



GEORGE TOWN COUNCIL AGENDA

Notice is hereby given
that the next Ordinary Council Meeting
will be held on
Tuesday 28 June 2022

in the Council Chambers,
16-18 Anne Street, George Town,

commencing at **1:00 pm.**

In accordance with the COVID-19 Disease Emergency (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2020, Part 4, Section 18, and as given notice by the Premier of Tasmania, Peter Gutwein, under the same Act and published in the Tasmanian Government Gazette No. 21 963, 3 April 2020, this meeting is being held face to face with limitations on public attendance to maintain social distancing.

Council will be allowing a maximum of 10 persons into the Ordinary Council Meeting. You must pre-register to attend this meeting of Council.

All documents presented, and recordings (audio) of this meeting are made available to the public in accordance with the above Act and Notice, and the standard applicable provisions of the Local Government Act 1993, and Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015.

Cheryl Hyde
ACTING GENERAL MANAGER

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Meeting Commencing at 1:00 pm

Acknowledgement of Country

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

AUDIO RECORDING OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

The public is advised that it is **Council Policy** to record the proceedings of meetings of Council on digital media to assist in the preparation of Minutes, and to clarify any queries relating to the Minutes that is raised during a subsequent meeting under the section "Confirmation of Minutes".

The recording does not replace the written Minutes and a transcript of the recording will not be prepared.

All meetings of the Council shall be digitally recorded as provided for by Regulation 33 of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015 except for the proceedings of meetings or parts of meetings closed to the public in accordance with Regulation 15(2).

In accordance with the requirements of Council's Audio Recording of Council Meetings Policy No. 40, members of the public are not permitted to make audio recordings of Council meetings.

In accordance with the COVID-19 Disease Emergency (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2020, Part 4, Section 18, and as given notice by the Premier of Tasmania, Peter Gutwein, under the same Act and published in the Tasmanian Government Gazette No. 21 963, 3 April 2020, this meeting is being held face to face with limitation on public attendance to maintain social distancing.

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1 PRESENT

1.1 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Mayor Greg Kieser

1.2 IN ATTENDANCE

2 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

2.1 ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD 24TH MAY 2022

RECOMMENDATION

That the Minutes of Council's Ordinary Meeting held on 24th May 2022 numbered 060/22 to 075/22 and 077/22 as provided to Councillors be received and confirmed as a true record of proceedings. (Attached)

DECISION

Moved:

Seconded:

VOTING

For:

Against:

3 LATE ITEMS

Nil.

4 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

4.1 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME PROCEDURE

[Refer to Minute No. 243/16. The period set aside for public question time will be at least 15 minutes. Questions given on notice will be addressed first. Once questions on notice have been addressed, persons who have registered their interest to ask a question will be called to do so in the order in which they have registered. Persons attending Council meetings will have the opportunity to register their interest to ask a question without notice prior to the commencement of the meeting. Council staff will be on hand to assist with this process.]

Participants cannot ask more than 2 questions in a row with a maximum of 2 minutes per question. If a person has more than (2) questions, they will be placed at the 'end of the queue' and may, if time permits, ask their further questions once all other persons have had an opportunity to ask questions. Persons who have not registered their interest to ask a question will be given an opportunity to do so following all those who have registered. All questions must be directed to the Chairperson.

For further information on Council's Public Question Time Rules and Procedure, please refer to George Town Council Public Question Time Policy No. 18.]

Questions asked and answers provided may be summarised in the Minutes of the meeting.

Due to restrictions in place during the COVID-19 pandemic as enabled through the COVID-19 Disease Emergency (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2020, public question time will be conducted in the following manner.

George Town Council will be allowing members of the public that have submitted an objection to a planning matter (priority attendance) and questions from the public to a maximum of 10 persons (to maintain social distancing) into the Ordinary Meeting of Council.

Council will accept all other written questions which will be asked and responded to at the meeting. These questions will be recorded in Council's Minutes and will be available on the audio recording.

You must pre-register to attend this meeting of Council.

4.2 PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Mr R. Norman



Given the burgeoning economic crisis impacting on all citizens in the *kanamaluka* **TAMAR** Esk catchments as a consequence of international, national and local factors will Council now work proactively with all local governance jurisdictions and the State Govt. in the relevant catchments to:

- Empanel a **‘Catchment Assembly’** modelled on, and with members appointed, as is the case with **‘Citizen’s Juries/Assemblies’** empanelled in various jurisdictions throughout Australia and internationally;
- Task the Assembly to interrogate alternative local governance modelling and structures in the context of 21st C imperatives, current technologies and the catchments’ geographic imperatives and their networks;
- Task the Assembly to openly seek submissions and expert advice from a broad spectrum community members and experts in various fields intrastate and interstate;
- Task the Assembly to meet in an open forum context from time to time throughout the relevant catchments over the life of the Assembly;
- Task the Assembly to develop better and inclusive understandings of the diversity and the cultural realities present within communities within the catchments; and
- Task the Assembly to openly report on its finding and recommendation throughout its period of tenure and finally to the State Govt and all Councils in the relevant catchments.

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Response

The George Town Council remains committed to the Tamar Estuary Management Taskforce (TEMT) which was created under the Launceston City Deal. The TEMT has brought together all the organisations, business, local and state government to improve and deliver a healthier estuary. It is an advisory body which seeks to explore and provide options and advice to the Tasmanian Government on how to develop and manage the kanamaluka/Tamar Estuary. The membership includes those government departments, agencies, local government authorities and expert bodies with responsibilities for the Estuary which George Town Council is an active member.

4.3 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Commenced at:

Concluded at:

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4.4 RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS FROM PREVIOUS PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

(Refer to Minute No. 425/00, which states in part, "that a copy of all written replies to questions from the Public Gallery be included in the following Council Agenda.")

Nil.

5 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

6 GENERAL MANAGER'S DECLARATION

I certify that with respect to all advice, information or recommendations provided to Council with this Agenda:

- the advice, information or recommendation is given by a person who has the qualifications or experience necessary to give such advice, information or recommendation; and
- where any advice is given directly to Council by a person who does not have the required qualifications of experience, that person has obtained and taken into account in that person's general advice, the advice from an appropriately qualified or experienced person.



Cheryl Hyde
ACTING GENERAL MANAGER

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1993 – SECTION 65

65. Qualified persons

- (1) A general manager must ensure that any advice, information or recommendation given to the council or a council committee is given by a person who has the qualifications or experience necessary to give such advice, information or recommendation.
- (2) A council or council committee is not to decide on any matter which requires the advice of a qualified person without considering such advice unless –
 - (a) the general manager certifies, in writing –
 - (i) that such advice was obtained; and
 - (ii) that the general manager took the advice into account in providing general advice to the council or council committee; and
 - (b) a copy of that advice or, if the advice was given orally, a written transcript or summary of that advice is provided to the council or council committee with the general manager's certificate.

7 PLANNING AUTHORITY

Nil.

8 OFFICE OF GENERAL MANAGER

8.1 COUNCIL WORKSHOPS - MAY AND JUNE 2022

REPORT AUTHOR: General Manager – Mr S. Power
REPORT DATE: 22 June 2022
FILE NO: 14.10
ATTACHMENTS: Nil

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to provide a record of workshops held in accordance with the requirements of Section 8(2)(c) of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015*.

STRATEGIC PLAN

This action relates to the following components of the Community Strategic Plan 2020-2030:

Future Direction Four - Leadership and Accountable Governance

2. Planning and regulatory responsibilities are undertaken fairly and openly
 - i. Building knowledge and understanding of planning and regulatory responsibilities and processes.

DATE AND PURPOSE OF WORKSHOP HELD

TUESDAY 24 MAY 2022

- Planning and Building Update
- Capital Works Update
- Tamar NRM Presentation
- Dog Off Lease areas
- Governance issues
- Councillors/General Manager Discussions

Present: Mayor Kieser, Deputy Mayor Harris, Cr Barraclough, Cr Barwick
Cr Dawson, Cr Gibbons, Cr Michieletto, Cr Parkes

Apologies: Cr Mason

In Attendance: Director Organisational Performance, Strategy & Engagement
Acting Director Infrastructure & Development
Statutory Planner
Executive Support & Governance Officer

Guests: Tamar NRM representatives

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TUESDAY 14 JUNE 2022

- 2022/2023 Budget
 - Rates
 - Operational
 - Capital Works
 - Fees & Charges
- Draft minutes Ordinary Council meeting held on the 24th May 2022
- Ordinary Council meeting outcomes
 - Reallocation of Capital Funds from Biomass Process to Wild Tamar Initiative
 - Safety Committee – motion for placement of speed counter on Low Head Road
- Low Head Community Garden extension – presentation
- kanamaluka story telling experience – presentation
- Visit North Tas – Presentation
- Mount George Semaphore
- Governance issues
 - LGAT Submissions
- Councillors/General Manager Discussions

Present: Mayor Kieser, Deputy Mayor Harris, Cr Barraclough, Cr Barwick
Cr Dawson, Cr Gibbons, Cr Mason, Cr Michieletto, Cr Parkes

Apologies: Nil.

In Attendance: General Manager
Director Corporate & Community
Director Organisational Performance, Strategy & Engagement
Acting Director Infrastructure & Development
Executive Support & Governance Officer

Guests: Low Head Community Garden representative
Lange Designs
Visit North Tas CEO and General Manager

STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS & RELATED COUNCIL DOCUMENTS

Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015.

RISK CONSIDERATIONS

This report is provided in accordance with LG (MP) Regulations 2015, Section 8(2)(c). Risk implications are therefore considered to be low.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil.

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CONSULTATION

Nil.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives the report on the Council Workshops held on:

1. 24th May 2022; and
2. 14th June 2022.

DECISION

Moved:

Seconded:

VOTING

For:

Against:

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8.2 MAKING OF RATES AND CHARGES FOR THE 2022/2023 YEAR

REPORT AUTHOR:	Director Corporate and Community – Cheryl Hyde
REPORT DATE:	21/6/22
FILE NO:	32.1
ATTACHMENTS:	Nil

SUMMARY

This report provides information on the making of rates and charges for the 2022/2023 financial year.

BACKGROUND

RATES & CHARGES FOR 2022/2023

Rates and charges as detailed in the recommendation below are in accordance with Council's current GTC -14 Rates and Charges Policy V3, this policy was reviewed and adopted by Council at the 23 February 2021 meeting.

The rates and charges resolutions as detailed in the recommendation below are presented for consideration by council in the making of rates and charges for the period 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023. The changes made reflect a general rate increase of 5.8% for the non-residential and residential sectors.

The Office of the Valuer General has provided a valuation adjustment factor increase across the municipal area which become effective on 1 July 2022. These adjustment factors have been applied to capital values:

Vacant Commercial	25%
Non-Vacant Commercial, Industrial, Other & Community Services	30%
Vacant Residential	40%
Vacant Industrial	50%
Primary Production	60%
Non-Vacant Residential	65%
Vacant Residential	80%

The resultant increase in adjusted capital value has been applied against a reduced rate in the dollar to achieve the changes in rates revenue required for a 5.8% increase. Dependent upon the valuation that affects a ratepayer, their rates may increase or decrease because of the application of the rate in the dollar.

STRATEGIC PLAN

This action relates to the following components of the Community Strategic Plan 2020-2030:

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Future Direction One - Community Pride

1. All are valued and included
 - i. Taking a 'whole of community' approach to everything.

Future Direction Three - Progressive Well-Resourced Communities

1. Recreational opportunities for all
 - i. Developing well-designed and maintained recreational facilities – shared pathways, tracks, trails, exercise stations – all ages, all abilities.

Future Direction Four - Leadership and Accountable Governance

1. A culture of engagement and participation
 - i. Trusted, transparent and inclusive community engagement processes.

Future Direction Four - Leadership and Accountable Governance

4. Positive and productive working relationship with all levels of government and their agencies
 - i. Ensuring the area's needs and priorities are understood.

STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS & RELATED COUNCIL DOCUMENTS

Part 9 of the Local Government Act 1993 contains the detailed requirements of Council in relation to rates and charges. Part 9 is considered too voluminous to reproduce in this report.

RISK CONSIDERATIONS

The following risks have been identified in accordance with Council's adopted Risk Management Framework and Risk Matrix.

There is a medium risk if an appropriate rating structure is not set, including:

- Risks associated with inadequate maintenance and service levels resulting in community dissatisfaction.
- Risks associated with inadequate finances to ensure long-term financial sustainability.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

In accordance with Council's Financial Strategy, when setting rates and charges, Council's financial position will have a margin of comfort to enable it to absorb unexpected developments

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without having to resort to substantial rate increases. Council will ensure that it accumulates sufficient financial resources and has the borrowing capacity to deal with volatility and unexpected events. Council's operational budget will be flexible enough to ensure that volatile changes in revenues and expenses because of a changing economic environment can be absorbed.

DIVERSITY, EQUITABLE ACCESS, AND INCLUSION CONSIDERATIONS

The Diversity, Equitable Access and Inclusion Policy aligns with the following goals and objects of the Community Strategic Plan 2020-2030.

George Town Council is committed to maximising access and inclusion to services, facilities, features, and activities for all within the community, regardless of ability, literacy, numeracy and language limitations, age, race, religion or other, within all aspects of Council. The aims are as follows:

- Encourage people to participate in the community by having fair and inclusive opportunities, including appropriate and equal access to facilities, services, and activities.

CONSULTATION

Council has workshopped the rates and charges in April, May, and June 2022.

OPTIONS

Council may choose to:

1. Support the recommendation as presented; or
2. Support the recommendation with amendment; or
3. Not support the recommendation.

OFFICERS COMMENTS

DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATION

1. **'Planning Scheme'** means the George Town Interim Planning Scheme 2013 as amended or replaced pursuant to the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993* (Tas).
2. Where the context permits, terms used in this resolution have the meaning given to those terms in the *Local Government Act 1993* (Tas) or the *Fire Service Act 1979* (Tas) (as applicable).

1. GENERAL RATE & MINIMUM AMOUNT PAYABLE

Pursuant to Section 90 of the *Local Government Act 1993* ('Act'), Council makes the following General Rate on all rateable land excluding land which is exempt pursuant to the provisions of Section 87 of the Act within the municipal area of George Town for the period commencing 1st July 2022 and ending on 30th June 2023:

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1. pursuant to Sections 90(1) and 90(3)(b) of the Act, Council hereby makes a General Rate of **0.2253** cents in the dollar on the **adjusted capital value** of the land; and
2. pursuant to Section 90(4) of the Act, Council sets a minimum amount payable in respect of the General Rate of **\$799.00**.

2. VARIATIONS TO THE GENERAL RATE

Pursuant to Section 107 of the Act, Council hereby varies the General Rate of **0.2253** cents in the dollar (as previously made) as follows:

- a. For land used or predominantly used for industrial purposes, and which is zoned 'General Industrial' as defined in the Planning Scheme, the General Rate is varied by increasing it by **1.1670** cents to **1.3923** cents in the dollar on adjusted capital value;
- b. For land used or predominantly used for industrial purposes, and which is zoned 'Utilities' as defined in the Planning Scheme, the General Rate is varied by increasing it by **1.1746** cents to **1.3999** cents in the dollar on adjusted capital value;
- c. For land used or predominantly used for industrial purposes, and which is zoned 'Port And Marine' as defined in the Planning Scheme, the General Rate is varied by increasing it by **1.1812** cents to **1.4065** cents in the dollar on adjusted capital value;
- d. For land used or predominantly used for industrial purposes, and which is not zoned 'General Industrial', 'Utilities' or 'Port And Marine' as defined in the Planning Scheme, the General Rate is varied by increasing it by **0.03580** cents to **0.5833** cents in the dollar on adjusted capital value;
- e. For land used or predominantly used for commercial purposes, the General Rate is varied by increasing it by **0.3694** cents to **0.5947** cents in the dollar on adjusted capital value;
- f. In the locality of Beechford, for rateable land that is used, or predominantly used, for residential purposes, the General Rate is varied by increasing it by **0.1574** cents to **0.3827** cents in the dollar on adjusted capital value;
- g. In the locality of Bellingham, for rateable land that is used, or predominantly used, for residential purposes, the General Rate is varied by increasing it by **0.1226** cents to **0.3479** cents in the dollar on adjusted capital value;
- h. In the locality of George Town, for rateable land that is used, or predominantly used, for residential purposes, the General Rate is varied by increasing it by **0.1747** cents to **0.4000** cents in the dollar on adjusted capital value;
- i. In the locality of Hillwood, for rateable land that is used, or predominantly used, for residential purposes, the General Rate is varied by decreasing it by **0.00445** cents to **0.1808** cents in the dollar on adjusted capital value;
- j. In the locality of Lefroy, for rateable land that is used, or predominantly used, for residential purposes, the General Rate is varied by increasing it by **0.16670** cents to **0.3920** cents in the dollar on adjusted capital value;
- k. In the locality of Low Head, for rateable land that is used, or predominantly used, for residential purposes, the General Rate is varied by decreasing it by **0.00166** cents to **0.2087** cents in the dollar on adjusted capital value;
- l. In the locality of Lulworth, for rateable land that is used, or predominantly used, for residential purposes, the General Rate is varied by increasing it by **0.00516** cents to **0.2769** cents in the dollar on adjusted capital value;

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- m. In the locality of Mount Direction, for rateable land that is used, or predominantly used, for residential purposes, the General Rate is varied by increasing it by **0.00055** cents to **0.2308** cents in the dollar on adjusted capital value;
- n. In the locality of Pipers Brook, for rateable land that is used, or predominantly used, for residential purposes, the General Rate is varied by decreasing it by **0.00213** cents to **0.2040** cents in the dollar on adjusted capital value;
- o. In the locality of Pipers River, for rateable land that is used, or predominantly used, for residential purposes, the General Rate is varied by decreasing it by **0.00194** cents to **0.2059** cents in the dollar on adjusted capital value; and
- p. In the locality of Weymouth, for rateable land that is used, or predominantly used, for residential purposes, the General Rate is varied by increasing it by **0.00478** cents to **0.2731** cents in the dollar on adjusted capital value.

3. AVERAGED AREA RATES

Pursuant to Section 109A of the Act and Certificates issued to Council in accordance with Section 109H of the Act, Council hereby make the following Averaged Area Rates ('AAR') for all rateable land within the municipal area for the following categories and localities for the financial year commencing 1 July 2022 and ending 30 June 2023, noting no catch up be applied to the coastal and country localities:

- 1. In the locality of Beechford, for rateable land that is used, or predominantly used, for residential purposes, an AAR is made in the amount of **\$1,168.00** using the General Rate as varied pursuant to paragraph 2 (f) of this resolution;
- 2. In the locality of Bellingham, for rateable land that is used, or predominantly used, for residential purposes, an AAR is made in the amount of **\$1,168.00** using the General Rate as varied pursuant to paragraph 2 (g) of this resolution;
- 3. In the locality of George Town, for rateable land that is used, or predominantly used, for residential purposes, an AAR is made in the amount of **\$1,238.00** using the General Rate as varied pursuant to paragraph 2 (h) of this resolution;
- 4. In the locality of Hillwood, for rateable land that is used, or predominantly used, for residential purposes, an AAR is made in the amount of **\$1,191.00** using the General Rate as varied pursuant to paragraph 2 (i) of this resolution;
- 5. In the locality of Lefroy, for rateable land that is used, or predominantly used, for residential purposes, an AAR is made in the amount of **\$1,168.00** using the General Rate as varied pursuant to paragraph 2 (j) of this resolution;
- 6. In the locality of Low Head, for rateable land that is used, or predominantly used, for residential purposes, an AAR is made in the amount of **\$1,238.00** using the General Rate as varied pursuant to paragraph 2 (k) of this resolution;
- 7. In the locality of Lulworth, for rateable land that is used, or predominantly used, for residential purposes, an AAR is made in the amount of **\$1,168.00** using the General Rate as varied pursuant to paragraph 2 (l) of this resolution;
- 8. In the locality of Mount Direction, for rateable land that is used, or predominantly used, for residential purposes, an AAR is made in the amount of **\$1,191.00** using the General Rate as varied pursuant to paragraph 2 (m) of this resolution;

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9. In the locality of Pipers Brook, for rateable land that is used, or predominantly used, for residential purposes, an AAR is made in the amount of **\$1,191.00** using the General Rate as varied pursuant to paragraph 2 (n) of this resolution;
10. In the locality of Pipers River, for rateable land that is used, or predominantly used, for residential purposes, an AAR is made in the amount of **\$1,191.00** using the General Rate as varied pursuant to paragraph 2 (o) of this resolution; and
11. In the locality of Weymouth, for rateable land that is used, or predominantly used, for residential purposes, an AAR is made in the amount of **\$1,168.00** using the General Rate as varied pursuant to paragraph 2 (p) of this resolution.

4. WASTE MANAGEMENT SERVICE CHARGES

Pursuant to Section 94 of the Act, Council by absolute majority hereby makes the following service charges on all rateable land within the municipal area of George Town (including land which is otherwise exempt from general and separate rates pursuant to Section 87 of the Act but excluding Crown land to which Council does not supply waste management services) for the period commencing 1 July 2022 and ending on 30 June 2023, namely:

- (a) A service charge of **\$45.00** for waste management on all rateable land for the establishment, management, provision and rehabilitation by Council of waste management facilities, and
- (b) A service charge for waste management in respect of all land to which Council provides or makes available waste management services, including garbage and recycling removal and disposal using mobile garbage and recycling bins, pursuant to Section 94(3A) of the Act varied according to the level of service provided or made available, of:
 - (i) \$225.00 for land serviced by one 85 litre mobile garbage bin and one 140 litre mobile recycling bin;
 - (ii) \$284.00 for land serviced by one 140 litre mobile garbage bin and one 140 litre mobile recycling bin; and
 - (iii) \$405.00 for land serviced by one 240 litre mobile garbage bin and one 240 litre mobile recycling bin.

5. SERVICE RATE FOR FIRE PROTECTION

1. Pursuant to Section 93A of the Act, Council makes the following fire protection service rates for the purpose of collecting a fire service contribution from all rateable land in the municipal area sufficient to pay the contribution that Council is required to make pursuant to the notice received by Council from the State Fire Commission given accordance with Section 81B of the *Fire Service Act 1979* (Tas) for the 2021-2022 financial year as follows:

<u>District</u>	Rate Cents in the dollar of Adjusted capital value
George Town Volunteer Brigade Rating District	0.01430450
General Land	0.01095275

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2. Pursuant to Section 93(3) of the Act and Section 81C(6) and Section 79B(2) of the *Fire Service Act 1979* (Tas), the minimum fire service contribution payable in respect of the fire service contribution is the amount of **\$44.00**.

6. PAYMENT OF RATES

Pursuant to Section 124 of the Act, Council determines that:

all rates may be paid by rate payers by way of four (4) instalments in accordance with the following schedule:

1. First instalment due on or before 31 August 2022;
2. Second instalment due on or before 31 October 2022;
3. Third instalment due on or before 31 January 2023; and
4. Fourth and final instalment due on or before 31 March 2023.

7. PENALTY AND INTEREST

Pursuant to Section 128(1)(c) of the Act, if any rate, instalment or charge is not paid on or before the date that it falls due for payment then:

- (a) there is payable a penalty of five percent (**5%**) of the unpaid amounts of the rate, instalment or charge; and
- (b) there is payable a daily interest charge of **0.02226% (8.13% per annum)** in respect of the unpaid amount of the rate, instalment or charge for the period during which it remains unpaid.

8. SEPARATE LAND

For the purposes of these resolutions the rates and charges (including the minimum amounts) shall apply to each parcel of land which is shown as being separately valued in the valuation list prepared under the *Valuation of Land Act 2001* (Tas).

9. ADJUSTED VALUES

For the purposes of these resolutions any reference to adjusted capital value includes a reference to that value as may be adjusted from time to time pursuant to Section 89 of the Act.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Council, by absolute majority, make rates and charges for the period 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023 in accordance with the resolutions which follow:

DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATION

1. '**Planning Scheme**' means the George Town Interim Planning Scheme 2013 as amended or replaced pursuant to the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993* (Tas).

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2. Where the context permits, terms used in this resolution have the meaning given to those terms in the *Local Government Act 1993* (Tas) or the *Fire Service Act 1979* (Tas) (as applicable).

1. GENERAL RATE & MINIMUM AMOUNT PAYABLE

Pursuant to Section 90 of the *Local Government Act 1993* ('Act'), Council makes the following General Rate on all rateable land excluding land which is exempt pursuant to the provisions of Section 87 of the Act within the municipal area of George Town for the period commencing 1st July 2022 and ending on 30th June 2023:

1. pursuant to Sections 90(1) and 90(3)(b) of the Act, Council hereby makes a General Rate of **0.2253** cents in the dollar on the **adjusted capital value** of the land; and
2. pursuant to Section 90(4) of the Act, Council sets a minimum amount payable in respect of the General Rate of **\$799.00**.

2. VARIATIONS TO THE GENERAL RATE

Pursuant to Section 107 of the Act, Council hereby varies the General Rate of **0.2253** cents in the dollar (as previously made) as follows:

- a. For land used or predominantly used for industrial purposes, and which is zoned 'General Industrial' as defined in the Planning Scheme, the General Rate is varied by increasing it by **1.1670** cents to **1.3923** cents in the dollar on adjusted capital value;
- b. For land used or predominantly used for industrial purposes, and which is zoned 'Utilities' as defined in the Planning Scheme, the General Rate is varied by increasing it by **1.1746** cents to **1.3999** cents in the dollar on adjusted capital value;
- c. For land used or predominantly used for industrial purposes, and which is zoned 'Port And Marine' as defined in the Planning Scheme, the General Rate is varied by increasing it by **1.1812** cents to **1.4065** cents in the dollar on adjusted capital value;
- d. For land used or predominantly used for industrial purposes, and which is not zoned 'General Industrial', 'Utilities' or 'Port And Marine' as defined in the Planning Scheme, the General Rate is varied by increasing it by **0.03580** cents to **0.5833** cents in the dollar on adjusted capital value;
- e. For land used or predominantly used for commercial purposes, the General Rate is varied by increasing it by **0.3694** cents to **0.5947** cents in the dollar on adjusted capital value;
- f. In the locality of Beechford, for rateable land that is used, or predominantly used, for residential purposes, the General Rate is varied by increasing it by **0.1574** cents to **0.3827** cents in the dollar on adjusted capital value;
- g. In the locality of Bellingham, for rateable land that is used, or predominantly used, for residential purposes, the General Rate is varied by increasing it by **0.1226** cents to **0.3479** cents in the dollar on adjusted capital value;
- h. In the locality of George Town, for rateable land that is used, or predominantly used, for residential purposes, the General Rate is varied by increasing it by **0.1747** cents to **0.4000** cents in the dollar on adjusted capital value;

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- i. In the locality of Hillwood, for rateable land that is used, or predominantly used, for residential purposes, the General Rate is varied by decreasing it by **0.00445** cents to **0.1808** cents in the dollar on adjusted capital value;
- j. In the locality of Lefroy, for rateable land that is used, or predominantly used, for residential purposes, the General Rate is varied by increasing it by **0.16670** cents to **0.3920** cents in the dollar on adjusted capital value;
- k. In the locality of Low Head, for rateable land that is used, or predominantly used, for residential purposes, the General Rate is varied by decreasing it by **0.00166** cents to **0.2087** cents in the dollar on adjusted capital value;
- l. In the locality of Lulworth, for rateable land that is used, or predominantly used, for residential purposes, the General Rate is varied by increasing it by **0.00516** cents to **0.2769** cents in the dollar on adjusted capital value;
- m. In the locality of Mount Direction, for rateable land that is used, or predominantly used, for residential purposes, the General Rate is varied by increasing it by **0.00055** cents to **0.2308** cents in the dollar on adjusted capital value;
- n. In the locality of Pipers Brook, for rateable land that is used, or predominantly used, for residential purposes, the General Rate is varied by decreasing it by **0.00213** cents to **0.2040** cents in the dollar on adjusted capital value;
- o. In the locality of Pipers River, for rateable land that is used, or predominantly used, for residential purposes, the General Rate is varied by decreasing it by **0.00194** cents to **0.2059** cents in the dollar on adjusted capital value; and
- p. In the locality of Weymouth, for rateable land that is used, or predominantly used, for residential purposes, the General Rate is varied by increasing it by **0.00478** cents to **0.2731** cents in the dollar on adjusted capital value.

3. AVERAGED AREA RATES

Pursuant to Section 109A of the Act and Certificates issued to Council in accordance with Section 109H of the Act, Council hereby make the following Averaged Area Rates ('AAR') for all rateable land within the municipal area for the following categories and localities for the financial year commencing 1 July 2022 and ending 30 June 2023, noting no catch up be applied to the coastal and country localities:

- 1. In the locality of Beechford, for rateable land that is used, or predominantly used, for residential purposes, an AAR is made in the amount of **\$1,168.00** using the General Rate as varied pursuant to paragraph 2 (f) of this resolution;
- 2. In the locality of Bellingham, for rateable land that is used, or predominantly used, for residential purposes, an AAR is made in the amount of **\$1,168.00** using the General Rate as varied pursuant to paragraph 2 (g) of this resolution;
- 3. In the locality of George Town, for rateable land that is used, or predominantly used, for residential purposes, an AAR is made in the amount of **\$1,238.00** using the General Rate as varied pursuant to paragraph 2 (h) of this resolution;
- 4. In the locality of Hillwood, for rateable land that is used, or predominantly used, for residential purposes, an AAR is made in the amount of **\$1,191.00** using the General Rate as varied pursuant to paragraph 2 (i) of this resolution;

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5. In the locality of Lefroy, for rateable land that is used, or predominantly used, for residential purposes, an AAR is made in the amount of **\$1,168.00** using the General Rate as varied pursuant to paragraph 2 (j) of this resolution;
6. In the locality of Low Head, for rateable land that is used, or predominantly used, for residential purposes, an AAR is made in the amount of **\$1,238.00** using the General Rate as varied pursuant to paragraph 2 (k) of this resolution;
7. In the locality of Lulworth, for rateable land that is used, or predominantly used, for residential purposes, an AAR is made in the amount of **\$1,168.00** using the General Rate as varied pursuant to paragraph 2 (l) of this resolution;
8. In the locality of Mount Direction, for rateable land that is used, or predominantly used, for residential purposes, an AAR is made in the amount of **\$1,191.00** using the General Rate as varied pursuant to paragraph 2 (m) of this resolution;
9. In the locality of Pipers Brook, for rateable land that is used, or predominantly used, for residential purposes, an AAR is made in the amount of **\$1,191.00** using the General Rate as varied pursuant to paragraph 2 (n) of this resolution;
10. In the locality of Pipers River, for rateable land that is used, or predominantly used, for residential purposes, an AAR is made in the amount of **\$1,191.00** using the General Rate as varied pursuant to paragraph 2 (o) of this resolution; and
11. In the locality of Weymouth, for rateable land that is used, or predominantly used, for residential purposes, an AAR is made in the amount of **\$1,168.00** using the General Rate as varied pursuant to paragraph 2 (p) of this resolution.

4. WASTE MANAGEMENT SERVICE CHARGES

Pursuant to Section 94 of the Act, Council by absolute majority hereby makes the following service charges on all rateable land within the municipal area of George Town (including land which is otherwise exempt from general and separate rates pursuant to Section 87 of the Act but excluding Crown land to which Council does not supply waste management services) for the period commencing 1 July 2022 and ending on 30 June 2023, namely:

- (a) A service charge of **\$45.00** for waste management on all rateable land for the establishment, management, provision and rehabilitation by Council of waste management facilities, and
- (b) A service charge for waste management in respect of all land to which Council provides or makes available waste management services, including garbage and recycling removal and disposal using mobile garbage and recycling bins, pursuant to Section 94(3A) of the Act varied according to the level of service provided or made available, of:
 - (i) \$225.00 for land serviced by one 85 litre mobile garbage bin and one 140 litre mobile recycling bin;
 - (ii) \$284.00 for land serviced by one 140 litre mobile garbage bin and one 140 litre mobile recycling bin; and
 - (iii) \$405.00 for land serviced by one 240 litre mobile garbage bin and one 240 litre mobile recycling bin.

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5. SERVICE RATE FOR FIRE PROTECTION

1. Pursuant to Section 93A of the Act, Council makes the following fire protection service rates for the purpose of collecting a fire service contribution from all rateable land in the municipal area sufficient to pay the contribution that Council is required to make pursuant to the notice received by Council from the State Fire Commission given accordance with Section 81B of the *Fire Service Act 1979* (Tas) for the 2021-2022 financial year as follows:

<u>District</u>	Rate Cents in the dollar of Adjusted capital value
George Town Volunteer Brigade Rating District	0.01430450
General Land	0.01095275

2. Pursuant to Section 93(3) of the Act and Section 81C(6) and Section 79B(2) of the *Fire Service Act 1979* (Tas), the minimum fire service contribution payable in respect of the fire service contribution is the amount of **\$44.00**.

6. PAYMENT OF RATES

Pursuant to Section 124 of the Act, Council determines that:

all rates may be paid by rate payers by way of four (4) instalments in accordance with the following schedule:

1. First instalment due on for before 31 August 2022;
2. Second instalment due on or before 31 October 2022;
3. Third instalment due on or before 31 January 2023; and
4. Fourth and final instalment due on or before 31 March 2023.

7. PENALTY AND INTEREST

Pursuant to Section 128(1)(c) of the Act, if any rate, instalment or charge is not paid on or before the date that it falls due for payment then:

- (a) there is payable a penalty of five percent (**5%**) of the unpaid amounts of the rate, instalment or charge; and
- (b) there is payable a daily interest charge of **0.02226% (8.13% per annum)** in respect of the unpaid amount of the rate, instalment or charge for the period during which it remains unpaid.

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8. SEPARATE LAND

For the purposes of these resolutions the rates and charges (including the minimum amounts) shall apply to each parcel of land which is shown as being separately valued in the valuation list prepared under the *Valuation of Land Act 2001* (Tas).

9. ADJUSTED VALUES

For the purposes of these resolutions any reference to adjusted capital value includes a reference to that value as may be adjusted from time to time pursuant to Section 89 of the Act.

DECISION

Moved:

Seconded:

VOTING

For:

Against:

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8.3 SETTING OF FEES AND CHARGES FOR THE 2022/2023 FINANCIAL YEAR

REPORT AUTHOR:	Director Corporate and Community – Cheryl Hyde General Manager – Mr S. Power
REPORT DATE:	05/6/2022
FILE NO:	32.4
ATTACHMENTS:	1. Fees and charges 2022-2023 - FINAL COPY [8.3.1 - 17 pages]

SUMMARY

This brief is to present proposed the fees and charges for the financial year 2022/2023.

BACKGROUND

Every year as part of the budget deliberations the Council sets its fees and charges for a number of functions. These fees reflect Council's desire to maintain a system of fees and charges based on the user pays principle while also recognising the community service obligation inherent in certain service functions. The recommended schedule of fees and charges is in the form of an attachment to this report.

STRATEGIC PLAN

This action relates to the following components of the Community Strategic Plan 2020-2030:

Future Direction Three - Progressive Well-Resourced Communities

3. Social infrastructure meets community needs
 - i. Developing and maintaining social infrastructure that meets the community's changing needs.

Future Direction Three - Progressive Well-Resourced Communities

8. Public infrastructure relevant to needs
 - ii. Understanding priorities and scheduling responses.

Future Direction Four - Leadership and Accountable Governance

4. Positive and productive working relationship with all levels of government and their agencies
 - i. Ensuring the area's needs and priorities are understood.

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STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS & RELATED COUNCIL DOCUMENTS

Section 205 of the Local Government Act 1993 as amended states:

205. (1) In addition to any other power to impose fees and charges but subject to subsection (2), council may impose fees and charges in respect of any one or all of the following matters:
- (a) the use of any property or facility owned, controlled, managed or maintained by the council;
 - (b) services supplied at a person's request;
 - (c) carrying out work at a person's request;
 - (d) providing information or materials, or providing copies of, or extracts from, records of the council;
 - (e) any application to the council;
 - (f) any licence, permit, registration or authorization granted by the council;
 - (g) any other prescribed matter.
- (2) A council may not impose a fee or charge in respect of a matter if –
- (a) a fee or charge is prescribed in respect of that matter; or
 - (b) this or any other Act provides that a fee or charge is not payable in respect of that matter.
- (3) Any fee or charge under subsection (1) need not be fixed by reference to the cost to the Council

RISK CONSIDERATIONS

The following risks have been identified in accordance with Council's adopted Risk Management Framework and Risk Matrix.

A failure to implement a fee schedule is identified as a medium risk as it would have a negative budgetary impact on Council.

Implementation of a fee structure will mitigate this risk.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

It is prudent for Council to review its fees and charges each year to ensure that they are appropriate. Council needs to ensure that the services provided by Council do not have a negative budgetary impact.

DIVERSITY, EQUITABLE ACCESS AND INCLUSION CONSIDERATIONS

The Diversity, Equitable Access and Inclusion Policy aligns with the following goals and objects of the Community Strategic Plan 2020-2030.

George Town Council is committed to maximising access and inclusion to services, facilities, features and activities for all within the community, regardless of ability, literacy, numeracy and language limitations, age, race, religion or other, within all aspects of Council. The aims are as follows:

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- Provide a fees and charges structure which allows accessibility and inclusion for the community to Council facilities and services.

CONSULTATION

Council's fees and charges are set annually as part of the budget process. Any submissions received by Council in relation to fees and charges are considered during this process.

OPTIONS

Council may choose to:

1. Support the motion as presented; or
2. Support the motion with amendment; or
3. Not support the motion.

OFFICER'S COMMENTS

Attached for the information of Council are comparison tables, showing fees for the 2021/2022 year and those proposed for 2022/2023 financial year.

In particular, the following points should be noted.

- The fees and charges schedule has taken into account gazetted fees and charges based on decisions of the state government where applicable, and otherwise an increase in fees and charges of 5.8% (rounded) reflective of the Hobart Consumer Price Index (CPI) rate reported for the March 2022 quarter.
- The Waste transfer fees adjustment reflects the increase in disposal fees as per Launceston City Council landfill fees and the introduction of the \$20 per tonne State Landfill Levy which comes into effect on 1 July 2022.
- Bass and Flinders Maritime Museum fees – have been reduced to bring them more in line with the fees and charges currently being charged at the Pilot Station Museum.

The following has been extracted from the Council's adopted financial strategy in relation to the setting of fees and charges.

7. Fees and Charges

7.1 Overview and Purpose

Council has for a number of years implemented a user pays principle in charging for some services. This recognises the situation whereby some services are consumed by a discrete section of the community who may or may not be ratepayers or residents. This approach does not imply that every service or function is subject to the principle nor does it prevent Council from exempting some sectors of the community from paying for the service where it deems the service to be a community service obligation.

7.2 Strategies

- Review all fees and charges prior to the setting of budget each year.
- Determine those fees and charges to which the user pays principle applies.

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- Consider an appropriate increase for those fees and charges where the user pays principle applies.
- Align fees and charges set in the annual budget estimates with the long term financial plan.
- Consider the application of new fees or charges where a new service is introduced or amend fees and charges where service delivery is changed significantly.
- Maintain the percentage of total cash receipts from user charges at 4.2% or increase this if possible.

7.3 Aims and Targets

Performance measure	Percentage increase in fees and charges
Performance calculation as a percentage)	Last year's fee or charge/this year's fee or charge (expressed
Aim	Local government cost index percentage increase applied
Target	Local government cost index percentage increase applied
Performance measure	Percentage of cash receipts from user charges
Performance calculation	Receipts from user charges/total receipts
Aim	10%
Target	4.5%

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Council, pursuant to Section 205 of the Local Government Act 1993 receive and adopt the schedules of fees and charges attached to this report for the 2022/2023 financial year and that the attachment will form part of the minutes.

DECISION

Moved:

Seconded:

VOTING

For:

Against:

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8.4 BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR THE 2022/2023 FINANCIAL YEAR

REPORT AUTHOR:	Director Corporate and Community – Cheryl Hyde General Manager – Mr S. Power
REPORT DATE:	22 June 2022
FILE NO:	29.11
ATTACHMENTS:	1. Operational budget 2022-23 by function [8.4.1 - 6 pages]

SUMMARY

This report provides information on budget parameters, assumptions and strategies that have been applied in the preparation of the 2022/2023 budget presented for adoption.

BACKGROUND

There have been workshops held to discuss budget matters for the 2022/2023 budget including rating matters. Detailed budget work papers are provided to Elected Members to support discussions. Feedback has been sought and provided to Elected Members to frame the budget recommendation.

STRATEGIC PLAN

This action relates to the following components of the Community Strategic Plan 2020-2030:

Future Direction Four - Leadership and Accountable Governance

2. Planning and regulatory responsibilities are undertaken fairly and openly
 - i. Building knowledge and understanding of planning and regulatory responsibilities and processes.

STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS & RELATED COUNCIL DOCUMENTS

Budget Estimates

Local Government Act 1993 Section 82 – Estimates states:

- (1) The General Manager must prepare estimates of the Council's revenue and expenditure for each financial year.
 - (2) Estimates are to contain details of the following:
 - (a) the estimated revenue of the Council;
 - (b) the estimated expenditure of the Council;
 - (c) the estimated borrowing by the Council;
 - (d) the estimated capital works of the Council;
 - (e) any other detail required by the Minister.
 - (3) Estimates for a financial year must –
 - (a) be adopted by the Council, with or without alteration, by absolute majority; and
-

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- (b) be adopted before 31 August in that financial year; and
 - (c) not be adopted more than one month before the start of that financial year.
- (4) A Council may alter by absolute majority any estimate referred to in subsection (2) during the financial year.

Rates and Charges

Part 9 of the Local Government Act 1993 contains the detailed requirements of Council in relation to rates and charges. Part 9 is considered too voluminous to reproduce in this report.

RISK CONSIDERATIONS

The following risks have been identified in accordance with Council's adopted Risk Management Framework and Risk Matrix.

There is a medium risk if an appropriate operational budget is not set, including:

- Risks associated with inadequate maintenance and service levels resulting in community dissatisfaction.
- Risks associated with inadequate finances to ensure long-term financial sustainability.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

In accordance with Council's Financial Strategy, when setting operational budget, Council's financial position will have a margin of comfort to enable it to absorb unexpected developments without having to resort to substantial rate increases. Council will ensure that it accumulates sufficient financial resources and has the borrowing capacity to deal with volatility and unexpected events. Council's operational budget will be flexible enough to ensure that volatile changes in revenues and expenses as a result of a changing economic environment can be absorbed.

DIVERSITY, EQUITABLE ACCESS, AND INCLUSION CONSIDERATIONS

The Diversity, Equitable Access and Inclusion Policy aligns with the following goals and objects of the Community Strategic Plan 2020-2030.

George Town Council is committed to maximising access and inclusion to services, facilities, features, and activities for all within the community, regardless of ability, literacy, numeracy and language limitations, age, race, religion or other, within all aspects of Council. The aims are as follows:

- Encourage people to participate in the community by having fair and inclusive opportunities, including appropriate and equal access to facilities, services, and activities.

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CONSULTATION

Community members and Councillors were invited to make submissions for funding considerations in the budget process. Several submissions have been received and considered as part of the budget preparation process.

Council has workshopped the budget in April, May, and June 2022. Draft Budget Estimates were also presented to the Audit Panel on 16 June 2022.

OPTIONS

Council may choose to:

1. Adopt the Operating Budget Estimates for the 2022/2023 year as presented; or
2. Adopt the Operating Budget Estimates for the 2022/2023 year with amendment; or
3. Not adopt the Operating Budget Estimates for the 2022/2023 year.

OFFICER'S COMMENTS

Budget Estimates Key Assumptions, Influences and Application of Council Policy

External Influences

1. Council Cost Index 2022

The Council Cost Index provides an aggregated picture of cost movements at the State level. The mix of construction and non-construction activity varies from council to council. Similarly, there are parts of the State where construction costs have been increasing faster than the State average. Council cost index is set at 4.06%.

2. Consumer Price Index

The most recent CPI for Hobart was 5.8% for the March 2022 quarter.

3. Fuel price increase

Fuel prices increases are having a significant negative impact on the 2021/2022 budget and will continue to do so in 2022/2023, further price rises will impact further on the estimated operating result.

4. Federal Assistance Grant Treatment

The Commonwealth Government has prepaid three quarters of the 2022/2023 Federal Assistance Grant. The effect of this is that 75% of the 2022/2023 grant has been received in the 2022 year. The budget has been amended to show the decreased operational grant revenue in 2022/2023 as the prepayment is required to be reported in the year that it is received i.e., 2021/2022. This will mean that, although operational grant revenue will be reported as reduced by 75% in 2022/2023, the carried forward cash received in 2021/2022 is available to fund the 2022/2023 budget.

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5. Cash rate

Movements in the cash rate for investments continue to significantly impact on the budget estimates for interest received.

6. Bad debt write off

The level of bad debt write off is dependent on the economic circumstances that prevail and impact on rate payers in general. The budget papers include only a minimal estimate. Should there be a significant increase in the inability of ratepayers to meet rate demands the level of bad debt write-off will increase.

7. Capital Grants Received

Any changes in government policy regarding capital grants will impact on the prepared budget estimates.

8. Electricity and Water Increases

Council large premise electricity prices will incur up to 100% increase in the 2022/2023 year and TasWater costs will increase to up to 16% for the 2022/2023 year.

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Proposed Operational Budget 2022/2023		2021/22 Actual YTD \$	2021/22 Budget \$	Proposed 2022/23 \$	Variance to 2021/22 \$
Income	Grants	2,833,500	1,044,173	862,087	- 182,087
	Interest & Investment Revenue	280,406	246,000	241,000	- 5,000
	Other Revenues	207,289	35,000	37,030	2,030
	Rates & Charges	9,160,440	9,198,994	9,836,983	637,989
	Reimbursements	126,867	54,664	254,088	199,424
	Statutory fees & charges	559,347	374,283	340,731	- 33,552
	Contributions operational	10,000	-	-	-
	User Fees	346,346	224,379	338,045	113,666
Income Total		13,524,193	11,177,493	11,909,963	732,470
Expenses	Employee Benefits	4,073,698	4,069,109	5,322,531	1,253,422
	Contracts	2,706,383	2,658,597	2,741,349	82,752
	Materials	743,040	682,450	764,350	81,900
	Other Expenses	1,656,542	1,806,704	2,022,769	216,065
	Finance Costs	102,819	100,000	110,000	10,000
	Depreciation & Amortisation & Right to Use Assets	3,019,000	3,019,000	2,902,000	- 117,000
	Impairment of Debts	-	5,000	5,000	-
Expenses Total		12,301,483	12,340,860	13,867,999	1,527,139
Surplus/Deficit		1,222,710	- 1,163,367	- 1,958,036	- 794,669
	Federal Assistance grant prepaid 2020/21	1,123,170	1,123,170	-	-
	Federal Assistance grant prepaid 2021/22	- 1,600,898	-	1,600,898	477,728
	Carry forward Future Impact Group Grant funding	-	-	419,000	419,000
	Carry forward Healthy GT grant in advance	97,473	97,473	-	- 97,473
Underlying Surplus/Deficit		842,455	57,276	61,862	4,586

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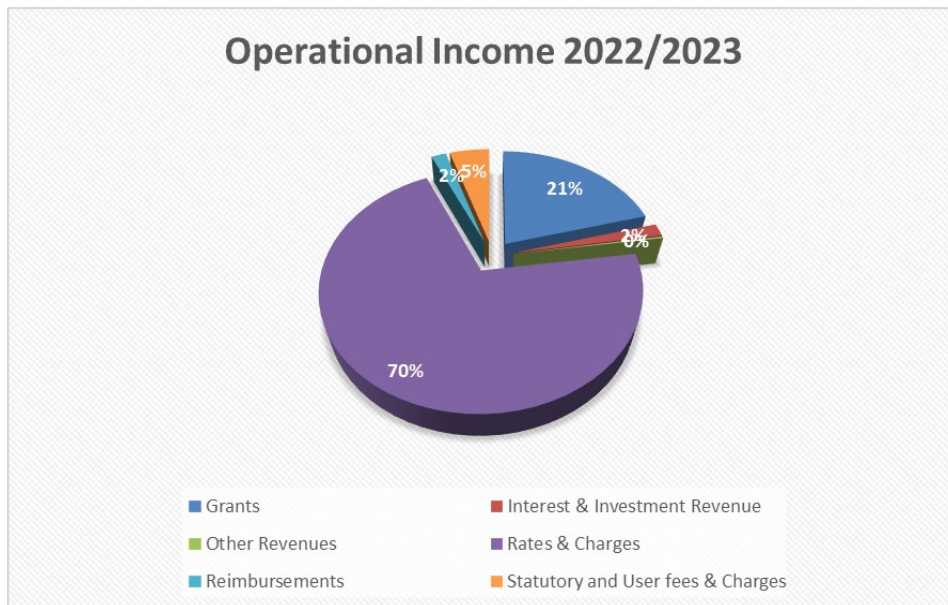
		2021/22 Budget \$	Proposed 2022/23 \$	Variance to 2021/22 \$
Capital Items				
	Capital Grants	407,628	585,000	177,372
	Total Capital	407,628	585,000	177,372
Net Surplus		464,904	646,862	181,958
	Less loan principal repayments	157,469	311,569	154,100
	Loan proceeds - Actual 2021/22	1,485,000	-	-
	Plus Depreciation	2,975,000	2,902,000	- 73,000
	Less prepaid Financial Assistance Grant	1,123,170	1,600,898	477,728
Cash Surplus/Deficit		3,644,265	1,636,395	- 2,007,870
	Capital Works - Asset Renewal/Replacement/New Program	2,670,306	4,494,715	1,824,409
Cash Surplus/Deficit		973,959	- 2,858,320	- 3,832,279
	Cash at start of year	6,986,577	7,960,536	973,959
Estimated Cash at end of year		7,960,536	5,102,216	- 2,858,320

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Operational Budget

Key points

Operating Revenue \$ 13,929,860 (after adjustment for prepaid Financial Assistance Grant and Future Impact Group Grant)



Estimated operating income is \$13,929,860 which is an increase of 12% on the revised estimated budget for 2021/2022.

Rates and Charges Strategy \$9,836,983

General Rate

The rating strategy is to maintain the current rating structure which applies an averaged area rate to properties used or predominately used for residential purposes while rating for properties not used or predominately used for residential purposes have a differential cents in the \$ rate applied to the capital valuation supplied by the Office of the Valuer General depending on their use and planning scheme zone and are not averaged.

The rating strategy complies with Council's Rates and Charges policy and the financial strategy which lists as specific strategies in relation to rating, the following;

- Achievement of an underlying surplus in the income statement,
- Achieve a sustainable cash flow,
- Fund capital projects approved by Council,
- Maintain the percentage of cash receipts from rates at a minimum of 62% or increase this, if possible,
- Align rates revenue raised within the annual budget estimates with the long-term financial plan.

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Key reasons for the recommended general rate increase are as follows.

- To assist funding the delivery of the capital program.
- To fund existing levels of service and associated programs.
- To maintain a rating policy that continues to respond to the future cost of maintaining and replacing \$100m of community assets as measured by the ability to fund depreciation charges.
- To assist with funding initiatives and programs outlined within Council's strategic plan.

Non-residential rating strategy for 2022/2023

The budget estimates include an increment of 5.8% in line with CPI (March Quarter – Hobart) for the non-residential sector and an increase in the minimum rate from \$755 to \$799. The Office of the Valuer General provided an adjustment factor to property valuations within the municipality effective 1 July 2022, which have been applied in setting of the rate in the dollar.

Other Categories	Existing	Proposed 2022/23	Decrease in rate in the Dollar
General Rate	0.3464	0.2253	-0.1211
General Industrial	1.7124	1.3923	-0.3202
Utility	1.7892	1.3999	-0.3893
Port and Marine	1.7239	1.4065	-0.3174
Industrial (other than above)	0.7167	0.5833	-0.1335
Commercial	0.7307	0.5947	-0.1453
	Existing	Proposed 2022/23	Increase in \$
Minimum Rate	\$755	799	\$44

Residential rates/AAR

The budget estimates are based on an increment of 5.8% in line with CPI (March Quarter – Hobart) varied by locality, factored into the average area rate for the residential sector.

AAR	Existing	2022/2023 Proposed	Annual \$ Increase	Annual % increase
Beechfood, Bellingham, Lefroy, Lulworth & Weymouth	\$1,104.00	\$1,168.00	\$64.00	5.80%
George Town & Low Head	\$1,170.00	\$1,238.00	\$68.00	5.80%
Hillwood, Mount Direction, Pipers Brook & Pipers River	\$1,126.00	\$1,191.00	\$65.00	5.80%

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Fire Services

An increase has also been applied to the fire service in accordance with instructions received from Tas Fire Services. The increase required to raise the funds as advised by Tas Fire Services is approximately 2.5% for the George Town Local government area however individual increments will vary based on valuations.

Waste Management

Rates for garbage and recycling services have been increased based on the increased costs associated with the waste contract, the costs of disposal, increased fuel costs and the implementation of the State Government Waste Levy.

Proposed charges for 2022/2023 -

85 litre garbage bin and 140 litre recycle bin \$225
140 litre garbage bin and 140 litre recycle bin \$284
240 litre garbage bin and 240 litre recycle bin \$405

The waste management service charge has been increased to \$45.

Statutory fees and fines \$340,731

Significant statutory fees and fines include;

- Planning fees
- Rates certificate fees
- Dog registrations
- Building fees

Statutory fees and fines are estimated to be \$340,731 for the 2022/2023 financial year, including a reduction in revenue from Building Surveying fees and charges.

Operational Grants \$2,881,984

Advice is yet to be received on the total Federal Assistance Grant for 2022/2023, 75% of the allocation for 2022/2023 was received in 2021/2022. Overall grants reflect the prepayment as available operational grant income.

Future Impact Group grant funding prepaid and to be paid in 2022/2023 is also reflected in the available operational grant income offset by expenditure (Council is administering grant and project costs on behalf of Future Impact Group).

User charges \$338,045

Significant user fees include;

- Waste transfer site fees,
- Cemetery fees,
- Swimming pool fees,

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- Hall hire fees,
- Airport leases rental,
- Planning advertising fees,
- Sponsorships received.

User fees revenue is estimated to be \$338,045 for the 2022/2023 financial year based on trends experienced in the 2021/2022 financial year including fees from the in-house operation of the swimming pool.

Interest and Investment Income \$241,000

Investments from the Water Corporation include amounts paid as dividends.

An indicative amount based on the average investment has been used for the purposes of budget estimates for interest earned on funds invested.

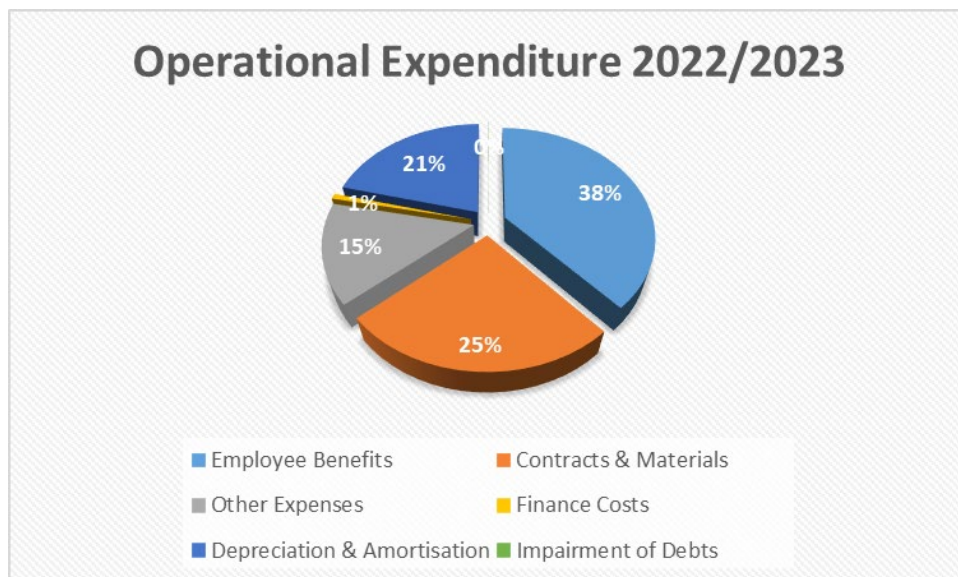
Movements in the cash rate may impact on the budget estimates for interest received.

Other Income and Reimbursements \$291,188

Significant items of other income include.

- Heavy vehicles distribution
- Lease payments received
- Fire levy commission
- Contributions toward Future Impact Group projects

Operating Expenditure \$ 13,867,999



Estimated operating expenditure is \$13,867,999 being an increase of \$1,527,139 or 12% overall when compared to the budget for 2021/2022. Of this increase \$982,000 is attributable to the Future Impact Group projects costs which are administered by Council.

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Employee benefits \$5,322,531 or 38% of overall operating costs.

General

Employee costs – 31% overall increase in employee costs (16% Council operational, 15% Future Impact Group Project Delivery Team) Increase in overall employee benefits has resulted from increase in operational and administrative staffing levels, previously outsourced functions coming back in house, together with increases as per Superannuation Guarantee and EBA, and inclusion of employee benefits for employees of the Future Impact Group Projects.

Approximate Changes in Council Operational Employee Costs

Changes in operational maintenance staffing levels and administration restructure.	\$236,000
EBA/Super increase on 21/22 Budget	\$143,000
Positions now filled by employees previously a contractor/labour hire positions – Swimming Pool Operations, Environmental Health Officer.	\$274,000
Total approx. change	\$653,000

Future Impact Group – Projects - Administered by Council

Future Impact Group positions (administered by Council – grant /industry/Council funded)	\$600,500
Future Impact Group positions external funding (Grant/Contributions)	-\$534,800
Cost to Council 2022/23 budget (partly funded by Youth budget transferred from contracts)	\$65,700

Capitalised Wages

The 2022/2023 budget includes an estimate of \$242,800 for the cost of wages, salaries and on costs booked to capital expenditure or projects. The budget estimate is based on wages and salaries allocation to projects across the Proposed Capital Works Program and carry forward projects.

Materials & Contracts/Services \$3,505,699 or 25% of overall operating costs

Significant items of materials and services expenditure include:

- Specific purpose consultancies
- Solicitors fees
- Plumbing, industrial and electrical supplies
- Audit and audit panel fees
- Materials and supplies for repairs generally
- Fuel purchases
- Grounds maintenance contractors for parks and reserves
- IT maintenance and consultancy fees
- Minor computer hardware purchases

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- Road maintenance supplies
- Road maintenance contractors
- Building maintenance materials and supplies
- Building maintenance contractors
- Municipal valuation fees
- Pool maintenance materials and supplies
- Crushing and screening of green waste
- Transfer of waste to Remount Road
- Fees for deposit of waste at Remount Road
- Minor tool purchases
- External equipment hire
- Printing and photocopying costs
- Catering costs
- Kerb side recycling contract collections
- Kerb side waste contract collections

The increase in materials and services/contract expenses relates to specific purpose contractual increases and specific purpose consultancies and a general purpose increase applied to accommodate estimated price increments.

Bad and Doubtful Debts \$5,000 or 0.04% of operating expenditure

Provision has been made for a minimal write-off of rates debt.

Depreciation and Amortisation \$2,902,000 or 22% of operating expenditure

Depreciation & amortisation is an accounting measure which attempts to allocate the value of an asset over its useful life for Council's property, plant, equipment including infrastructure assets such as roads and stormwater drains.

New assets have been included in the depreciation schedule. A recent revaluation and change in useful lives of Council's buildings assets has resulted in an overall reduction in depreciation expense for the 2022/2023 year.

Other Expenses \$ 2,022,769 or 14.7% of operating expenditure

Significant items of other expenditure include the following. Increases in electricity and water charges have negatively impacted on other expenses for the coming year.

- Government building and training levies
- Telephone charges
- Elected members allowances and payments
- Electricity

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- Insurance
- Subscriptions
- Sponsorships paid
- Community grants
- Fire levy payment
- Land tax
- Training costs
- Software licences
- Vehicle registrations
- Advertising and promotional costs
- Water consumption charges
- Water connection charges

The estimates for other expenses include the fire levy initially collected by Council but paid to Tasmanian Fire Services. Other significant expenditure is related to water connection and consumption charges and allocations for promotion, advertising, and sponsorships. Increases in electricity costs (up to 100% for large sites), fuel (30%) and water (16%) have been included.

Finance Costs \$110,000 or 1% of operating expenditure

Finance costs relate to interest on borrowings for existing loans.

Capital Grants \$585,000

Capital grants include all funds received from Government and other sources for the purpose of funding the capital works. For the 2022/2023 financial year the estimated capital grants include the Roads to Recovery Grant and State Government Blackspot grant for the upgrade of the intersection of Industry and Dalrymple Roads.

It may be possible for Council to take advantage of other capital grant opportunities as they arise. Any changes in government policy regarding capital grants will impact on the prepared budget estimates.

Underlying Result

The resulting underlying surplus is estimated at \$61,862 or an underlying surplus ratio of positive 0.48%, after adjusting for the Financial Assistance Grant and other grant prepayments. This modest underlying surplus does not align with Council's adopted financial strategy which calls for a positive underlying surplus of 1% of operating income, however, is a satisfactory result and was expected in line with the ongoing recovery of Council's financial position following the response to COVID 19 in the 2020/2021 financial year.

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OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Council, by absolute majority, approves and adopts the budget estimates prepared by the General Manager pursuant to Section 82 of the Local Government Act as summarised in the preceding and attachment and that the attachment will form part of the minutes.

DECISION

Moved:

Seconded:

VOTING

For:

Against:

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8.5 CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAM FOR THE 2022/2023 FINANCIAL YEAR

REPORT AUTHOR:	Director Corporate and Community – Cheryl Hyde
REPORT DATE:	21.6.22
FILE NO:	32.4
ATTACHMENTS:	1. Capital works draft budget - final [8.5.1 - 2 pages] 2. Proposed carry forward capital works budget final [8.5.2 - 2 pages]

SUMMARY

To provide Elected Members with an opportunity to discuss and review the proposed capital works program for the financial year 2022/2023.

BACKGROUND

The Council as part of its budget deliberations has considered funding capital works for the 2022/2023 financial year. The proposed Capital Works Program takes into account a new program of works based on community, and Councillor consultation, strategic plan and asset management considerations.

STRATEGIC PLAN

This action relates to the following components of the Community Strategic Plan 2020-2030:

Future Direction Three - Progressive Well-Resourced Communities

1. Recreational opportunities for all
 - i. Developing well-designed and maintained recreational facilities – shared pathways, tracks, trails, exercise stations – all ages, all abilities.

STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS & RELATED COUNCIL DOCUMENTS

Local Government Act 1993

RISK CONSIDERATIONS

The following risks have been identified in accordance with Council's adopted Risk Management Framework and Risk Matrix.

There is a medium risk for not adequately renewing infrastructure and assets, including:

- Risks associated with community danger from aging or inadequate infrastructure
 - Risks associated with not complying with Council's Policies and Asset Management Framework
-

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Each project within the Capital Works Program is assessed individually for risk. Investment in renewal of infrastructure will reduce the associated risks.

CONSULTATION

Community members were invited to make submissions for funding considerations in the budget process. Several submissions have been received and considered as part of the budget preparation process.

Council has workshopped the budget in April, May, and June 2022.

Proposed capital works budget was presented to Audit Panel on 16 June 2022.

OPTIONS

Council may choose to:

1. Adopt the capital works programme 2022/2023 as presented; or
2. Adopt the capital works programme 2022/2023 with amendment; or
3. Not adopt the capital works programme 2022/2023.

OFFICER'S COMMENTS

Application of Financial strategy and funding infrastructure

Council's financial strategy includes the following specific strategies in relation to funding infrastructure;

- Review the need to renew assets based on community demand (community consultation and engagement required),
- Continue to improve the rate base,
- Continue to improve asset management practices with a high priority being to have adequate asset condition and fit for purpose assets to enable reasonable long term capital renewal forecasts which can be linked to long term financial planning and annual budgets,
- Implement funding plans that meet the renewal and new funding requirements over the life of asset management plans,
- Asset management plans are updated for all classes of Council's assets with a focus on ensuring assets are fit for purpose and provide the desired level of service to the community,
- Asset rationalisation and review of growth strategies,
- Carrying out cost benefit analysis on the services being provided including the use of whole of life costing for proposed projects.

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Funding for the 2022/2023 Capital Program

The proposed new capital program put forward is \$4,494,715.

Capital expenditure for 2022/2023 will be funded by capital grants estimated at \$585,000 with the remainder of \$ 3,909,715 to be funded from council reserves, proceeds from sale of assets and revenue raised in the 2022/2023 financial year.

Proceeds from sale of assets \$150,000, represent revenue from plant sales to be contributed to the capital replacement of plant and equipment.

Plant Reserve Council has restricted reserve for plant replacement with a current balance of \$438,000, of this \$300,000 will be used to contribute to the capital replacement of the plant.

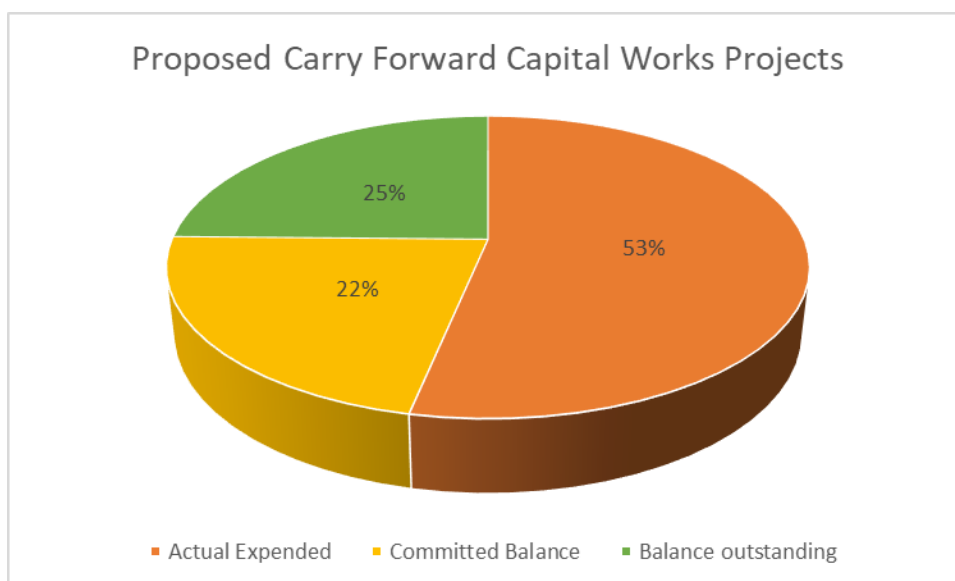
Capital granting of \$585,000 includes \$250,000 Blackspot funding and \$335,000 Roads to Recovery Funding to be allocated to the upgrade of the Industry Road and Dalrymple Road intersection.

Revenue & Unrestricted Cash \$3,459,715 represents revenue from operational budget and unrestricted cash at bank will be used to fund the balance of the capital works program, in line with the Council's ongoing 10-year capital renewal program.

Carry Forward Projects

A total of \$7,630,755 of expenditure remains committed to projects that are carried forward, including committed funds and unexpended. Of these carry forward balances \$5,275,636 are fully or partly grant funded and include projects which are programmed over multiple financial years. Carry forward commitments and projects may change by year end 2022/2023 depending on timing of works and balances will remain committed to projects for completion in the 2022/2023 year.

Carry forward projects have largely either commenced with 53% of total budget for these projects being spent, 25% being committed to contract or materials and 22% yet to be expended. Challenges in supply of materials and contracts on a state, national and regional level have impacted the delivery of the Capital Works program in 2021/2022.



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Funding depreciation and future sustainability

The total depreciation charge for Councils assets for 2022/2023 is estimated at \$ 2,902,000. Repeated and improved underlying surplus will assist Council funding the replacement of assets in the future.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Council approves and adopts, by absolute majority, the Capital Works expenditure for the 2022/2023 financial year and the carry forward capital works as reported and that the attachments will form part of the minutes.

DECISION

Moved:

Seconded:

VOTING

For:

Against:

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8.6 REALLOCATION OF CAPITAL FUNDS FROM BIOMASS PROCESSOR TO WILD TAMAR INITIATIVE

REPORT AUTHOR:	General Manager – Mr S. Power
REPORT DATE:	18th May 2022
FILE NO:	32.1
ATTACHMENTS:	Nil

SUMMARY

This report seeks Council approval to reallocate funds from the 2021/2022 approved capital works program and budget. Specifically, the General Manager is seeking to reallocate \$100,000 originally approved for co-funding of a biomass burner for the purposes of providing capital to assist new tourism related business ventures as part of the Wild Tamar Initiative.

BACKGROUND

Each year officers prepare budget estimates for revenue, expenditure, borrowings and capital works. These estimates are prepared from a range of sources and assumptions including but not limited to:

- Engineering and construction estimates
- Contractual obligations
- Expected grants
- Forecast revenue through fees and charges
- Employee costs (including leave provisions and other entitlements)

Not all sources and assumptions used for the preparing budget estimates are accurate at the time of preparation which can result in variances of expenditure and revenue throughout the financial year.

In this instance Council set aside an allocation \$100,000 to attract grant funding for purchase of a biomass processor. The biomass plant would process all of council's green waste received at it's transfer stations and would accommodate for organic waste from the introduction of a third bin system, ultimately reducing waste to landfill, reducing council's carbon footprint and producing biochar a valuable fertiliser as a by-product. Being mobile the processor could also be transported to other sites for processing and create an additional revenue source for council.

While the concept remains sound, the EPA have advised approval for a license to burn green waste will not be approved unless requirements of Regulation 21 (3) can be sufficiently demonstrated:

21. Environmental approvals

(1) A person may apply, in a form approved by the Director, to the Director for an environmental approval.

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- (2) *An application under subregulation (1) is to be accompanied by an application fee of 200 fee units (inclusive of GST).*
- (3) *An application for an environmental approval is to include the following details:*
- (a) a description of the waste;*
 - (b) the physical state of the waste;*
 - (c) any hazardous characteristics of the waste;*
 - (d) any known contaminants in the waste and their concentration;*
 - (e) any contaminants that may reasonably be suspected to be in the waste;*
 - (f) any containment or packaging of the waste;*
 - (g) the amount of waste;*
 - (h) the origin of the waste, including –*
 - (i) the name and address of the waste producer; and*
 - (ii) the place of production of the waste; and*
 - (iii) the nature of the activity by which the waste is generated;*
 - (i) the person who is to be the holder of the environmental approval;*
 - (j) the period to which the application relates;*
 - (k) any proposed form of storage, disposal, reprocessing, reuse, recycling or energy recovery of the waste, including the rate of waste input;*
 - (l) any plans, for minimisation or management of waste, prepared by, or for, the applicant;*
 - (m) any risk management, and environmental management, measures to be undertaken;*
 - (n) any alternative options for reuse, reprocessing or recycling of the waste;*
 - (o) any monitoring measures, management process or sampling or analysis proposed to prevent, or minimise the risk of, environmental harm;*
 - (p) any other details that the Director considers necessary for determining the application.*

Officers targeted grant opportunities through the Northern Tasmania Waste Management Group (NTWMG) and Northern Tasmania Development Corporation's (NTDC) Circular Economy Initiative. NTWMG having received advice from the EPA subsequently denied Council's application for funding.

Consequently, officers have requested the manufacturer of the plant to provide information sufficient to meet the EPA requirements under the regulations. While contact has been maintained between Council and the supplier, no tangible support has been forthcoming at this stage.

Regional waste groups are not identified within the recently introduced *Waste and Resource Recovery Act 2022* or the draft *Waste and Resource Recovery Regulations 2022*. While verbal commitment has been provided by the State to fund waste groups through the new State Waste Levy, waste groups including the NTWMG have not budgeted for income sufficient to operate business as usual having no confidence of secure funding. Accordingly, the NTWMG has reduced its services (including officer support auspiced by Launceston City Council) extending to its grants program.

NTDC's future role in regional economic development is currently being reviewed as part of a broader governance review. While officers remain confident that a grant through the NTDC Circular Economy Initiative would be successful, timing of the grant program is at this stage unknown.

With the EPA license application yet to be approved and with the two identified co-funding streams doubtful, it is the recommendation of the General Manager to re-allocate the 2021/2022 capital funds of \$100,000 to another project. The project identified is the Wild Tamar Initiative.

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Council has been successful in obtaining a \$288,000 grant through the Recovery for Regional Tourism Program for the Wild Tamar initiative.

The aim of Wild Tamar is to bring together the nature and adventure visitor offerings of the North Tamar Region in a targeted campaign designed to increase visitation and length of stay. Adding to the mountain bike trail market, new offerings will be seeded such as seal tours, fishing charters, rock climbing, and diving. The project will result in the creation of new and ongoing employment opportunities, while establishing George Town as a destination for adventure based tourism.

Council undertook an expressions of interest process following confirmation of funding. Many applications were received in line with the program objectives, however some projects requested seed funding for infrastructure and/or staff. Officers have been unsuccessful in negotiating terms of the funding to provide for capital expenditure. The request to transfer funds from the biomass project to Wild Tamar is aimed at providing the capital required to launch the tourism initiatives. Examples include car park works for the rock-climbing initiative.

STRATEGIC PLAN

This action relates to the following components of the Community Strategic Plan 2020-2030:

Future Direction One - Community Pride

3. A strong, recognisable, positive reputation
 - i. Developing and promoting a new 'capital' brand and associated program for George Town, focusing on strengths and aspirations and leveraging the stories of the area's people.
 - ii. Branding our produce and products.
 - iii. Promoting the area as the place to live, work, play and invest.

Future Direction Two - Prosperity for All in All Aspects of Life

1. Employment prospects for all ages
 - i. Continuing to transition the local economy from heavy industries to advanced manufacturing, renewable energies, area branded produce and niche products.
 - ii. Providing meaningful jobs for all ages.
 - iii. Incorporating the participatory economy into our prosperity.

Future Direction Two - Prosperity for All in All Aspects of Life

4. Supported entrepreneurial endeavours and start-ups
 - i. Establishing and strengthening a start-up eco-system.

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- ii. Attracting start-ups and entrepreneurial endeavours to the area.

Future Direction Two - Prosperity for All in All Aspects of Life

7. Strengths-based reputation building

- i. Focusing population attraction on the area's advantages of well-connected and supportive communities: digital advantage; community of learners.

Future Direction Two - Prosperity for All in All Aspects of Life

9. Tourism growth in yield

- i. Diversifying our economy through tourism activities, increasing overnight stays and promoting existing and new experiences.
- ii. Incorporating the mountain bike trail into the area's experiences and working with other trails in the region to provide a more diverse and multi-levelled experiences.

Future Direction Three - Progressive Well-Resourced Communities

1. Recreational opportunities for all

- i. Developing well-designed and maintained recreational facilities – shared pathways, tracks, trails, exercise stations – all ages, all abilities.
- ii. Completing the Mountain Bike Trail ensuring there are levels appropriate for beginners and families.
- iii. Growing participation in Active George Town and activating similar 'Active' groups throughout the municipality.
- iv. Engaging young people in recreational activities of their choice.

Future Direction Three - Progressive Well-Resourced Communities

2. Sporting opportunities for all

- i. Growing participation in sporting activities.
- ii. Growing membership and leadership capabilities in sporting activities.
- iii. Engaging young people in the sporting activities of their choice.

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STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS & RELATED COUNCIL DOCUMENTS

Under section 74 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, Council has delegated authority to the General Manager to:

'expend its funds for the purpose of exercising its powers or carrying out its functions under this or any other Act within the estimates adopted under section 82'.

Section 82 of the *Local Government Act 1993* provides:

'(1) The general manager must prepare estimates of the council's revenue and expenditure for each financial year.

(2) Estimates are to contain details of the following:

- (a) the estimated revenue of the council;*
- (b) the estimated expenditure of the council;*
- (c) the estimated borrowings by the council;*
- (d) the estimated capital works of the council;*
- (e) any other detail required by the Minister.*

(3) Estimates for a financial year must –

- (a) be adopted by the council, with or without alteration, by absolute majority; and*
- (b) be adopted before 31 August in that financial year; and*
- (c) not be adopted more than one month before the start of that financial year.*

(4) A council may alter by absolute majority any estimate referred to in [subsection \(2\)](#) during the financial year.

(5) [\[Section 82 Subsection \(5\) inserted by No. 34 of 1999, s. 38, Applied:30 Jun 1999\]](#) A council may make adjustments to individual items within any estimate referred to in [subsection \(2\)](#) by a simple majority so long as the total amount of the estimate is not altered.

(6) [\[Section 82 Subsection \(6\) inserted by No. 8 of 2005, s. 58, Applied:01 Jul 2005\]](#) A council, by absolute majority, may authorise the general manager to make minor adjustments up to specified amounts to individual items within any estimate referred to in [subsection \(2\)](#) so long as the total amount of the estimate is not altered.

(7) [\[Section 82 Subsection \(7\) inserted by No. 8 of 2005, s. 58, Applied:01 Jul 2005\]](#) The general manager is to report any adjustment and an explanation of the adjustment at the first ordinary meeting of the council following the adjustment.'

The process for procurement of goods and services is outlined within Council's Code for Tenders and Contracts Policy.

RISK CONSIDERATIONS

There is a real risk that the Wild Tamar initiative will fail to meet its objectives of launching new tourism endeavors without sufficient funding support for capital.

There is also a risk that some ratepayers and community may consider investment assistance to start-ups outside of Council core business and/or not providing value to the community. Such perceptions may not be adjusted, however it should be noted that Wild Tamar initiative align clearly with Council's adopted and widely consulted Community Strategic Plan 2020-2030, as identified earlier in this report.

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FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Council has received a \$288,000 grant through Austrade's Recovery for Regional Tourism Program. This funding will be directed to marketing collateral and business support. The request to allocate \$100,000 of capital funding will provide infrastructure that Council can control by way of ownership, lease and/or agreement/s to kick start new tourism ventures.

NEXT STEPS

Should Council support the request to transfer funds, negotiations will be held with individual applicants under the Wild Tamar initiative to ensure Council's return on investment is maximised and de-risked.

Council's Project Manager will brief Councillors on each initiative and funding proposal prior to seeking approval for execution of any agreement.

DIVERSITY, EQUITABLE ACCESS AND INCLUSION CONSIDERATIONS

Design of associated infrastructure with the Wild Tamar program to meet with DDA standards where possible noting that some of the activities will have limitations to achieve this goal.

CONSULTATION

The community implications of the recommended action has been assessed against Council's Community Consultation Framework as having a low to medium impact requiring category one consultation.

Consultation has occurred at a Council workshop dated 14 June 2022 after it was deferred at the 24th May 2022 Ordinary Council meeting.

OPTIONS

Council may choose to:

1. Support the motion as presented; or
2. Support the motion with amendment; or
3. Not support the motion.

OFFICER'S COMMENTS

Pending Council endorsement, and successful negotiation of agreements with applicants, it is proposed that officers inform the community of the Wild Tamar initiative through Council's website, Facebook page, Public Notice in the Examiner, direct email through Council's community database and through Tamar FM.

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OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Approve to reallocate funds from the 2021/2022 approved capital works program and budget of \$100,000 originally approved for co-funding of a biomass burner for the purposes of providing capital to assist new tourism related business ventures as part of the Wild Tamar initiative; and
2. Continue to seek funding opportunities for a biomass burner.

DECISION

Moved:

Seconded:

VOTING

For:

Against:

9 INFRASTRUCTURE AND DEVELOPMENT

9.1 MT GEORGE SEMAPHORE AND MAST

REPORT AUTHOR:	Acting Director Infrastructure & Development – Mr D. Thornton
REPORT DATE:	22 June 2022
FILE NO:	53.5
ATTACHMENTS:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. 6 a - Letter - PWS Mount George Public Reserve Semaphore Site [9.1.1 - 7 pages]2. 6 b - Letter from Director Operations PWS to Shane Power GM George Town Council [9.1.2 - 2 pages]3. 6 c - Mt George Flag Mast Report [9.1.3 - 8 pages]4. 6 d - Mt George Semaphore Mast Report [9.1.4 - 10 pages]5. Semaphore Mast Maintenance Schedule [9.1.5 - 1 page]

SUMMARY

Council Officers are seeking Council's direction in relation to correspondence from Parks and Wildlife Service (**PWS**) 12 April 2022 requesting Council consider assuming ownership and management of land located on Mount George which includes a timber semaphore structure and steel flag mast.

BACKGROUND

Council received correspondence from Parks and Wildlife Service (**PWS**) 12 April 2022 requesting Council consider assuming ownership and management of land located on Mount George which includes a timber semaphore structure and steel flag mast.

PWS have stated it was intended that the site be transferred to Council as part of a larger land transfer in 2006, however this did not happen. Officers have not located council records to support or deny this claim.

The site at the peak of Mt George has two structures, a steel flag mast and a Semaphore mast. The Semaphore was part of a network to relay messages along the Tamar River dating back to 1825. (source: www.abc.net.au/local/stories/2010/02/08/2813586.htm).

Subsequently, officers have been in discussions with PWS to obtain sufficient information for Council's consideration to take over the land including a condition report for the structures on the site. As a result, the PWS engaged an engineering consultant to assess the condition of the structures.

That report advises that both masts were extensively overhauled as part of the 1988 bicentennial. The report was unable to determine what parts, if any, remain of the original structures. Certainly, the pole for the Semaphore mast was replaced in 1988. PWS have adopted the term 'replica structures' in their correspondence, suggesting original heritage value may be lost.

Officers sought options from PWS including a consideration from PWS to fund the renewal/repair costs prior to transferring to Council for ongoing management.

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With a total estimated cost of \$55,000 to \$65,000 ex GST to repair both structures PWS have advised that they are not in a position to either repair or maintain these structures. The repair cost is the upfront cost with additional funds required to maintain these structures in perpetuity.

PWS have also offered the opportunity for the replica structures to be relocated should Council wish to place them at an alternative site for interpretive purposes. Council would still need to repair the structures and fund the relocation.

Alternatively, a third party could enter into a lease agreement for the Mt George site and assume responsibility for the repair and management of the structures.

STRATEGIC PLAN

This action relates to the following components of the Community Strategic Plan 2020-2030:

Future Direction Three - Progressive Well-Resourced Communities

1. Recreational opportunities for all
 - i. Developing well-designed and maintained recreational facilities – shared pathways, tracks, trails, exercise stations – all ages, all abilities.

Future Direction Three - Progressive Well-Resourced Communities

3. Social infrastructure meets community needs
 - i. Developing and maintaining social infrastructure that meets the community's changing needs.

Future Direction Four - Leadership and Accountable Governance

1. A culture of engagement and participation
 - iv. Understanding processes and participating in decision making.

Future Direction Four - Leadership and Accountable Governance

2. Planning and regulatory responsibilities are undertaken fairly and openly
 - i. Building knowledge and understanding of planning and regulatory responsibilities and processes.

STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS & RELATED COUNCIL DOCUMENTS

Local Government Act 1993 (the Act)

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RISK CONSIDERATIONS

At present the Council has no risk exposure as the structures are located on PWS land and are not Council assets.

By taking over the structures which would involve a lease Council would be taking over the risks associated with this site.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The financial implications would be an upfront expenditure of around \$65,000 ex GST plus ongoing maintenance and any relocation costs.

If Council decide not to assume responsibility the financial implications are nil.

CONSULTATION

Community consultation is yet to be carried out. It is anticipated that some sectors of the community will want to retain the Semaphore in some form.

Council may consider a consultation process to gauge community appetite for the site to transfer to Council prior to any formal decision.

OPTIONS

Officers are seeking direction from Council on a pathway to pursue. Options or their alternatives include:

1. not to take on the site and the assets; or
2. not to take on the assets to be located elsewhere; or
3. explore third party options

OFFICER'S COMMENTS

These structures are not Council assets but could be considered to have some value to the community from a historical perspective and do provide a link to the past despite most parts of the structures being renewed already.

Council has an option to pay for the repair and take over responsibly for these structures.

PWS are seeking Council's view by 30 June 2022. PWS are suggesting that Council may wish to repair, maintain, and license the site into the future. PWS have indicated that they will pursue a process to decommission the semaphore and flag mast should Council decide not to take over the site.

It is understood that should Council not take over the site and or structures that some sectors of the community will have alternate views.

Given the structures need significant funds now and into the future and that they are considered replicas it is not considered prudent to divert Council funds to this project.

Advice may be sought from groups such as the Mount Direction Semaphore Association to gauge their (or other third parties) appetite to take over the site.

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OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. write to the State Government to explore opportunities for funding assistance in the repairs and maintenance of the Mt George Semaphore and Mast prior to Council formally considering the offer of assuming ownership of the site from Parks and Wildlife.

DECISION

Moved:

Seconded:

VOTING

For:

Against:

10 CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY

10.1 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE AUDIT PANEL FOR 2021/2022

REPORT AUTHOR:	Director Corporate and Community – Cheryl Hyde
REPORT DATE:	22/6/22
FILE NO:	29.11
ATTACHMENTS:	1. GTC Audit Panel Annual report 2021 2022 [10.1.1 - 3 pages] 2. GTC Audit Panel Annual Workplan 2022 2023 [10.1.2 - 3 pages]

SUMMARY

This report seeks Council endorsement of the annual report of the Audit Panel for 2021/2022 and the Audit Panel Annual Work Plan for 2022/2023.

BACKGROUND

At the meeting of the Audit Panel held on the 16 June 2022 the Panel recommended the Annual Report of the Audit Panel for 2021/2022 and the Audit Panel Annual Work Plan for 2022/2023 to Council for adoption.

STRATEGIC PLAN

This action relates to the following components of the Community Strategic Plan 2020-2030:

Future Direction Four - Leadership and Accountable Governance

1. A culture of engagement and participation
 - iv. Understanding processes and participating in decision making.

Future Direction Four - Leadership and Accountable Governance

4. Positive and productive working relationship with all levels of government and their agencies
 - ii. Understanding the outcomes and directions sought by all levels of government.

STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS & RELATED COUNCIL DOCUMENTS

The Local Government Act 1993.
The Local Government (Audit Panels) Order 2014 Statutory Rules 2014.

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RISK CONSIDERATIONS

No risks identified.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Costs associated with the Audit Panel are included in the operational budget of Council.

CONSULTATION

The annual report of the Audit Panel was presented to Audit Panel Committee by the Chair on 16th June 2022.

OPTIONS

Council may choose to:

1. Support the motion as presented; or
2. Support the motion with amendment; or
3. Not support the motion.

OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Annual Report of the Audit Panel for 2021/2022 to the Council has been received from the Chair of Council's Audit Panel. This Annual Report explains how the Audit Panel discharged its responsibilities during 2021/2022. The Report also highlights the Panel's Key Activities in 2021/2022 and its program for 2022/2023. The Audit Panel's Annual Work Plan for 2022/2023 provides direction in regard to its reporting requirements.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Council endorses the Annual Report for the Audit Panel for 2021/2022 and the Audit Panel Work Plan for 2022/2023.

DECISION

Moved:

Seconded:

VOTING

For:

Against:

11 ORGANISATIONAL PERFORMANCE, STRATEGY & ENGAGEMENT

Nil.

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12 MAYOR

12.1 MATTERS OF INVOLVEMENT - MAYOR

REPORT AUTHOR: Executive Support & Governance Officer – Ms L. Dickenson
REPORT DATE: 23rd June 2022
FILE NO: 14.11

Mayor Cr Greg Kieser		
May	23	Met with Shekinah House – Shop for Hope representatives re assisting homeless in George Town
	24	Chaired Council Workshop
	24	Chaired Ordinary Council Meeting
	25	Attended and participated in BBA tree planting and Story telling at Libraries Tas.
	25	Tamar FM Interview
	26	Tasmania Talks Interview
	27	Attended 2022 State Budget Roadshow – Treasurer Hon. Michael Ferguson MP
	30	Attended Neighbourhood House meeting
June	3	Attended National Reconciliation Week Breakfast
	7	Attended NTDC Quarterly Mayors Meeting
	14	Chaired Council Workshop
	17	Attended meeting with GTAA representatives and General Manager
	17	Attended TVWRI meeting
	19-22	Attended ALGA 2022 National General Assembly - Canberra

Note: The Mayor has maintained regular contact with the General Manager and key staff to keep abreast of and respond to the COVID-19 crisis.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That the information report from the Mayor on Matters of Involvement be received and the information noted.

DECISION

Moved:

Seconded:

VOTING

For:

Against:

13 PETITIONS

Nil.

14 NOTICES OF MOTIONS

Nil.

15 COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS WITH OR WITHOUT NOTICE

Cr Barwick

Why did Council not apply for a permit for the pump track where it is as it comes under discretionary use under the Planning Scheme?

Response

The pump track was classed as a Passive Recreation use under the planning scheme. The land is zoned Open Space. A Passive Recreation use is a "No Permit Required" use in the Open Space Zone.

Cr Barwick

Could Council have the costing to Council of the removal and reinstatement of the traffic calming devices in Macquarie Street?

Response

Total costings to be provided in the July Ordinary Council meeting. Work on the traffic calming devices in Macquarie Street were completed on 22nd June 2022 and Council is awaiting invoice.

16 COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

16.1 GEORGE TOWN PLACEMAKING COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT

REPORT AUTHOR:	Community Officer Culture, Arts and Experiences – Ms T. Demesa Meraz
REPORT DATE:	7th June 2022
FILE NO:	14.7
ATTACHMENTS:	Nil.

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to provide information and to recommend to Council the appointment of a George Town Placemaking Committee members.

BACKGROUND

The George Town Placemaking Committee met on the 6th June, 2022 to discuss applications to fill the two member positions vacant.

George Town Council advertised in The Examiner on the 5th March 2022 expressions of interest to join the George Town Placemaking Advisory Committee. Applications closed on Monday 4th April 2022 for EOIs.

STRATEGIC PLAN

This action relates to the following components of the Community Strategic Plan 2020-2030:

Future Direction One - Community Pride

1. All are valued and included
 - i. Taking a ‘whole of community’ approach to everything.

Future Direction One - Community Pride

5. Community groups work together on common goals
 - i. Working together on common goals.

STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS & RELATED COUNCIL DOCUMENTS

Local Government Act 1993 and Council Policy GTC-16 Special Committees.

George Town Council Placemaking Committee Terms of Reference.

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RISK CONSIDERATIONS

The following risks have been identified in accordance with Council's adopted Risk Management Framework and Risk Matrix.

The scope of the Placemaking Committee is governed by Council Policy GTC-16 Special Committees and the Placemaking Committee Terms of Reference. Risk implications are therefore considered to be low.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no identified financial implications.

CONSULTATION

The George Town Placemaking Committee met on the 6th June 2022 and discussed applications to fill the vacated member position. The Committee:

recommended Jill Holland and Matthew Whittaker as members of the Placemaking Advisory Committee. One as a replacement for the vacant positions left by Phill Hinds in November 2021 and the other vacant position that hasn't been filled. To be endorsed at the June Ordinary Council meeting.

OPTIONS

That Council:

1. Accepts the Placemaking Committee recommendation to invite and appoint Jill Holland and Matthew Whittaker as members of the Committee; or
2. Does not accept the recommendation of the Placemaking Committee to invite and appoint Jill Holland and Matthew Whittaker as members of the Committee.

OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Chair of the Placemaking Committee meeting provided the following advice to the Council Officer for submission to the Ordinary Council meeting.

The Placemaking committee met today, 6th June 2022 to interview and discuss applications to fill the member positions vacant.

Three applications were received, and only two applicants responded to attend an interview. The committee was interested in the diverse contributions and experiences that both applicants can bring and contribute to the Placemaking Committee.

An interview with the applicants it was organised at the Placemaking Committee meeting on the 6th of June 2022 where the applicants, the members and the Chair were discussing their background, experience and reasons of interest in becoming members of the Placemaking Committee and the possible contributions based on their experiences and interests to the committee.

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This process has resulted in the recommendation to nominate Jill Holland from Low Head and Matthew Whittaker from George Town to the committee.

Jill has many years' experience as Technical Teacher and as an Accountant, Office Manager and other administrative jobs. In 2013 she and her husband decided to move from Cairns to Low Head permanently to enjoy their retirement. She enjoyed her youth spending Christmas in the Low Head area. These days, she enjoys her retirement as a volunteer as Public Officer and Treasurer for the George Town Neighbourhood House and the Low Head Pilot Station and she is Secretary and Treasurer of the Friends of Low Head Penguin Colony.

Matthew has many years' experience in Engineering in New South Wales, Bell Bay and Youngtown in Tasmania. In 2019 established the Zenith Distiller in George Town as owner and Head distiller and decided to run the business full time in November 2021. He has a strong interest in strategic development, tourism and economic development of the region. He was a volunteer at the Beaconsfield Mine and Heritage Centre.

The committee members welcome Jill and Matthew to our team and look forward to working with them.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Accepts the Placemaking Committee recommendation to invite and appoint Jill Holland and Matthew Whittaker as members of the Committee.

DECISION

Moved:

Seconded:

VOTING

For:

Against:

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16.2 GEORGE TOWN PLACEMAKING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES - 2ND MAY 2022

REPORT AUTHOR:	Community Officer Culture, Arts and Experiences – Ms T. Demesa Meraz
REPORT DATE:	22nd June 2022
FILE NO:	14.7
ATTACHMENTS:	1. Placemaking Minutes 2-5-22 - Confirmed [16.2.1 - 3 pages]

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to provide information to Council on the confirmed Minutes and any recommendations from the George Town Placemaking Committee for consideration.

BACKGROUND

The Placemaking Committee met on the 6th of June 2022 and accepted the Minutes as a true and accurate record of the meeting held on the 2nd of May 2022.

STRATEGIC PLAN

This action relates to the following components of the Community Strategic Plan 2020-2030:

Future Direction One - Community Pride

1. All are valued and included
 - i. Taking a ‘whole of community’ approach to everything.

Future Direction One - Community Pride

2. All communities take pride in their place
 - ii. Maintaining public spaces so they are clean, tidy and appealing.
 - iii. Developing well-designed public spaces which are attractive, safe and support the area’s identity and reputation.

Future Direction One - Community Pride

3. A strong, recognisable, positive reputation
 - iii. Promoting the area as the place to live, work, play and invest.

STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS & RELATED COUNCIL DOCUMENTS

Local Government Act 1993 and Council Policy GTC-16 Special Committees.

George Town Placemaking Committee Terms of Reference.

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RISK CONSIDERATIONS

The following risks have been identified in accordance with Council's adopted Risk Management Framework and Risk Matrix.

The scope of the George Town Placemaking Committee is governed by Council Policy GTC-16 Special Committees and the George Town Placemaking Committee Terms of Reference. Risk implications are therefore considered to be low.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no identified financial implications.

CONSULTATION

The Minutes were discussed at the George Town Placemaking Committee meeting held on 6th June 2022.

OPTIONS

That Council:

1. Notes the Minutes of the Placemaking Committee held on the 2nd of May 2022; or
2. Does not accept the Minutes of the Placemaking Committee held on the 2nd of May 2022.

OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Placemaking Committee is established as a Special Committee of Council in accordance with Section 24 of the Local Government Act 1993.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Notes the Minutes of the Placemaking Committee meeting held on the 2nd of May 2022 as an accurate record of that meeting.

DECISION

Moved:

Seconded:

VOTING

For:

Against:

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16.3 GEORGE TOWN COMMUNITY SAFETY GROUP COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES - 3RD MAY 2022

REPORT AUTHOR:	Executive Support and Governance Officer – Louise Dickenson
REPORT DATE:	22nd June 2022
FILE NO:	22.24
ATTACHMENTS:	1. 2022 05 03 George Town Safety Group Confirmed Minutes [16.3.1 - 6 pages]

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to provide information to Council on the confirmed Minutes and any recommendations from the George Town Community Safety Group Committee for consideration.

BACKGROUND

The George Town Community Safety Group Committee met on the 7th of June 2022 and accepted the Minutes as a true and accurate record of the meeting held on the 3rd of May 2022.

STRATEGIC PLAN

This action relates to the following components of the Community Strategic Plan 2020-2030:

Future Direction One - Community Pride

4. Safe and secure communities
 - i. Focusing on prevention.

STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS & RELATED COUNCIL DOCUMENTS

Local Government Act 1993 and Council Policy GTC-16 Special Committees.

George Town Community Safety Group Committee Terms of Reference.

RISK CONSIDERATIONS

The following risks have been identified in accordance with Council's adopted Risk Management Framework and Risk Matrix.

The scope of the George Town Safety Group Committee is governed by Council Policy GTC-16 Special Committees and the George Town Community Safety Group Committee Terms of Reference. Risk implications are therefore considered to be low.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no identified financial implications.

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CONSULTATION

The Minutes were discussed at the 7th of June 2022 Committee meeting.

OPTIONS

That Council:

1. Notes the Minutes of the George Town Safety Group Committee held on the 3rd of May 2022; or
2. Does not accept the Minutes of the George Town Safety Group Committee held on the 3rd of May 2022.

OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The George Town Safety Group Committee is established as a Special Committee of Council in accordance with Section 24 of the Local Government Act 1993.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Notes the Minutes of the George Town Safety Group Committee meeting held on the 3rd of May 2022 as an accurate record of that meeting.

DECISION

Moved:

Seconded:

VOTING

For:

Against:

17 CLOSED MEETING

17.1 INTO CLOSED MEETING

That Council move into closed meeting at ...pm to discuss the following items:

Agenda Item 17.2 Minutes of the Closed Ordinary Council Meeting held on 24th May 2022

As per the provisions of Regulation 34(6) of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015.

DECISION

Moved:

Seconded:

VOTING

For:

Against:

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17.3 OUT OF CLOSED MEETING

In accordance with the requirements of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015, Regulation 15(8), while in a closed meeting the Council is to consider whether any discussions, decisions, reports or documents relating to that closed meeting are to be kept confidential or released to the public, taking into account privacy and confidentiality issues.

DECISION

Moved:

Seconded:

That:

1. Council moves out of Closed Meeting at ...pm and endorses those decisions taken while in Closed Meeting and the information remains Confidential.

VOTING

For:

Against:

18 CLOSURE

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

**Cr Tim Harris
ACTING MAYOR**