Beechford Residents & Property Owners Association
Best Walking Entry	Bee Bop Dance Studio
Most Entertaining	St Andrews Caledonian Band
Encouragement Award	Bass & Flinders Maritime Museum
Green Award	Barwick Pumping Services

Thank you to Cr Mason, Cheryl Hyde and Mayor Greg Kieser for judging this year's parade and Mike O'Loughlin for MCing the Christmas Carnival. We would also like to extend our gratitude to the SES for their excellent management of the parade on the day.





Image: John Zeckendorf

26 JANUARY 2025

Australia Day Civic Ceremony & Pool Party

On Sunday, the 26th of January 2025, we celebrated Australia Day with a Civic Ceremony. George Town Council welcomed one new citizen and presented the George Town Council Australia Day awards.

The George Town Australia Day Citizen of the Year, Young Citizen of the Year, and Community Event of the Year awards were proudly presented to outstanding individuals and groups who have made remarkable contributions to our community. The winners were Dr Tim Mooney, who was awarded Citizen of the Year, George Town New Year's Eve Extravaganza for Community Event of the Year and Audrina Smit-Larson, who was awarded Young Citizen of the Year. We would also like to acknowledge and celebrate the nominees whose efforts, dedication, and unwavering commitment to making George Town a better place for all.

We were privileged to have John Zeckendorf as our 2025 Australia Day Ambassador, who delivered an inspiring speech. John is an Australian adventurer and businessman; John is the first Tasmanian to summit Mount Everest and complete the "7 Summits," climbing the highest peak on each continent.

The Australia Day celebrations continued with a successful family pool party at the George Town Swimming Pool. Around 400 people took advantage of the beautiful weather to join in pool games, photos, laser tag, live music, lunch and ice creams. Plus, a "real-life" mermaid made an appearance.

On behalf of our community, we welcomed our newest citizen. We would also like to congratulate our amazing George Town Council Australia Day Award winners and nominees for their outstanding contributions to our community.

We thank everyone who attended our Australia Day events, including our volunteers from the Rotary Club of George Town, Country Women's Association, Soroptimist International of George Town and Alidia Lovett, our fantastic Australian Anthem singer.



21 MAY 2025

National Volunteer Week Recognition Night

The annual Volunteer of the Year Awards, as part of National Volunteer Week, brought together inspiring stories from lifelong volunteers like Max Griffiths and Peter McGillivray, reminding us all of the profound impact that dedication and service can have.

We were also thrilled to hear from our amazing award recipients, whose commitment to helping others is nothing short of inspiring. A special thank you to Dave Bailey for providing entertainment, and to The Missing Pieces for the delicious supper that fuelled our celebration.

Congratulations to our outstanding award winners:

- Volunteer Service Award (up to 5 years)
– Juanita Otto
- Major Volunteer Service Award (5-10 years)
– Audrey Evans
- Outstanding Volunteer Service Award (over 10 years) – Melissa McGillivray
- Lifetime Volunteer Service Award (over 20 years) – Don Heather

We thank all volunteers for the important work they do in our community. Together, we are building a brighter future!



Image: Don Heather receiving award

20 JUNE 2025

Solstice in the Square

On Friday, 20th of June 2025, Regent Square once again became a gathering place for the community as we delivered our annual signature event, Solstice in the Square. The evening offered a rich program of music, light, and cultural activity designed to bring people together and celebrate the winter solstice in a uniquely northern Tasmanian way.

Leading up to the event, community members engaged in some lantern-making and headdress workshops which were showcased during the evening.

The event featured live music across two stages, highlighting diverse Tasmanian talent with genres ranging from folk and pop to punk, rock, and Cumbia. Roving fire performers captivated audiences throughout the night. A projection installation, eVergence, by Darryl Rogers (funded by the Australian Government's Regional Arts Fund) added a striking visual element to the evening.

The celebration also showcased local food and beverage vendors, offering everything from mulled wine and hot chocolate to warm meals and handmade desserts. Fire pits placed throughout the square provided warmth, gathering points, and a place to pause and take in the atmosphere.

Solstice in the Square continues to grow as a much-loved part of George Town's annual events calendar, a reflection of our region's creative spirit, cultural engagement, and strong community connection.

OTHER COUNCIL SUPPORTED EVENTS WITHIN THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

- Boneseed Blitz – September 2024
- Northern Employment and Business Hub Expo – March 2025



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Healthy George Town

The Healthy George Town program delivered a diverse range of health and being activities from September 2024 to June 2025. Sessions were conducted across six different facilities: Memorial Hall, Port Dalrymple Pool, Bee Bop Dance Studio, Graham Fairless Centre, George Town Bowls Club, and the Kanamaluka Trail. The programs ran in two main blocks: September–December 2024 and February–June 2025.

The free-of-cost health and wellbeing program for our community has been rewarding and beneficial for the municipality. The diverse set of programs designed to cater to various age groups and abilities has seen a gradual increase in numbers over the last financial year.

PARTICIPATION SUMMARY:

4,519

Participants across all programs recorded over the year



Different program activities

11



Individual sessions delivered

312

The programs were designed to overcome barriers such as lack of opportunities, social disconnection, and lack of health literacy in our municipality, and were closely aligned with the state government health promotion frameworks such as promotion of physical activity, mental health, and wellbeing, as well as improvement and management of chronic conditions.



Armchairs (George Town)

985 participants over 35 sessions (28/session)



Armchairs (Hillwood)

452 participants over 33 sessions (14/session)



Cross Fitness

502 participants over 35 sessions (14/session)



Aqua Fitness

398 participants over 30 sessions (13/session)



Seniors Aqua Therapy

426 participants over 31 sessions (14/session)



Yoga

355 participants over 32 sessions (11/session)



Jazzercise

430 participants over 33 sessions (13/session)



Pilates

397 participants over 25 sessions (16/session)



Pickle Ball

442 participants over 35 sessions (13/session)



Barefoot Bowls

58 participants over 12 sessions (5/session)



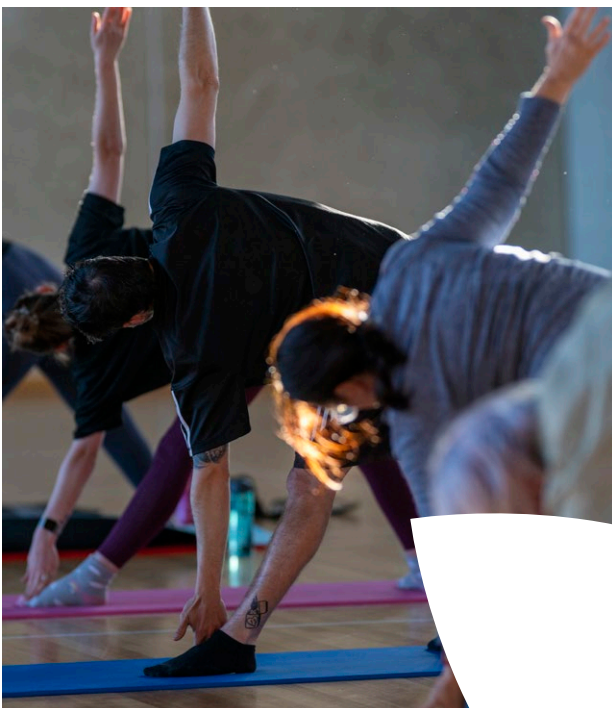
Walking

74 participants over 11 sessions (7/session)



Armchairs George Town emerged as the most popular program, attracting 985 participant sessions (21.8% of the total). This reflects strong community interest in low-impact, chair-based fitness activities. Programs like Jazzercise, Pilates, and Pickleball showed consistent mid-range participation, suggesting stable but niche appeal. The 2024–2025 Healthy George Town program successfully engaged the community through varied health and fitness opportunities.

In addition to our ongoing Healthy George Town Program, we conducted a series of information sessions over four weeks in June. We also interviewed select participants who have benefited from the program to develop a testimonial video. Videographer Nick Hanson produced this video, highlighting the various sessions offered and the positive, life-changing impact of the program on individuals.



- **Understanding Autism and ADHD from a Neurodiversity-Affirming Perspective**

This session was facilitated by the Healthy Mind Centre. Information included a closer look at Autism and ADHD, attendees had the opportunity to ask questions relating to their own circumstances.

- **Living with Arthritis**

Facilitated by Arthritis & Osteoporosis Tasmania. It covered a range of topics, including different types of Arthritis and what you can do to live well with the condition.

- **Diabetes Services and Programs**

This session was facilitated by Diabetes Australia. Information was given on services and programs available for people living with diabetes. The facilitator gave out showbags with information packs.

- **Healthy Eating**

Facilitated by Eat Nutrition. The workshop included information on healthy eating and practical cooking. The group cooked a healthy ramen and ate together at the end of the session. We had great feedback from this group of attendees.



GEORGE TOWN SWIMMING POOL

The 2024–25 period recorded a total attendance of 19,941 across morning, day, and booking sessions. Peak activity was observed in February, followed by March and January, reflecting seasonal patterns and key community events.

- Total Morning Attendance: **2,030**
- Total Day Attendance: **9,719**
- Total Bookings Attendance: **8,693**
- February recorded the highest overall attendance (**5,344**)
- March followed closely with **4,519**, reflecting strong engagement during late summer
- Day session attendance outpaces morning sessions, indicating higher demand for midday activities.

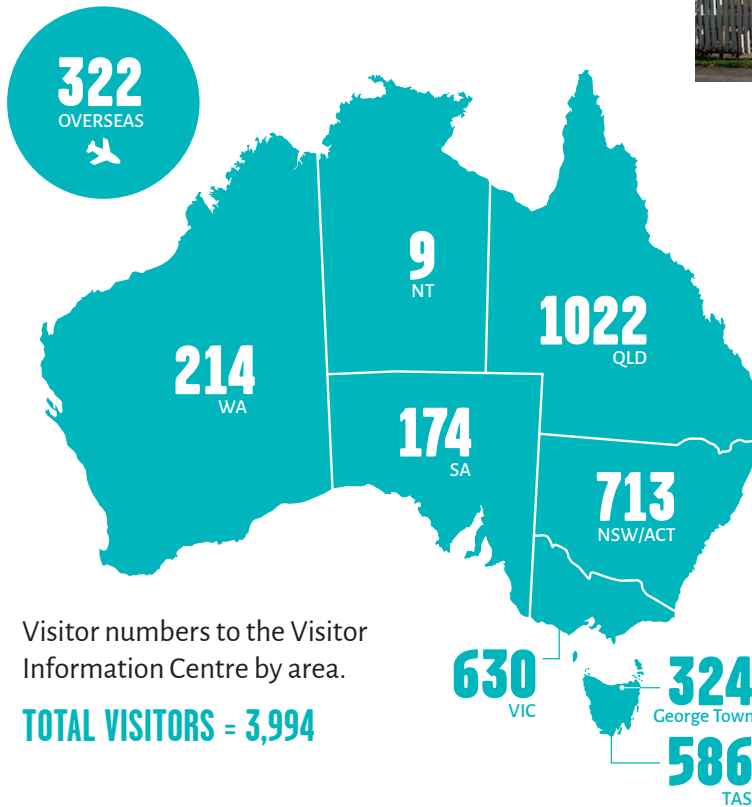
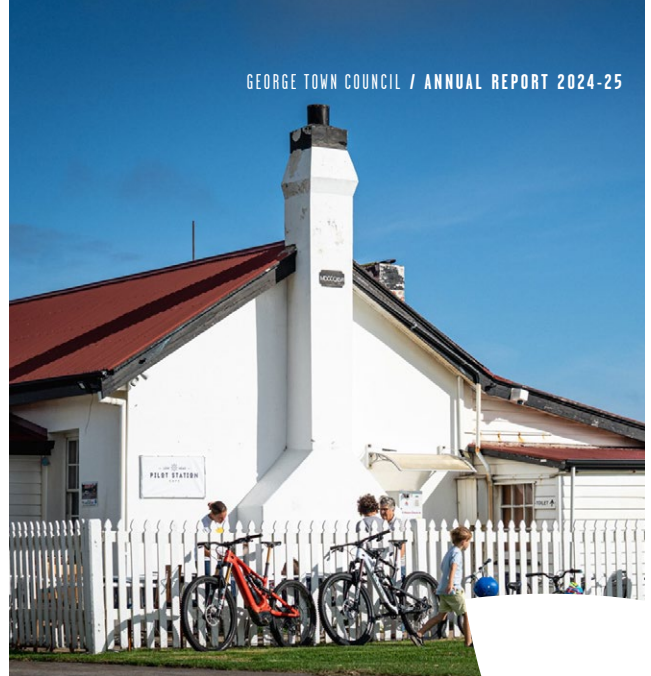
A total of 28 bookings were made throughout the season, with peak activity in November, December, and March, coinciding with school carnivals and community events. Local schools, including Star of the Sea, South George Town Primary, and Exeter Primary School, contributed significantly to attendance.

A successful learn to swim program was delivered.



VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE

Steady year-round visitation with a February high of 613 visitors. Sales were consistent, supported by souvenirs, MTB gear, and park passes. Visitor Information Centre: 3,994 visitors.



Visitor numbers to the Visitor Information Centre by area.

TOTAL VISITORS = 3,994

Jul 24	Aug 24	Sep 24	Oct 24	Nov 24	Dec 24
167	214	233	349	453	311

Jan 25	Feb 25	Mar 25	Apr 25	May 25	Jun 25
419	613	531	287	239	168

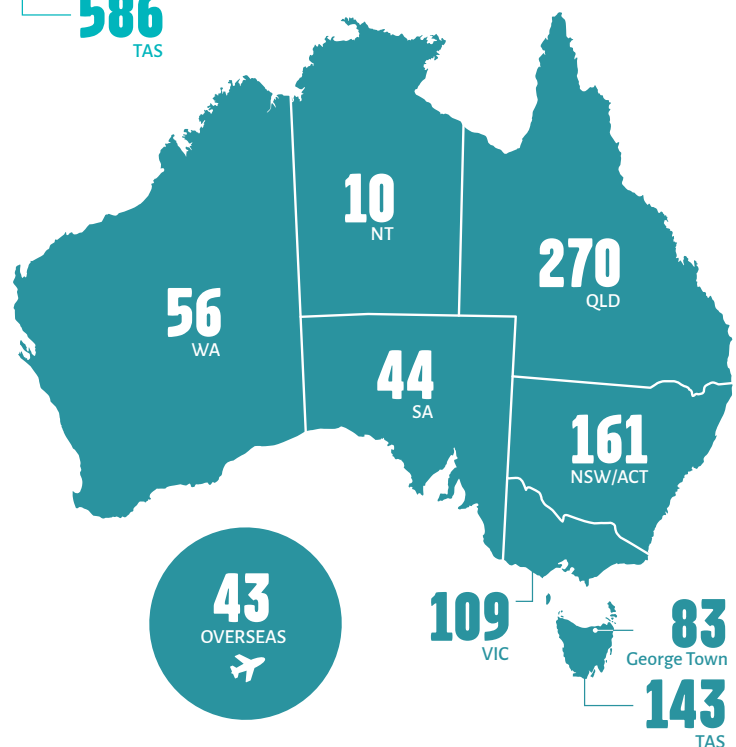
Visitor numbers to the Visitor Information Centre by month.

THE WATCH HOUSE

Known for heritage value and niche tourism appeal.

Visitor numbers to The Watch House by area.

TOTAL VISITORS = 921



Jul 24	Aug 24	Sep 24	Oct 24	Nov 24	Dec 24
22	41	54	65	98	54

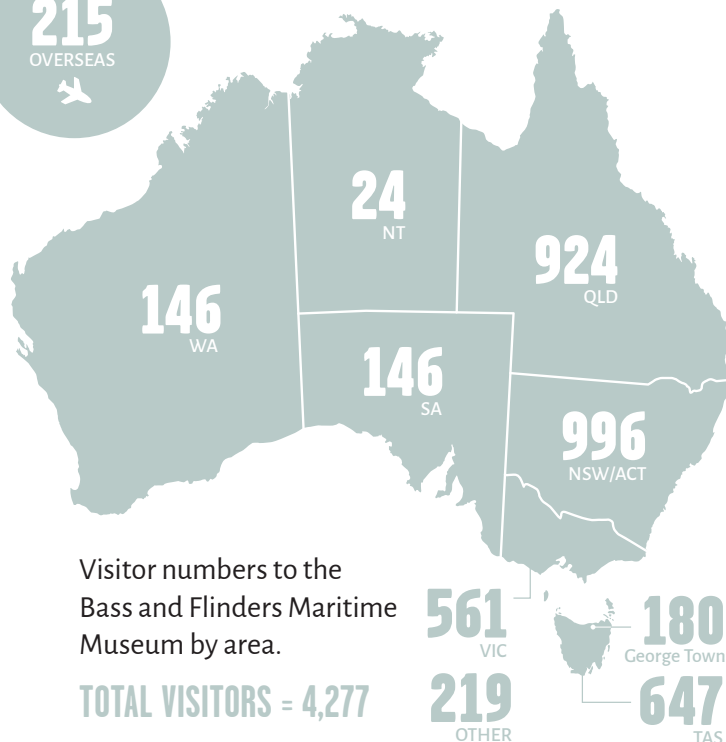
Jan 25	Feb 25	Mar 25	Apr 25	May 25	Jun 25
97	150	169	71	74	26

Visitor numbers to the Watch House by month.

BASS AND FLINDERS MARITIME MUSEUM



215
OVERSEAS



Visitor numbers to the Bass and Flinders Maritime Museum by area.

TOTAL VISITORS = 4,277

Jul 24	Aug 24	Sep 24	Oct 24	Nov 24	Dec 24
180	180	169	325	355	340

Jan 25	Feb 25	Mar 25	Apr 25	May 25	Jun 25
547	718	659	465	202	137

Re-burial of Matthew Flinders

In July 2024, volunteers Margie, Craig, and Vince represented the Bass & Flinders Maritime Museum at the reburial of explorer Matthew Flinders in Donington, UK—his birthplace—250 years after his birth. This historic event followed the 2019 rediscovery of Flinders' remains near London's Euston Station.

Inspired by their experience, the team hosted a local commemorative service at St Paul's Chapel, Low Head, to share their thoughts and experiences. The event featured a presentation, memorabilia display, and was attended by approximately 40 community members.

Following their involvement, the volunteers were invited to share their experiences at Parliament House and enjoyed a luncheon with local MP Nick Duigan.

Whale Boat — Mirage

A Piece of History Arrives at the Museum!

On 5 June, the Bass and Flinders Maritime Museum proudly welcomed the Mirage, a 165-year-old whaleboat, into our collection!

Originally rescued and conserved by the Port Sorell Historical Group two decades ago, the Mirage has now found its new home in George Town. Before it's lifted onto its custom-built cradle for display, it will undergo careful re-oiling, painting, and staining.

This major move couldn't have happened without the incredible efforts of Kempe Engineering and Pfeiffer Cranes. Due to safety regulations, a specially engineered dolly was created just to transport the vessel inside.

With support from the Australian Maritime Museum, we received a \$6,000 grant to help build the cradle that will allow visitors to admire the Mirage for years to come.

The Mirage also made an appearance at the 2025 Australian Wooden Boat Festival.

Australian Wooden Boat Festival

On February 7th to the 10th, The Australian Wooden Boat Festival made a return to Hobart where people discover a selection of Wooden boats, linked to the rich maritime heritage. Whether it was the beautiful tall ships coming through the River Derwent or the stunning selection of vessels afloat and ashore, it was an unforgettable experience. The festival offered workshops, a kid's village, live music, displays, exhibitions and so much more, and of course the amazing food and beverage options.

From Tasmanian whisky and cider to Italian pasta and seafood grill. There was truly a sensational selection on offer. The Bass and Flinders Maritime Museum made some amazing connections and are so grateful to have had a display!

YOUTH

Art-Street-Art

22 NOVEMBER 2024

The Art-Street-Art event was a vibrant celebration of creativity, community, and cultural expression. This youth-led initiative brought together talented artists, local schools, and businesses to transform everyday spaces into an open-air gallery, sparking meaningful connections and conversations about the role of art in place-making.

The official opening on Friday, 22nd November, attended by the Premier Jeremy Rockliff, Michelle O'Byrne MP, Speaker of the Tasmanian House of Assembly, and Robert Fairs MP, was a proud moment for the community. The event attracted a fantastic crowd to celebrate the culmination of months of hard work. Featuring works by local artists such as Bec Taylor & Friends, Ben Miller, Emily-Rose Wills, and Elev8ed Creations, the project showcased the incredible creative potential within George Town.

Artists worked closely with the community to create something special. KreamArt collaborated with local youth to design a piece that transformed a building into a vibrant, creative space they now call their own. Meanwhile, Sam Dobransky achieved a personal milestone with his largest mural to date, stretching an impressive 80 metres along the Woolies alleyway and injecting life into an otherwise overlooked area.



Nathan Dubsy Want Session

Through Council's Youth Services, we engaged with school speaker and author Nathan "Dubsy" Want who helps teens and parents through life's inescapable moments. Dubsy delivered multiple sessions at Port Dalrymple School about online safety and bullying, followed by a mentoring session with the Seagulls to Chips participants about Choices.

Dubsy also hosted a Parent Session highlighting key moments facing teens, providing parents with the tools and strategies to support and lead their teens through current and future moments by fostering growth and resilience.



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Seagulls to Chips Graduation and 2025 Program

The 2024 Seagulls to Chips program concluded with a graduation on October 15th, with all 21 participants attending, along with families, education, Council and community partners. The program featured a range of leadership training opportunities, creative content and connections with the youth to improve living conditions for youth in George Town.

The Seagulls to Chips participants reflected on their journey, highlighting that they have improved confidence and skills as a result of the program. The 2025 program is set to commence in July with a focus on kindness projects and sharing the stories of heroes in George Town.

Future Changers Camp

16 participants attended the Future Changers Youth Leadership Camp held at Spring Beach on January 13-15 in partnership with the youth program at the West Tamar Council. The participants who are also graduates from the Seagulls to Chips program, actively engaged in adventure-based and problem-solving challenges over the 3 days, working together and learning valuable leadership skills.

Due to the success of the camp, the Futures Changers Camp will continue into 2026.

Youth Voice Showcase

On Wednesday, December 4th, the Youth Voice Collection showcased the youth survey results along with recommendations for future works. Members of the community attended, along with the Youth Impact Council sharing recommendations made by the 308 young people who participated. The team showcased their findings and further opportunities for the community to contribute towards a better future.

Overall, youth in George Town prioritise safety, fun, inclusivity, opportunities, and community engagement as essential to their well-being and development. They value safe spaces, mental health support, art, and recreational activities, including improved sports facilities. Inclusivity, social support, and a sense of belonging were identified as key, alongside opportunities for education, employment, and skill-building. Additionally, they seek a voice in shaping their community and contributing to its growth through meaningful engagement.



George Town Youth Impact Council

The Youth Impact Council continue to represent their region. Throughout the 12 months, 17 young people meet consistently and continue to raise issues and ideas that affect local young people. The team delivered the annual Mock Council meeting in October, addressing issues and raising motions such as bus shelters, legalised graffiti walls, improved sports grounds, and raising mental health concerns in George Town.

During March, the Youth Impact Council partnered with NebHub to help deliver the Futures Expo, a Careers Expo targeted towards students across the north. This expo had over 60 stallholders from industry partners and community services.

The Youth Impact Council have also conducted a car wash fundraiser, raising funds for outdoor water play components for the future development of the George Town Swimming Pool.

Each month, the team conduct regular meetings and invited a variety of guests to connect with them, such as the Tasmanian Police, Electoral members, Council staff and youth service providers. In June, the Youth Impact Council partnered with Port Dalrymple School to support Tasmanian Charity, Speak Up Stay ChatTy, with a Shorts Day, encouraging local businesses to wear shorts for mental health. The Youth Council also partnered with George Town Council to volunteer their time at the Solstice in the Square event, which saw over 2000 people attend.

George Town Youth Week

During Youth Week in April 2025, local young people had the opportunity to connect in meaningful ways across a full week of activities, partnering with skilled youth workers and professionals delivering adventure-based activities and attending youth-based events.



Activities included Hillwood rock climbing and abseiling, mountain bike riding at Tippogoree MTB trails, fishing with FishCare Tasmania, attending the Rock Challenge event in Launceston, attending the Exeter Youth Week event, and participating in Minute to Win It challenges at the Kinimathatakinta/George Town Library.

Launchpad Drop in

Since February 2025, Council's Youth team have offered free youth drop in sessions at the Launchpad on a Thursday afternoon. The Launchpad offers a safe space for young people aged 12-17 to be creative, connect with service providers offering specialised activities, and to explore new pathways of youth engagement. Some highlights include mountain bike mentoring, polymer clay workshops, and lantern making.

Youth Mental Health First Aid

In May 2025, 20 community members who work with young people completed Youth Mental Health First Aid facilitated by iTrain Australia. The opportunity was highlighted by the youth voice collection data as a priority, with the Youth Impact Council recommending the training.

With the support of the Liberty Bell Bay Community Assistance Grant, the training was well received as the George Town community looks to further its support for local young people.



ARTS AND CULTURE

2024/2025 was a significant year for arts and culture in Kinimathatakinta/George Town. Council delivered a vibrant program of exhibitions, workshops, festivals, and community arts initiatives, strengthening the municipality's position as an emerging creative hub in northern Lutruwita/Tasmania. This year also saw Council build on partnerships, pursue professional development, and pilot new programs that connected local artists with broader audiences.

Reconciliation and Cultural Awareness

Council continued to embed reconciliation and cultural awareness in its arts and culture activities.

NAIDOC Week (July 2024): Celebrations included a flag-raising ceremony and morning tea, a film screening, and community workshops, delivered in partnership with local Aboriginal community members.

National Reconciliation Week: In May 2025, the Arts and Culture Officer represented Council at the National Reconciliation Week breakfast, strengthening connections and building understanding around cultural inclusion and truth-telling in creative spaces.



Kinimathatakinta/George Town Art Prize

Following the inaugural 2024 Art Prize, the 2025 Kinimathatakinta/George Town Art Prize opened in April 2025, further celebrating the unique landscapes and community spirit of the region. The Prize invited artists to reflect on the distinctive identity and environment of Kinimathatakinta/George Town, fostering deeper connections between art, place, and community.

- **Major Acquisitive Award:** Jennifer Dickens, *"Birdsong"* – a layered meditation on land, memory, and heritage around Low Head.
- **Kanamaluka Photographic Award:** Jennie Timmins, *"Iridescent Hues"* – capturing the vibrancy of the Kanamaluka/Tamar River.
- **Packing Room Prize Award:** Bobby Gloops, *"The Alcoholic"* – selected by the installation team for its emotional honesty and storytelling.
- **People's Choice Award:** Sabrina Guy, *"Radiance Over kanamaluka"*.

Kinimathatakinta/George Town Youth Art Prize

In a new initiative, the first Kinimathatakinta/George Town Youth Art Prize was formally opened in alignment with Solstice in the Square in June 2025.



With over 40 entries displayed, young artists showcased works across painting, photography, drawing, and digital media. This prize reflects Council's commitment to supporting emerging creative talent and fostering lifelong engagement with the arts.

Youth Art Prize Winners:

- **Primary Age:** Pippa Bennison
- **High School Age:** Austin Evans
- **Young Adult:** Brianna Shaw

Creative George Town Exhibition Program and Gallery Activation

The inaugural Creative George Town Exhibition Program ran from January to May 2025, featuring six exhibitions across the Jim Mooney Gallery and the Watch House Gallery:

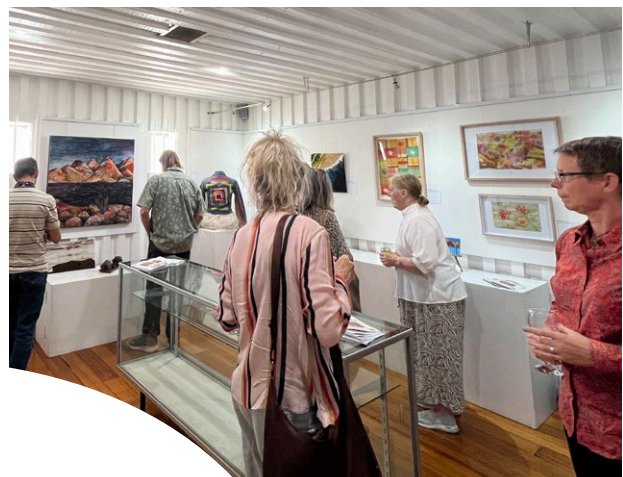
- **Denise Cox & Michelle Lennard** – *Wildly Woven*: Collaborative mixed media.
- **Darryl Rogers** – *Vanishing Point*: Circular landscape paintings evoking ecological themes.
- **Studio Keturah** – *Small Grace*: Intimate watercolours depicting Tasmania's seasonal beauty.
- **Emma Magnusson-Reid** – *Drifted Matter*: Works on paper inspired by Beechford's environment.
- **Amy Bartlett** – *Ephemeral Fields for Safe Keeping*: Explorations of identity, loss, and belonging.
- **Post Graduate Gallery Society** – *It Takes All Sorts*: Diverse artworks by UTAS students and alumni.

Exhibitions were well-attended, with positive community feedback highlighting the diversity of artworks and the opportunity for meaningful dialogue with artists. Several of the openings included artist Q&A sessions, with strong feedback from the community requesting more public programming focused on discussing art-making processes and art theory.

Insights from this pilot program suggest future exhibitions may benefit from longer durations and confirm the importance of maintaining the best practice of paying exhibiting artists.

The galleries were also used for community exhibitions, including:

- **Lighthouse Regional Arts – The End of the Rainbow**: Marking 20 years of exhibitions in George Town.
- **Art Street Art**: In alignment with the broader project, featuring works by South George Town Primary School students, Star of the Sea Catholic College, ArtStreetArt participating youth, and the George Town Youth Council.
- **NARLE Project**: A youth-led creative problem-solving exhibition developed through the Tas Leaders Program.
- **Kinimathatakinta/George Town Art Prize**
- **Kinimathatakinta/George Town Youth Art Prize**
- **SML x ERW Pop-Up Exhibition**





Creative George Town Workshops

This year marked the conclusion of the Premier's Fund for Children and Young People-funded workshops under Creative George Town. Workshops in July 2024 were delivered by:

- Wildly Abigail: Winter Flower Crown
- ROOKE: Acro Balance and Movement
- SupersillyUs Circus: Prop Manipulation & Clowning
- Outer Cove Creative Inc: Fluid Art and Theatre Sports
- Susan Mansell: Cultural Practice

A total of 811 participants engaged across the program's lifespan, demonstrating strong community appetite for accessible arts experiences.

CREATIVE
George Town

George Town (mini) Summer Series

In early 2025, Council piloted the George Town (Mini) Summer Series. Three Sunday concerts were staged in Weymouth, Hillwood, and George Town, featuring diverse Tasmanian musicians Golden Sunbird, Where Water Meets, Dvrkworld, Scott Haigh, Stray Luxury, and Tash Zappala. Genres ranged from dream pop and cosmic rock to folk and electronica. Attendance highlights:

- Weymouth: 100+ attendees
- Hillwood: ~60 attendees
- George Town: ~70 attendees

Audience feedback was enthusiastic, with interest expressed from other communities for future series.

George Town Art and Artisan's Guild

In July 2024, with Council's support and guidance, the George Town Art and Artisan's Guild successfully transitioned to independence and became an incorporated association. This marks an important milestone in developing sustainable, community-led arts initiatives in the municipality.

CEMETERY

The cemetery team continued to provide respectful and responsive services, ensuring the needs of families and loved ones were met with compassion and care. A notable increase in reservations indicates forward planning by families, while operational work such as plaque placements and cement block replacements contributed to maintaining the integrity and dignity of the site.

Council remains committed to delivering cemetery services with professionalism, while planning for future needs through ongoing maintenance and infrastructure management.

- Burials: 26
- Reservations: 44
- Plaque Placements: 17
- Ashes Placements: 15
- Cement Block Replacements: 1

FACILITIES

Over the 2024–2025 financial year, Council facilities recorded 953 total bookings across 13 venues. The York Cove Centre was the most frequently used facility with 272 bookings, followed by the Graham Fairless Centre with 216 bookings, and the Community Centre YMCA with 137 bookings.

Peak booking activity occurred in May 2025 (128 bookings) and June 2025 (117 bookings), largely driven by increased use of the Graham Fairless Centre and York Cove Centre. The quieter months were January 2025 (65 bookings) and December 2024 (60 bookings).

Throughout the 2024–2025 financial year, George Town Council approved a total of 107 event bookings across various community venues and public spaces. These events reflect strong community engagement and ongoing utilisation of Council facilities.

Highlights by Venue:

- Memorial Hall: **24 approvals**
- Supper Room: **22 approvals**
- Graham Fairless Centre: **17 approvals**
- Sports Complex: **4 approvals**
- Regent Square, Hillwood Hall, Anzac Drive, Hillwood Rock Climbing: **4 approvals each**
- East Beach: **5 approvals**
- Other venues such as Weymouth Hall, Lauriston Park, Lagoon Beach, and others recorded consistent, though lower, usage.

The busiest month was October, with 15 approvals, reflecting strong community engagement in the spring season.

Council venues continue to support a wide range of activities, including community meetings, sporting events, cultural programs, and private functions. The diversity in venue usage reflects the broad appeal and accessibility of facilities across the municipality.

Council remains committed to ensuring the availability, safety, and support of spaces that foster vibrant community life.



Image: Hillwood Hall

ROAD, CIVIL AND CAPITAL WORKS PROJECTS



9.96km
(41,800m²)



Road Reseal

500m **1,375m**



Footpath
Replacement



New
Footpaths

145



Trees Planted

Dalrymple Road and Old Bangor Tram Road Intersection Upgrade

Construction works at the junction of Dalrymple Road and Old Bangor Tram Road commenced in July 2024 and were completed over a period of nine weeks.

The project involved upgrading the intersection to current standards, with the primary goal of improving safety for all road users. The works have successfully enhanced traffic flow, pedestrian accessibility, and overall intersection safety in the area.

Dalrymple and The Glen Road Junction

Completion of the road upgrade took place during the first half of the year.

Asphalt sealing was carried out to preserve the surface's strength and extend its lifespan.

Final touches, including line markings and updated signage have now transformed the junction, significantly improving safety for drivers.

Old Aerodrome Road Stage 2

Construction of Stage 2 of Old Aerodrome Road commenced in December 2024 and was successfully completed in four months.

This phase involved the upgrade of approximately 1.6 km of roadway, beginning at the southern end of Stage 1 and continuing further south.

With the completion of Stage 2, a total of nearly 2.7km of Old Aerodrome Road has now been upgraded, significantly improving this rural road.

ANZAC Drive Building Revitalisation

The former RSL building has undergone a stunning internal renovation, featuring new ceilings, partitions, floors, and updated fittings, fixtures, and sewerage. A newly sealed car park enhances the transformation. The redeveloped space now offers an exciting opportunity for a new food and beverage operator, including a restaurant and bar.



Image: ANZAC Drive Building

Street Tree Planting

Council commenced the street tree planting program. Approximately 145 trees were planted.

These installations occurred in Victoria Street, Anzac Drive, Stonehouse Street, Cemetery Road and the Dog Park at Blue Gum Park. The variety of trees that were planted included *Prunus Blierea* and *Prunus Cerasifera* varieties. These trees will produce vibrant pink blossoms from late winter to early spring, enhancing the visual appeal of the street.

The project contributes to improving the livability of the neighbourhood, providing ecological and environmental benefits, strengthening social amenity, and supporting economic resilience.

The addition of street trees underscores Council's commitment to sustainable urban environments and addressing the challenges of climate change.

Baxters Road Bridge Replacement

The original bridge's timber beams and barrier railings were severely damaged during a heavy storm in late 2022.

The structure was made safe with a load limit imposed, until subsequent funding was received to allow completion of a new structure.

The new concrete bridge took approximately two months to construct.

Upgrade of Cemetery Fencing

As part of our ongoing beautification efforts at the George Town cemetery, new fencing has been installed around the Rotary and Monumental Rose Gardens to protect the beautiful roses from wallabies and kangaroos. This will help preserve the roses, offering a peaceful and respectful space for reflection year-round.

Aquatic Health and Wellbeing Centre

The George Town Aquatic Health and Wellbeing Centre has moved a step closer with the Development Application approved by Council.

The indoor facility, which will be constructed with a \$15 million Federal Government grant along with a further \$2.5 million from the State Government, will be open year round.

Features of the new centre will include a 25 metre pool, warm water program pool, gymnasium, fitness rooms and café facilities.

The 25m pool will be able to be configured in multiple ways to accommodate lap swimming, casual pool play and swimming carnival competitions.

Significantly, the new centre will also provide allied health services to help assist people with exercise and therapy.

Identified as a priority in Council's Sport and Recreation Strategy, this new centre represents a significant upgrade on the current swimming pool which has served the community well for over 40 years.

The facility is expected to be completed by October 2026.

Image: George Town Aquatic Health and Wellbeing Centre

GEORGE TOWN
AQUATIC HEALTH +
WELLNESS CENTRE



Progressive



Prosperous



Proud

Bellingham Solar Boat Ramp Lighting

Installation of solar lighting at the Bellingham Boat Ramp. The new lights enhance safety and visibility, creating a more welcoming environment for all users, particularly during early mornings and evenings.

Township Character Plan

The 2024/2025 period saw the implementation of the Township Character Plan, with a range of improvement works completed across the townships identified in the plan. These enhancements were well received by the community and demonstrate Council's ongoing commitment to enhancing open spaces for the benefit of residents and visitors alike.

Hillwood Open Space Plan

2024/2025 saw the implementation of the Hillwood Open Space. The following works were completed within this period:

- Leam Rd corner lease executed. Seats and bin installed.
- Seating and bin installed at Hills corner.
- Hillwood recreation ground entrance upgraded to accommodate an in and out arrangement.
- Concept plan for Hillwood HUB.
- Seat installed along the new path to Egg Island Reserve.



Image: Hillwood

Other Construction Works

- Franklin Street and Victoria Street Roundabout Repairs
- Roadworks - Parry Street & Andrew Street, George Town
- New Footpath – Esplanade South, George Town
- Roadworks – Fairway Avenue, Lulworth
- Intersection Upgrade – Victoria and Mary Street, George Town
- Resealing – Weymouth and Beechford. Main Road & Anne Street, George Town
- Re-sheeting Works - Colgraves Road, Security Road, Troopers Track, and Suttle Road.
- Repair Works – East Beach Viewing Platform
- Grandstand removal at the Soccer Grounds
- Low Head Pontoon Repairs
- New footpath - South Street, George Town
- New parking area at the Pipers River Recreation Ground
- Replacement BBQ's at Hillwood Jetty and Lagoon Beach
- New Lighting at the Pilot Station Boat Ramp
- Agnes Street Reconstruction from Parish Crescent to Dunning Avenue, George Town





Image: Pilot Station Boat Ramp

Customer Requests

Category	2024/2025 Received Total	2024/2025 Actioned Total	Percentage Actioned	Comparison 2023/2024 received
Roads	299	298	99.7%	146
Public Buildings	7	7	100%	10
Security/Vandalism	32	32	100%	
Miscellaneous	137	137	100%	96
Vegetation/Reserves	188	188	100%	106
Waste Services/Collection	248	248	100%	100
Drainage	102	100	98%	51
Parks & Waterways	4	4	100%	
Graffiti	14	14	100%	
Nature Strips	14	14	100%	12
Trees	238	236	99.1%	90
Footpaths	40	40	100%	31
Total Received	1323			642
Total Actioned		1318		
Percentage Completed			99.6%	

Image: East Beach



Progressive



Prosperous



Proud

WASTE AND RECYCLING

George Town Waste Transfer Station

The George Town Waste Transfer Station processed over 4,000 tonnes* of landfill and recyclable waste this financial year. Through partnerships with specialised recycling providers, we diverted e-waste, batteries, metals, and paint from landfill, supporting the initiative to avoid, reduce, reuse, and recycle. We continue to collaborate closely with Circular North to improve waste and recycling outcomes across the region.

To support our residents, we offered two free drop-off weekends for green and hard waste. Additionally, during the severe weather events in August and September, flood and storm waste disposal fees were waived thanks to support from the Tasmanian Government. Residents also continue to benefit from weekly general waste collection and fortnightly kerbside recycling services, supporting safer and cleaner communities.



Landfill

885t

General Waste

2,055t

Clean Fill



Recycled

9t

Tyres

280kg

Drums

477kg

E-waste

808t

Green Waste

2,550kg

Lead Acid Batteries

500kg

Mattresses

170t

Mixed Metals

26t

Recycling

1,740kg

Paintback

94kg

Small E-waste





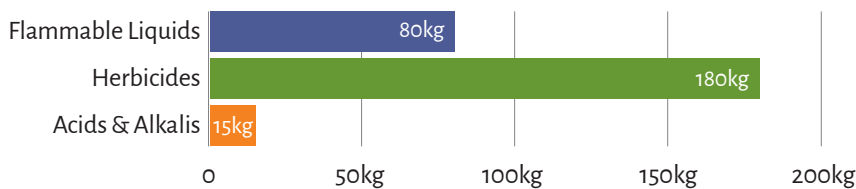
Hazardous Waste Collection

26 OCTOBER AND 8 MARCH

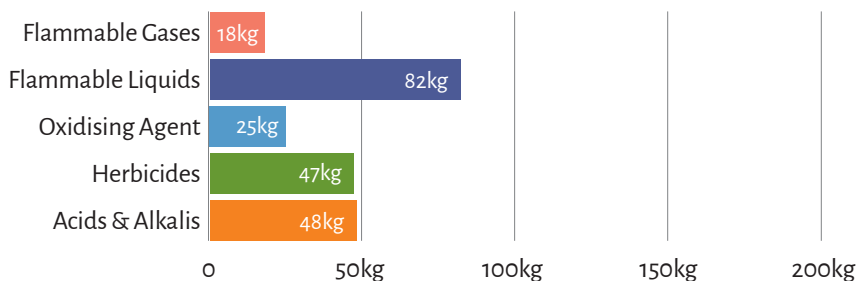
We teamed up with Circular North for two free household hazardous waste collection days in October and March. These days allowed residents to dispose of any potentially harmful chemicals properly and safely. This included items such as solvents, household cleaners, floor care products, ammonia-based cleaners, pesticides, herbicides, vapes, poisons, pool chemicals, hobby chemicals, acids, alkalis, and farm vet chemicals.



Hazardous Waste Collected October 2024



Hazardous Waste Collected March 2025



COMMUNICATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Newsletters

Each quarter, residents receive a printed newsletter alongside their rates notices, providing key updates on council initiatives, community news, and local services. Additionally, an electronic newsletter is available for those who prefer digital communication, offering more frequent updates on arts and culture, events, grants, youth programs, and other community-focused topics.



Council Roadshows

The Mayor, and General Manager conducted face to-face presentations throughout the municipality to ensure that Council was doing everything it could to support and inform the community. Roadshows were held at:

- Weymouth
- Lulworth
- Bellingham
- Beechford
- Hillwood
- Pipers River/Pipers Brook
- George Town

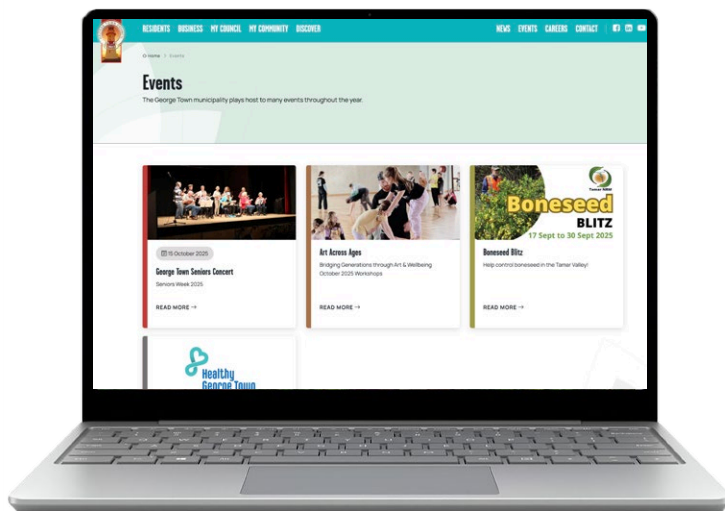
New Website

In July 2024, Council launched its newly redeveloped website, designed to serve as the community's central hub of information. The platform features improved navigation, allowing quick access to the most popular sections via the top menu and blue banner.

Key features include:

- An alert function for urgent updates such as road closures and emergency information.
- Image galleries showcasing local events and community life.
- A community event calendar to keep residents informed and engaged.
- Interactive maps and forms for enhanced accessibility.
- Expanded content to ensure a broader range of up-to-date information for the community.

This redevelopment positions the website as a dynamic and evolving resource, ensuring residents can easily access the information they need.



Social Media

Council uses its Facebook page regularly to update and communicate with the municipal area as it operates in real-time, and we can deliver messages immediately. Our audience on Facebook continues to grow with 3.8K followers.

Presence at Community Events, Programs and Meetings

Both Councillors and staff continue to attend and support local events across the municipality. It is on regular occasion that they will attend local meetings and attend programs to support and advocate for the community.

The Mayor and the General Manager attend monthly Tamar FM interviews plus the Mayor has a monthly interview with ABC Northern Tasmania.

Community Consultation

Council has undertaken several community consultations over the past twelve months to obtain feedback and consult with the community. Consultation occurred on the following:

- Communication Strategic Plan
- Joint networking event with George Town Chamber of Commerce
- Website re-design survey
- Health and Wellbeing Strategy
- Review of the 2020-2030 Community Strategic Plan
- Business Survey
- Cat Management Policy
- Road Network and Footpath Plans

DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT

Public Health Statement

George Town Council's commitment to maintaining a high level of public health protection is identified in the Community Strategic Plan 2020-2030. As part of Council's public health goals and objectives for 2024-2025 the Development and Environment Department has sought to:

- Maintaining and enhancing service levels through contemporary service delivery models.
- Continuing to work with the Northern Region Cat Management Working Group to develop better cat management outcomes.
- Build on our relationships with all levels of government in managing the risks to wildlife, such as penguins.
- Encourage healthy activity in the promotion of our region as a destination for taking a dog for a walk.
- Continue promoting responsible pet ownership.
- Enhancing current service levels while developing contemporary delivery opportunities.
- Acting in a timely manner on reports of environmental health concerns.
- Monitor and report on the water quality of the kanamaluka/ Tamar Estuary as per the Tasmanian Recreational Water Quality Guidelines 2007.
- Continuing to provide a high level of public awareness, education and guidance on building health and safety matters.
- Acting in a timely manner on reports of buildings, or building uses, that involve possible health concerns.

Specific details and outcomes in achieving those goals are provided in the Strategic and Operational Plan report, including reports in Annexe C. The following information is also provided in accordance with the requirements of the Act.

Notifiable Diseases

During 2024/2025, Council were advised and investigated one notifiable report from the Department of Health.

Recreational Water Sampling

The Public Health Act 1997 requires Council to monitor recreational waters (which includes both natural water and public pools and spas) for compliance under the Recreational Water Quality Guidelines 2007.

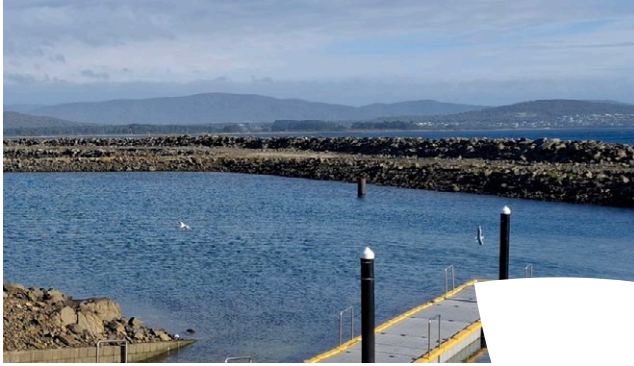
Sampling of natural waters is undertaken monthly at specific locations from December to March to ensure the water is suitable for primary contact. A total of 28 samples were taken during the period December to March.

Water sampling results over the 2024/2025 season indicated that all natural water samples, met the Guidelines.

Sampling of public pools and spas is also undertaken monthly when the venue is open to the public to ensure the water is suitable for primary contact.

There are two locations in the George Town municipality which are sampled, the George Town Public Pool which is open from October to March and the Port Dalrymple School pool which, except for January and school holiday periods, is open all year.

Apart from a failed sample from the George Town Council main pool in February, all pool samples were compliant.



Sampling Results for Natural Recreational Water Bodies

Location	Date of Sampling	Results of Sampling
		Enterococci Levels
Pipeclay Bay		<10 cfu/100mL
		110 ~60 cfu/100mL
		10 ~60 cfu/100mL
York Cove	10/12/2024	<10 cfu/100mL
	29/1/2025	<10 cfu/100mL
	19/2/2025	<10 cfu/100mL
	12/3/2025	<10 cfu/100mL
Lagoon Beach	10/12/2024	~20 cfu/100mL
	29/1/2025	<10 cfu/100mL
	19/2/2025	<10 cfu/100mL
	12/3/2025	~20 cfu/100mL
Pilot Station	10/12/2024	<10 cfu/100mL
	29/1/2025	<10 cfu/100mL
	19/2/2025	<10 cfu/100mL
	12/3/2025	<10 cfu/100mL
Beechford	10/12/2024	<10 cfu/100mL
	29/1/2025	<10 cfu/100mL
	19/2/2025	~10 cfu/100mL
	12/3/2025	<10 cfu/100mL
Hillwood Pontoon	10/12/2024	<10 cfu/100mL
	29/1/2025	<10 cfu/100mL
	19/2/2025	<10 cfu/100mL
	12/3/2025	<10 cfu/100mL
Weymouth	10/12/2024	~30 cfu/100mL
	29/1/2025	<10 cfu/100mL
	19/2/2025	<10 cfu/100mL
	12/3/2025	<10 cfu/100mL



Sampling Results for Public Pools

Name of pool/spa	Date of Sampling	Results of Sampling		
		Heterotrophic Plate Count	Thermotolerant Coliforms	Pseudomonas aeruginosa
Port Dalrymple School	24/7/2024	1 cfu/mL	<1 cfu/100mL	<1 cfu/100mL
	28/8/2024	<1 cfu/mL	<1 cfu/100mL	<1 cfu/100mL
	18/9/2024	<1 cfu/mL	<1 cfu/100mL	<1 cfu/100mL
	16/10/2024	<1 cfu/mL	<1 cfu/100mL	<1 cfu/100mL
	26/11/2024	<1 cfu/mL	<1 cfu/100mL	<1 cfu/100mL
	19/2/2025	<1 cfu/mL	<1 cfu/100mL	<1 cfu/100mL
	12/3/2025	<1 cfu/mL	<1 cfu/100mL	<1 cfu/100mL
	21/5/2025	<1 cfu/mL	<1 cfu/100mL	<1 cfu/100mL
	25/6/2025	<1 cfu/mL	<1 cfu/100mL	<1 cfu/100mL
George Town Council (main pool)	23/9/2024	2 cfu/mL	<1 cfu/100mL	<1 cfu/100mL
	16/10/2024	<1 cfu/mL	<1 cfu/100mL	<1 cfu/100mL
	26/11/2024	8 cfu/mL	<1 cfu/100mL	<1 cfu/100mL
	10/12/2024	1 cfu/mL	<1 cfu/100mL	<1 cfu/100mL
	15/1/2025	<1 cfu/mL	<1 cfu/100mL	<1 cfu/100mL
	19/2/2025	227 cfu/mL	<1 cfu/100mL	<1 cfu/100mL
	3/3/2025 (resample)	2 cfu/mL	<1 cfu/100mL	<1 cfu/100mL
	12/3/2025	8 cfu/mL	<1 cfu/100mL	<1 cfu/100mL
George Town Council (small pool)	23/9/2024	81 cfu/mL	<1 cfu/100mL	<1 cfu/100mL
	16/10/2024	11 cfu/mL	<1 cfu/100mL	<1 cfu/100mL
	26/11/2024	17 cfu/mL	<1 cfu/100mL	<1 cfu/100mL
	10/12/2024	<1 cfu/mL	<1 cfu/100mL	<1 cfu/100mL
	15/1/2025	<1 cfu/mL	<1 cfu/100mL	<1 cfu/100mL
	19/2/2025	13 cfu/mL	<1 cfu/100mL	<1 cfu/100mL
	12/3/2025	47 cfu/mL	<1 cfu/100mL	<1 cfu/100mL

No samples were taken from the wading pool as it was not in use.

Regulated Systems

George Town Council received 3 applications to register 18 cooling towers operating in the Local Government area. All applications were assessed against the Guidelines for Regulated Systems issued by the Department of Health. The applications and maintenance sheets were assessed, and registrations issued.

Places of Assembly

According to the Public Health Act 1997, a place of assembly is required for any mass outdoor public event. This means an event with over 1000 people for 2 hours or more. During the 2024/2025 period there was 1 event that required a Place of Assembly Licence, which was granted.

Nuisances, Complaints and Notifications

As local government operate under several different pieces of legislation, nuisance complaints are investigated under the relevant sections of the appropriate Act.

The Community Compliance Department received a variety of complaints during 2024/2025 with regards to Environmental Health. The complaints were related to noise, odour, outdoor burning, and unhealthy properties.

Community Compliance animal and fire hazard complaints recorded for this financial year totalled 287.

The majority of these complaints were related to either general animal enquiries (91 in total) or Fire Hazard enquiries/complaints (81 in total)

There were 13 dog attacks reported during the 2024/2025 financial year, resulting in a number of infringements being issued to dog owners and, in some cases, animals being impounded by Council. As a result of the 13 dog incidents reported, none of the dogs involved were declared dangerous by Council, however, two were euthanised upon owner's decisions. At present, only two declared dogs still remain in the Municipality.

A total of 1,368 dogs were registered or re registered with Council in the 2024/2025 year (66 dogs were advised deceased and 10 dogs leaving the municipality). This is an increase in registrations from the 2023/2024 financial year. There continues to be a large population of unregistered dogs in the Community, however the registration of these animals continues to be an important focus of Council.

Our Compliance Officers continues to engage with the Dogs Home of Tasmania, Just Cats and the Northern Regional Cat Management Working Group to assist in the development and education of all pet owners in our municipality. Council continues to provide a microchipping service and has microchipped a further 124 dogs and cats combined in this financial year. This figure is largely attributed to the Free Caring for Cats pilot program. Council will continue to offer this service to the entire municipality for both dogs and cats in 2025/2026.



Food Standards and Inspections

In 2024/2025 the number of food premises seeking registration with Council was 95, which includes P3-N and P4 businesses. Two businesses closed in the last 12 months and one business relocated to a neighbouring municipality. This is a slight increase in the number of premises registered in the previous year.

The number of food premises inspections carried out during this period was 92. Although P3-N and P4 premises are only required to notify, distilleries and those businesses that have a state-wide registration are inspected. As stated in last year's report, inspections were undertaken over the course of the year with each premises/operator being visited at least once during this period.

Immunisations

The School Based Immunisation Program (SBIP) was delivered in conjunction with the George Town Medical Centre and provided vaccinations for school age children in grades 7 & 10 against preventable diseases in accordance with the Australian Standard Vaccination Schedule. Immunisation sessions were conducted at both Port Dalrymple School and Star of the Sea Catholic College. 51 students were vaccinated. The vaccinations offered to students were Human Papillomavirus (HPV), Diphtheria, Tetanus and Pertussis (Whooping Cough) and Meningococcal ACWY.

Building and Planning

Council staff continue to take pride in working proactively with our customers to guide them through their planning and building processes, enjoying seeing the fruits of our labour when new buildings are completed and occupied.



Planning Activity

97

Applications Received

43

No Permit Required Assessments



94



Planning Permits Issued



Building Activity

114

Applications Received

119

Building Approvals Issued in Total

(including cat3 and cat4 works)

\$48,266,367

Total Cost of Building Works



GOVERNANCE AND FINANCE

Allowances and Expenses Statement

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 covered on pages 10-12 of the Annual Report and 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	2025	2024
Less than \$100,001 (part year 2024)	0	1
\$120,001 to \$140,000 (part year 2024)	0	1
\$180,001 to \$200,000	1	0
\$200,001 to \$220,000	2	2
\$300,001 to \$310,000	0	1
\$310,001 to \$330,000	1	0

The employment terms and conditions of senior executives are contained in individual employment contracts and prescribe total remuneration, superannuation, annual and long service leave, vehicle and salary sacrifice provisions. In addition to their salaries, non-cash benefits including movements in annual and long service leave provisions are provided for in the annual remuneration calculation.



Contracts and Tendering

In accordance with Section 29 of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2015, Council is required to report on contracts for the supply or provision of goods and services in excess of \$100,000 (excluding GST) entered into during the year to 30 June 2025.

Description	Project	Period of Contract	Ext.	Value	Successful Contractor
Request for Tender	Design Service – George Town Aquatic, Health and Wellbeing Centre	27/09/2024 – still in progress		\$1,023,481	Philp Lighton Architects 49 Sandy Bay Rd, Hobart Tas 7000
Request for Tender	Reseal Program 2024/2025	01/10/2024 – 31/03/2025		\$609,165	Fulton Hogan Industries Pty Ltd 11 Cavalry Rd, Mowbray Tas 7248
Request for Tender	Old Aerodrome Road upgrade – stage 2	5/11/2024 – 09/04/2025		\$632,674	Walters Contracting Pty Ltd 11 East Goderich St, Deloraine Tas 7304
Request for Tender	Early Contractor Involvement – Aquatic Health and Wellbeing Centre	26/11/2024 – still in progress		Preliminaries \$565,209 6% margin on trade costs and 6% margin on variations	Fairbrother Pty Ltd 12 Stony Rise Rd, Devonport Tas 7310
Request for Tender	Gravel Resheeting program 2024/25	5/11/2024 – 17/6/2025		\$105,328	Walters Contracting Pty Ltd 11 East Goderich St, Deloraine Tas 7304
Request for Tender	McKenzie Drive Drainage – kerbing and gutter Option A	3/5/2025 – still in progress		\$331,198	ProDig Earthworks Pty Ltd 89 St Leonards Rd, St Leonards Tas 7250
Request for Tender	Periodic Standing Contracts – 2024/25 Footpath Replacement	25/02/2025 – 30/6/2025		\$27,045	B31 Civil 13 Mowbray St, Invermay Tas 7250
				\$26,679	Platinum Earthmoving 3 Carlwood Place, Prospect Vale Tas 7250
				\$30,009	Walters Contracting 11 East Goderich St, Deloraine Tas 7253
				\$65,407	Crossroads 73-79 Lilydale Rd, Rocherlea Tas 7248
				\$14,250	Anthony Lockwood 6401 Bridport Rd, George Town Tas 7253



Right to Information Requests

2 request were received with information provided.

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:

Nil to report.

27. Non-application of public tender process

The following situations and contracts are prescribed for the purposes of section 333A(3) of the Act:

an emergency, if, in the opinion of the general manager, there is insufficient time to invite tenders for the goods or services required in that emergency;

Noting that Councils Code for Tenders and Contracts prescribes a public tender process for all projects in excess of \$150,000.

Nil to report.

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 to report.

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 or via a request to the Council Office during normal business hours.

Nil to report.

Code of Conduct

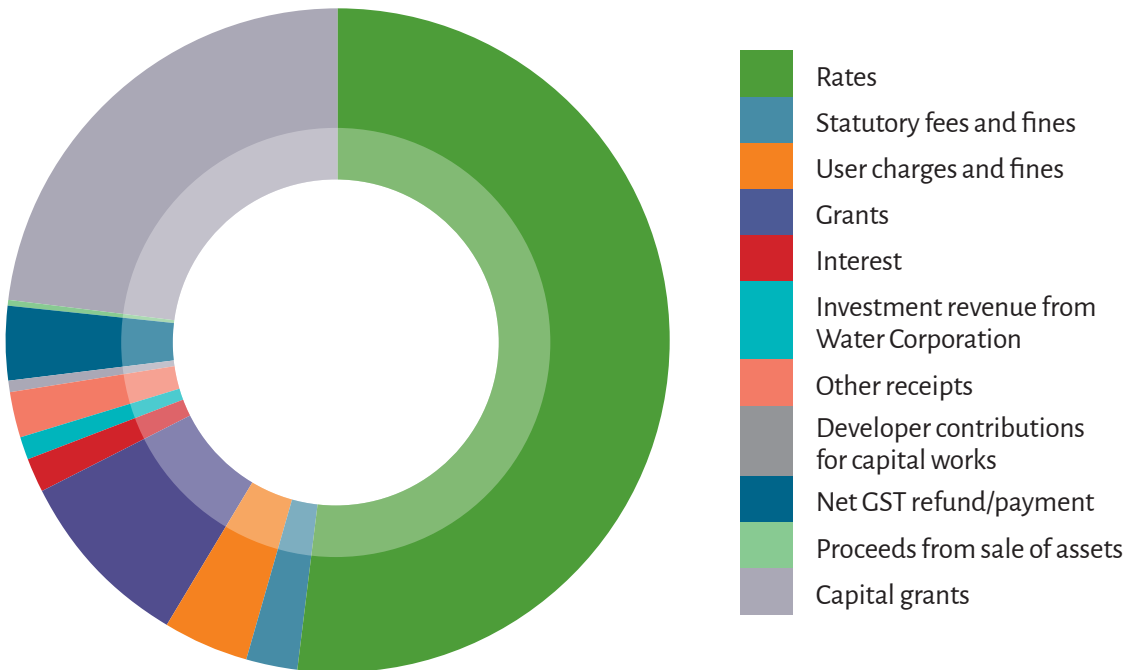
In accordance with section 72(1)(ba) of the Act, a statement of the number of code of complaints that were received and the number that were upheld either wholly or in part during the proceeding financial year.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2024/2025

Statement of Cash Flows

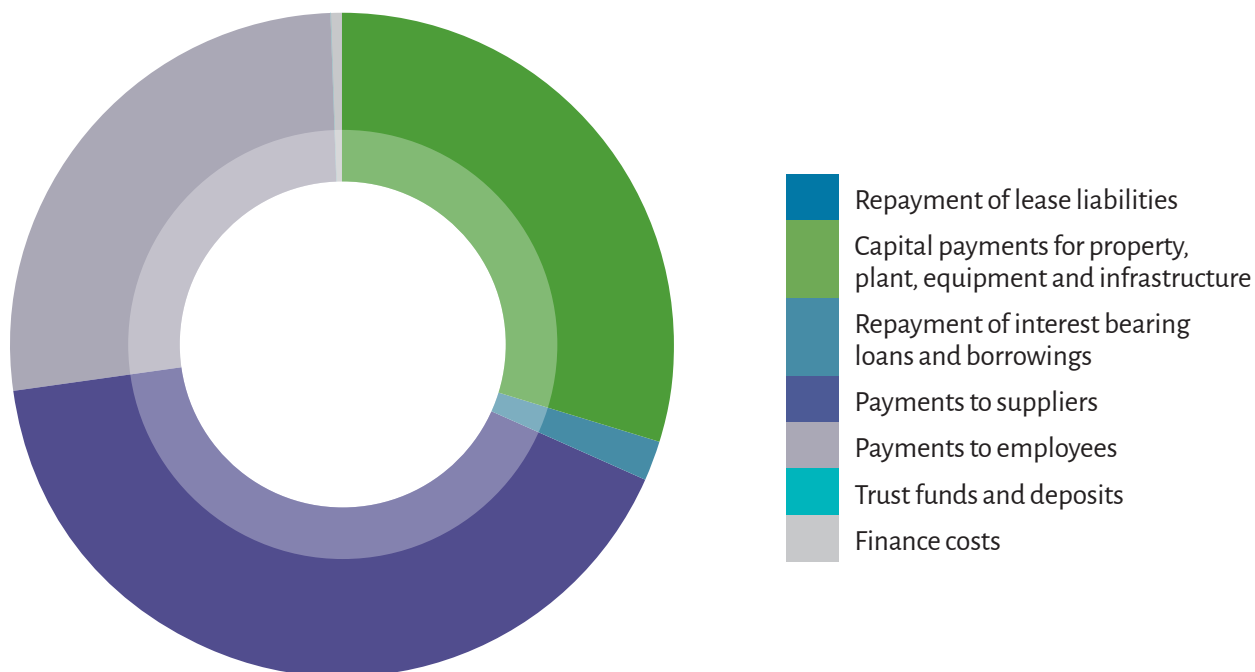
Sources of income

Cash Inflows



Cash Inflows	2024/2025 %	2024/2025 \$
Rates	52.66	\$11,758,512
Statutory fees and fines	2.30	\$513,317
User charges and fines	4.25	\$947,954
Grants	9.02	\$2,014,631
Interest	1.71	\$382,615
Investment revenue from Water Corporation	1.21	\$271,200
Other receipts	2.23	\$498,075
Developer contributions for capital works	0.30	\$67,169
Net GST refund/payment	3.88	\$867,254
Proceeds from sale of assets	0.29	\$64,721
Capital grants	22.13	\$4,941,774
Total Cash Inflows	100.00	\$22,327,222

Cash Outflows



Cash Outflows	2024/2025 %	2024/2025 \$
Repayment of lease liabilities	0.10	\$21,350
Capital Payments for property, plant, equipment and infrastructure	29.86	\$6,654,399
Repayment of interest bearing loans and borrowings	1.73	\$384,726
Payments to suppliers	41.27	\$9,196,662
Payments to employees	26.54	\$5,913,636
Trust funds and deposits	0.02	\$3,907
Finance costs	0.49	\$108,595
Total Cash Outflows	100.00	\$22,283,275

COMMENTS IN RELATION TO THE AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2024/2025

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).

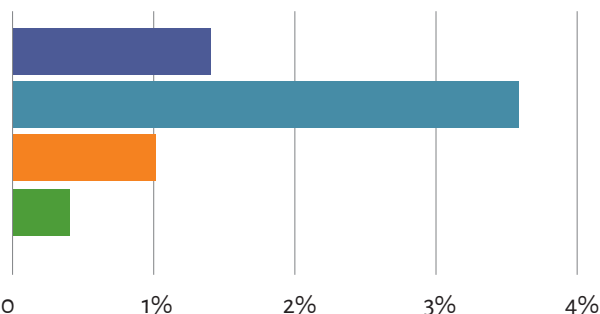
Underlying Surplus/Deficit

The intent of the underlying result is to show the outcome of a council's normal or usual day to day operations. The underlying surplus in the current year is in line with the prior three financial years and ahead of budget projection. This result reflects continued strong financial management and responsible budgeting to achieve these surplus results.

Underlying Surplus Ratio

This ratio serves as an overall measure of financial operating effectiveness. The result reflects continued strong financial management and responsible budgeting to achieve these surplus results and ensure Council operations are sustainable.

Underlying Surplus/Deficit \$ and Surplus Ratio

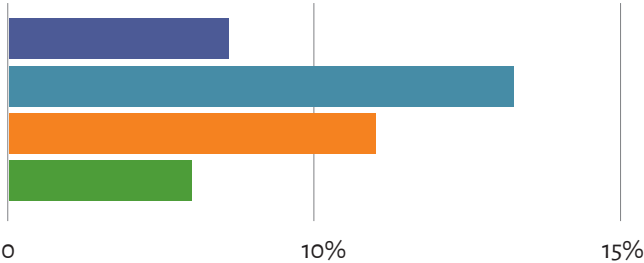


Surplus/Deficit	Ratio	Year	
\$182,135	1.4%		2021/2022
\$504,543	3.6%		2022/2023
\$156,511	1.0%		2023/2024
\$71,820	0.4%		2024/2025

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. This position remains strong and stable.

Net Financial Liabilities Ratio

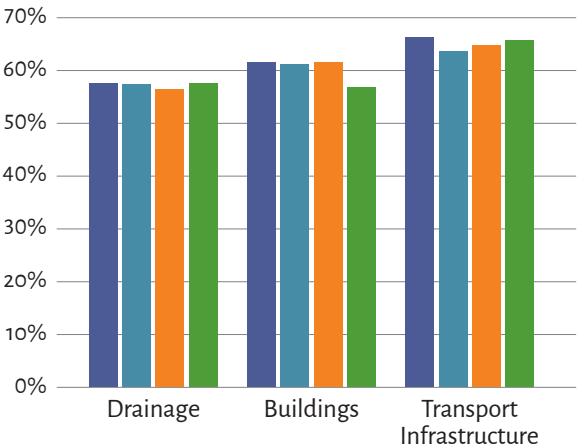


Ratio	Year
7.2%	2021/2022
12.9%	2022/2023
11.1%	2023/2024
6%	2024/2025

Asset Consumption Ratio

This ratio indicates the level of service potential available in Council's existing asset base. All asset classes have remained stable and remain in line with Council's current long term strategy.

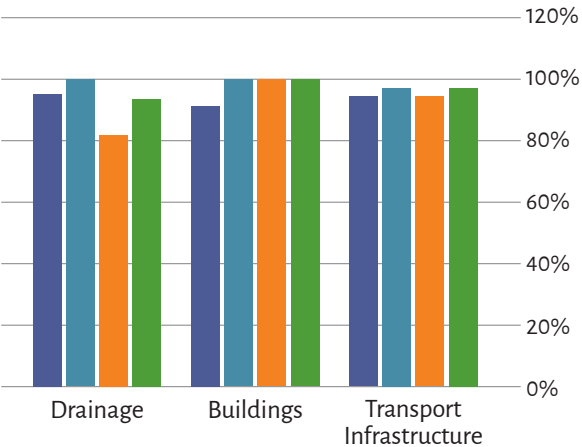
Asset Consumption Ratio



Asset Renewal Ratio

This ratio measures Council's capacity to fund future asset replacement requirements. Council completed asset management plans to assess future needs and guide long term financial planning, targets in the 2024/2025 year reflect these changes. Council set a target of 100% for the 2024/2025 year.

Asset Renewal Ratio



ANNUAL PLAN REVIEW

In accordance with direction given in the Local Government Act 1993, Section 72(1) (b) 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 2024-2025 financial year, as linked to the George Town Community Strategic Plan 2020-2030, is provided.

The George Town Community Strategic Plan 2020-2030 lists four future directions that shape the operational direction of Council. Those key strategic goals are as follows:

1. Community Pride: Inclusion and engagement; built environment; reputation building; communications; safety and security; responsive emergency services.
2. Prosperity for all in all aspects of life: Economic development and diversification; employment growth; employability skills; population growth; education, learning and training; tourism and supporting businesses and events; healthy, active communities; natural landscapes and values; community building.
3. Progressive well-resourced communities: Recreational and sporting opportunities; strategic plans for all communities; public infrastructure; social infrastructure; diverse volunteering base; community celebrations.
4. Leadership and accountable governance: Culture of engagement and participation; planning and regulatory responsibilities; working relationships and collaborations; change management and accountability.

The Council directed for the execution of 40 strategic operational tasks linked to the Community Strategic Plan 2020-2030 future directions. The completion rate of the tasks is as follows:

Future Direction	Tasks	Completed	Carried Forward Projects	Incomplete	Percentage Completed
1. Community Pride	3	3	-	-	100%
2. Prosperity	9	8	-	1	88.9%
3. Progressive Well-Resourced Communities	6	5	-	1	83.3%
4. Leadership and Governance	11	10	1	-	90.9%
Public Health Goals and Objectives	11	11	-	-	100%
Total	40	37	1	2	92.5%

The 2024-2025 financial year has seen some program targets not achieved:

- one (1) project being multi-year;
- two (2) projects are due to be completed in the first half of the 2025-2026 financial year.

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



Progressive



Prosperous



Proud



Image: Solstice in the Square



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