



# GEORGE TOWN COUNCIL AGENDA

Notice is hereby given  
that the next Ordinary Council Meeting  
will be held on  
**Tuesday 24 June 2025**

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 27 MAY 2025**

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Minutes of Council's Ordinary Meeting held on 27 May 2025 numbered 62/25 to 75/25 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 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

## **5 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

### **5.1 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.*

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



**5.2 PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Nil.

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**5.3 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

Commenced at:

Concluded at:

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## **5.4 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 L. Wootton**



18 June 2025

Mrs L. Wootton

Dear Mrs Wootton,

**Re: Public Question Time – 27 May 2025**

Thank you for your attendance at the 27 May 2025 Ordinary Council meeting where you raised the following questions. Please see below response to each of the questions in italics.

**Q1. Windmill Point Interpretative Signage Installation and Replacement**

How much longer will it be before visitors and locals can read about the significance of that historic site, and what the carvings are all about?

**Response**

*Interpretation signage has now been installed.*

**Q2. Mount George Signal Station and Semaphore**

- (a) Can Council please liaise with Parks & Wildlife to have the interpretation panel returned as soon as possible so that visitors know what they are looking at? And also
- (b) Is it possible to have the arms on the semaphore mast offset, as it was before, so that it gives a better idea of how these historic structures worked?

**Response**

*When the Semaphore was undergoing repair, it was found the chain pivot block had corroded so extensively that the entire seized unit required hot-dip treatment to restore its original appearance.*

*While this process preserved the block, it also locked it in a fixed position, rendering it incompatible with the chain.*

*To enable the signal arms to be offset would require manufacturing of new chain blocks at considerable cost.*

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*In the past, when the signal arms were offset, high wind has been an issue which has caused the signal arms to break away.*

*Council has contacted Parks and Wildlife and the interpretation sign has been returned to Council and will be re-installed at the site.*

Please don't hesitate to contact Council if you have further questions on the above advice.

Yours sincerely,



Shane Power  
GENERAL MANAGER

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## **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 or 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 WORKSHOP MAY AND JUNE 2025**

**REPORT AUTHOR:** General Manager - Mr S. Power  
**REPORT DATE:** 11 June 2025  
**FILE NO:** 14.10  
**ATTACHMENTS:** Nil

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#### **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 27 MAY 2025**

- Capital Works Update
- Agenda Review
  - DA 2024/108 - 381 Soldier Settlement Road, George Town – Utilities (Solar Farm)
  - DA 2025/17 - Lot 200 Pipe Clay Drive, George Town
  - Main Road Drainage
  - Low Head Open Space Plan
- Governance Issues
- Councillors/General Manager Discussions

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

**Apologies:** Cr Winston Archer

**In Attendance:** General Manager  
Director Infrastructure & Development  
Director Organisational Performance, Strategy & Engagement  
Director Corporate & Community  
Senior Executive Assistant & Governance Officer  
Team Leader Building & Planning  
Coordinator Engineering & Capital Works  
Senior Planner

##### **TUESDAY 10 JUNE 2025**

- Unconfirmed Minutes of the 27 May 2025 Ordinary Council Meeting

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- Unconfirmed Minutes of the 27 May 2025 Closed Ordinary Council Meeting
- Sponsorship Request – George Town Neighbourhood House
- Delegation Register
- Delegations Register – Development Department
- George Town Open Space
- Anzac Drive Lease
- RAP - Resubmitted
- Governance
- Councillors/General Manager Discussions

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

**Apologies:** Cr Heather Ashley  
Director Organisational Performance & Strategy

**In Attendance:** General Manager  
Director Corporate & Community  
Director Infrastructure & Development  
Senior Executive Assistant & Governance Officer  
Senior Planner  
Team Leader – Building & Planning

**Guests:** Nil.

## **STRATEGIC PLAN**

This action relates to the following components of the Community Strategic Plan 2024-2030:

### **Future Direction Four- Leadership and Accountable Governance**

#### **33. Fair and open planning regulatory processes**

- i. There is community knowledge and understanding of planning and regulatory responsibilities and processes

## **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**



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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 27 May 2025 and 10 June 2025.

**DECISION**

Moved:

Seconded:

**VOTING**

For:

Against:

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**8.2 RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN WORKING GROUP**

<b>REPORT AUTHOR:</b>	General Manager - Mr S. Power
<b>REPORT DATE:</b>	10 June 2025
<b>FILE NO:</b>	23.1
<b>ATTACHMENTS:</b>	1. final-george-town-council-reconciliation-action-plan [8.2.1 - 28 pages]

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**SUMMARY**

The purpose of this report is to provide Council will an update on the Reconciliation Action Plan Working Group and to an alternative model for local Aboriginal advancement.

**BACKGROUND**

The municipal area of George Town is home to a population of 7,378 (ABS, ERP 2024) of which approximately 5.2% identify as Aboriginal or of Torres Strait Islander origin.

Council at its meeting 22 November 2022 endorsed the Reconciliation Action Plan – Reflect (attached). Subsequently a working group was established to assist in the delivery of the actions within the plan.

The working group has the following members:

- Mayor Greg Kieser
- Deputy Mayor Greg Dawson
- General Manager, Shane Power
- Coporate and Community Services Director, Cheryl Hyde
- Aboriginal community Development Officer, Sussan Mansell
- Arts and Culture Officer, Emily-Rose Wills
- Lou Clarke, Bell Bay Aluminum
- Peter Parkes, Libraries Tas

Council also provides administrative support to the group.

The group was previously supported by Reconciliation Tasmania, however the membership elected not to renew its relationship with Reconciliation Tasmania. The membership has also reduced in numbers over time.

While many actions have been achieved and others much advanced, it has become apparent that the current governance arrangements are not appropriate.

An alternative model needs to be considered to deliver genuine advancement for the Goerge Town Aboriginal community. The group has considered a pathway forward that includes a majority membership comprising a majority of individuals who identify as being of Aboriginal descent with a governance structure that is co-designed by local Aboriginal representatives and council.

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Similar to the Future Impact Group arrangements, it is proposed that a new advisory group be created and that the existing working group be dissolved. It is proposed that the group be supported by one officer of council and that the group design and submit an annual work plan to council for endorsement and funding.

The current funding arrangement is \$20k per annum. It is not envisaged that this allocation will be increased at this point in time.

It is also proposed for the Launchpad office to be utilised for the purpose of the group meeting.

The group will also be required to present and report back to council its achievements and progress against the annual plan.

## **STRATEGIC PLAN**

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

### **Future Direction One - Progressive well-resourced communities**

1. Social infrastructure and services match growth and community needs
  - i. Community services and social infrastructure match the aspirations and needs of growing communities

### **Future Direction One - Progressive well-resourced communities**

3. Local access to services and support
  - i. Local needs to service gaps are understood and filled

### **Future Direction Three - Community Pride**

22. Everyone in our community is valued and included
  - i. Reconciliation is successfully planned, guided and resourced

## **STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS & RELATED COUNCIL DOCUMENTS**

George Town Council Reconciliation Action Plan

## **RISK CONSIDERATIONS**

Continuing to operate the Reconciliation Action Plan working Group under its current governance arrangements risks genuine advancement of local Aboriginal community members. A co-designed governance structure that comprises a majority of Aboriginal membership will provide an appropriate structure for self-determination.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

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It is proposed that the \$20k annual allocation for reconciliation remain on the budget, however group is to provide an annual plan for endorsement prior to funding being released. It should be noted that Bell Bay Aluminum has been a financial supporter of initiatives relating to the celebration and advancement of Aboriginal culture locally.

### **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.

A co-designed governance structure focused on self-determination for Aboriginal advancement appears to be an appropriate model to improve inclusivity.

### **CONSULTATION**

Consultation has been limited to discussions with the Reconciliation Action Plan Working Group and councillors.

The method for recruiting members to the new structure will be a matter determined by the group.

### **OPTIONS**

For discussion.

### **OFFICER'S COMMENTS**

It has been challenging to expand the membership of the committee to have greater representation from the local Aboriginal community. There is some belief that the formal settings and operation of the Reconciliation Action Plan Working Group conflicted with the way in which Aboriginal representatives choose to operate leading to a reluctance to participate in the group.

Should council wish to progress its strategic direction to ensure reconciliation is successfully planned, guided and resourced, a new governance model is suggested. It is the view of the author as supported by the Reconciliation Action Plan Working Group, that a new governance structure be co-designed with the local Aboriginal community lead by council's Aboriginal Development Officer with support from council's Community and Corporate Services Directorate.

### **OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION**

That Council:

1. Receives the report and acknowledges the accomplishments of the Reconciliation Action Plan Working Group;
2. Dissolves the Reconciliation Action Plan Working Group; and

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3. Supports the establishment of a local First Nations advisory group.

**DECISION**

Moved:

Seconded:

**VOTING**

For:

Against:

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### **8.3 DELEGATIONS REGISTER REVIEW**

<b>REPORT AUTHOR:</b>	General Manager - Mr S. Power Director Infrastructure & Development - Mr A. McCarthy
<b>REPORT DATE:</b>	13 June 2025
<b>FILE NO:</b>	14.2
<b>ATTACHMENTS:</b>	1. Delegations Register - June 2025 v 2 [8.3.1 - 63 pages]

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### **SUMMARY**

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with:

- LGAT's Delegation Register recommendations for Council review and discussion; and
- An overview of the current status of delegations within the Development Department, including recommended updates to ensure lawful, efficient, and consistent decision-making.

Together, these inform the Council on aligning its delegation framework with legislative obligations, current practices, and statutory timeframes.

### **BACKGROUND**

To ensure lawful, efficient, and consistent decision-making, it is important that the Council regularly reviews its delegations. The Council last reviewed its Delegation Register on the 23 April 2024 Ordinary Council Meeting Minute No. 51/24.

- **LGAT Template Register:** LGAT maintains a template document to help councils track delegations under various legislation. It is not exhaustive of all legislative requirements but focuses on specific authorisations or obligations that the Council may delegate to officers.
- **Development Department Review:** The Development Department reviewed current delegations relating to building, planning, and associated statutory functions. Many delegations are either inadequate, misunderstood, or outdated, risking invalid decisions or failure to meet statutory deadlines. In many instances there are statutory timeframes in which actions must occur. The monthly intervals between Council meetings are not conducive to meeting these statutory deadlines, necessitating broadly granted delegations for timely outcomes.
- **Need for Regular Updates:** The legislative environment evolves continuously. Without regular reviews, delegations can become misaligned with obligations, leading to legal or operational risks.

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Delegation empowers officers to act on Council's behalf within defined parameters, while Council retains discretion to 'call in' decisions if desired provided such a 'call in' is within statutory constraints.

This report does, however, consider the updated delegation as provided by LGAT which has previously been distributed to elected members.

### **STRATEGIC PLAN**

This action relates to the following components of the Community Strategic Plan 2024-2030:

#### **Future Direction Four- Leadership and Accountable Governance**

##### **33. Fair and open planning regulatory processes**

- i. There is community knowledge and understanding of planning and regulatory responsibilities and processes

### **STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS & RELATED COUNCIL DOCUMENTS**

- Delegation Register April 2024
- LGAT Delegation Register
- **Relevant Legislation:**
  - Biosecurity Act 2019
  - Burial and Cremation Act 2019
  - Building Act 2016
  - Building Regulations 2016
  - Child & Youth Safe Organisations Act 2023
  - Dog Control Act 2000
  - Electrical Industry Supply Act 1995
  - Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994
  - Gas Industry Act 2019
  - Heavy Vehicle National Law (Tasmania) Act 2013 and Heavy Vehicle National Law (Queensland)
  - Historic Cultural Heritage Act 1995
  - Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993
  - Land Use Planning and Approvals Regulations 2024
  - Litter Act 2007
  - Local Government Act 1993
  - Local Government (Building & Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1993
  - Rail Infrastructure Act 2007
  - Strata Titles Act 1998
  - Traffic Act 1925 (Tas)
  - Urban Drainage Act 2013
  - Water and Sewerage Industry Act 2008
  - Water Management Act 1999

## **RISK CONSIDERATIONS**

- Without proper delegation, actions by officers may lack legal backing.
- Delays risk penalties, appeals, or inability to enforce conditions.
- Infrequent Council meetings can impede timely decisions (e.g., permit determinations, enforcement actions).

Currently, “Nil” risk is noted for certain administrative delegations, but overall there is underlying risk if the delegation framework is not updated.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are penalties associated with failure to make decisions in accordance with statutory timeframes. Invalid or delayed decisions contribute to a failure to meet statutory timeframes.

Proper delegations reduce the need for extra Council meetings or external legal advice for routine matters.

Overall, no direct additional budget is required; rather, updated delegations mitigate potential financial risks.

## **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.

Delegations themselves do not directly affect inclusion but ensuring timely, transparent processes support equitable access to Council services.

## **CONSULTATION**

Consultation occurred at a Council workshop to discuss delegation issues and proposed changes.

No public consultation is specifically required for Delegation Register changes, though key stakeholders (e.g. relevant Council Officers) have been engaged to identify current practices and gaps.

## **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**

Both LGAT's review and that of the Development Department highlight that existing delegations are outdated or unclear, especially for planning and building functions.

Many statutory functions (e.g., permit determinations, referrals to regulated entities, enforcement actions) have strict timeframes incompatible with monthly Council meetings. Delegation to officers (General Manager, Director Infrastructure & Development, Town Planner, Team Leader Planning & Building Services, etc.) is essential to meet obligations.

Delegation empowers officers within defined parameters; Council retains ultimate discretion to reserve or call in matters for decision.

LGAT recommends delegation of routine statutory tasks (e.g., requesting additional information, notifications, minor amendments) and removal of redundant or repealed delegation items. The Development Department's review builds on LGAT advice with specific recommendations tailored to local practice.

For certain strategic or higher-risk delegations (e.g., complex discretionary permit thresholds, community development schemes), pre-briefing Councilors via workshops ensures oversight before delegations are exercised.

As legislation evolves, the delegation framework must be maintained through periodic reviews and updates. The reviewed Delegation Register will be submitted to Council's Audit Panel.

The attached updated draft Delegation Register contains highlighted sections of the Act:

- Yellow Highlighted sections – new or revised clauses; and
- Grey Highlighted sections – to be deleted.

## **PROPOSED CHANGE TO CURRENT PRACTICE**

### **Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993**

#### **S. 57 (6) Application for discretionary permits**

*Power to approve with or without conditions applications for discretionary permits where no representations have been received against the application.*

It is recommended Council expand this delegation in line with practices adopted by other councils to improve efficiency.

Currently, this delegation only applies when no representations are received. However, regulated entities such as TasWater (via SPAN), gas pipeline operators, Department of State Growth, and TasRail often make submissions that are technical in nature or simply indicate no objection, yet these still trigger as a representation under the act. Expanding delegations to exclude such non-contentious or technical submissions from triggering a Council-level decision could significantly reduce unnecessary officer and elected member workload.

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Council should also consider representations on their planning merits to determine if elevating a application to a Council meeting is warranted to prevent minor neighbourhood disputes or frivolous objections, or matters unrelated to the proposal, from consuming time and resources for little-to-no public benefit. This would ensure that Council's focus remains on matters of broader community and strategic significance, while streamlining the assessment of low-impact applications.

The number of instances where this would occur is likely to be insufficient to warrant an additional planning meeting. It is likely to occur once a month at the most and is more efficiently dealt with via the existing workshop structure.

*S.23AA(5) of the Acts Interpretation Act 1931: A function or power that has been delegated may, notwithstanding the delegation, be exercised by the delegator.*

Via workshop, Council may indicate if it prefers the planning decision to be made at a Council meeting.

Currently the General Manager is delegated to refuse an application if an extension is not granted. Without planning merits, such an action cannot be defended on appeal and will generally result in costs to Council. While there is low risk of an extension being refused, it can result in additional delays up to one month. Ideally the General Manager should have delegation to approve or refuse, subject to workshopping with Council. It is likely that the recommendation below will also assist to alleviate this issue by only delaying decisions where there are legitimate planning reasons to do so.

It is therefore recommended that Council delegate to the General Manager where two or less representations are received which are:

- from a State Authority or regulated entity and are of a regulatory nature; or
- where representations do not contain any planning merits or matters relating to the planning scheme.

This delegation may only be exercised following briefing of Council at a workshop unless a minimum of 2 Councilors advise in writing that they wish the decision to be made by Council at a regular meeting.

## **OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION**

That Council:

1. Adopts the updated Delegation Register, ensuring efficient, lawful, and transparent decision-making processes.

## **DECISION**

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Moved:

Seconded:

**VOTING**

For:

Against:

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**8.4 SETTING OF FEES AND CHARGES FOR THE 2025/2026 FINANCIAL YEAR.**

<b>REPORT AUTHOR:</b>	General Manager - Mr S. Power Director Corporate & Community - Ms C. Hyde
<b>REPORT DATE:</b>	24 June 2025
<b>FILE NO:</b>	32.4
<b>ATTACHMENTS:</b>	1. Proposed Fees and Charges 2025-2026 [8.4.1 - 24 pages]

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**SUMMARY**

This report seeks Council endorsement of the proposed fees and charges for the financial year 2025/2026.

**BACKGROUND**

The Council every year as a part of its budget deliberations 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 One - Progressive well-resourced communities**

1. Social infrastructure and services match growth and community needs
  - i. Community services and social infrastructure match the aspirations and needs of growing communities
  - iv. Necessary community services and social infrastructure are funded

**Future Direction One - Progressive well-resourced communities**

2. Formal and Informal sporting and recreational opportunities for all
  - iii. Formal and informal recreation and fitness facilities for all ages and abilities through shared pathways, tracks, trails and exercise stations
  - iv. Safe usage of mountain bike trails by residents and visitors

**Future Direction Four - Leadership and Accountable Governance**

31. Positive and productive working relationship with all levels of government and their agencies
-

iii. Government grant funding and investment is attracted

## **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 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. 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. Council has considered fees and charges at the budget workshops in April and May 2025.

## **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 2024/2025 financial year and those proposed for 2025/2026 financial year.

In particular, the following points should be noted.

The fees and charges schedule has considered gazetted fees and charges based on decisions of the state government where applicable.

The Waste Transfer fees adjustment reflects a user pay structure to align more closely with the fees charged by City of Launceston to Council for waste transferred to the Launceston Waste Centre, (2024/2025 fee \$189.00 per tonne).

Planning, Building and Plumbing charges have been amended in line with actual costs. New fees for additional inspections for Stratum Plans.

Facilities bookings fees and charges have been expanded to include miscellaneous event fees including bin hire and temporary fencing hire. Bond for hire without alcohol has increased in line with actual current cleaning and repair costs being incurred.

Visitor experience – Watch House fees have been removed; recommendation is to provide free entry.

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

### ***Fees and Charges***

#### **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

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from exempting some sectors of the community from paying for the service where it deems the service to be a community service obligation.

### **Strategies**

Review all fees and charges prior to setting the budget each year.

Determine those fees and charges to which the user pays principle applies.

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 amended 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.

### **Aims and Targets**

Performance measure - Percentage increase in fees and charges

Performance calculation - Last year's fee or charge/this year's fee or charge (expressed as a percentage)

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 2025/2026 financial year.

### **DECISION**

Moved:

Seconded:

### **VOTING**

For:

Against:

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**8.5 CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAM FOR THE 2025/2026 FINANCIAL YEAR**

<b>REPORT AUTHOR:</b>	Director Corporate and Community – Cheryl Hyde General Manager – Mr S. Power
<b>REPORT DATE:</b>	24 June 2025
<b>FILE NO:</b>	32.4
<b>ATTACHMENTS:</b>	1. 2025 26 Capital Works Project Proposal [8.5.1 - 4 pages] 2. Proposed Capital Works Carry Forward Projects [8.5.2 - 1 page]

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**SUMMARY**

To provide Elected Members with an opportunity to discuss and review the proposed capital works program for the financial year 2025/2026.

**BACKGROUND**

The Council as part of its budget deliberations has considered funding capital works for the 2025/2026 financial year. The proposed Capital Works Program takes into account a new program of works based on asset management considerations, community and Councillor Consultation and strategic plan considerations.

**STRATEGIC PLAN**

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

**Future Direction One - Progressive well-resourced communities**

1. Social infrastructure and services match growth and community needs
  - i. Community services and social infrastructure match the aspirations and needs of growing communities
  - v. Well designed and maintained, safe spaces and places to work well

**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:

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

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 March, April and May 2025.

Proposed capital works budget was presented to Audit Panel on 11 June 2025.

## **OPTIONS**

Council may choose to:

1. Adopt the capital works programme 2025/2026 as presented; or
2. Adopt the capital works programme 2025/2026 with amendment; or
3. Not adopt the capital works programme 2025/2026.

## **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 2025/2026 Capital Program**

The proposed 2025/2026 capital program put forward is \$4,752,442.

Capital expenditure for 2025/2026 will be funded by capital grants estimated at \$892,254 with the remainder of \$ 3,860,188 to be funded from council reserves, proceeds from sale of assets and revenue raised in the 2025/2026 financial year.

In the Plant Reserve, Council has a restricted reserve for plant replacements that will be used to contribute to the plant's capital replacement.

Capital granting of \$892,254 includes \$586,254 Roads to Recovery Funding, \$300,000 funding for the refurbishment of the Low Head Pontoon and \$6,000 toward the whale boat installation at the Bass and Flinders Maritime Museum.

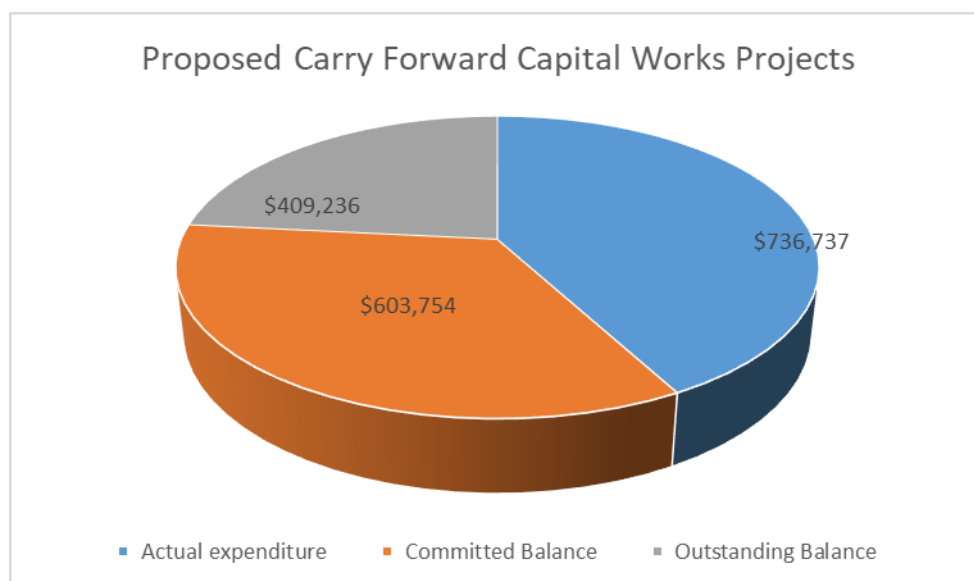
**Carry Forward Projects**

Proposed carry forward projects are attached to this report.

Council officers have identified ten projects to carry forward, including 4 multiyear projects. Total budget for all projects is \$20,049,727 with \$2,260,485 expended to date and \$1,519,338 committed. Multiyear projects account for \$18,300,000 of the total budgeted amount.

Carry forward commitments and projects may change by year end 2024/2025 depending on timing of works and balances will remain committed to projects for completion in the 2025/2026 year.

Proposed carry forward projects, excluding multi-year projects, have largely commenced with 8% of total budget for these projects being spent, 84% being committed to contract or materials and 6% yet to be expended.



**Funding depreciation and future sustainability**

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The total depreciation charge for Councils assets for 2025/2026 is estimated at \$ 3,295,712. Asset renewal programmes are aligned with the total depreciation charge.

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:

1. the Capital Works expenditure for the 2025/2026 financial year as attached; and
2. the carry forward capital works as reported and attached.

**DECISION**

Moved:

Seconded:

**VOTING**

For:

Against:

**REQUIRES ABSOLUTE MAJORITY OF COUNCIL**

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**8.6 MAKING OF RATES AND CHARGES FOR THE 2025-2026 YEAR**

<b>REPORT AUTHOR:</b>	General Manager – Mr S. Power Director Corporate & Community – Mrs C. Hyde
<b>REPORT DATE:</b>	24 June 2025
<b>FILE NO:</b>	32.1
<b>ATTACHMENTS:</b>	Nil

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**SUMMARY**

This report provides information on the making of rates and charges for the 2025/2026 financial year.

**BACKGROUND**

**RATES & CHARGES FOR 2025/2026**

Rates and charges as detailed in the recommendation below are in accordance with Council's current GTC -14 Rates and Charges Policy V4. This policy was reviewed and adopted by Council at the 28 March 2023 meeting.

**STRATEGIC PLAN**

This action relates to the following components of the Community Strategic Plan 2024-2030:

**Future Direction One - Progressive well-resourced communities**

1. Social infrastructure and services match growth and community needs
  - i. Community services and social infrastructure match the aspirations and needs of growing communities
  - iv. Necessary community services and social infrastructure are funded

**Future Direction Two - Prosperity in all aspects of Life and Living**

20. A healthy and respected environment
  - iv. The environmental challenges of invasive weeds and feral animals are collectively controlled

**Future Direction Two - Prosperity in all aspects of Life and Living**

21. Sustainable, connected housing and neighbourhoods
  - iv. Leafy, green spaces and shared pathways connect housing developments to other community spaces

### **Future Direction Three - Community Pride**

23.     All communities take pride in their place
- iii.     The design and maintenance of public spaces and places reinforces community identity and reputation
- iv.     All communities are weed-free, litter-free, safe and appealing

### **Future Direction Four - Leadership and Accountable Governance**

32.     Collaborative working relationships with neighbouring Councils and regional organisations
- i. Positive working relationships exist with neighbouring Councils

### **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.

Council has sought legal advice with regard to the application of rates and charges in the preparation of 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 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 objectives of the Community Strategic Plan 2020-2030.

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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 March, April and May 2025. Audit Panel reviewed the rates and charges methodology at the 11<sup>th</sup> June 2025 meeting of the Audit Panel.

## **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).

## **SETTING OF RATES AND CHARGES**

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 2025 to 30 June 2026. The changes made reflect a general rate increase of 4.5% for the non-residential and residential sectors.

In setting rates and charges council has considered the following:

1. Enterprise agreement and contractual commitments to Council
2. Statutory obligations
3. Delivery of services to the community
4. Continued and forecast changes in prices for goods and services
5. Council's 10-year Long Term Financial Plan, Council's Financial Strategy, and the objectives in Council's Community Strategic Plan

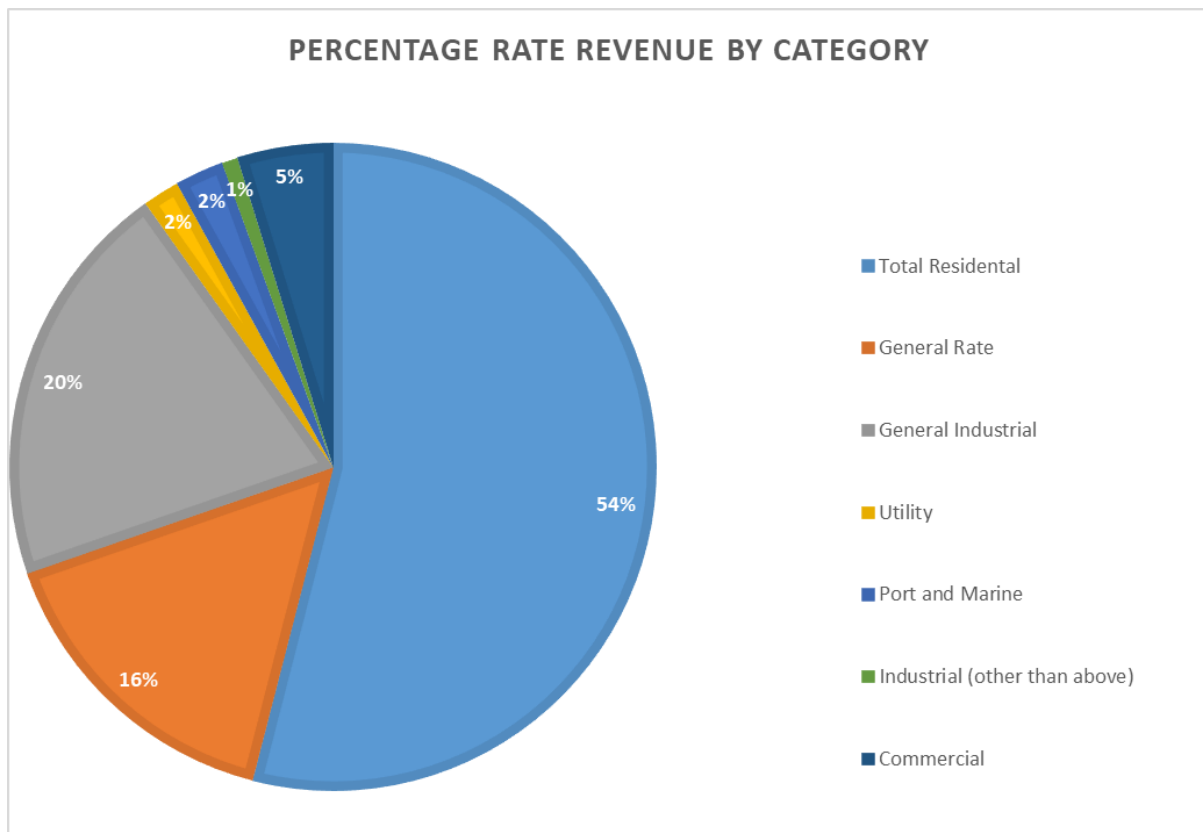
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## **RATING CATEGORIES**

Estimated rates revenue

<b>Estimated Rates Revenue 2025/26</b>	
<b>Rating Category</b>	
Residential	\$ 5,339,969.00
General Rate	\$ 1,549,342.64
General Industrial	\$ 2,022,840.63
Utility	\$ 181,601.71
Port and Marine	\$ 242,307.96
Industrial (other than above)	\$ 78,553.61
Commercial	\$ 472,128.58
Total Non-residential	\$ 4,546,775.13
<b>Total General Rates</b>	<b>\$ 9,886,744.13</b>



## **WASTE**

Council's Waste Transfer Facilities will again hold two free hard and green waste days during the 2025/2026 year.

The kerbside bin collection charges have increased to reflect the increasing costs of provision of the kerbside service, waste disposal charges at the regional facility at Remount Rd,



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Launceston, and a slightly increased state government waste levy. The State Government waste levy was introduced at \$20 per tonne placed in landfill in 2022/2023 and will increase a further \$1.87 per tonne to \$45.84 per tonne for 2025/2026.

Charge	2024/2025	2025/2026	Proposed Increase Per Annum
140L Kerbside Waste Collection	\$ 337.00	\$ 352.00	\$ 15.00
240L Kerbside Waste Collection	\$ 478.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 22.00
85L Kerbside Waste Collection	\$ 266.00	\$ 278.00	\$ 12.00
Waste Charge	\$ 60.00	\$ 63.00	\$ 3.00

## **OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION**

### **1. GENERAL RATE & MINIMUM AMOUNT PAYABLE**

Pursuant to Section 90 of the *Local Government Act 1993* ('the 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 1<sup>st</sup> July 2025 and ending on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2026:

1. pursuant to Sections 90(1) and 90(3)(b) of the Act, Council hereby makes a General Rate of **0.1915** 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 **\$949.00**.

### **2. VARIATIONS TO THE GENERAL RATE**

Pursuant to Section 107 of the Act, Council hereby varies the General Rate of **0.1915** 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 **1.3017** cents to **1.4932** 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 **1.4722** cents to **1.6637** 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 **1.4801** cents to **1.6716** 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 **0.4301** cents to **0.6216** 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 **0.5018** cents to **0.6933** 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 **0.2100** cents to **0.4015** cents in the dollar on adjusted capital value;

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- 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 **1.1751** cents to **0.3666** 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 **0.2213** cents to **0.4128** 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 **0.0011** cents to **0.1904** 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 **0.2141** cents to **0.4056** 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 increasing it by **0.0276** cents to **0.2191** 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 **0.0999** cents to **0.2914** 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 **0.0402** cents to **0.2317** 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 increasing it by **0.0193** cents to **0.2108** 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 increasing it by **0.0257** cents to **0.2172** 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 **0.0947** cents to **0.2862** 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 2025 and ending 30 June 2026:

- 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 **\$1,388.00** 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 **\$1,388.00** 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 **\$1,416.00** 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 **\$1,416.00** 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 **\$1,388.00** using the General Rate as varied pursuant to paragraph 2 (j) of this resolution;

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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 **\$1,471.00** 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 **\$1,388.00** 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 **\$1,416.00** 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 **\$1,416.00** 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 **\$1,416.00** 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 **\$1,388.00** 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 2025 and ending on 30 June 2026, namely:

- (a) A service charge of **\$63.00** 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) **\$278.00** for land serviced by one 85 litre mobile garbage bin and one 140 litre mobile recycling bin;
  - (ii) **\$352.00** for land serviced by one 140 litre mobile garbage bin and one 140 litre mobile recycling bin; and
  - (iii) **\$500.00** 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

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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 2025-2026 financial year as follows:

<u>District</u>	<b>Rate Cents in the dollar of Adjusted capital value</b>
George Town Volunteer Brigade Rating District	0.013062
General Land	0.0090147

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 **\$50.00**.

**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 2025;
2. Second instalment due on or before 31 October 2025;
3. Third instalment due on or before 31 January 2026; and
4. Fourth and final instalment due on or before 31 March 2026.

**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 **0.0282274% (10.30% 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 these resolutions, the rates and charges (including the minimum amounts) shall apply to each parcel of land shown as being separately valued in the valuation list prepared under the Valuation of Land Act 2001 (Tas).

**9. ADJUSTED VALUES**

For 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.

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**DECISION**

Moved:

Seconded:

**VOTING**

For:

Against:

**REQUIRES ABSOLUTE MAJORITY OF COUNCIL**

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**8.7 BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR THE 2025/2026 FINANCIAL YEAR**

<b>REPORT AUTHOR:</b>	Director Corporate and Community – Cheryl Hyde General Manager – Mr. S. Power
<b>REPORT DATE:</b>	25 June 2025
<b>FILE NO:</b>	29.11
<b>ATTACHMENTS:</b>	1. Proposed Operational Budget 2025-2026 Detailed [8.7.1 - 5 pages] 2. Proposed Operational Budget 2025-2026 Function [8.7.2 - 13 pages]

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**SUMMARY**

This report provides information on budget parameters, assumptions and strategies applied in the preparation of the 2025/2026 budget presented for adoption.

**BACKGROUND**

There have been workshops held to discuss budget matters for the 2025/2026 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 2024-2030:

**Future Direction One - Progressive well-resourced communities**

1. Social infrastructure and services match growth and community needs
  - i. Community services and social infrastructure match the aspirations and needs of growing communities

**Future Direction Two - Prosperity in all aspects of Life and Living**

10. Growth in tourism yield
  - i. Compelling value propositional, brand and narrative supports the growth of the visitor economy

**Future Direction Two - Prosperity in all aspects of Life and Living**

18. A strength-based reputation
  - i. A strong George Town and Region brand, value proposition and narrative

**Future Direction Two - Prosperity in all aspects of Life and Living**

21. Sustainable, connected housing and neighbourhoods

- iv. Leafy, green spaces and shared pathways connect housing developments to other community spaces

**Future Direction Three - Community Pride**

22. Everyone in our community is valued and included

- iv. Programs and events celebrate community achievements and build relationships

**Future Direction Four - Leadership and Accountable Governance**

30. Young people are a supported, recognised community resource

- iii. The 'Our Futures Program' develop young leaders

**Future Direction Four - Leadership and Accountable Governance**

31. Positive and productive working relationship with all levels of government and their agencies

- iii. Government grant funding and investment is attracted

**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
  - (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.

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## **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 2024-2030.

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**

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 March, April and May 2025. Budget Estimates have also been presented to the Audit Panel on 11 June 2025. Councillors were provided a further opportunity to discuss budget estimates on 24 June 2025.



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## **OPTIONS**

Council may choose to:

1. Adopt the Operating Budget Estimates for the 2025/2026 year as presented; or
2. Adopt the Operating Budget Estimates for the 2025/2026 year with amendment; or
3. Not adopt the Operating Budget Estimates for the 2025/2026 year.

## **OFFICER'S COMMENTS**

Budget Estimates Key Assumptions, Influences and Application of Council Policy

### **External Influences**

1. Council Cost Index 2025

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 3.13%.

2. Consumer Price Index

The most recent CPI for Hobart was 1.4% for the March 2025 quarter.

3. Fuel price increase

Are expected to maintain the same impact in 2025/2026 any further price rises will impact further on the estimated operating result.

4. Federal Assistance Grant Treatment

The Commonwealth Government has yet to advise the prepayment of the 2025/2026 Federal Assistance Grant. Financial Assistance Grant allocation has been maintained at the same level as 2024/2025; Council receives advice in the early new financial year of any changes to the grant at which time a report will be prepared for Council workshop.

5. Cash Rate

Interest earned is again expected at current levels as interest rates will likely remain slightly higher or similar. An indicative rate of 4.5% will be used for the purposes of budget estimate calculations.

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

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

8.      Audit Fees

Tasmanian Audit Office Fees have increased, and the budget has been adjusted to reflect this increase.

9.      George Town Swimming Pool


With the decommissioning of the existing pool and the building of the Aquatic Health and Wellbeing Centre, operational income and expenditure will not be incurred during 2025/2026.

10.     Building Surveying

Budget allocation for income and expenditure will change in 2025/2026 as Council no longer has building surveying in-house. This will result in significant decrease in operational income with the reduction in wages being taken up by the need to engage external contractors for the ongoing finalisation of Councils existing commitments.

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**Operational Budget**

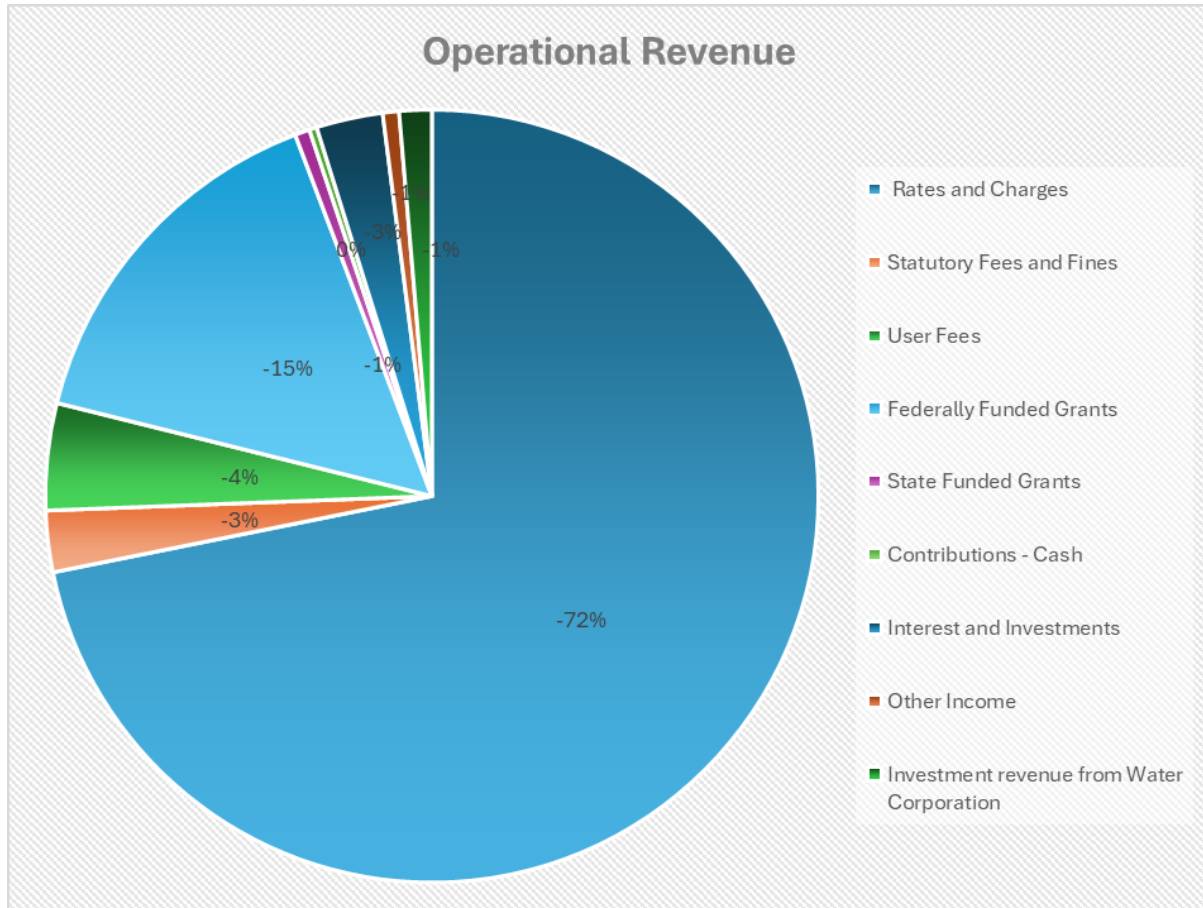
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <h2 style="margin: 0;">George Town Council</h2> <h3 style="margin: 0;">Proposed Operational Budget 2025/2026</h3> </div>  </div>			
Particular	YTD Actual incl Commitments	Annual Budget 2024/2025	Proposed Budget 2025/2026
<b>Income</b>			
Rates and Charges	(\$11,395,761)	(\$11,273,537)	(\$11,968,600)
Statutory Fees and Fines	(\$428,138)	(\$605,510)	(\$427,396)
User Fees	(\$804,495)	(\$695,073)	(\$745,168)
Federally Funded Grants	(\$2,681,236)	(\$2,505,350)	(\$2,559,715)
State Funded Grants	(\$145,489)	(\$89,000)	(\$103,339)
Other Grants	(\$10,904)	\$0	\$0
Contributions - Cash	(\$34,674)	(\$166,446)	(\$52,735)
Interest and Investments	(\$437,201)	(\$204,000)	(\$463,600)
Other Income	(\$150,758)	(\$108,382)	(\$113,259)
Investment revenue from Water Corporation	(\$271,200)	(\$226,000)	(\$226,000)
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>(\$16,359,856)</b>	<b>(\$15,873,298)</b>	<b>(\$16,659,812)</b>
<b>Expense</b>			
Employee Benefits	\$5,736,894	\$5,733,124	\$6,242,416
Materials and Services	\$4,301,558	\$4,346,561	\$4,517,251
Impairment of Receivables	\$0	\$5,000	\$5,000
Depn - Property	\$478,887	\$478,887	\$457,983
Depn - Plant and Equipment	\$301,500	\$301,500	\$310,748
Depn - Infrastructure	\$2,434,500	\$2,434,500	\$2,527,011
Finance Costs	\$84,261	\$63,437	\$95,976
Other Expenses	\$1,964,217	\$2,325,485	\$2,376,315
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$15,301,817</b>	<b>\$15,688,494</b>	<b>\$16,532,700</b>
<b>Total Surplus / (Deficit)</b>	<b>\$1,058,039</b>	<b>\$184,804</b>	<b>\$127,112</b>
<b>Capital Items</b>			
Capital Grants	(\$3,034,169)	(\$2,720,435)	(\$886,254)
Capital Works	\$7,177,878	\$7,066,602	\$4,752,442
<b>Total Capital</b>	<b>\$4,143,709</b>	<b>\$4,346,167</b>	<b>\$3,866,188</b>
<b>Net Surplus / (Deficit)</b>	<b>(\$3,191,623)</b>	<b>(\$4,161,363)</b>	<b>(\$3,739,075)</b>
Less loan principal repayments	\$384,726	\$496,687	\$261,341
Plus Depreciation Expense	\$3,206,337	\$3,214,887	\$3,295,742
<b>Cash Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>\$399,440</b>	<b>(\$449,789)</b>	<b>(\$181,992)</b>
Cash at start of year	\$7,365,816	\$5,891,639	\$7,765,256
<b>Estimated Cash at Year End</b>	<b>\$7,765,256</b>	<b>\$5,441,850</b>	<b>\$7,583,263</b>

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**Key points**

**Operating Revenue \$ 16,659,812**



Estimated operating income is \$16,659,812 which is an increase of 4.9% on the estimated budget for 2024/2025. The percentage increase in operating income is attributed to the rates increase (including rate base growth in 2024/2025), and increase in investment income.

**Rates and Charges Strategy \$11,968,600**

***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,

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- 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.

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 2025/2026***

The budget estimates include an increment of 4.5% for the non-residential sector and an increase in the minimum rate from \$908 to \$949.

***Residential rates/AAR***

The budget estimates are based on an increment of 4.5% varied by locality, factored into the average area rate for the residential sector.

***Fire Services***

An increase has also been applied to the fire service in accordance with instructions received from Tas Fire Services.

***Waste Management***

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 2024 and ending on 30 June 2025, namely:

- (a) A service charge of **\$63.00** for waste management on all rateable land for the establishment, management, provision and rehabilitation by Council of waste management facilities and improved amenities at Pipers River Waste Transfer Station, 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) **\$278.00** for land serviced by one 85 litre mobile garbage bin and one 140 litre mobile recycling bin, (\$266.00 2024/2025)

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(ii) **\$352.00** for land serviced by one 140 litre mobile garbage bin and one 140 litre mobile recycling bin, (\$337.00 2024/2025); and

(iii) **\$500.00** for land serviced by one 240 litre mobile garbage bin and one 240 litre mobile recycling bin, (\$478.00 2024/2025).

***Statutory fees and charges \$427,396***

Significant statutory fees and fines include;

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

Statutory fees and fines are estimated to be \$427,396 for the 2025/2026 financial year, this represents a decrease in income from prior year budget due to the discontinued revenue from Building Surveying fees and charges.

***Operational Grants \$2,559,715***

Advice is yet to be received on the total Federal Assistance Grant for 2025/2026. Council officers will provide a report to Council workshop once the total grant funding allocation is announced.

***User charges \$745,168***

Significant user fees include;

- Waste transfer site fees,
- Cemetery fees,
- Hall hire fees,
- Airport leases rental,
- Planning advertising fees,
- Sponsorships received.

User fees revenue is estimated to be \$745,168 for the 2025/2026 financial year based on trends experienced in the prior financial years including fees waste transfer station fees income in line with fee increases to account for significant waste disposal cost increases and government levy.

***Interest and Investment Income \$689,600***

Investments from the Water Corporation include amounts paid as dividends. An indicative amount based on the average investment was used for budget estimates for interest earned on funds invested. Future movements in the cash rate may impact the budget estimates for interest received.

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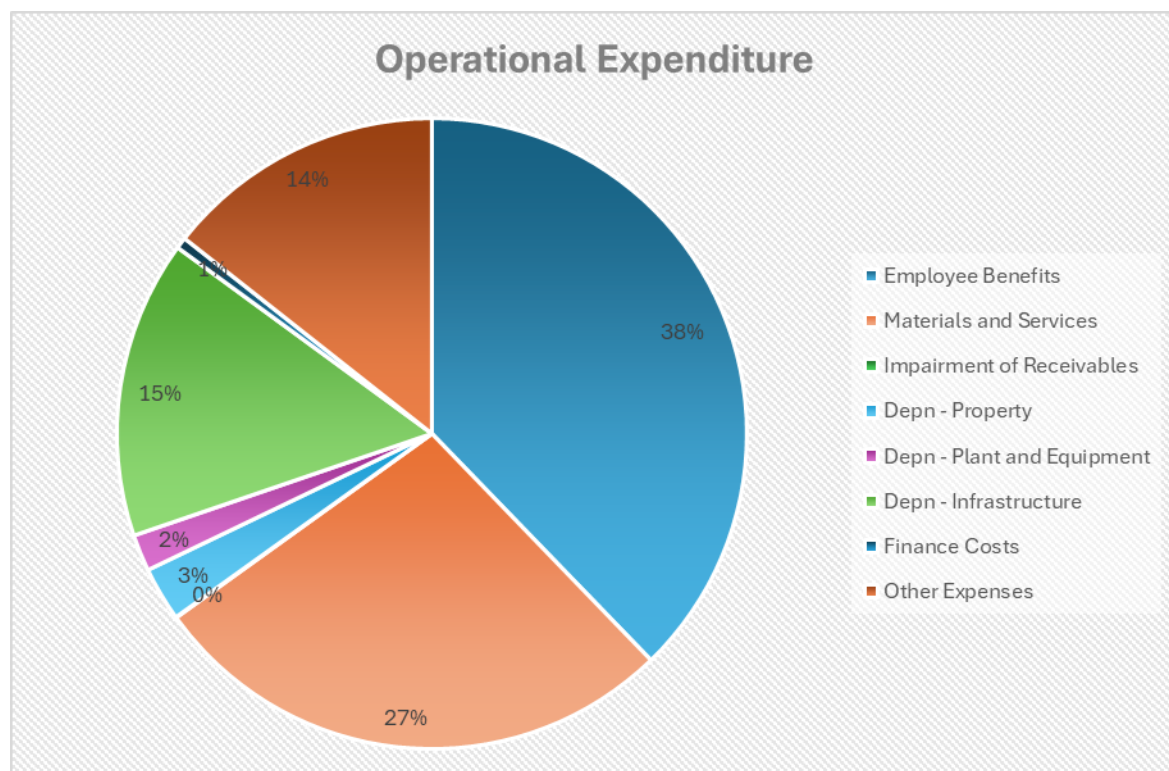
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***Other Income and Reimbursements \$165,994***

Significant items of other income include.

- Heavy vehicles distribution
- Lease payments received
- Fire levy commission
- Contribution to Youth Officer Position
- State Government Landfill levy

**Operating Expenditure \$16,532,700**



Estimated operating expenditure is \$16,532,700, an increase of 5.4% overall when compared to the budget for 2023/2024.

***Employee benefits \$6,242,416 or 38% of overall operating costs.***

Employee costs – 4.5% overall increase in employee costs. The increase in overall employee benefits has resulted from increases in Superannuation Guarantee and EBA increases.

**Approximate Changes in Council Operational Employee Costs**

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EBA/Super increase on 2024/25 Budget.	\$384,200
Permanent Trail Maintenance staff (1.6FTE)	\$124,800
<b>Total approx. change</b>	<b>\$509,292</b>

Capitalised Wages - The 2025/2026 budget includes an estimate of \$450,000 for the cost of wages, salaries and on costs charged 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 \$4,517,251 or 27% 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
- Road maintenance supplies
- Road maintenance contractors
- Building maintenance materials and supplies
- Building maintenance contractors
- Municipal valuation fees
- 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
- Council events

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. The landfill levy associated with Council project waste has been included against expenditure on Roads, Facilities, Parks and Sporting



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grounds. Continued support for Healthy George Town funding from Council is also proposed to be maintained.

Projects considered in 2025/2026 are included in Attachment 2. Noting this attachment includes project works and community projects, some of which are included in policy. It is not an exhaustive list of the contracts and materials which support the day-to-day operations of Council.

For budget allocations associated with youth and community projects, where possible grant, sponsorship and partnership funding will be explored with savings reported back to council for reallocation if required.

***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 \$3,295,742 or 18% 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. Pool assets are removed.

***Other Expenses \$ 2,376,315 or 14% 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
- 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.

***Finance Costs \$95,976 or 0.41% of operating expenditure***

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Finance costs relate to interest on borrowings for existing loans.

For budget allocations associated with youth and community projects, where possible grant, sponsorship and partnership funding will be explored with savings reported back to council for reallocation if required.

***Capital Grants***

Capital grants include all funds received from Government and other sources to fund the capital works. For the 2024/2025 financial year the estimated capital grants include the Roads to Recovery Grant and Safer Road Users Grant funding.

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 \$127,112 or an underlying surplus ratio of positive 0.8%. 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.

**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 report and attachment.

**DECISION**

Moved:

Seconded:

**VOTING**

For:

Against:

**REQUIRES ABSOLUTE MAJORITY OF COUNCIL**

## **9 INFRASTRUCTURE AND DEVELOPMENT**

### **9.1 GEORGE TOWN OPEN SPACE NETWORK PLAN**

<b>REPORT AUTHOR:</b>	Senior Town Planner - Mr J. Simons
<b>REPORT DATE:</b>	12/06/2025
<b>FILE NO:</b>	7
<b>ATTACHMENTS:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. George Town Open Space Network Plan [9.1.1 - 99 pages]</li><li>2. George Town Open Space Network Plan - Maps [9.1.2 - 14 pages]</li><li>3. Summary of Themes raised in Public Consultation [9.1.3 - 4 pages]</li></ol>

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#### **SUMMARY**

Council engaged @Leisure Planners to prepare an Open Space Network Plan to assist Council to make informed decisions around the provision of open space as land development and other opportunities arise.

The plan uses isochronic mapping to identify residential areas and vacant land, which have poor proximity and accessibility to quality open space.

The plan also identifies a variety of open space types, which can assist with making management decisions around the purpose, values and types of improvements suitable for different areas.

Following public consultation, it is recognised that further work is required with respect to Low Head and, as a result, Low Head has been removed from the plan to be considered further by Council at a future date.

Recommendations relating to George Town were generally well received.

Following consultation, the consultants have made some amendments and inclusions to the plan, highlighted in the attachments.

#### **BACKGROUND**

The preparation of the Open Space Network Plan is a recommendation in the George Town Area Structure Plan, adopted by Council in 2021.

The *Local Government (Building and Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1993* provides for Council to take land as public open space as part of subdivision. A cash in lieu contribution, for securing or improvement of public open space, may be required if there is no requirement for land in a particular subdivision. The purpose of this open space network plan is to guide the decisions of Council, developers and cash in lieu payments when land development is proposed.

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To maximise the effectiveness of open spaces and ensure efficient and beneficial investment in open spaces, it is essential that Council understands where land should be reserved for future public open space purposes, as well as where existing open spaces may require improvement. This will assist in reducing ad-hoc decision making and ensure long term benefits.

The consultants have considered the location, extent and quality of existing spaces. In many instances, improvements to the accessibility of existing open spaces will significantly enhance the residential areas serviced.

The plan also recognises the need to provide open space for different purposes. It includes a framework identifying the different types and functions of open space, such as Social Family Recreation, Cultural Heritage, Biological Heritage Conservation, etc. to assist with determining the potential purpose and focus of improvements, investment and management approach.

The plan also provides direction on the type, extent and purpose of new open space areas in future growth areas, allowing Council to guide potential developers as land may be rezoned or subdivided.

The document may be used as an advocacy document, clearly demonstrating the need for long term investment.

## **STRATEGIC PLAN**

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

### **Future Direction One - Progressive well-resourced communities**

1. Social infrastructure and services match growth and community needs
  - v. Well designed and maintained, safe spaces and places to work well

### **Future Direction Two - Prosperity in all aspects of Life and Living**

#### **19. Healthy, active communities**

- i. Preventive health and well-being practices are central to community life

## **STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS & RELATED COUNCIL DOCUMENTS**

The plan is not a statutory requirement, but assists Council to make planning decisions under the:

*Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993; and*  
*Local Government (Building and Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1993*

The preparation of the plan is a recommendation of the George Town Structure Plan 2021

## **RISK CONSIDERATIONS**

The intent of the document is to reduce the risk of:

- under servicing the community with open space;

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- investing in open space that does not adequately perform;
- missing opportunities to acquire space or connections.

As with any high level strategic plan there is a low reputational risk for Council. The plan is intended to guide detailed investigations on a case by case basis as they arise. All actions will be subject to further investigations, funding and may only be able to be addressed if land development, zoning, subdivision, or changes in ownership are proposed and create the opportunity to secure recommended routes and space. Recommendations may occur over a significant period of time and are not intended to be viewed as an immediate action list or an unfettered commitment. Specific constraints and land features also play a significant role in determining the exact outcome that may eventuate.

Efforts have been made to mitigate reputational risk through the language used in the plan and the indicative, and outcome based nature of recommendations.

Recommendations relating to Low Head have been removed from the plan to be reconsidered at a later date.

#### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no direct financial implications.

The financial implications relating to individual investigations and actions will be assessed on a case by case basis.

#### **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.

The Open Space Network Plan is consistent with this policy and has a significant emphasis on accessibility, walkability and diversity of open spaces to suit all aspects of the George Town community.

#### **CONSULTATION**

The plan was subject to a public consultation process.

37 written submissions were received. 35 of the written submissions are largely related to Low Head.

70 survey responses were received. Of these, 55 were from the Low Head community and generally raised matters relating to Low Head.

A summary of themes identified through the public consultation has been prepared by the consultants and is included in the attachments.

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In addition to the summary provided by the consultants, the following is noted with respect to Low Head.

While some responses were particularly constructive and raised matters that could be further considered and addressed in the plan, a large portion of the submissions raised clear objection to the plan in its entirety as it relates to Low Head.

This overwhelmingly negative response has resulted in a recommendation to remove Low Head from the plan at this time. Further consultation with Council and the community is required if any further action or consideration may be warranted with respect to Low Head.

However, development and growth in George Town is occurring at a significantly faster rate and there is a greater degree of urgency to adopt a consistent and effective approach to managing open space in George Town.

The plan has also been workshopped with Council on three occasions.

### **OPTIONS**

Council may choose to:

1. Support the motion as presented and adopt the George Town Open Space Network Plan; or
2. Support the motion with amendment; or
3. Not support the motion.

If the motion, or amended motion, is not supported, officers will require guidance on the direction Council wishes to progress with the project.

### **OFFICER'S COMMENTS**

The George Town Open Space Plan, as attached, provides guidance relating to the location, function and accessibility of existing and future open space across George Town. The plan provides guiding principles to assist with decision making and to allow staff to provide guidance to developers regarding the location of open space and its accessibility within new and existing residential areas. The plan also assists Council to understand the type and function of open spaces, to assist with planning for future investment, improvement and management of open spaces, to create well serviced and diverse open space experiences.

### **OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION**

That Council:

1. Adopt the George Town Open Space Network Plan as attached; and
2. Notes the Low Head Open Space Network requires further consultation.

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**DECISION**

Moved:

Seconded:

**VOTING**

For:

Against:

## **10 CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY**

### **10.1 SPONSORSHIP REQUEST GEORGE TOWN NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE NEW YEARS EVE EVENT**

<b>REPORT AUTHOR:</b>	Director Corporate & Community - Ms C. Hyde
<b>REPORT DATE:</b>	24 June 2025
<b>FILE NO:</b>	23.9
<b>ATTACHMENTS:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Application-sponsorship [<b>10.1.1</b> - 12 pages]</li><li>2. incorporation certificate [<b>10.1.2</b> - 1 page]</li><li>3. COC Liability 24-25 [<b>10.1.3</b> - 1 page]</li></ol>

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#### **SUMMARY**

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with the opportunity to consider the Neighbourhood House sponsorship application received by Council on the 19<sup>th</sup> of May 2025 in line with the Council's 2024/2025 Sponsorship Program.

#### **BACKGROUND**

At the Council meeting held on the 17th of December 2024, endorsed the updated Sponsorship Policy – GTC-C-06. The development of the policy was in response to a request from Councillors to separate Sponsorship Policy (events) from the Community Assistance Policy (infrastructure and projects). The Sponsorship Policy provides for applications to be submitted to Council by organisations to seek sponsorship funding that will assist in the hosting of events in the George Town municipality.

One application has been received seeking sponsorship from Neighbourhood House for the George Town New Year's Eve Extravaganza 2025 and is being presented to Council for consideration

#### **STRATEGIC PLAN**

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

##### **Future Direction One - Progressive well-resourced communities**

6. Community celebrations build the areas identity
  - i. Cultural, artistic and seasonal produce celebrations engage and build understanding of the community and its value proposition
  - iii. New and creative ideas grow event attendance numbers

##### **Future Direction Three - Community Pride**

22. Everyone in our community is valued and included



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- iv. Programs and events celebrate community achievements and build relationships

**Future Direction Three - Community Pride**

- 23. All communities take pride in their place
  - i. There is community pride in place, who we are, what we do and how we do it
  - iii. The design and maintenance of public spaces and places reinforces community identity and reputation

**STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS & RELATED COUNCIL DOCUMENTS**

Council's Policy GTC-C-06 Sponsorship Policy sets out the criteria for applications to be considered as follows.

Economic 25%

The ability of the proposed project/event to contribute to a measurable economic benefit in the George Town municipal area. The capacity to provide opportunities for local businesses to leverage the event.

Tourism 25%

The ability of the project/event to increase visitation within the municipal area, or if the activity/event is held outside the municipality, it will provide direct tourism/economic benefits to the municipal area.

Marketing 20%

The degree to which the project/event proposes to increase the profile of the George Town municipality positively.

Cultural 10%

The degree to which the project/event assists in the development of an inclusive and strong community and increases participation in municipal life for all.

Inspired 10%

The degree to which the project/event has a point of difference from existing project/events. The degree to which the project activates spaces in the city, particularly during quiet periods/seasonal and unused spaces.

Competency 10%

Demonstrated experience; compliance with and capacity to; manage the project/event and sponsorship requirements. The project must demonstrate financial viability.

**RISK CONSIDERATIONS**

Risks to Council when sponsoring events can be many and varied. Brand association is one such risk that can damage Council's reputation. The Council's reputation can also be jeopardised by sponsoring inappropriate activities held at events. Council's Sponsorship

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Policy addresses these risks by defining and making it clear that only 'Appropriate Associations' and 'Appropriate Activities' are to be considered for sponsorship.

Officers have assessed the sponsorship application and therefore have determined that the event entity and event activity are 'Appropriate Associations' and 'Appropriate Activities', that pose a minor risk to Council reputation.

Risks also exist around legislative requirements, public health and safety, the environment and wildlife. The applicant has a good history regarding the delivery of past events. They have provided their Public Liability Insurance and Certificate of Currency.

**The applicant will need to request and provide permits as per Council's Event Planning Toolkit 2021 – 2025.**

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Councils adopted 2024/2025 total sponsorship budget of \$40,000. The approval of this application will result in a slightly higher than budget allocation to sponsorship.

#### **Approved sponsorship for 2024/2025:**

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Minute No</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Tamar Valley Folk Festival	104/24	\$20,000.00
Weymouth Progress Association	Approved by GM under delegation	\$400.00
Individual Sponsorships	Approved GM under delegation	\$1,500.00
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$21,900.00</b>

**Balance available - \$18,100.00**

### **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**

Council has the opportunity to discuss at a Council workshop on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> of June 2025.

### **OPTIONS**

Council may choose to:

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

### **OFFICER'S COMMENTS**

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Council has previously supported the New Years Eve event hosted by Neighbourhood House with a financial contribution of \$20,000 in 2023/2024, \$15,000 in 2022/2023 and \$10,000 on two other occasions. The event was well attended and received by the community.

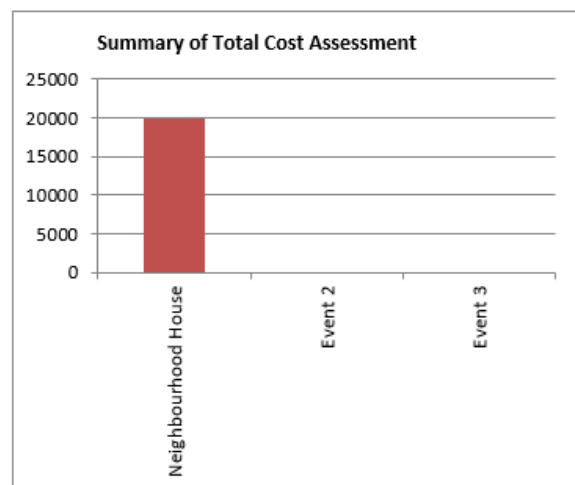
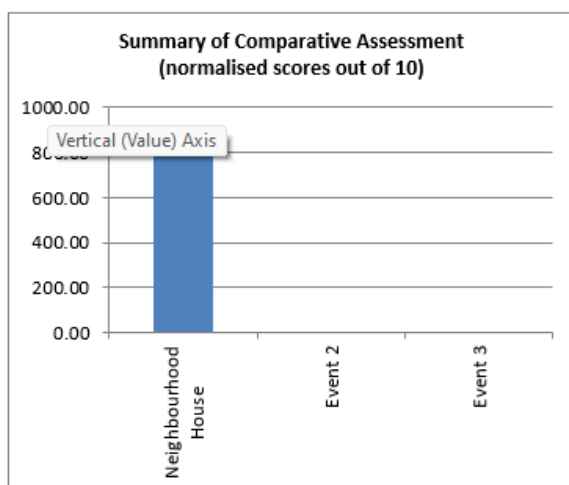
To date no event application has been submitted for the event, and the George Town Neighbourhood House has not provided a definitive location for the 2025 event. Council officers will continue to work with the George Town Neighbourhood House to approve the event.

**Sponsorship Evaluation**

**Comparative Evaluation**

Neighbourhood House	
Total Cost ->	\$20,000.00

Selected evaluation criteria	Weight (%)	Score/10	weighted score	Notes
1 Economic Benefit	25.0	8.0	200.0	Increased financial activity to local businesses and community organisations.
2 Tourism	25.0	8.0	200.0	Increased intrastate visitation, bring people from outside the municipality to the event and to view fireworks.
3 Marketing	20.0	8.0	160.0	If significant marketing is undertaken (eg signage, facebook, radio, word of mouth) could lead to a positive recognition of the George Town municipality. With George Town Council as a sponsor, it shows our support to a local not-for-profit organisation and a community-based event.
4 Cultural	10.0	8.0	80.0	NYE is culturally significant in Australia in terms of celebration and fireworks to bring in the New Year. Delivers a sense of community pride that a small town community can host and deliver fireworks display on par with larger cities.
5 Inspired	10.0	8.0	80.0	It is an event that resonates with the bulk of the community. It offers inclusive participation and it allows for people from all around the area to view the fireworks and bring goodwill.
6 Competency	10.0	8.0	80.0	Have previously hosted this event for a couple of years and have shown the skills and capability to deliver the event responsibly and successfully
7				
8				
Total weighting		100.0	total (norm)	800.0
				6 criteria scored



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**OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION**

That Council:

1. Provides \$20,000 sponsorship to George Town Neighbourhood House towards the New Years Eve Event to be held in George Town on 31 December 2025, using balance of sponsorship budget of \$18,100 and balance of \$1,900 from underspent community grants budget allocation.

**DECISION**

Moved:

Seconded:

**VOTING**

For:

Against:

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**10.2 APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS - HEALTH AND WELLBEING COMMITTEE**

**REPORT AUTHOR:** Director Corporate & Community - Ms C. Hyde  
**REPORT DATE:** 17/06/2025  
**FILE NO:** 29.18  
**ATTACHMENTS:** Nil

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**SUMMARY**

To recommend the appointment of membership of the George Town Health and Wellbeing Committee (the Committee).

**BACKGROUND**

At the ordinary Council meeting held on the 25<sup>th</sup> of February 2025 it was resolved (Res: 18/25):

*That Council:*

1. Endorses the Draft Terms of Reference for the George Town Health and Wellbeing Section 24 Committee.

At the ordinary Council meeting held on the 25<sup>th</sup> March 2025 it was resolved (Res: 38/25):

*That Council:*

Appoints Cr Simone Lowe, as Councillor representative and Chair of the George Town Health and Wellbeing Committee.

**STRATEGIC PLAN**

This action relates to the following components of the Community Strategic Plan 2024-2030:

**Future Direction One - Progressive well-resourced communities**

1. Social infrastructure and services match growth and community needs
  - i. Community services and social infrastructure match the aspirations and needs of growing communities

**Future Direction Four - Leadership and Accountable Governance**

27. A culture of engagement, communication and participation
  - i. Community views are heard through skilled, trusted and inclusive community engagement processes

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**Future Direction Four- Leadership and Accountable Governance**

33. Fair and open planning regulatory processes

- i. There is community knowledge and understanding of planning and regulatory responsibilities and processes

**STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS & RELATED COUNCIL DOCUMENTS**

- Local Government Act 1993, s.24.
- George Town Council Policy No. 07 – Establishment of Special Committees
- George Town Health and Wellbeing Committee Terms of Reference

**RISK CONSIDERATIONS**

The process of calling for and appointing members to the George Town Council Health and Wellbeing Committee has been undertaken in accordance with the requirements of Council's Policy No. 7 "Special Committees" and will be subject to Council decision thereby minimising any risk to Council.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Whilst future recognised costs will be associated with the provision of administrative support to the Committee, no further costs are identified for the Council's appointment of members to the Committee.

**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. The aims are as follows:

**CONSULTATION**

Public consultation has been via a call for Expressions of Interest for membership to the Committee. An advertisement was placed in the Examiner newspaper on Saturday 29 March 2025 and on Council's website and social media platforms.

**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**

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The advertisement invited expressions of interest from community members across the municipality who have experience in one or more of the following areas;

- Live or work in the George Town Municipality
- Have personal interest in health and wellbeing
- Be able to commit to attending the regular meetings of our committee
- Have a passion for working with Council to improve community health and wellbeing

A number of enquiries were responded to with five submissions received, copies of which have been previously circulated to Elected Members.

All submissions meet the selection criteria outlined in the advertisement and the Terms of Reference (TOR) and reflect a collective wealth of knowledge, experience, qualifications, skills, interests and passion for the community and the area. Each of the candidates attended an interview with the Chair and Council Officers and a stakeholder representative.

All displayed a strong passion for community and health and wellbeing, in making the selection, the panel considered other representation on the committee and the overall demographics represented. The officer's recommendation is therefore to appoint -

- Chelsea Crawford
- Kate Casson
- Sally Sauer

The two unsuccessful candidates are considered to be valuable community members who could be invited to assist the committee going forward for project work.

In accordance with the TOR, the Committee will comprise:

- One (1) Councillor, who is appointed by the Council and will act in the capacity of Chair; and
- Ten (10) Representatives from Key Stakeholder Organisations; and
- Three (3) Community members

#### **OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION**

That Council:

- (a) Appoints the following members to the George Town Council Health and Wellbeing Committee:

- St Vincent de Paul - Paul Thomas
- The People Project – Laura Bajurny
- Future Impact Group – Andrew Taylor, with Jo Hart being the proxy.
- Child and Family Learning Centre – Trudi Cross
- Explore Wellness with Bec - Rebecca Taylor
- George Town Library - Rachael Andjelkovic
- George Town Neighbourhood House - Jessica Berger
- Sherriff Health & Fitness - Kylie Moore
- George Town District Hospital - Treica Ware
- Ainslie Residential Aged Care – to be confirmed
- Community members -

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- Chelsea Crawford
- Kate Casson
- Sally Sauer

- (b) Acknowledges and thanks the unsuccessful applicants for their interest in membership to the George Town Health and Wellbeing Committee.

**DECISION**

Moved:

Seconded:

**VOTING**

For:

Against:



**11 ORGANISATIONAL PERFORMANCE & STRATEGY**

Nil

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## **12 OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**

### **12.1 MATTERS OF INVOLVEMENT - MAYOR, DEPUTY MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS**

**REPORT DATE:** 17 June 2025

**FILE NO:** 14.11, 14.15

<b>Mayor Cr Greg Kieser</b>		
<b>May</b>	21	Met with the General Manager Labor representatives
	22	Met with the General Manager and Nick Duigan MLC
	22	Attended NTDC Board Meeting
	23	Attended NTDC Strategy and Risk Workshop
	25	Met with local residents
	26	Attended the Council Community Engagement Session - Bellingham
	26	Attended the Council Community Engagement Session - Weymouth
	26	Attended the Council Community Engagement Session – Hillwood
	27	Chaired Council Workshop
	27	Chaired Ordinary Council Meeting
	28	Met with local resident
	28	Tamar FM Interview
	28	ABC Northern Tasmania Drive Interview
	29	Attended the Council Community Engagement Session – Lulworth
	29	Attended the Council Community Engagement Session - Pipers River/Pipers Brook
	30	Attended State Budget lunch
	30	Attended the Council Community Engagement Session – Beechford
<b>June</b>	2	Monday Mayor ABC interview
	2	Chaired Progress Association meeting
	5	Attended the Council Community Engagement Session – George Town/Low Head
	10	Chaired Council Workshop
	11	Attended Audit Panel meeting
	12	BBA Pod Cast
	13	LAFM Interview
	15	Met with local residents
	17	Met with Weymouth Progress Association representatives
<b>Deputy Mayor Cr Greg Dawson</b>		
<b>May</b>	26	Attended the Council Community Engagement Session - Hillwood
	27	Attended Council Workshop

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	27	Attended Ordinary Council Meeting
<b>June</b>	5	Attended the Council Community Engagement Session – George Town/Low Head
	10	Attended Council Workshop
<b>Cr Jason Orr</b>		
<b>May</b>	26	Attended the Council Community Engagement Session - Weymouth
	26	Attended the Council Community Engagement Session - Hillwood
	28	Reconciliation Week Breakfast
	29	Attended the Council Community Engagement Session - Lulworth
	29	Attended the Council Community Engagement Session – Pipers River
	30	Attended the Council Community Engagement Session - Beechford
<b>June</b>	3	Friends of Low Head Penguin Colony Committee Meeting
	3	Attended the Council Community Engagement Session – George Town/Low Head
	11	George Town Council Audit Panel

**OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION**

That the information report from the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillor 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**

Q1. Cr Barwick asked where did Secret Park's name come from?

*The General Manager took the question on notice.*

### **Response**

Council officers have undertaken investigations into the historical background of the park and found the following:

- Harold Winston Little was the developer of the land.
- In 2006 the daughter of the late Harold Winston Little wrote to Council requesting the park be named in his honour.
- 21 November 2006 – Council decision Minute No. 378/06 resolved:  
*That the reserve name of Harold Winston Little Reserve be forwarded and recommended to the Nomenclature Board for registration, subject to clarification of the name with the family.*
- Council wrote to the family on the 24 November 2006. No response has been found.

There is no record of the name Secret Park, which may be just a local name as a result of not putting a name sign on the park. The park is not named on the LIST.

As part of the process, Council has submitted an enquiry to Place Names Tasmania and a response is pending. A further update on this matter will be provided at the July Ordinary Council meeting.

## **16 CLOSED MEETING**

### **16.1 INTO CLOSED MEETING**

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

**Agenda Item 16.2      Minutes of the Closed Ordinary Council Meeting held on 27 May 2025**

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

**Agenda Item 16.3      Leasing of Council Property**

*As per the provisions of Regulation 15(2)(b) and (c)(i), (ii) and (iii) 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 at ....pm.

**Cr Greg Kieser  
MAYOR**