



GEORGE TOWN COUNCIL AGENDA

Notice is hereby given
that the next Ordinary Council Meeting
will be held on
Tuesday 28 November 2023

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

commencing at **1:00 pm.**

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

The public are requested to pre-register if attending this meeting of Council.

Shane Power
GENERAL MANAGER

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Meeting Commencing at 1:00 pm

Acknowledgement of Country

George Town Council acknowledges the palawa people from the litarimirina tribe from Port Dalrymple as the traditional custodians of the land.

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

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

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 GTC 1, members of the public are not permitted to make audio recordings of Council meetings.

The community are requested to 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.

1 PRESENT

1.1 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

1.2 IN ATTENDANCE

2 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

2.1 ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD 24 OCTOBER 2023

RECOMMENDATION

That the Minutes of Council's Ordinary Meeting held on 24 October 2023 numbered 172/23 to 185/23 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 GTC13.

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

Council requests that members of the public pre-register to attend meetings of Council.

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4.2 PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Nil.

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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.")

Mrs D. Rainbow

Question 1

What proviso or regulation exists that protects residents, homeowners in residential areas for indiscriminate burning of waste such as trees, under growth over a number of days that produces a prolific amount of smoke?

Response

Burning off in residential areas sometimes referred to as 'backyard burning' is subject to various legislation and is regulated through a number of authorities including the EPA, TFS and local councils.

In Tasmania, the main rules for backyard burning are in Part 4 of the [Environmental Management and Pollution Control \(Smoke\) Regulations 2019](#) (Smoke Regulations). These rules apply across the whole State.

In addition, section 53 of the [Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994](#) (EMPCA) has a general requirement that a person should not cause an 'environmental nuisance'. This includes smoke emissions.

Some councils have bylaws that restrict backyard burning. George Town Council has no such bylaw, however, is empowered under section 53 of the EMPCA to address excessive smoke emissions where backyard burning is compliant with the Regulations.

Councils are also empowered under the Fire Services Act 1979 to appoint Fire Permit Officers who can issue, and revoke permits to light fires. Council does not have an appointed Fire Permit Officer, however, defers requests for permits to the TFS.

Infringements were issued by the Council to the property owner, relating to excessive smoke emissions from a burn off that took place at 40-46 Friend Street.

Mrs L. Wootton

Question 1

Now that all three metal sculptures are in place, could I ask what was the total cost of these, including the installation, please?

Response

The cost of the three metal sculptures that were commissioned by Council as part of the Place Making Committee initiative was \$53,112 (exclusive of installation costs).

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Question 2

Who is responsible for seeing that the Gallery is put back to rights after a community exhibition is finished, so that locals can have some pride in their civic building and our visitors get a favourable impression of this community?

Can I expect to see some attention to this detail soon, please?

Response:

Officers will endeavour to ensure that permanent exhibit items are returned to display at the Jim Mooney Gallery as soon as practical following temporary exhibitions.

Mr G. Neilsen

Question 1

At the September meeting I asked questions relating to the ex RSL development and in particular had there been consultation with local rate-paying licensed outlets and coffee shops. I was further concerned at the reporting of the haste to purchase in May 2020. I also asked for timelines of Council approval to purchase and the Contract signing dates - these have been provided in today's agenda but raise two important issues.

My question is: How in the name of proper governance under the leadership of Mayor Kieser and General Manager Shane Power could Council make a decision after being presented with a Confidential Late report - Strategic Asset Acquisition to be able to read, be briefed, assess, review, question and vote to commit to a property purchase of over \$1M and then much more to re-develop in less than 30 minutes?

This is detailed in the Minutes of May 2020 confirms the matter was not workshopped and I remind four Councillors you were not part of that decision.

The General Manager has confirmed there had been no consultation with local providers but there had been (quote) "Consultation was done with social enterprises in Tasmania, mainland and including the UK. Incredible isn't it - where is the 'local' component in this nonsense.

The General Manager further commented on observations and comments on the operating hours of local facilities.

This raises to me two aspects namely why local providers weren't consulted and what is Social Enterprise. Google will tell the latter but it is hard to reconcile with the ex RSL development.

In regard to consultation with local providers I note again from the May 2020 Minutes that both the Mayor and General Manager visited local businesses re COVID support just seven (7) days before elected members were asked to make a hasty and enormous financial commitment to purchase the ex RSL. This was the perfect opportunity to ask especially the food and beverage outlets if they had the capacity to cater for any expansion of visitor numbers. Purchasing the ex RSL was the first step in initiating competition with established local businesses without a creditable or moral business case. Apparently, you failed these businesses and the community.

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Response

Council was satisfied it had sufficient information to make a decision.

Question 2

I refer to what I believe will be an impending proverbial 'train-wreck' re this Council's foolhardy and irresponsible pursuit of the re-development of the ex RSL which as you all know was a decision of a previous Council.

I ask:

In reference to the ex RSL building which of the following well researched statements are without truth?

1. Council purchased the building without a fully qualified valuation and professional building survey.
2. Council did not receive a business case for the purchase prior to the 20 May 2020 meeting.
3. Council has no confirmed Lessee.
4. Council is highly unlikely, considering capital and renovation costs, to receive a competitive commercial return on investment.
5. Unexpected building deficiencies have been discovered since purchase.
6. Many aspects pertaining to the linkage between the mountain bike initiative and maybe the original intent is lacking contemporary evaluation.
7. Mayor Kieser irresponsibly and without basis is on public record of stating quote "if the ex RSL is to be sold the profits will go back to you the ratepayers".
8. An updated business plan/case has not been processed and made available to elected members.
9. Local providers of food and beverage services have not been consulted yet face potential subsidised competition.
10. Council officers engaged in a bidding war during the purchase process that exposed failings. They may have been pressured into negotiations with a fear of missing out to a competitor but left high and dry when the competitor ceased negotiations.
11. Competitive Neutrality complaints are decided by a Government Agency not by a legal firm advising Council.
12. Both the administrative arm of Council and the elected representatives have a first duty to act in the best interests of the community.

Response

The question is deemed inappropriate being that is comprised of a series of statements (see s9.5 of GTC-13 Public Question Time policy) that are in some instances subjective, presumptive, and speculative in nature.

Question 3

Can the General Manager please advise what section of delegation gives the General Manager the authority to decide and convey Council's decision on public open space prior to becoming before Council for a decision?

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It is my contention that it should be the decision of elected members and for obvious practical reasons, that a subdivision of over 20 normal allotments it is the elected members who should receive advice and make a decision as this important part of their responsibility to decide the destiny of a developed environment to take a financial contribution or land donation. When a DA comes before Council with a recommendation currently only rubber stamping a previous decision made by the General Manager and convey sometimes months prior to the developer or their representative. If delegation has been assigned to the General Manager, elected members have literally handed over an important aspect of their role in deciding the physical wellbeing of their town to an unelected public servant.

Response

There are no discrete delegations associated with determining the issue of Public Open Space, nor are any required. Public Open Space is but one of the matters considered when assessing an application for sub-division. We note that an Open Space Contribution Policy is currently being drafted for Council's consideration.

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.



Shane Power
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

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

Nil.

8 OFFICE OF GENERAL MANAGER

8.1 COUNCIL WORKSHOPS - OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER 2023

REPORT AUTHOR: General Manager - Mr S. Power
REPORT DATE: 20 November 2023
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*.

DATE AND PURPOSE OF WORKSHOP HELD

TUESDAY 24 OCTOBER 2023

- Update of Planning and Building Applications
- Update on Capital Works
- Township Character Plans (External Presenters)
- Agenda Review
- Governance Issues
- Councillors/General Manager Discussions

Present: Mayor Cr Greg Kieser, Deputy Mayor Greg Dawson, Cr Winston Archer, Cr Heather Ashley, Cr Heather Barwick, Cr Tim Harris, Cr Simone Lowe, Cr Jason Orr

Apologies: Cr Winston Mason

In Attendance: General Manager
Director Corporate & Community
Director Infrastructure & Development
Town Planner
Team Leader Building and Planning
Senior Executive Support and Governance Officer

Guests: Consultants – Township Character Plans

TUESDAY 14 NOVEMBER 2023

- Unconfirmed Minutes 24 October 2023
- Closed Unconfirmed Minutes 24 October 2023
- Council Meeting Schedule

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- Quarterly Report
- Municipal Emergency Management Arrangements
- Aquatic Centre Environs Research and Steering Committee
- Governance Issues
 - Bell Bay Major Projects Conference
 - Citizenship Ceremonies
- Councillors/General Manager Discussions

Present: Acting Deputy Mayor Greg Dawson, Cr Winston Archer, Cr Heather Ashley, Cr Heather Barwick, Cr Tim Harris, Cr Simone Lowe, Cr Jason Orr

Apologies: Mayor Cr Greg Kieser
Cr Winston Mason

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

Guests: Consultant - Aquatic Centre Operations

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.

Future Direction Four - Leadership and Accountable Governance

6. Difficult issues are managed in an open manner without conflict
 - i. Building capacity in change management, understanding and responding to complexity.
 - ii. Fostering courage, kindness and determination in working through challenges and opportunities.
 - iii. Communicating well.

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STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS & RELATED COUNCIL DOCUMENTS

Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015.

RISK CONSIDERATIONS

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

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil.

DIVERSITY, EQUITABLE ACCESS AND INCLUSION CONSIDERATIONS

The Diversity, Equitable Access and Inclusion Policy aligns with the following goals and objectives 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.

CONSULTATION

Nil.

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

Nil.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Receives the report on the Council Workshops held on the 24 October 2023 and 14 November 2023.

DECISION

Moved:

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Seconded:

VOTING

For:

Against:

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8.2 COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE 2024

REPORT AUTHOR:	General Manager – Mr S. Power
REPORT DATE:	7 November 2023
FILE NO:	14.21
ATTACHMENTS:	Nil

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report to provide Council with proposed Ordinary Council, Workshop and Annual General meeting dates and times for 2024 for their consideration.

BACKGROUND

Council is required to adopt a schedule for the Ordinary Council meeting dates and times each year for the next 12 months. This schedule is required to be published in a daily newspaper.

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
 - i. Trusted, transparent and inclusive community engagement processes.
 - ii. Engaging over things that matter to the community.
 - iv. Understanding processes and participating in decision making.

STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS & RELATED COUNCIL DOCUMENTS

Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015 require:

Regulation 6 (Times of Meetings)

- (1) A meeting is not to start before **5.00pm** unless otherwise determined by the Council by absolute majority or by the Council Committee by simple majority.
- (2) After each ordinary election, a Council and a Council Committee are to review the times of commencement of meetings.

Regulation 7 (Notice of Meetings)

- (2) At least once in each year, the general manager is to publish in a daily newspaper, or in a prescribed newspaper, circulating in the relevant municipal area a notice containing –
 - (a) the times and places of the ordinary council meetings for the next 12 months; and

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- (b) the times and places, as known, of the council committee meetings for the next 12 months.

RISK CONSIDERATIONS

The risk associated with the proposed schedule of meetings is considered low. The proposed schedule reflects that of previous years, which has not attracted criticism from the public. The proposed schedule has been discussed at the workshop having consideration for availability of elected members and implications on organisational resources.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications based on the current model of dates and times for a support staff member; Council Officers and Management (including the General Manager) attending all Council meetings and Council workshops.

The financial implication for a support staff member attending the Annual General Meeting is considered minimal.

DIVERSITY, EQUITABLE ACCESS AND INCLUSION CONSIDERATIONS

The Diversity, Equitable Access and Inclusion Policy aligns with the following goals and objectives 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.

It is acknowledged that the proposed schedule may not accommodate all members of the public. Council's consultation and engagement efforts should ensure that the community remain informed of Council business and provide avenues for input in Council decision making.

CONSULTATION

The meeting schedule was presented to elected members at the 14 November 2023 Council workshop.

OPTIONS

Council may choose to:

1. Endorse the proposed Ordinary Council meeting schedule as presented; or
2. Propose another Ordinary Council meeting schedule for endorsement.

OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The following is provided to assist the Council in determining its 2024 Ordinary Council meeting dates and commencement times.

Due to logistics, acoustics/recording issues and costs it is proposed to the Council that Council meetings be held at the George Town Council Office (Council Chambers). If the Council

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chooses to hold an Ordinary Council meeting at another venue within the municipality, acoustics/recording of the meeting would need to be considered.

In accordance with the requirements of Section 72B(1) of the *Local Government Act 1993* a Council must hold an Annual General Meeting on a date that is not later than the 15 December in each year. It is suggested that the 2024 AGM be held on Thursday 14 November 2024.

The Australian Local Government Association Conference (including the National General Assembly) is attended by the Mayor and General Manager in Canberra each year, and usually coincides with a Parliamentary Sitting week which has been set from 24 June – 4 July 2023. The conference dates for 2024 have not been confirmed at the time of writing.

The Ordinary Council meeting is proposed to commence at 1.00 pm with the exception of the Annual General Meeting commencing at 6.00 pm

Note: A Council meeting is not to start before 5.00pm unless endorsed by Council by an absolute majority.

Proposed Council Workshop schedule for 2024

(including two budget workshops which can be extended to include a third budget workshop if required)

COUNCIL WORKSHOP	DATE	TIME
Workshop	Tuesday 23 January	9.00am
Workshop	Tuesday 13 February	9.00am
Workshop	Tuesday 27 February	9.00am
Workshop	Tuesday 12 March	9.00am
Workshop	Tuesday 26 March	9.00am
Workshop	Tuesday 9 April	9.00am
Budget Workshop	Tuesday 16 April	9.00am
Workshop	Tuesday 23 April	9.00am
Workshop	Tuesday 14 May	9.00am
Budget Workshop	Tuesday 21 May	9.00am
Workshop	Tuesday 28 May	9.00am
Workshop	Tuesday 11 June	9.00am
Workshop	Tuesday 25 June	9.00am
Workshop	Tuesday 9 July	9.00am
Workshop	Tuesday 23 July	9.00am
Workshop	Tuesday 13 August	9.00am
Workshop	Tuesday 27 August	9.00am
Workshop	Tuesday 10 September	9.00am
Workshop	Tuesday 24 September	9.00am
Workshop	Tuesday 8 October	9.00am
Workshop	Tuesday 22 October	9.00am
Workshop	Tuesday 12 November	9.00am
Workshop	Tuesday 26 November	9.00am
Workshop	Tuesday 10 December	9.00am
Workshop	Tuesday 17 December	9.00am

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Note that if Council chooses to have workshops occur after 5 pm then there would be a requirement of 3 workshops per month to achieve the same number of hours of presentations and workshop papers provided to the Council.

Workshops schedule are not required to be published in a daily newspaper.

George Town Council's Ordinary Council meeting scheduled for 2024 is proposed to commence at 1.00 pm on the following dates:

COUNCIL ORDINARY MEETING	TIME
Tuesday 23 January	1.00pm
Tuesday 27 February	1.00pm
Tuesday 26 March	1.00pm
Tuesday 23 April	1.00pm
Tuesday 28 May	1.00pm
Tuesday 25 June	1.00pm
Tuesday 23 July	1.00pm
Tuesday 27 August	1.00pm
Tuesday 24 September	1.00pm
Tuesday 22 October	1.00pm
Tuesday 26 November	1.00pm
Tuesday 17 December	1.00pm

George Town Council's Annual General Meeting for 2024 is proposed to be held on the following date and time:

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING	TIME
Thursday 14 November	6.00pm

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Council by absolute majority:

1. Endorse the following schedule for Ordinary Council meetings and Annual General Meeting to be held in 2024:

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COUNCIL ORDINARY MEETING	TIME
Tuesday 23 January	1.00pm
Tuesday 27 February	1.00pm
Tuesday 26 March	1.00pm
Tuesday 23 April	1.00pm
Tuesday 28 May	1.00pm
Tuesday 25 June	1.00pm
Tuesday 23 July	1.00pm
Tuesday 27 August	1.00pm
Tuesday 24 September	1.00pm
Tuesday 22 October	1.00pm
Tuesday 26 November	1.00pm
Tuesday 17 December	1.00pm

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING	TIME
Thursday 14 November	6.00pm

2. Publish this schedule in a daily newspaper as prescribed in Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015

DECISION

Moved:

Seconded:

VOTING

For:

Against:

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8.3 QUARTERLY REPORT - QUARTER 1 - 1 JULY - 30 SEPTEMBER 2023

REPORT AUTHOR:	General Manager – Mr S. Power
REPORT DATE:	20 November 2023
FILE NO:	14.21
ATTACHMENTS:	1. 2023 9_30 Quarterly Performanc Report [8.3.1 - 79 pages]

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to present the George Town Council 1st Quarterly Performance Report 1 July 2023 – 30 September 2023 to Council for consideration and adoption.

BACKGROUND

Council has a motion requiring the production of a quarterly report on the operations of the Council organisation. The quarterly report is produced in line with Council’s motion.

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 Four - Leadership and Accountable Governance

1. A culture of engagement and participation
 - i. Trusted, transparent and inclusive community engagement processes.
 - ii. Engaging over things that matter to the community.

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

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The following legislation is relevant to this report:

The Local Government Act 1993, Section .27 (c), the Mayor is to promote good governance by, and within, the Council.

RISK CONSIDERATIONS

The implementation of a quarterly report is designed to minimise risk to the organisation and increased transparency through providing an ongoing performance report on the Council's financial, strategic and customer service objectives, to the elected members and the community.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil.

DIVERSITY, EQUITABLE ACCESS AND INCLUSION CONSIDERATIONS

The Diversity, Equitable Access and Inclusion Policy aligns with the following goals and objectives 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.

CONSULTATION

The draft 1st Quarter Performance Report was presented on the 16 November 2023 Council Workshop.

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 1st quarter performance report is submitted for consideration by Council.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

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1. Receives the George Town Council 1st Quarter Performance Report 1st July – 30th September 2023.
2. Provides public access to the report as part of Council's commitment to ongoing good governance.

DECISION

Moved:

Seconded:

VOTING

For:

Against:

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8.4 MUNICIPAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

REPORT AUTHOR:	General Manager – Mr S. Power
REPORT DATE:	20 November 2023
FILE NO:	45.6
ATTACHMENTS:	1. Emergency Management Structure August 2022 [8.4.1 - 1 page]

SUMMARY

This report seeks Council to consider the appointment of the Council's Municipal Emergency Management Coordinator to be presented to the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management.

BACKGROUND

Recent change in personnel has required a review of its emergency management structure. This includes the appointment of a new Municipal Emergency Management Coordinator.

The position of Municipal Emergency Management Coordinator is nominated by councils and appointed by the relevant Minister under the Emergency Management Act 2006 (s23). Functions and powers of the positions are detailed in Section 24 of the same legislation.

The primary function of the Municipal Emergency Management Coordinator is to coordinate, advise on and assist council and the Regional Emergency Management Controller with emergency management matters relevant to the municipal area or combined municipal area.

Primary tasks include:

1. Coordinate council's response to emergency events in the municipal or combined area, in accordance with relevant plans including:
 - a) arranging access to council resources
 - b) advising council, the Regional Emergency Management Controller and/or SES Regional Manager regarding:
 - i) council's capacity for response and recovery
 - ii) the need or otherwise to sanction/withdraw emergency powers.
- 2 Act as the Executive Officer for the Municipal Emergency Management Committee.
- 3 Facilitate emergency risk management programs including the development, implementation and monitoring of appropriate risk treatment programs.
- 4 Advise the Municipal Committee on recommended approaches for comprehensive emergency management (PPRR), including membership of the committee, meeting council training needs and facilitating the delivery of community awareness programs.

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- 5 Develop, review and arrange the validation of relevant emergency management plans and/or arrangements for the municipal area/s in accordance with legislative requirements and the arrangements outlined in the relevant regional plan.
- 6 Liaise between council, State Emergency Service (SES) regional staff and the SES Unit Manager of the relevant SES Unit/s about developing and maintaining resource agreements, and the delivery of council responsibilities.
- 7 Represent council/the Municipal Committee at the Regional Committee, and as required at State forums, working cooperatively with the regional emergency management authorities; for example, Regional Community Recovery Coordinator, SES Regional Manager, Regional Emergency Management Controller.
- 8 Support other council emergency management officers, including the Deputy Coordinator and Municipal Community Recovery Coordinator/s.

There are many roles required to support effective emergency management through each stage of planning, response, relief and recovery. The attached structure aims to provide capacity for the organisation to meet its obligations under the Emergency Management Act 2006 having due consideration to available resources.

STRATEGIC PLAN

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

Future Direction One - Community Pride

6. Responsive emergency services
 - i. Having enough professional, para-professional and volunteer emergency services personnel and equipment.
 - ii. Maintaining equipment.
 - iii. Working together with all other agencies for prevention and if necessary co-ordinated responses.

STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS & RELATED COUNCIL DOCUMENTS

The Municipal Emergency Management Coordinator must have the authority and ability to make decisions relating to the coordination of emergency management in the municipal area during an emergency without first seeking the approval of the council (Emergency Management Act 2006 s23(8) and s24(1)(i)).

RISK CONSIDERATIONS

The George Town Municipal Emergency Management Plan prescribes prevention and mitigation measures according to the municipal risk profile. The appointment of a new Municipal Emergency Management Coordinator is required for Council to meet its statutory obligations and to place the organisation and municipality in a position to manage risks associated with emergencies.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

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Financial implications of the appointment of a Municipal Emergency Management Coordinator and Deputy Municipal Emergency Management Coordinator are limited to costs associated in relation to any training required and attendance at meetings and forums.

This report does not consider costs associated with prevention and mitigation measures or costs associated with emergency response, relief, and recovery.

DIVERSITY, EQUITABLE ACCESS AND INCLUSION CONSIDERATIONS

Given the nature of the roles, the appointment process for the Municipal Emergency Management Coordinator and Deputy Municipal Emergency Management Coordinator have not been subject to Council's Diversity, Equitable Access, and Inclusion Policy.

CONSULTATION

Consultation has been limited to the Council Workshop held on the 14 November 2023.

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 attached structure presents a sound model for emergency management for an organisation the size of George Town Council. The recommended appointment of the Director of Organisational Performance, Strategy and Engagement (DOPSE) has been based on the broad responsibilities associated with the role including risk management, governance, human resource management, regulatory services and communications. The DOPSE is well positioned to manage the strategic emergency management framework of Council while coordinating resources required for planning, response, relief and recovery for emergency events.

The recommendation is to appoint Mr Rick Dunn as Municipal Emergency Management Coordinator.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Nominate Mr Rick Dunn, Director Organisational Performance, Strategy and Engagement for the appointment of Municipal Emergency Management Coordinator for a four-year term; and
2. The nomination to be presented to the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management.

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DECISION

Moved:

Seconded:

VOTING

For:

Against:

9 INFRASTRUCTURE AND DEVELOPMENT

Nil.

10 CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY

Nil.

11 ORGANISATIONAL PERFORMANCE, STRATEGY & ENGAGEMENT

Nil

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12 MAYOR

12.1 MATTERS OF INVOLVEMENT - MAYOR

REPORT DATE: 21 November 2023

FILE NO: 14.11, 14.15

Mayor Cr Greg Kieser		
October	18	Attended Tamar NRM launch of Sustainable Living Festival
	19	Met with local resident
	19	Attended Seniors Concert
	21	MC for Hillwood Trivia Night
	24	Chaired Council Workshop
	24	Chaired Ordinary Council Meeting
	25	Attended George Town Neighbourhood House AGM
	25	Met with local resident
	25	Interview with Tamar FM
	26	Attended George Town Chamber of Commerce Business Excellence Awards
	27	Attended Tasmanian-Flemish Trade Mission
	31	Met with local business developer
November	1	Attended LGAT General Meeting
	1-2	Attended LGAT Annual Conference
	3	Attended Bass and Flinders Museum Celebration of Norfolk Sloop
	7	Attended SunCable Presentation
	7	Attended Seagulls to Chips – Youth Graduation
	14	Chaired Council Workshop
Acting Mayor (15 November – 28 November) / Deputy Mayor Cr Greg Dawson		
October	18	Attended Launch of Sustainable Living Festival
November	1	Attended LGAT General Meeting
	1	Attended LGAT Conference
	7	Attended SunCable Presentation
	14	Met with Consultant re Social and Economic Impact Assessment of local large industry
	15	Met with resident re dust issue
	16	Chaired George Town Council's AGM
	21	Attended SunCable presentation
Cr Jason Orr		
October	18	Attended Tamar NRM Sustainable Living Launch
	19	Attended George Town Seniors Concert
	25	Attended TEER 2023 kanamaluka Forum/Tamar Forum
November	1	Attended LGAT General Meeting

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	1-2	Attended LGAT Conference
	3	Attended Bass and Flinders 25 Years Celebration of Norfolk Sloop Launch
	4	Attended Weymouth Progress Association Meeting
	7	Attended SunCable Presentation
	13	Attended 2024 National Road Safety Week Presentation
Oct- Nov		Tamar NRM Catch it in the Catchment – Hillwood, Low Head and George Town *

* Catch it in the Catchment - George Town Council supports this event through our partnership and funding of Tamar NRM. Many groups including Hillwood Progress Association, East Tamar Landcare Group, Friends of Low Head Penguin Colony, Soroptimist International of George Town, The George Town Youth Council, Seagull to Chips, Future Impact Group, Tasmanian Divers, and Seadragons Dive Groups were involved.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That the information report from the Mayor, Acting Mayor/Deputy Mayor and Councillor/s 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

15.1 VARIOUS QUESTIONS - CR BARWICK

- Q1. What is the reason after 16 or more years of use by local groups, Council are suddenly telling them they cannot have an official opening or a fundraising event when they use the Jim Mooney Gallery?

Response

The event application received for exhibiting in the Jim Mooney Gallery was limited to exhibition only and did not include an event launch which may be subject to an application to consume alcohol if so desired. Whilst the applicant did request to sell works on exhibition, the group indicated that they did not want to rely on their own insurance which is required for the sale of goods. Officers worked with the group moving forward to try and accommodate future exhibitions to meet their expectations.

- Q2. Who authorised the Super Room to be locked up and access to the Hot Water heater be denied to the 70 stallholders of the George Town Market. They have had access to hot water for 15 years. Comment from users told me Council staff said "let them go and buy a coffee" i.e. the market stall holders purchase their own tea, coffee and milk. All they want is access to the water heater.

Response

The Tamar FM market has booked the Graham Fairless Centre and has a fee remission for this booking. The supper room is a separate room which the market hasn't booked for their dates. As the supper room isn't booked by the markets, it is available for the public to book. Council had a booking for a birthday party on the same day/time, and hence the supper room would have been locked for their booking. Council can provide the market with an urn for future market days.

- Q3. Can I please have a complete breakdown of the Events program for the 2023/204 budget and what monies is allocated to what? Monies are being spent and I cannot remember when any items came to the table for approval.

Response

The events budget was approved by Council at the June Ordinary Council meeting for 2023/2024 financial year. The individual events within this budget were not finalised as at 30 June 2023. Council will be provided with an Events Strategy at a future meeting.

Council is currently implementing its corporate system with transactional reporting limited at this point in time. A breakdown of expenditure on events to date will be provided to elected members as soon as practical. Council is undertaking a review of the events strategy to inform future events in line with its budget.

- Q4. 2022/2023 budget the Anzac Building had a carried forward budget of \$1,002,964.00 which included a carry forward from the FIG. Can you tell me where the extra funding has come from to increase the figure to \$1,562,924.00?

Response

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The draft September quarterly report provided at the Council Workshop on the 14 November 2023 incorrectly detailed the estimated budget for the project. Officers has corrected this project budget to reflect Council decision at the Closed Session of Council on the 22nd August 2023. The budget is now \$1,491,468.00.

Q5. Work order 90036 Mt. George Semaphore site. When Council passed its budget in July 2023/2024 there was \$40,000 as Council input \$10,000 as external input (which was Crowns donation), giving a budget of \$50,000 to do work on the Semaphore and Flag Mast on Mt. George. How come there is no external funding noted in the budget and why is it not recorded that Minister Ferguson gave the Council a figure of around \$25,000 to complete the works up on Mt. George?

Response

The Council's budget has an allocation of \$40,000 and \$10,000 from the Department of Parks and Wildlife Service to the decommissioning of the infrastructure. Council has received a commitment from the Treasurer for an additional \$14,330 subject to Council having ownership of the Semaphore which will be subject to a future report of Council.

Q6. Work Order 90070 Design and Scope for future Capital Works \$135,000.00 being spent on? The comment says "in progress" completion June 2024.

Response

Work Order 90070 is used for the purpose of informing capital projects for future budget and can include and is not limited to labour, consulting costs associated with road safety assessments, design, quantity surveyors etc.

16 CLOSED MEETING

16.1 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 24 October 2023

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

Agenda Item 17.3 Reseal Program 2023/2024

As per the provisions of Regulation 15(2)(d) of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015.

REQUIRES ABSOLUTE MAJORITY OF COUNCIL

DECISION

Moved:

Seconded:

VOTING

For:

Against:

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17 CLOSURE

There being no further business, the meeting closed atpm.

**Cr Greg Dawson
ACTING MAYOR**