



GEORGE TOWN COUNCIL

2023 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

CONFIRMED MINUTES

Thursday 16th November 2023 @ 6.00pm
Council Chambers, 16-18 Anne Street
George Town

**George Town Council
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 16TH NOVEMBER 2023
CONFIRMED MINUTES**

NOTICE OF MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of Council will be held on Thursday 16th November 2023 in the Council Chambers, George Town commencing at 6.00 pm.

CERTIFICATION

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 65 of the Local Government Act 1993, I hereby certify that the advice, information and recommendations contained within this Agenda have been given by a person who has the qualifications and / or experience necessary to give such advice, information and recommendations or such advice was obtained and taken into account in providing the general advice contained within the Agenda.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'SP', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

**Shane Power
GENERAL MANAGER**

16th November, 2023

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Local Government Act 1993, Division 3 – Annual General Meeting

72B. Annual General Meeting

1. A council must hold an Annual General Meeting on a date that –
 - a. Is not later than 15 December in each year; and
 - b. Is not before 14 days after the date of the first publication of a notice under subsection (2).
2. A council must publish a notice in a daily newspaper circulating in the municipal area or other prescribed newspaper specifying the date, time and place of the Annual General Meeting.
3. If a quorum of the council is not present at an Annual General Meeting –
 - (a) the Annual General Meeting is to be reconvened and held within 14 days; and
 - (b) a notice is to be published in a daily newspaper circulating in the municipal area specifying the date, time and place of the Annual General Meeting.
4. Only electors in the municipal area are entitled to vote at an Annual General Meeting.
5. A motion at an Annual General Meeting is passed by a majority of votes taken by a show of hands or by any other means of ascertaining the vote the council determines.
6. A motion passed at an Annual General Meeting is to be considered at the next meeting of the council.
7. The general manager is to keep minutes of the Annual General Meeting.

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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 are 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 GTC-1 Audio Recording of Council Meetings Policy, members of the public are not permitted to make audio recordings of Council meetings.

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.

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1. ATTENDANCE

Acting Mayor Cr Greg Dawson, Chair
Cr Winston Archer
Cr Heather Barwick
Cr Tim Harris
Cr Simone Lowe
Cr Winston Mason
Cr Jason Orr

Mrs R. Orr

2. APOLOGIES

Mayor Cr Greg Kieser
Cr Heather Ashley

3. STAFF IN ATTENDANCE

General Manager – Mr S Power
Director Corporate & Community – Mrs C Hyde
Director Infrastructure & Development – Mr A McCarthy
Director Organisational Performance, Strategy & Engagement – Mr R Dunn
Senior Executive Support & Governance Officer – Ms L Dickenson

4. MEETING PROCEDURES

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Council serves much the same purpose as an Annual General Meeting of the public sector, where the Board of Directors (Elected Members) gives an account of their stewardship over the affairs of the municipality for the financial year in review.

Annual meetings also provide an opportunity for residents (the shareholders) to question Council's performance for the year in review.

The Annual General Meeting will be generally conducted in accordance with the procedures outlined below and the usual Council procedures for the conduct of its meetings.

- Attendees are asked to complete the Attendance Register.
- Only submissions, questions or motions relating to the Annual Report will be accepted in writing.
- A motion must be seconded and passed by a majority of votes taken by a show of hands.
- Only electors in the George Town municipal area are entitled to vote at an AGM.

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- A motion passed at the AGM will be considered at the next ordinary meeting of the Council.
- Minutes of the AGM will be kept by the General Manager to accurately record the content of the meeting, attendances and apologies, any matter discussed, any motions moved and any questions asked and the answers provided by (whom).
- Questions which cannot be answered will be taken on notice and responded to in writing.
- The Chairperson's ruling is to be final.

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5. MINUTES OF 2022 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

DECISION

Moved: Cr Harris
Seconded: Cr Mason

That the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on the 10th November 2022 of the George Town Council as provided to Councillors be received and confirmed as a true record of proceedings.

VOTING

For: Cr Dawson, Cr Harris, Cr Lowe, Cr Orr, Cr Mason, Mrs Orr

Against: Cr Barwick, Cr Archer

Abstained: Cr Barwick, Cr Archer

CARRIED 6/2

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6. MAYOR'S MESSAGE – 2022/2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Ya Palinga, welcome.

I am pleased to present the 2022/2023 George Town Council Annual Report. The report demonstrates another year of great achievement as Council advances its Community Strategic Plan 2020-2030, with a vision for all in our community to be Proud, Progressive, and Prosperous.

I am grateful for the continued support of the community having returned as Mayor following the local government elections held in October 2022. It is a role I cherish with much pride and passion, and one that I continue to find rewarding. In November, I had the pleasure of welcoming our new Council which saw the return of Cr Greg Dawson (as Deputy Mayor), Cr Tim Harris, Cr Winston Mason, and Cr Heather Barwick. I also had the pleasure of welcoming first term councillors in Cr Heather Ashley, Cr Winston Archer, Cr Simone Lowe and Cr Jason Orr. It is great to see new faces join the team and to welcome back Councillors serving successive terms. Including Cr Barwick who we congratulate on being recognised for her service to the community as Councillor for over 30 years.

Cr Barwick was inducted into the Tasmanian Honour Roll of Women 2023, awarded for her service to Community, Advocacy and Inclusion; Government and Public Services. Cr Barwick has also serviced the local community as Justice of the Peace for over 27 years.

The community enjoyed a number of great events throughout the year that were proudly supported by Council. Some of the events include the Rodeo, Tamar Valley Folk Festival, traditional Aboriginal dancing classes, Don Marios Classic Cars and Coffee and the ramped up Christmas Carnival. It is so pleasing to see so many people from local surrounds and further afar, participating in these events.

Close to my heart are the Citizenship Ceremonies. This year conducted on Australia Day and Harmony Day, we formally welcomed eight new citizens from a diverse range of backgrounds.

It was great to launch the much-anticipated Artisans Guild at the refurbished retail shop on Macquarie Street on Mother's Day this year. The launch was a resounding success, and the initiative is going from strength to strength with increasing membership and most excitingly, a vast and diverse array of artisan's wares and creative works both on exhibition and for sale. Made possible through State funding, the Guild not only showcases our local talent but is proving an attraction to locals and visitors alike, complementing our exciting offerings.

Through funding from the Tasmania Community Fund, the Our Futures Program led by the Future Impact Group, is attracting great participation numbers from our youth. The initiative now known as 'Seagulls to Chips' is providing a platform for aspiring young leaders to be engaged with high end guest speakers, delivering innovative mentoring, and developing life skills to 20 young people each year. The program through its 'Giant Ideas Lab' has resulted in the establishment of the Youth Impact Council. It was great to be invited to one of their meetings to learn of issues faced and debated by and on behalf of local youths. Shout out to Mayor Button who did an outstanding job in chairing the meeting. I think there may be a budding politician in the making. I look forward to their continued advocacy on behalf of the youth in our community.

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6. MAYOR'S MESSAGE – 2021/2022 ANNUAL REPORT (CONT.)

On the advocacy front, we thank the Tasmanian Government in providing \$2.5M towards the Aquatic, Health and Wellbeing Centre. This takes the funding total to \$17.5M (\$15M provided by the Federal Government). The community can expect to see concepts and designs being prepared for tender throughout 2023/2024 with construction commencing 2024/2025. This is one of the largest projects our community will have seen in some time and will have a lasting positive impact on the wellbeing of our municipality and region.

Not all advocacy on behalf of our community relates to funding and infrastructure or services and programs. Council has continued to participate in the Local Government reform process. Our discussions with residents indicated a strong desire to maintain local representation and identity. In this light, we welcomed the government's decision to not force amalgamations, regardless of the findings and recommendation of the Future of Local Government Board.

Once again, I commend our team of dedicated and capable staff on a year of high achievement in challenging circumstances. The ensuing report articulates Council's strong and growing financial position having returned another strong operating result of more than \$500k surplus. Performance measures have largely met or exceeded and our response to the October floods was exemplary.

On behalf of George Town Council, I hope you enjoy reading some of the highlights, events and performance results on another successful year for our council and our community.



**Greg Kieser
MAYOR**

7. GENERAL MANAGER'S MESSAGE

The 2022/2023 Annual Report presents another positive financial result for Council. With higher than budget revenue, the organisation achieved a surplus result of approximately \$540k. This represents the fifth consecutive surplus result further strengthening Council's financial position. This result along with successful advocacy, allows Council to invest in new infrastructure and programs for the community to enjoy.

Total revenue was close to \$20M with \$9.8M generated through rates. The favourable result is a combination of a growing rate base, recurrent and non-recurrent grants, increased return on investment and increases in fees and charges largely related to building and development activities.

Examples of new and improved community infrastructure included the opening of Regent Square following extensive redevelopment, renovation of the George Town football oval, final stages of the mountain bike trail network, restoration to heritage listed George Town cemetery fencing, extensive network of new and renewed paths, Bellingham toilet blocks, bait and fish cleaning stations, Weymouth breakwater and a number of roads safety improvements. Almost \$7M in capital expenditure was delivered over the financial period. This is particularly pleasing given the challenges the October severe weather event provided.

At that time, our team responded to a number of flood related incidents requiring various measures to be put in place to keep our community safe. The extent of the damage was realised when the waters receded. Many kilometres of roads were damaged and major structures were severely impacted including the loss of a section of Baxter's Bridge. In total, over \$6M in damage has been estimated to have been caused by the flood event.

On a more positive note, it was great to see a number of programs advancing throughout the year. The Artisan's Guild was launched, showcasing our local talents and providing a retail space to sell their creations. The Future Impact Group delivered their Digital Warriors program assisting community members with various levels of digital literacy to navigate the internet and better utilise digital technologies. The Launchpad was opened as part of the Memorial Hall complex, hosting a number of programs to assist in improved education and employment outcomes for our community.

The Healthy George Town Program continues to be a success with over 950 participants taking part in a vast array of activities. The program this year included aqua fitness and Pilates, beach yoga, mountain bike riding, kids cardio boxing, learn to fish, learn to surf and seniors aqua therapy among others. The program has also extended to the Hillwood and Weymouth areas.

Our tourism offerings continue to attract visitors from various origins. The Bass and Flinders Maritime Museum continues to be a hit not only for tourists but for students across the region keen to learn of our rich maritime history. The mountain bike trails continue to have high visitation and have received high commendation from seasoned riders from across the country. The Watch House and Jim Mooney Gallery exhibit artworks and collections all year round attracting much interest including the well patronised Aboriginal cultural display as part of NAIDOC Week.

With all of this going the soft adventure tourism campaign Wild Tamar was launched. Local accommodation operators confirming the campaign attracted skydivers, mountain bike shredders, wildlife enthusiasts and windsurfers to their businesses. I am very much looking forward to the opening of the rock climbing area in Hillwood next year, with climbs and crags well renowned in the adventurist fraternity.

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7. GENERAL MANAGER'S MESSAGE (CONT.)

A review of all section 24 committees occurred resulting in the de-establishment of the committees and with a commitment to introduce a municipal wide health and wellbeing committee in their place. The work of both committees must be commended. The George Town Community Safety Committee Group has operated for over 14 years with Cr Barwick at the helm including as Chair for 8 of those years. The committee delivered numerous improved safety outcomes for the community and was formally recognised for one of their initiatives at a road safety conference in Melbourne. While in existence for only four years, the Placemaking Committee also had a great impact throughout the municipality. The committee initiated the community painting comprising a trail of public amenities in local themes, established the George Town farmers market (handing over to the local RSL for later operation), installation of sculptures along the Tamar in George Town and Low Head among other great place making initiatives.

November saw the swearing in of the newly elected Council. I want to recognise the outstanding work of the previous Council and all it accomplished during the term. It was a great pleasure to have worked with you. I welcome the new Council comprising a number of familiar faces in Mayor Kieser, Deputy Mayor Dawson, Cr Harris, Cr Barwick and Cr Mason, and new to the elected body Cr Orr, Cr Archer, Cr Lowe and Cr Ashley. I am very much excited to be working with the new Council and am looking forward to continuing the advancement of our municipality through the delivery of Councils Vision and Community Strategic Plan.

I conclude by recognising the amazing work our staff do, day in and day out. It is such a privilege to be part of such a great team who are as passionate about our community as I am.



**Shane Power
GENERAL MANAGER**

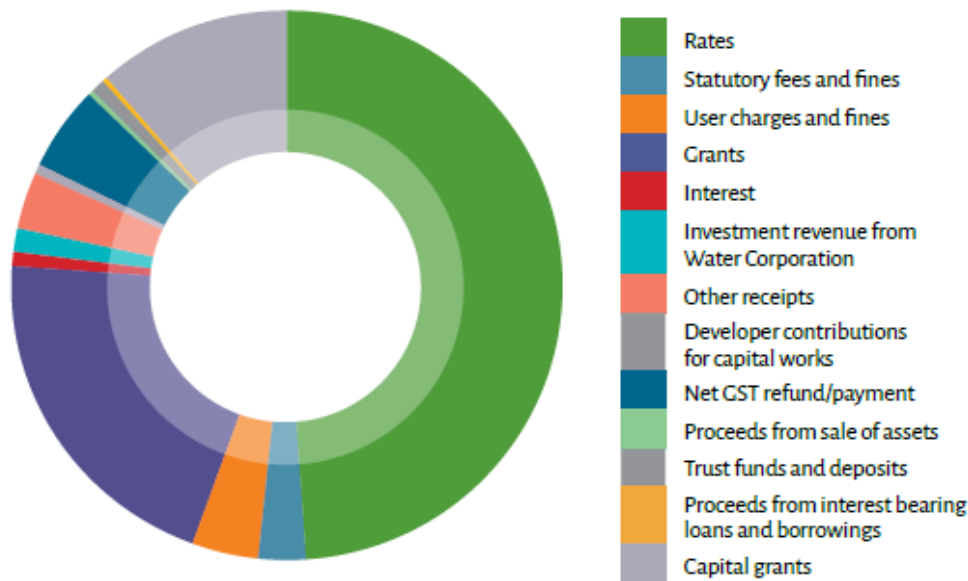
8. FINANCIAL REPORT – DIRECTOR CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2022/2023

Statement of Cash Flows

Sources of income

Cash Inflows

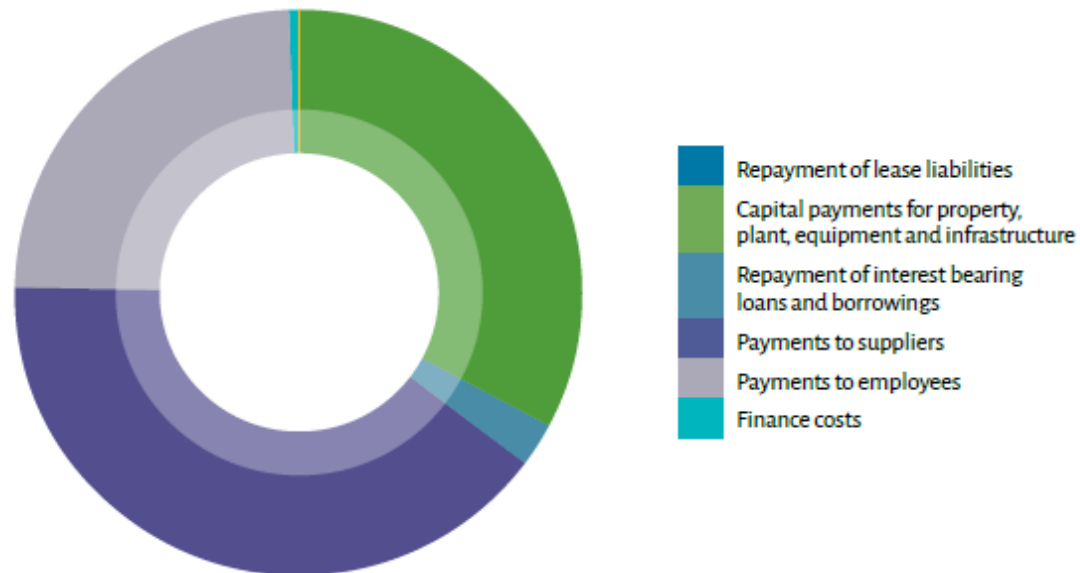


Cash Inflows	2022/2023 %	2022/2023 \$
Rates	49.01	\$ 9,808,882.00
Statutory fees and fines	2.81	\$ 561,496.00
User charges and fines	3.90	\$ 781,506.00
Grants	20.50	\$ 4,102,795.00
Interest	0.78	\$ 155,818.00
Investment revenue from Water Corporation	1.35	\$ 271,200.00
Other receipts	3.36	\$ 671,615.00
Developer contributions for capital works	0.69	\$ 138,419.00
Net GST refund/payment	5.20	\$ 1,040,942.00
Proceeds from sale of assets	0.31	\$ 61,232.00
Trust funds and deposits	0.53	\$ 106,936.00
Proceeds from interest bearing loans and borrowings	0.19	\$ 37,356.00
Capital grants	11.38	\$ 2,277,816.00
Total Cash Inflows	100.00	\$ 20,016,012.00

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8. FINANCIAL REPORT – DIRECTOR CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY (CONT.)

Cash Outflows



Cash Outflows	2022/2023 %	2022/2023 \$
Repayment of lease liabilities	0.22	\$ 45,561.00
Capital Payments for property, plant, equipment and infrastructure	32.74	\$ 6,848,394.00
Repayment of interest bearing loans and borrowings	2.57	\$ 537,240.00
Payments to suppliers	39.98	\$ 8,363,035.00
Payments to employees	24.06	\$ 5,033,703.00
Finance costs	0.44	\$ 91,596.00
Total Cash Outflows	100.00	\$ 20,919,529.00

9. SUBMISSIONS TO THE 2022/2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Mr and Mrs Neilsen

2022/3 George Town Council Annual Report Submission

We refer to the reporting in the Annual Report of one (1) complaint being received re Competitive Neutrality Complaints – page 56.

This submission assumes the above references a complaint made to Council dated 2 June 2023 re Council's proposed re-development of the ex RSL Building.

We refer to correspondence from the General Manager dated 26 June 2023 responding to the reported complaint.

In relation to the setting of a lease for the commercial aspects of the project the General Manager advises.

“Costings will be undertaken once expressions of interest are formally considered, so that Council can determine whether the proposal would be financially viable and should proceed.”

We make the following observations:

1. Council has committed to a project with a possible total investment of \$3 million without being transparent as to a committed tenant.
2. Council is not complying with key elements of its own Risk Management Framework thus putting Ratepayer Funds and State Government Sponsorship at risk.

Council has to this point of time been unable to advise a Business Plan for the Project for the benefit of elected members and thus the ratepayers. If this has not been undertaken it is a serious breach of Council's Risk Management Framework and Managerial Fiscal Responsibility.

Given that Council is now publically advertising the sponsorship from both the State Government and Jobs Tasmania for the project it is implausible that sponsorship/grant applications would not have required a business case/proposal before State funds were committed.

We call on Council to release this information to elected members and be made available (on request) under the provisions of The Office of the Tasmania Regulator (Competitive Neutrality).

Thank you

Sue & Graeme Neilsen
PO Box George Town 7253

14 November 2023

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Through the Chair the General Manager responded that the submission refers to one complaint received by Council in relation to competitive neutrality as reported on page 56 of the Annual Report.

I advise that upon receipt of the complaint, Council obtained legal advice and responded to the complainant accordingly, confirming the competitive neutrality principles have not been enlivened.

This remains to be the case at this point in time.

10. QUESTIONS TO THE 2022/2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Mr and Mrs Neilsen

Mr Neilsen and Mrs Neilsen asked the following questions.

1. Could Council please consider advising in future Annual Reports the **amount** of Individual Sponsorships, Council Hosted Events and Road, Civil and Capital works Projects as they do for Community Assistance Grants?

REASON: The community in the main supports and is interested in these activities and this request seeks to make for easy access to amounts and for general and transparent informative annual reporting.

Through the Acting Chair, the General Manager advised Council will consider the inclusion of the amount of Individual Sponsorships, Council Hosted Events as is done for Community Assistance Grants in future Annual Reports. Listing of some individual Road, Civil and Capital works projects may not be practical in all circumstances. Examples may include storm water pit replacement, painting and rekeying programmes.

2. The question refers to footpaths as opposed to pathways and long term financial asset management.

Page 31 reports 142 metres of replacement footpaths being constructed for the year. If we apply some considered estimates of the town's 60 km's of footpaths say at an average age of 30 to 40 years and say the estimated life expectancy of a well-constructed footpath being 60-70 years it is asked.

Is it acceptable that at the rate of footpath replacement spending it will require at the current rate over 200 years to complete?

REASON: Asset management should be measured with well advised engineered calculations and reality facts.

The reality is that we as a community have been lacking in a sustainable footpath replacement programs for many years whilst boasting surpluses attained by not spending on basic assets.

Through the Acting Chair, the General Manager advised that Council is in the process of reviewing its Asset Management Framework which may result in adjustments to asset renewal investment levels.

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3. Reference to Page 58 –Financial Statements 2022/2023 – Cash Inflows

Could Council please advise the breakdown of both 'Developer contributions for capital works' and 'Trust funds and deposits'?

Through the Acting Chair, the General Manager advised that reference to page 58 – Financial Statements 2022/2023 – Cash Inflows, the breakdown of the cash inflows for Developer contributions for capital works:

<i>Public Open Space Contributions</i>	<i>\$146,330</i>
<i>Roads Contributions (refunded)</i>	<i>-\$7,911</i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$138,419</i>

The breakdown of the cash inflows for Trust funds and deposits:

<i>Key/Facility Bonds</i>	<i>\$913</i>
<i>Retention/Security Deposits</i>	<i>\$106,023</i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$106,936</i>

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11. MOTIONS ON THE 2022/2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Nil

12. MEETING CLOSURE

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 6.27 pm.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of stylized initials 'GD' followed by a horizontal line, enclosed within an oval shape.

**Greg Dawson
Acting Mayor**