



City of
LAUNCESTON

COUNCIL AGENDA

**COUNCIL MEETING
THURSDAY 27 JANUARY 2022
1.00pm**

Notice is hereby given that the Ordinary Meeting of the City of Launceston Council will be held at the Council Chambers, Town Hall, St John Street, Launceston:

Date: 27 January 2022

Time: 1.00pm

Certificate of Qualified Advice

Background


To comply with section 65 of the *Local Government Act 1993* (Tas):

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) 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.

Certification

I certify that:

- (i) the advice of a qualified person has been sought where required;
- (ii) this advice was taken into account in providing general advice to the council or council committee; and
- (iii) a copy of the advice, or a written transcript or summary of advice provided orally, is included with the agenda item.



Michael Stretton
Chief Executive Officer

AUDIO of COUNCIL MEETINGS

An audio recording of this Council Meeting, except for any part held in Closed Session, will be made in accordance with our Council Meetings - Audio Recording Policy - 14-Plx-008.

This Council Meeting will be streamed live to and can be accessed at:
www.launceston.tas.gov.au/Council/Meetings/Listen .

PUBLIC ATTENDANCE AT THE COUNCIL MEETING

At the Council Meeting, please take care to follow signage and the directions of Council Officers to ensure that physical distancing and other COVID-19 safe behaviour is observed. Members of the public will be required to check in on arrival via the *Check In Tas App* as per the Direction Under Section 16 - *Public Health Act 1997*.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME - AGENDA ITEM 8

Questions received in writing by close of business Wednesday of the week prior to the Council Meeting are treated as Questions on Notice. Your question and an answer will be published in the Agenda of the Council Meeting. Questions may be submitted to the Chief Executive Officer at contactus@launceston.tas.gov.au, PO Box 396, Launceston TAS 7250, or Town Hall, St John Street, Launceston.

If attending the Council Meeting in person, you may ask up to three questions during Public Question Time. If accepted, your questions will be either answered at the Meeting, or Taken on Notice and answered at a later Council Meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

When attending the Council Meeting, you will be asked if you wish to comment on an item in the Agenda. Prior to debate on that Agenda Item, you will be invited by the Chair to move to the public microphone at the doors to the Council Chambers and state your name and address.

Please note the following important information:

- Each item on the Agenda includes a Recommendation prepared by a Council Officer.
- You may speak for up to two minutes, either for or against the Recommendation.
- You may not ask questions or enter into debate with Councillors or Council Officers.
- Your statement is not to be defamatory, inappropriate or abusive, or be intended to embarrass any person, including Councillors or Council Officers.
- The Chair may direct you to stop speaking if you do not follow these rules, or if your statement repeats points that have already been made.
- Audio from our Council Meetings is streamed live via YouTube.

Your respectful contribution is welcome and appreciated.

LEGISLATIVE TERMINOLOGY - GENERAL MANAGER

At the City of Launceston, the positions of General Manager Community and Place, General Manager Organisational Services, General Manager Infrastructure and Assets and General Manager Creative Arts and Cultural Services do not assume the functions and powers of the term *general manager* in a legislative sense: any legislative functions and powers to be delegated to these roles will be made by Council or the Chief Executive Officer. At the City of Launceston, the title Chief Executive Officer is a term of reference for the General Manager as appointed by Council pursuant to section 61 of the *Local Government Act 1993 (Tas)*. For the avoidance of doubt, *Chief Executive Officer* means *General Manager* for the purposes of the *Local Government Act 1993 (Tas)* and all other legislation administered by or concerning Council.

10 January 2022

Mr Michael Stretton
Chief Executive Officer
City of Launceston
P O Box 396
LAUNCESTON TAS 7250

Dear Michael

In accordance with regulation 4 of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015* which states:

4. *Convening council meetings*
(1) *The mayor of a council may convene -*
(a) *an ordinary meeting of council; and*
(b) *a special meeting of council.*

I request that you make necessary arrangements for the Ordinary Meetings of Council to be convened on the following dates for 2022:

27 January	10 February	24 February	10 March	24 March
7 April	21 April	5 May	19 May	2 June
16 June	30 June	14 July	28 July	11 August
25 August	8 September	22 September	5 October	20 October
3 November	17 November	1 December	15 December	

Commencing at 1.00pm in the City of Launceston Council Chambers, Town Hall, St John Street, Launceston.

Yours sincerely


Councillor A M van Zetten
MAYOR

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1 OPENING OF MEETING - ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

2 MAYORAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Local Government Act 1993 (Tas) - section 48

(A councillor must declare any interest that the councillor has in a matter before any discussion on that matter commences.)

4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015 - Regulation 35(1)(b)

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the City of Launceston Council held on 16 December 2021 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

5 DEPUTATIONS

No Deputations have been identified as part of this Agenda

6 PETITIONS

Local Government Act 1993 (Tas) - sections 57 and 58

No Petitions have been identified as part of this Agenda

7 COMMUNITY REPORTS

(Community Reports allow an opportunity for Community Groups to provide Council with a three minute verbal presentation detailing activities of the group. This report is not intended to be used as the time to speak on Agenda Items; that opportunity exists when that Agenda Item is about to be considered. Speakers are not to request funding or ask questions of Council. Printed documentation may be left for Councillors.)

7.1 Mr Rodney Spinks - The *Launceston Benevolent Society* and Ms Anita Reeve - The *Salvation Army* Launceston

Mr Spinks and Ms Reeve will provide a brief report to Council on the modified Launceston City Community Christmas lunch which, in December 2021, was successfully held as an outdoor takeaway event at the Albert Hall.

8 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015 - Regulation 31

8.1 Public Questions on Notice

Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015 - Regulation 31(1)

(Questions on Notice must be in writing and should be received by the General Manager at least seven days before the relevant Council Meeting. Questions on Notice will be researched by Council Officers and both the Question on Notice (as received) and the response will be provided at the Council Meeting and a reply in writing will also be provided.)

8.2.1 Public Questions on Notice - Mr Robin Smith - Council Meeting - 16 December 2021

FILE NO: SF6381

AUTHOR: Anthea Rooney (Council and Committees Officer)

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER: Michael Stretton

QUESTIONS and RESPONSES:

The following question, asked at the Council Meeting on 16 December 2021 by Mr Robin Smith, has been answered by Mr Shane Eberhardt (General Manager Infrastructure and Assets Network).

Questions:

1. [With regard to a question and response published in the 18 November 2021 Council Agenda regarding the demand for turning one-way streets into two-way streets] - would it be possible for the Council to re-look at the numbers in the report?

Response:

A response has already been provided on the two-way traffic questions at a previous Council meeting, however, it appears that necessary information may not be being provided. The Manager Infrastructure and Engineering will, therefore, arrange to meet with Mr Smith to discuss his concerns.

8.2.2 Public Questions on Notice - Mr Ray Norman - 18 January 2022**FILE NO:** SF6381**AUTHOR:** Anthea Rooney (Council and Committees Officer)**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER:** Michael Stretton

QUESTIONS and RESPONSES:

The following question, submitted to the Council in writing on 18 January 2022 by Mr Ray Norman, has been answered by Mr Michael Stretton (Chief Executive Officer).

Questions:

1. Will the Council now publish the number of individual Councillors, without naming them, who have failed to attend:
 - More than 95% of scheduled Council Meetings for the 2021 calendar year?
 - More than 80% of scheduled Council Meetings for the 2021 calendar year?
 - More than 70% of scheduled Council Meetings for the 2021 calendar year?
 - More than 60% of scheduled Council Meetings for the 2021 calendar year?
 - More than 50% of scheduled Council Meetings for the 2021 calendar year?

Response:

The Council already provides information on Council meeting attendance in its Annual Report. It is not proposed to re-present this information in the manner requested.

2. Will Council now publish the statutory requirements for attendance for a Councillor to maintain their position on Council in the next weeks towards enhancing community understandings of Councillors' statutory obligations?

Response:

This information is freely available, at all times, at Schedule 5 - Office of Councillors, Local Government Act 1993 (Tas) which states:

3. *Vacation of office*
 - (1) *The office of a councillor becomes vacant if the councillor –*
 - (a) *dies; or*
 - (b) *resigns; or*
 - (c) *is absent without leave from 3 consecutive - ordinary meetings of the council; or*
-

8.2.2 Public Questions on Notice - Mr Ray Norman - 18 January 2022 ...(Cont'd)

- (d) is removed or dismissed from office under this Act; or*
 - (e) becomes a paid employee of the council; or*
 - (ea) is, on the day on which he or she begins to hold that office, a member of any Parliament in Australia, and is such a member for 30 days continuously during that term of office of the councillor; or*
 - (eb) becomes, after the day on which he or she begins to hold that office, a member of any Parliament in Australia; or*
 - (f) is no longer eligible to nominate as a candidate under section 270.*
-

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Public Questions on Notice - Mr Ray Norman - 18 January 2022
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Attachment 1 - Public Questions on Notice - Mr Ray Norman - 18 January 2022

Many people in the Launceston community are becoming increasingly disturbed by rumours, commentary and related social media in regard to the attendance records of Councillors at scheduled meetings given the stipends they are the recipients of. Clearly it is time that the background inuendo here is brought to an end.

In the cause of establishing appropriate community standards in the context of accountability and transparency there is a case for Council, Councillors and Council Management to be proactive in maintaining appropriate standards.

Certainly there are legitimate and justifiable reasons for Councillors not being able to attend meetings. Nevertheless, if there is any basis for community concern it needs to be addressed '*evidentially*' rather than by '*administrative assertion*'.

"Trust us we are the authority" deeming that something is the case is increasingly an unacceptable response.

Therefore, against this backgrounding will Council now publish the number of individual Councillors, without naming them, who have failed to attend:

- More than **95%** of scheduled Council meeting for the **2021** calendar year?
- More than **80%** of scheduled Council meeting for the **2021** calendar year?
- More than **70%** of scheduled Council meeting for the **2021** calendar year?
- More than **60%** of scheduled Council meeting for the **2021** calendar year?
- More than **50%** of scheduled Council meeting for the **2021** calendar year?

And, in the cause of '*accountability and transparency*' will Council now publish the statutory requirements for attendance for a Councillor to maintain their position on Council in the next weeks towards enhancing community understandings of Councillors' statutory obligations?

Ray Norman

8.2.3 Public Questions on Notice - Mr Ray Norman - 18 January 2022**FILE NO:** SF6381**AUTHOR:** Anthea Rooney (Council and Committees Officer)**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER:** Michael Stretton

QUESTIONS and RESPONSES:

The following question, submitted in writing to the Council on 18 January 2022 by Mr Ray Norman, has been answered by Mr Michael Stretton (Chief Executive Officer).

Questions:

1. [With regard to the Paterson Street Central Car Park] Will Council now abandon its efforts to implement a planning proposition that is exponentially losing both credibility and viability in a 21st C context not to mention its increasingly dubious sustainability and real world relevance in the long term?

Response:

The premise of the question is not accepted as it is based purely on speculation.

This said, however, the City of Launceston has acted in good faith to support the acquisition of the Paterson Street Central Car Park.

The Council remains of the view that a centrally located bus interchange is an important strategic objective for the CBD and that the proposed creative precinct represents a significant cultural, economic and employment opportunity for the broader Northern Tasmanian community.

Additionally, these proposals for the site have been supported by the Launceston Chamber of Commerce and a range of business stakeholders because of their importance to the City's future.

The Council submitted a successful, evidence-based submission to the Building Better Regions program and has published the supporting Bureau of Meteorology data on its website.

Metro Tasmania is supportive of a strategically located, centralised Launceston Bus Interchange.

8.2.3 Public Questions on Notice - Mr Ray Norman - 18 January 2022 ...(Cont'd)

The Birchalls site is a historically and strategically important site in the CBD, and the Council is committed to realising a successful redevelopment of this building to create new employment, social, cultural and economic opportunities for future generations.

The Paterson Street Central Car Park site is the subject of ongoing legal action.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Public Questions on Notice - Mr Ray Norman - 18 January 2022
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Attachment 1 - Public Questions on Notice - Mr Ray Norman - 18 January 2022

Given the recent press, the citizens, business people, ratepayers, et al in the Launceston community are increasingly apprehensive and distressed by the unfolding revelations to do with Council's and Councillors' ongoing activity in regard to the redevelopment of the '**Paterson Street Central Carpark**' – a property Council does not own and has diminishing prospects of ever doing so.

Likewise, the city's citizens and ratepayers have reached a point where:

- The Council is expending ratepayers' significant funds – *reportedly in excess of \$1Million* – on planning for a redevelopment on land it does not yet own;
- The Council is relying upon '**\$10Million Federal Drought Relief Funding**' – *for a drought that the region did not in fact experience* – to fund the redevelopment in part and for the benefit a developer who, if successful in their development, are unlikely to pay rates and/or likely to be a viable contributing '**corporate citizen**' to the city in a 21st C context;
- There are reports of Council expending **\$18,000** in legal expenses, presumably as a '**litigation funder**' albeit that Council did not participate in the presentation of evidence or the provision of information in the Federal Court Case brought on by the aspiring developer who it seems Council is offering free access to the '**space over**' Council's proposed/planned Bus Station;
- Council now owns the '**Birchalls Newsagency Site**' acquired for a price reportedly considerably above the prevailing market price and for which Council is not deriving any income nor has any immediate prospect of finding a buyer to recover its unwarranted expenditure;
- The need '**need**' for Council's planned Bus Station is questionable as it was by Metro Tasmania at the time Council proposed the development;
- The proposed development as a whole has arguably contributed significantly to the city's debt level, something that may well take generations of future citizens and ratepayers is unwarranted burden upon ratepayers that diverts funds away from achieving sustainability outcome etc; are collectively and negatively compounding upon community aspirations and the community's ability achieve prudent progress.

Against this background will Council now abandon its efforts to implement a planning proposition that is exponentially losing both credibility and viability in a 21st C context not to mention its increasingly dubious sustainability and real world relevance in the long term?

Moreover, will Council now work proactively with the owner of the property towards achieving their aspirations as has been already published in the press?

Ray Norman

8.2.4 Public Questions on Notice - Mr Ray Norman - 18 January 2022**FILE NO:** SF6381**AUTHOR:** Anthea Rooney (Council and Committees Officer)**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER:** Michael Stretton

QUESTIONS and RESPONSES:

The following questions, submitted in writing to the Council on 18 January 2022 by Mr Ray Norman, have been answered by Mr Michael Stretton (Chief Executive Officer).

Questions:

1. Is there a date after which a by-election for Mayor would not be held?
2. Would/could Mayor van Zetten remain a Councillor but at the same time relinquish his role as Mayor?
3. Will the Mayor's intentions be made known to the City's ratepayers if he is actually contemplating standing down or intends not to seek re-election as either Mayor or Councillor?
4. If the Mayor stands down as Mayor before the elections will he also be required to relinquish his position as a Councillor and thus bring on a by-election?

Response:

It is not appropriate for the Council to respond to rumour and/or speculation in respect to the future of the Mayor or any other City of Launceston Councillor.

This said, however, under Section 47 of the Local Government Act 1993 (Tas) (the Act) a Councillor may resign from office at any time. A Councillor who has resigned as Mayor or Deputy Mayor may continue in office as Councillor. A Councillor who holds the office of Mayor or Deputy Mayor and resigns as Councillor ceases to hold such office.

Under the Act a casual vacancy would generally not be filled by either recount or by-election if it were to occur during the period commencing six months before, and ending on the Thursday before, the day on which the notice of election for a forthcoming election is to be given.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Public Questions on Notice - Mr Ray Norman - 18 January 2022
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Attachment 1 - Public Questions on Notice - Mr Ray Norman - 18 January 2022

Within the Launceston community it is rumoured, and is increasing being speculated upon, that Mayor van Zetten is seriously contemplating ‘**standing down**’ as Mayor **prior to** this year’s Local Government Elections – *and as early as April*.

Should that be the case a number of questions arise that are of serious concern for the city’s citizens and ratepayers:

- Is there a date **after which** a by-election for Mayor would **not** be held?
- Would/could Mayor van Zetten remain a Councillor but at the same time relinquish his role as Mayor?
- Will the Mayor’s intentions be made known to the city’s ratepayers **if** he is actually contemplating standing down or intends not to seek re-election as either Mayor or Councillor?
- **IF** the Mayor stands down as Mayor before the elections will he also be required to relinquish his position as a Councillor and thus bring on a by-election?

Ray Norman

8.2.5 Public Questions on Notice - Mr Ray Norman - 18 January 2022**FILE NO:** SF6381**AUTHOR:** Anthea Rooney (Council and Committees Officer)**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER:** Michael Stretton

QUESTIONS and RESPONSES:

The following questions, submitted in writing to the Council on 18 January 2022 by Mr Ray Norman, have been answered by The Mayor, Councillor A M van Zetten.

Questions:

1. When is the Chief Executive Officer's current contract due to expire?
2. Should the Chief Executive Officer indicate that he intends not to seek renewal of his contract, is there a date by which he is required to declare his intentions?
3. If the Chief Executive Officer indicates that he intends not to seek renewal at a considerable time before his contract with the City expires, is there a requirement that he be paid out to the date it actually expires? If so, is there precedence?
4. Will the Chief Executive Officer's intentions be made known to the City's ratepayers when and if he makes them clear to Council?

Response:

The current Contract of Employment for the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) expires on 15 October, 2022. It is inappropriate to engage in speculation around the Contract of Employment renewal process.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Public Questions on Notice - Mr Ray Norman - 18 January 2022
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Attachment 1 - Public Questions on Notice - Mr Ray Norman - 18 January 2022

It is widely rumoured that the city's CEO is contemplating indicating that he will **not** be renewing his contract with the City of Launceston. Should that be the case a number of questions arise that are of serious concern for the city's citizens and ratepayers.

If this speculation has any foundation at all the following questions arise:

1. When is the CEO's current contract due to expire?
2. Should the CEO indicate that he intends **NOT** to seek renewal of his contract is there a date by which he is required to declare his intentions?
3. If the CEO indicates that he intends **NOT** to seek renewal at a considerable time **before** his contract with the city expires, is there a requirement that he be paid out to the date it actually expires? **If so**, is there precedence?
4. Will the CEO's intentions be made known to the city's ratepayers **when and if** he makes them clear to Council?

Ray Norman

8.2.6 Public Questions on Notice - Mr Ray Norman - 19 January 2022**FILE NO:** SF6381**AUTHOR:** Anthea Rooney (Council and Committees Officer)**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER:** Michael Stretton

QUESTIONS and RESPONSES:

The following question, submitted to the Council in writing on 19 January 2022 by Mr Ray Norman, has been answered by Ms Louise Foster (General Manager Organisational Services Network).

Questions:

1. Will the Council be proactive and take immediate steps to:
 - ensure that all scooters - electric and other - in use on Launceston's streets are equipped with anti-stealth safety devices;
 - impose appropriate financial penalties for both riders and service providers for non-compliance; and
 - initiate an education and marketing program to raise public awareness in regard to the benefits and the contingent need for the safe use of this class of public transport on the City's streets.

Response:

The City of Launceston is observing the introduction of both private and hire and ride e-scooters in Launceston with interest, acknowledging that it is in very early stages of the trial period. The trial will ultimately determine whether e-scooters are an appropriate form of transport for the community, considering all data and feedback collected during the trial. The City of Launceston is collaborating with the City of Hobart, the State Government and Tasmania Police and meeting regularly with the hire and ride e-scooter operators.

The City of Launceston does not own or operate hire and ride e-scooters. Following the legalisation of electric scooters last year, the Council entered into a data sharing trial with hire and ride e-scooter providers Beam and Neuron Mobility. The hire and ride providers are commercial businesses operating legally and the Council has a limited role in regulating these businesses. The Council is continuing to encourage residents to provide feedback about rental e-scooters in Launceston - including aspects which are working well and those which need improvement.

8.2.6 Public Questions on Notice - Mr Ray Norman - 19 January 2022 ...(Cont'd)

Your suggestion of anti-stealth safety devices has been noted and will be forwarded to Beam and Neuron for consideration.

Unlawful, anti-social or dangerous behaviour by scooter riders can be reported to Tasmania Police and enforcement of financial penalties is a police matter.

The Department of State Growth has commenced an education and marketing campaign on safe personal mobility device use in Tasmania. In addition to the State campaign, Beam and Neuron regularly push educational content through their social media, in-app notifications and emails. Further to this, both operators employ operational staff who patrol the City and educate riders on safe riding and responsible parking.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Public Questions on Notice - Mr Ray Norman - 19 January 2022
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Attachment 1 - Public Questions on Notice - Mr Ray Norman - 19 January 2022

Given press reports and growing community concern regarding the safety of pedestrians in Launceston’s CBD and the threats to public safety posed by the electric scooters currently for hire in the city there is growing case for the implementation safety regulations relevant to the service providers and the hiring public and private owner operators using such devices in the city.

The case for the availability of this mode of transport in a city like Launceston offer a viable way forward in the context of 21st transport options. It is becoming increasingly obvious that possibly the biggest threat this mode of transport poses is their speed and stealth, both of which could be mitigated by regulatory safety requirements.

Against this background will Council be proactive and take immediate steps to:

- Ensure that **ALL** scooters –*electric and other* – in use on Launceston’s streets are equipped with ‘*anti-stealth safety devices*’ – as indicated in the diagram below; and
- Impose appropriate financial penalties for both riders and service providers for non-compliance; and
- Initiate an education and marketing program to raise public awareness in regard to the benefits and the contingent need for the safe use of this class of public transport on the city’s streets.



Ray Norman

8.2.7 Public Questions on Notice - Mr Ray Norman - 19 January 2022**FILE NO:** SF6381**AUTHOR:** Anthea Rooney (Council and Committees Officer)**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER:** Michael Stretton

QUESTIONS and RESPONSES:

The following question, submitted to the Council in writing on 19 January 2022 by Mr Ray Norman, has been answered by Mr Shane Eberhardt (General Manager Infrastructure and Assets Network).

Questions:

1. Will Council now be proactive in planning a way forward in respect to:
 - (a) ensuring that all future development applicants for major corporate infrastructure developments are required to provide a minimum of 30% of the anticipated operations energy requirements onsite via renewable energy generation;
 - (b) ensuring that property owners manage stormwater and grey water is increasing managed onsite in ways that ensures such water moves slowly through the landscape rather than being channelled untreated into the region's waterways;
 - (c) ensuring that the municipality's and adjoining Councils canopy cover is progressively increased towards sequestering carbon and mitigating the impacts of climate change in rural, peri-urban and urban cultural landscapes alike;
 - (d) ensuring that vegetative cover in all urban landscapes is proactively offset when removed as a consequence of development in all the municipality's cultural landscaping;
 - (e) ensuring that land with prime agricultural values and potential is not absorbed into suburbia and is progressively identified as agrihoods cum food and fibre productive precincts towards achieving regional food security and shortening supply chains wherever possible and practical;
 - (f) ensuring, along with adjoining jurisdictions, that the sewerage outlets into any waterway is broken and progressively diverted land based treatment and resource exploitation;
 - (g) ensuring that community waste streams are proactively and progressively diverted away from landfill and proactively and progressively reimagined as a resource base for locally based manufacturers and end users;
 - (h) ensuring that within budget allocations going forward there are adequate funds available for the proactive marketing of, and the implementation of, sustainable cultural landscaping in all its manifestations; and
 - (i) progressively and proactively engaging all aspects of the region's diverse community in a paradigm of sustainable cultural landscaping in interfacing urban, per-urban and rural contexts?
-

8.2.7 Public Questions on Notice - Mr Ray Norman - 19 January 2022 ... (Cont'd)

Response:

- (a) *This is a matter for the Tasmanian Government. There are currently no provisions in the Launceston Interim Planning Scheme that seek to influence energy choices of property owners. The schemes do, however, provide a suite of exemptions from the need for planning approval for both ground based and roof mounted solar energy installations on properties that are not heritage listed. Additionally, there are design standards in some residential zones that require consideration of solar access.*
 - (b) *Greywater is managed by TasWater. Council adopted a Stormwater System Management Plan in 2019 that outlines the City of Launceston's priorities with respect to stormwater management which can be found at: <https://www.launceston.tas.gov.au/files/assets/public/environment/stormwater-system-management-plan.pdf>.*
 - (c) *The City of Launceston plants hundreds of trees annually. As reported in its Annual Plan, the City of Launceston is working in partnership to develop an urban canopy plan for the City.*
 - (d) *The Launceston Interim Planning Scheme 2015 requires consideration of vegetation on development sites in a number of instances, particularly where recognised natural values may exist, or in places of recognised scenic quality or on heritage listed places. Outside of these the management of vegetation (and canopy) is left to the discretion of the property owner.*
 - (e) *This is managed through the Launceston Interim Planning Scheme 2015*
 - (f) *The sewerage network is managed by TasWater.*
 - (g) *The City of Launceston (CoL) has invested significantly in waste management and resource recovery and boasts, arguably, the best resource recovery facility and initiatives in Tasmania. The CoL has long term plans to not rely on landfill practices in the future by investing in different technology and methods to recover these resources. One such measure is the establishment of the first Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) kerbside service and processing facility in Tasmania. In 2020 the CoL diverted 11,000 tonnes of organic material away from landfill, conservatively this equates to 22,000 tonnes of methane a harmful greenhouse gas being abated. Landfill diversion is at the heart of waste management at the CoL.*
-

8.2.7 Public Questions on Notice - Mr Ray Norman - 19 January 2022 ... (Cont'd)

The CoL will consider a construction and demolition facility which will help to divert an estimated 50% of material that is currently being landfilled. The CoL plays a leading role in the Northern Tasmanian Waste Management Group which applies a voluntary landfill levy of \$7.50/tonne to help drive landfill diversion for Northern Tasmania. The CoL has endorsed a Toward Zero Emissions action plan that outlines how the CoL will move towards carbon neutrality by 2025. The plan outlines abatement actions across all of the Council's business to limit the Council's carbon emissions.

- (h) Commitments made in strategies and policies are incorporated into the Council's Long-term Financial Plan.*
- (i) The City of Launceston proactively engages with its community through many mechanisms and will continue to do so.*

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Public Questions on Notice - Mr Ray Norman - 19 January 2022
-

Attachment 1 - Public Questions on Notice - Mr Ray Norman - 19 January 2022

Given Council’s demonstrated capacity to review and revise planning provisions and zoning to facilitate developers’ aspirations in regard to projects like the proposed Gorge Hotel, arguably it is time to put that capacity to work in regard to mitigating the emerging crisis’s exasperated by the COVID pandemic and climate change in regard to their evolving and impending consequences.

It is increasingly evident that supply chains, interest rates, communities ability to house its citizens appropriately are reaching crisis levels. Alongside this there are as yet unrevealed consequences related to humanity’s inappropriate exploitation of natural resources. Against this backdrop there is a clear and apparent need to initiate fundamental change in the ways communities plan a way forward in a 21st C context.

Consequently, will Council now be proactive in planning a way forward in respect to:

1. Ensuring that all future development applicants for major corporate infrastructure developments are required to provide a minimum of 30% of the anticipated operations energy requirements onsite via renewable energy generation;
2. Ensuring that property owners manage stormwater and **‘grey water’** is increasing managed onsite in ways that ensures such water moves slowly through the landscape rather than being channelled untreated into the region’s waterways;
3. Ensuring that the municipality’s and adjoining Councils **‘canopy cover’** is progressively increased towards sequestering carbon and mitigating the impacts of climate change in rural, peri-urban and urban cultural landscapes alike;
4. Ensuring that vegetative cover in all urban landscapes is proactively offset when removed as a consequence of development in all the municipality’s cultural landscaping;
5. Ensuring that land with prime agricultural values and potential is not absorbed into suburbia and is progressively identified as **‘agrihoods’** cum food and fibre productive precincts towards achieving regional food security and shortening supply chains wherever possible and practical;
6. Ensuring, along with adjoining jurisdictions, that the sewerage outlets into any waterway is broken and progressively diverted **‘land based’** treatment and resource exploitation;
7. Ensuring that community **‘waste streams’** are proactively and progressively diverted away from landfill and proactively and progressively reimaged as a resource base for locally based manufacturers and end users;
8. Ensuring that within budget allocations going forward there are adequate funds available for the proactive marketing of, and the implementation of, sustainable cultural landscaping in all its manifestations; and
9. Progressively and proactively engaging all aspects of the region’s diverse community in a paradigm of sustainable cultural landscaping in interfacing urban, per-urban and rural contexts?



8.2 Public Questions Without Notice

Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015 - Regulation 31(2)(b)

(Members of the public who ask Questions without Notice at a meeting will have both the question and any answer provided recorded in the Minutes. Council Officers will endeavour to answer the question asked at the meeting, however, that is not always possible and more research may be required. If an answer cannot be provided at the Meeting, the question will be treated as a Question on Notice. A response will be provided at the next Council Meeting.)

Under the provisions of the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993*, Council acts as a Planning Authority in regard to items included in Agenda Item 9 - Planning Authority.

9 PLANNING AUTHORITY

9.1 Section 35F Report - Launceston Draft Local Provisions Schedule

FILE NO: SF6440

AUTHOR: Iain More (Town Planner)

GENERAL MANAGER: Dan Ryan (Community and Place Network)

DECISION STATEMENT:

The purpose of this report is to consider the representations to the Draft Launceston Local Provisions Schedule and provide recommendations to the Tasmanian Planning Commission pursuant to section 35F of the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993*.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL CONSIDERATION:

Council - 5 September 2019 - Agenda Item 15.3 - Tasmanian Planning Scheme - Draft Launceston Local Provisions Schedule

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council, as the Planning Authority:

1. endorses the attached document *SF6440 - Section 35F of the Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993 - Representation considerations* (Doc Set ID No 4665237), as its report pursuant to section 35F of the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993* and forwards it to the Tasmanian Planning Commission.
 2. delegates to the Chief Executive Officer its powers and functions to:
 - a. respond to any directions made by the Commission;
 - b. represent the planning authority at hearings pursuant to section 35H.
-

9.1 Section 35F Report - Launceston Draft Local Provisions Schedule ...(Cont'd)

REPORT:**1. Background**

The Draft Launceston Local Provisions Schedule (LPS) was endorsed by the planning authority at its Meeting on 5 September 2019 and submitted to the Tasmanian Planning Commission (TPC). The TPC subsequently directed that the Draft LPS be publicly notified in accordance with the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993* (the Act). The draft LPS was publicly notified for 60 days on 21 July 2021, with the period for the submission of representations closing on 18 September 2021. In accordance with the requirements of the Act, a notice was placed in two Saturday editions of *The Examiner* and *The Advocate* newspapers on the 17 and 24 July 2021 and an article placed on the Council's website. In addition to the requirements of the Act, several *drop in sessions* were held on 30 July, 3, 6, 10 and 19 August 2021, inviting the public to obtain further information on the LPS. These sessions received 25 visitors from the public. At the conclusion of the exhibition period, 64 representations had been received.

2. Legislation

Following public exhibition of the Draft LPS, section 35F of the Act requires the planning authority to prepare a report containing:

- a. a copy of each representation made under section 35E(1);
- b. a statement of the planning authority's opinion as to the merit of each representation made, in particular as to whether the draft LPS should be modified; and
- c. if recommended to be modified, the effect on the draft LPS as whole;
- d. a statement as to whether the planning authority is satisfied that the draft LPS meets the LPS criteria; and
- e. the recommendation of the planning authority in relation to the draft LPS.

Following receipt of the planning authority report under section 35F, the TPC will hold hearings into the representations made. The TPC will then seek the agreement of the Minister for Planning for the final form of the Launceston LPS before it is approved and commences operation.

3. State Government and other Authorities

The TPC issued a schedule of State agencies and authorities to be directly notified of the exhibition of the Draft LPS. Each of the agencies and authorities were notified in accordance with this direction. Representations are addressed in the attached report table.

9.1 Section 35F Report - Launceston Draft Local Provisions Schedule ...(Cont'd)

4. Community Consultation

The Draft Launceston LPS has been subject to the statutory public exhibition requirements of the Act.

5. Officer Comments

Representations submitted generally related to the following topics:

- a. requested change of zonings of properties;
- b. requested change of overlays on properties;
- c. the effect the SPPs will have on properties;
- d. modifications of PPZs and SPPs;
- e. modifications of transitioning arrangements;
- f. revision of the Local Historic Heritage Code register; and
- g. revision of priority vegetation overlay.

The matters raised in representations are addressed in accordance with the requirements of the Act in the attached report *SF6440 - Section 35F of the Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993 - Representation considerations*.

Matters raised in the representations that warrant consideration of amendments to the State Planning Provisions or transitioning arrangements have not been considered.

6. Conclusion

The section 35F report has been prepared in accordance with the relevant sections of the Act. It seeks to make amendments to the LPS where there are omissions, as well as provide clarity on issues that cannot be changed.

It is recommended that Council endorses the report in order for it to be submitted to the Tasmanian Planning Commission.

ECONOMIC IMPACT:

The LPS is intended to provide opportunity, certainty and predictability to the community and the development industry. The section 35F report continues this intent.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT:

The LPS embodies a sustainable development objective. It provides regulation to safeguard the environment and to avoid natural hazards. It also seeks to promote a sustainable urban form and over time, reduce the need to travel for the community. The section 35F report continues this intent.

9.1 Section 35F Report - Launceston Draft Local Provisions Schedule ...(Cont'd)

SOCIAL IMPACT:

The LPS provides a number of provisions to recognise the developing and changing needs of our community. The strategic intents recognise the role that planning can play in promoting social inclusion and ensuring equitable and sustainable access to housing and community services. The section 35F report continues this intent.

STRATEGIC DOCUMENT REFERENCE:

City of Launceston Corporate Strategic Plan 2014-2024

Strategic Priority 4: We value our City's unique identity by celebrating our special heritage and culture and building on our competitive advantages to be a place where people choose to live, work and visit.

10-Year Goal: To sustain and promote Launceston as a unique place to live, work, learn and play.

Focus Areas:

1. To promote and enhance Launceston's rich heritage, culture and natural environment.
2. To continue to offer an attractive network of parks, open spaces and facilities throughout Launceston.
3. To promote and attract national and international events and support the sector to ensure a diverse annual events calendar.
4. To support the central business district (CBD) and commercial areas as activity places during day and night.

BUDGET & FINANCIAL ASPECTS:

Any costs associated with this project are provided for in the current operational budget.

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:

The officer has no conflict of interest in this item.

I certify that I have reviewed and approved this advice and recommendation.



Dan Ryan (General Manager Community and Place Network)

9.1 Section 35F Report - Launceston Draft Local Provisions Schedule ...(Cont'd)

ATTACHMENTS:

1. SF6440 - Section 35F *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993* - Representation Considerations (*electronically distributed*)
 2. LPS City of Launceston - Cimitiere Street Heritage Precinct Datasheet - 20211129 (*electronically distributed*)
 3. LPS City of Launceston - RMCG Review of Representations (*electronically distributed*)
 4. LPS City of Launceston - RMCG Review of Representation 42 (*electronically distributed*)
 5. Section 35F *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993* - Representations (*electronically distributed*)
-

10 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE MAYOR

10.1 Mayor's Announcements

FILE NO: SF2375

Friday 17 December 2021

- Officiated at the *Live Long Live Well* End of Year Celebration
- Attended the *Unveiling of the 2022 Vision* at *TasDance*

Saturday 18 December 2021

- Welcomed attendees to *Carols by Candlelight*

Saturday 25 December 2021

- Dropped by Albert Hall as *Launceston Community Christmas* became collection only

Monday 27 December 2021

- Attended the start of the *Launceston to Hobart Yacht Race*

Tuesday 28 December 2021

- Attended the *Launceston Christmas Carnival* feature races

Thursday 30 December 2021

- Attended the *Launceston Christmas Carnival* feature races

Friday 31 December 2021

- Attended *New Years' Eve BeerFest*

Tuesday 11 January 2022

- Conducted a private Citizenship Ceremony

Saturday 22 January 2022

- Attended the *Mona Foma MOFO* sessions
-

10.1 Mayor's Announcements ...(Cont'd)

Sunday 23 January 2022

- Attended the *Mona Foma Fertile Ground* performance

Wednesday 26 January 2022

- Conducted a public Citizenship Ceremony
-

11 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

(This item provides an opportunity for Councillors to briefly report on the activities that have been undertaken in their capacity as a representative of the Council. It is not necessary to list social functions that have been attended.)

12 QUESTIONS BY COUNCILLORS**12.1 Questions on Notice**

Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015 - Regulation 30

(A councillor, at least seven days before an ordinary Council Meeting or a Council Committee Meeting, may give written notice to the General Manager of a question in respect of which the councillor seeks an answer at that Meeting. An answer to a Question on Notice will be in writing.)

No Councillor's Questions on Notice have been identified as part of this Agenda

12.2 Questions Without Notice

Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015 - Regulation 29

(Questions Without Notice, and any answers to those questions, are not required to be recorded in the Minutes of the Meeting.)

13 COMMITTEE REPORTS**13.1 Tender Review Committee Meeting - 16 December 2021****FILE NO:** SF0100/CD.041/2021/CD.042/2021/CD.043/2021**AUTHOR:** Anthea Rooney (Council and Committees Officer)**GENERAL MANAGER:** Louise Foster (Organisational Services Network)

DECISION STATEMENT:

To receive a report from the Tender Review Committee (a delegated Authority Committee).

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council notes the decision of the Tender Review Committee to accept the tenders submitted by:

1. Zanetto Civil for the Newnham Creek Remediation Works, Contract Number CD.041/2021 for \$1,369,265.00 (exclusive of GST).
 2. Stabilised Pavements Australia Pty Ltd for the William Street Rehabilitation (St John - Tamar), Contract Number CD.042/2021 for \$756,987.90 (exclusive of GST).
 3. Peak Services for the Tender Management and Assessment Consultancy Services, Contract Number CD.043/2021 for \$39,520.00 (exclusive of GST).
-

REPORT:

The Tender Review Committee Meeting, held on 16 December 2021, determined the following:

That the sums submitted by:

1. Zanetto Civil for the Newnham Creek Remediation Works, Contract Number CD.041/2021 for \$1,369,265.00 (exclusive of GST) be accepted.
 2. Stabilised Pavements Australia Pty Ltd for the William Street Rehabilitation (St John - Tamar), Contract Number CD.042/2021 for \$756,987.90 (exclusive of GST) be accepted.
-

13.1 Tender Review Committee Meeting - 16 December 2021 ...(Cont'd)

3. Peak Services for the Tender Management and Assessment Consultancy Services, Contract Number CD.043/2021 for \$39,520.00 (exclusive of GST) be accepted.

ECONOMIC IMPACT:

Not considered relevant to this report.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT:

Not considered relevant to this report.

SOCIAL IMPACT:

Not considered relevant to this report.

STRATEGIC DOCUMENT REFERENCE:

City of Launceston Corporate Strategic Plan 2014-2024

Strategic Priority 3: We are a progressive leader that is accountable to our governance obligations and responsive to our community.

10-Year Goal: To ensure decisions are made in a transparent and accountable way, that effectively meet our statutory obligations, support quality services and underpin the long-term sustainability of our organisation.

Focus Areas:

- 3. To ensure decisions are made on the basis of accurate and relevant information.
- 5. To maintain a financially sustainable organisation.

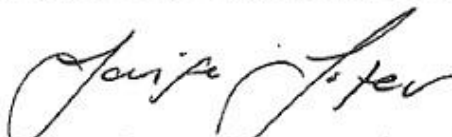
BUDGET & FINANCIAL ASPECTS:

Not considered relevant to this report.

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:

The officer has no conflict of interest in this item.

I certify that I have reviewed and approved this advice and recommendation.



Louise Foster - General Manager Organisational Services Network

13.2 Cataract Gorge Reserve Advisory Committee Meeting - 14 December 2021**FILE NO:** SF0839**AUTHOR:** Anthea Rooney (Council and Committees Officer)**GENERAL MANAGER:** Louise Foster (Organisational Services Network)

DECISION STATEMENT:

To receive and consider a report from the Cataract Gorge Reserve Advisory Committee Meeting held on 14 December 2021.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council receives a report from the Cataract Gorge Reserve Advisory Committee Meeting held on 14 December 2021.

REPORT:

The Cataract Gorge Reserve Advisory Committee Meeting held on 14 December 2021, discussed the following issues:

1. Theme 1 - 1.4 Weeds - Recreation and Parks has engaged consultants RMCG to undertake a review of the Weed Management Plan for the Gorge environs. This review will assess and update management zones within the area (reflecting the intent for each of these and referencing all relevant plans for the site), ground truth the current vegetation status of the site, incorporate key community stakeholder knowledge of the vegetation on site, prioritise treatment zones and target species, provide a schedule of weed treatment and other vegetation management activities, including revegetation, and provide spatial data for treatment zones to enable updating of information.
 2. Tree Maintenance in the Cataract Gorge Reserve - the Committee was advised that all trees within the reserve next to paths and roads undergo annual inspections and if necessary full risk assessments.
 3. Mona Foma Site Plans - the Committee was advised that local geotechnical engineers have been engaged to assist with the event.
 4. Duck Reach Turbine Installation and Responsibility - the Committee noted the response from the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery regarding the return of the turbines to their original location.
-

**13.2 Cataract Gorge Reserve Advisory Committee Meeting - 14 December 2021
...(Cont'd)**

5. 2022 Meeting Schedule - the Committee finalised dates for Meetings to be held in 2022.

ECONOMIC IMPACT:

Not considered relevant to this report.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT:

Not considered relevant to this report.

SOCIAL IMPACT:

Not considered relevant to this report.

STRATEGIC DOCUMENT REFERENCE:

City of Launceston Corporate Strategic Plan 2014-2024

Strategic Priority 1: We connect with our community and our region through meaningful engagement, cooperation and representation.

10-Year Goal: To seek out and champion positive engagement and collaboration to capitalise on the major opportunities and address the future challenges facing our community and region.

Focus Area:

1. To develop and consistently utilise contemporary and effective community engagement processes.

BUDGET & FINANCIAL ASPECTS:

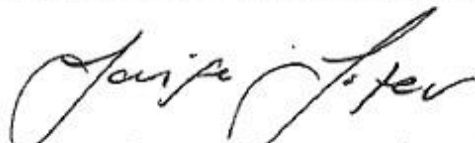
Not considered relevant to this report.

13.2 Cataract Gorge Reserve Advisory Committee Meeting - 14 December 2021
...(Cont'd)

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:

The officer has no conflict of interest in this item.

I certify that I have reviewed and approved this advice and recommendation.



Louise Foster - General Manager Organisational Services Network

14 COUNCIL WORKSHOPS

Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015 - Regulation 8(2)(c)

14.1 Council Workshop Report

FILE NO: SF4401

AUTHOR: Anthea Rooney (Council and Committees Officer)

GENERAL MANAGER: Louise Foster (Organisational Services Network)

DECISION STATEMENT:

To consider Council Workshops conducted since the last Council Meeting.

RECOMMENDATION:

That, pursuant to Regulation 8(2)(c) of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015*, Council notes the Council Workshops conducted since the last Council Meeting, for the purposes described:

Workshops conducted on 20 January 2022:

Launceston Place Brand

Councillors engaged in final discussions regarding the Launceston Place Brand prior to presentation at Council for endorsement.

Launceston Draft Local Provisions Schedule

Councillors received a presentation on clarification of the section 35F for the Draft Local Provisions Schedule.

Albert Hall Update Presentation

Councillors received an update on progress and changes with regard to the Albert Hall Development Application.

e-Scooter Trial

Councillors received a progress report on the first month of the e-scooter trial.

Tamar Estuary Management Taskforce Vision (TEMT)

Councillors received an overview from the Department of State Growth on TEMT's kanamaluka/Tamar Estuary vision process to date.

14.1 Council Workshop Report ...(Cont'd)

REPORT:

Regulation 8(2)(c) of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015* says that the Agenda of an Ordinary Council Meeting is to include the date and purpose of any Council Workshop held since the last Meeting.

ECONOMIC IMPACT:

Not considered relevant to this report.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT:

Not considered relevant to this report.

SOCIAL IMPACT:

Not considered relevant to this report.

STRATEGIC DOCUMENT REFERENCE:

City of Launceston Corporate Strategic Plan 2014-2024

Strategic Priority 3: We are a progressive leader that is accountable to our governance obligations and responsive to our community.

10-Year Goal: To ensure decisions are made in a transparent and accountable way, that effectively meet our statutory obligations, support quality services and underpin the long-term sustainability of our organisation.

Focus Areas:

2. To fairly and equitably discharge our statutory and governance obligations.

BUDGET & FINANCIAL ASPECTS:

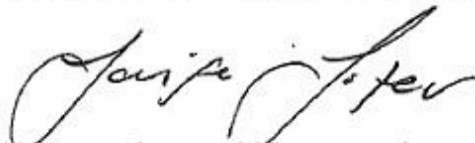
Not considered relevant to this report.

14.1 Council Workshop Report ...(Cont'd)

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:

The officer has no conflict of interest in this item.

I certify that I have reviewed and approved this advice and recommendation.



Louise Foster - General Manager Organisational Services Network

15 NOTICES OF MOTION

Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015 - Regulation 16(5)

15.1 Notice of Motion - Councillor T G Walker - Vulnerable People

FILE NO: SF5547

AUTHOR: Anthea Rooney (Council and Committees Officer)

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER: Michael Stretton

DECISION STATEMENT:

To consider a Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor T G Walker regarding vulnerable people.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Council acknowledges:

1. that all lives are valuable and any death during a pandemic is a tragedy; and
 2. that within our community there are a wide range of vulnerable people that are concerned for their welfare, or the welfare of someone they care for because of age, health or disability concerns;
 3. and consequently agrees to write to the Premier to:
 - (a) seek an extension of community services currently offered to those isolating because of close contact or COVID-19 infection, to those most vulnerable people or carers of our most vulnerable people who are isolating in order to avoid COVID-19 infection.
 - (b) ask the State Government to investigate the creation of a permanent vulnerable peoples register, to enable the timely provision of direct government assistance, or referral to organisations that can assist with individual needs.
-

REPORT:

The State Government has done much to protect Tasmanians during the COVID-19 pandemic. It has pivoted and responded to changing circumstances and has provided a level of security to those Tasmanians who has been affected in business, through work or by isolating due to infection.

15.1 Notice of Motion - Councillor T G Walker - Vulnerable People ...(Cont'd)

There is a large group of Tasmanians who are particularly vulnerable to the potential symptoms of COVID-19 who are not directly being offered protection and security in order to prevent themselves becoming infected, and potentially dying from that exposure. The aged and physically vulnerable people who, in regular circumstance, are able to look after their own needs, are now placed in potentially *life and death* situations on a daily basis.

By extending the community care to those who voluntarily choose to access those services, we can be assured that we truly are doing everything we can to avoid unnecessary deaths in Tasmania. Of course, there are many who already have the family or community help that they require to keep themselves, or someone they care for, safe. But, there are also many instances where people are having to put themselves in harm's way in order to procure the most basic needs. We must act swiftly to protect our most vulnerable community members, whether it be because of age, or underlying health issues. These people, and their carers, are feeling exposed and forgotten and living with COVID-19 is not an option that they can consider.

Being an administrator of a social media COVID-19 support group that now includes over 50,000 Tasmanians, I can say without question that this is the most overriding concern that has been expressed. Naturally, it is those most at risk who are going to seek out whatever information they can to protect themselves, or someone they care for. There is still much that none of know about the course of this pandemic and it will likely take further deviations. There is no time to lose in providing this service to those most vulnerable Tasmanians who wish to avoid the chance of being exposed to COVID-19.

ECONOMIC IMPACT:

Michael Stretton (Chief Executive Officer)

The rationale behind the Councillor's Notice of Motion is well articulated. Acknowledging that the State Government has done a great deal to support its people throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, there is always room for ideas like this to be raised for consideration. Should the Councillors determine to support the motion there is capacity within the organisation to carry out the proposed actions.

ECONOMIC IMPACT:

Not considered relevant to this report.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT:

Not considered relevant to this report.

15.1 Notice of Motion - Councillor T G Walker - Vulnerable People ...(Cont'd)

SOCIAL IMPACT:

Not considered relevant to this report.

STRATEGIC DOCUMENT REFERENCE:

City of Launceston Corporate Strategic Plan 2014-2024

Priority Area 8 - A secure, accountable and responsive Organisation

Ten-year goals - To ensure decisions are made in a transparent and accountable way

Key Direction -

3. To ensure decisions are made on the basis of accurate and relevant information

BUDGET & FINANCIAL ASPECTS:

Not considered relevant to this report.

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:

The officer has no conflict of interest in this item.

I certify that I have reviewed and approved this advice and recommendation.



Michael Stretton - Chief Executive Officer

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Notice of Motion - Councillor T G Walker - Vulnerable People

Attachment 1 - Notice of Motion - Councillor T G Walker - Vulnerable People

CITY OF LAUNCESTON

MEMORANDUM

FILE NO: SF5547
TW
DATE: 20 January 2022

TO: Michael Stretton Chief Executive Officer
c.c. Committee Clerks

FROM: Tim Walker Councillor

SUBJECT: **Notice of Motion - Vulnerable People**

In accordance with Clause 16 (5) of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015* please accept this Notice of Motion for placement on the agenda of the Meeting of Council to be held on 27 January 2022.

Motion

That the Council acknowledges:

1. that all lives are valuable and any death during a pandemic is a tragedy.
2. that within our community there are a wide range of vulnerable people that are concerned for their welfare, or the welfare of someone they care for because of age, health or disability concerns.
3. and consequently agrees to write to the Premier to:
 - (a) seek an extension of community services currently offered to those isolating because of close contact or COVID-19 infection, to those most vulnerable people or carers of our most vulnerable people who are isolating in order to avoid COVID-19 infection.
 - (b) ask the State Government to investigate the creation of a permanent vulnerable peoples' register, to enable the timely provision of direct government assistance, or referral to organisations that can assist with individual needs.

BackgroundSupporting Information:

The State government has done much to protect Tasmanians during the Covid pandemic. It has pivoted and responded to changing circumstances, and has provided a

CITY OF LAUNCESTON

MEMORANDUM

provided a level of security to those Tasmanians who has been affected in business, through work or by isolating due to infection.

There is a large group of Tasmanians that are particularly vulnerable to the potential symptoms of Covid who are not directly being offered protection and security in order to prevent themselves becoming infected, and potentially dying from that exposure. The aged and physically vulnerable people who, in regular circumstance, are able to look after their own needs, are now placed in potentially 'life and death' situations on a daily basis.

By extending the community care to those who voluntarily choose to access those services, we can be assured that we truly are doing everything we can to avoid unnecessary deaths in Tasmania. Of course there are many who already have the family or community help that they require to keep themselves, or someone they care for, safe. But there are also many instances where people are having to put themselves in harms way in order to procure the most basic needs. We must act swiftly to protect our most vulnerable community members, whether it be because of age, or underlying health issues. These people, and their carers, are feeling exposed and forgotten, and living with Covid is not an option that they can consider.

Being an administrator of a social media Covid support group that now includes over 50000 Tasmanians, I can say without question that this is the most overriding concern that has been expressed. Naturally, it is those most at risk who are going to seek out whatever information they can to protect themselves, or someone they care for. There is still much that none of know about the course of this pandemic, and it will likely take further deviations. There is no time to lose in providing this service to those most vulnerable Tasmanians who wish to avoid the chance of being exposed to Covid.

Attachments

N/A



Councillor Tim Walker

16 COMMUNITY AND PLACE NETWORK ITEMS**16.1 Place Brand Policy (07-PI-012)****FILE NO:** SF7206**AUTHOR:** Tracey Mallett (Manager Liveable Communities)**GENERAL MANAGER:** Dan Ryan (Community and Place Network)

DECISION STATEMENT:

To consider the City of Launceston's Place Brand Policy (07-PI-012)

PREVIOUS COUNCIL CONSIDERATION:

Workshop - 7 May 2018 - Place Brand DNA

Workshop - 14 Feb 2019 - Launceston Brand Development - Update

Workshop - 2 May 2019 - Launceston Brand Development - Next Steps

Workshop - 7 November 2019 - Launceston Brand Development - Brand Framework

Workshop - 27 August 2020 - Implementation of Launceston's Brand Work

Workshop - 18 February 2021 - Place Brand Concept Finalisation

Workshop - 19 August 2021 - Launceston Place Brand Presentation

Workshop - 21 October 2021 - Launceston Place Brand Implementation Update

Workshop - 11 November 2021 - Proposed Launceston Place Brand Policy

Workshop - 9 December 2021 - Update on Refined Place Brand Elements

Workshop - 20 December 2021 - Launceston Place Brand - Discussion

Workshop - 20 January 2022 - Launceston Place Brand - Discussion

16.1 Place Brand Policy (07-PI-012) ...(Cont'd)

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council adopts the Place Brand Policy (07-PI-012) (ECM Document Set ID 4651487).

Place Brand Policy***PURPOSE***

This policy outlines the key principles of the Launceston Place Brand and associated resources and measures.

SCOPE

This policy applies to the purpose and positioning of the Launceston Place Brand. This policy does not apply to use of the City of Launceston's Corporate Brand.

POLICY

The Launceston Place Brand is a unifying cultural expression that celebrates the unique attributes, experience and sentiment of Launceston as a place. Developed from extensive research and engagement with a diverse group of stakeholders and the community, the Place Brand provides a compelling, authentic Launceston narrative that will be supported by dynamic assets.

The Place Brand aims to elevate Launceston's profile as an exceptional place filled with character and distinct stories in order to boost local pride, drive visitation, increase investment and stimulate inward migration.

The City of Launceston will encourage use of the Launceston Place Brand to:

- present a unified and authentic position when describing Launceston.
- ensure communication and promotional materials positioning Launceston as a destination are high quality and consistent.
- elevate current destination messaging and marketing of Launceston.
- promote and strengthen pride of place.
- create inspiration and aspiration about Launceston.

PRINCIPLES

In addition to the Council's Organisational Values, the following principles will guide implementation of the Launceston Place Brand:

- *The Undercurrent* is the foundation concept of the Launceston Place Brand. While various elements of the Place Brand will change according to stakeholder needs over time, the foundation concept will be maintained.
 - The Place Brand assets will reflect the cultural heritage of our place, our people, our stories and the wider Launceston community.
 - The Launceston Place Brand increases community awareness and appreciation of our City attributes.
-

16.1 Place Brand Policy (07-PI-012) ...(Cont'd)

- The Launceston Place Brand's digital assets will be accessible to all members of the community.
- Implementation will be inclusive and transparent.
- Tasmanian Aboriginal history and culture is considered in implementation.
- The City of Launceston has led the development of the Place Brand and can provide support around usage, however, the brand is designed to be independently accessed and used by the community.
- The Launceston Place Brand is a creative expression of the story, character, culture and sentiment of Launceston as a place, and sits in parallel with the City of Launceston's Corporate Brand, which promotes the initiatives, projects, and services of the City of Launceston.
- The success of the Place Brand will be regularly measured through analytics, sentiment analysis, uptake requests and enquires.

***ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES
THE CITY OF LAUNCESTON***

The City of Launceston has developed the Launceston Place Brand in consultation with community and will drive implementation and ongoing management of the asset suite. The City of Launceston will identify internal and external opportunities to apply the Place Brand and will provide support to stakeholders seeking to use the brand.

***CO-BRANDING OF LAUNCESTON PLACE BRAND AND CITY OF LAUNCESTON
CORPORATE BRAND***

The Corporate Brand is representative of the entire organisation and its various activities, services, decisions and its role as Local Government. The Place Brand is a specialty brand representative of the sense of Greater Launceston and stretches beyond municipal boundaries. The Place Brand is applicable to the economic, social and cultural development and promotion of the City and can be used in conjunction with partners, initiatives and projects with similar ambitions. However, there are many identified opportunities in which the Corporate and Place brands can be applied together.

OTHER INSTITUTIONS/ORGANISATIONS AND COMMUNITY GROUPS

Stakeholders across the community from sectors including small business, education, community groups and individuals have helped develop the Launceston Place Brand. The City of Launceston will continue to actively build relationships to share information and increase consistent usage of the Launceston Place Brand.

SMALL BUSINESS OPERATORS

The private sector, especially small business operators, is strongly encouraged to take advantage of the Launceston Place Brand to assist with their marketing.

16.1 Place Brand Policy (07-PI-012) ...(Cont'd)

RELATED POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

05-PI-022 Media and Communications Policy
City of Launceston Corporate Brand Guidelines
City of Launceston Place Brand Guidelines TBC

RELATED LEGISLATION

Local Government Act 1999 (Tas)

REFERENCES

City of Launceston Tourism Plan 2018 - 2022

DEFINITIONS

The Place Brand is based on a concept called *The Undercurrent*, which summarises the authentic story of Launceston as developed from extensive community consultation and research. It is a distillation of what locals already say - the things locals proudly talk about when they talk about Launceston, or colloquially *Launnie*.

The concept will inform a Place Brand narrative, wordmark, colour palette, art direction, illustrations and font.

There are innumerable touchpoints the Place Brand could serve including, but not limited to, destination and product marketing, grant applications, award submissions, investment pitches, promotional marketing, recruitment campaigns, business prospectus' and cultural engagement opportunities.

Wordmark: the wordmark is a bespoke visual symbol of the Place Brand. The wordmark could also be referred to as a logo.

Narrative: the narrative is a summary of Launceston's history, character and experiences, as uncovered through community consultation and written in the tone and spirit of the Place Brand. In short, the narrative is the local story, also known as *Launnie's* story.

Assets an asset is anything used to promote this place brand such as photographs, wordmark, video, illustrations, merchandise and printed guides.

Art Direction: the art direction is the way the Place Brand is presented in order to achieve a certain aesthetic, quality and consistency.

REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed within four years after the date of approval (version) or more frequently, if dictated by operational demands and with Council's approval.

16.1 Place Brand Policy (07-PI-012) ...(Cont'd)

REPORT:

There has been a long history of strategic plans that have professed the need for a place brand for the whole of Launceston. Various marketing campaigns have produced some excellent short terms campaigns about Launceston in the past but nothing enduring, authentic, evidence based or more widely applicable than tourism.

In 2018 the Council committed to undertaking research to uncover the identity of Launceston, as the first step of developing a Place Brand. *Destination Think!* was engaged on the back of their worldwide reputation for developing a place's DNA. *Destination Think!* conducted many workshops with stakeholders across Launceston, engaged approximately 800 residents via survey and analysed more than 2.9 million online conversations about Launceston that measure how Launceston was perceived and how the place projected itself. This determined the key themes about Launceston that included heritage, produce, wineries, nature, the rivers and waterways.

In May 2020, *For The People* was engaged to develop the creative elements that will be used to implement the Launceston Place Brand. *For The People* used the Place DNA evidence as the core of their work and expanded on this by further consultation, ground truthing and workshopping with a very wide cohort of stakeholders.

As the creative elements have been developed, they have continually been workshopped with the same broad cohort of stakeholders and many iterations have evolved. The stakeholder engagement has been enduring and valuable. From the initial group of business and tourism operators, the cohort now includes community groups, government departments, agencies, business people, the Aboriginal community, sporting groups and many more. The core group from the original workshop in 2018 has been involved the whole way through and have contributed to the final modification of the creative expression.

The City of Launceston's Place Brand Policy was developed to outline the key principles of the Launceston Place Brand and associated resources and measures. Recognising that the creative elements may change and adapt depending on usage, evolution of the place, the Policy sits above all of this to support the unifying cultural expressions regardless of the creative implementation. This is a new policy, to govern the implementation of Launceston's first Place Brand.

16.1 Place Brand Policy (07-PI-012) ...(Cont'd)

The Launceston Place Brand aims to elevate Launceston's profile as an exceptional place filled with character and distinct stories to boost local pride, drive visitation, increase investment and stimulate inward migration. The Place Brand is to be used when talking about Launceston, the place. This place extends beyond the municipal boundary of the City of Launceston and, therefore, all Place Brand Assets will be available to anyone across Launceston to use. The City of Launceston is proud to have led the development of this Place Brand and looks forward to seeing it being used across greater Launceston. Of course, the City of Launceston also has a corporate brand, which is representative of the entire organisation and its various activities, services, decisions and role as local government. The corporate brand is to be used when talking about City of Launceston services and activities and has not been altered by the Place Brand.

From the stakeholder engagement, there are already a number of organisations keen to start using the Launceston Place Brand. The University of Tasmania is keen to use it to attract more students to come and study in Launceston, but also to entice many staff to relocate from other parts of the State to Launceston. Business Events Tasmania is very keen to get conferences back into Launceston and can see that using the Launceston Place Brand will help them categorically describe Launceston in an authentic way. Tourism operators are keen to educate their staff on the narrative so they can explain Launceston to their customers in an evidence based and consistent manner - and with pride. There is also interest from community and sporting groups who do not have marketing expertise themselves so they can tap into the Place Brand assets and templates and put together professional collateral at no cost. From the large organisations with technical marketing expertise to the small entities with no marketing skills, there will be place brand assets and assistance for everyone to use elements of the Launceston Place Brand that suits their operations.

Pending approval of the Launceston Place Brand Policy, access to the digital Place Brand assets will be made available to all. This will be free to registered users (registration is required for metrics). There is a small fee required to download the recommended text font. The wordmark has been developed for the City of Launceston, who will retain copyright ownership of the Launceston Place Brand and associated assets, including wordmark, use and access will be permitted on a conditional basis. Access will initially be to the stakeholders who have been involved since the beginning, but will extend to a much wider audience through smaller activations as demand grows. Through partnerships with entities such as Brand Tasmania, other projects for implementation will be identified and promoted. The Council's Officers will be available to assist smaller organisations and groups apply the assets and it is expected this level of support will decrease as usage and implementation increases.

16.1 Place Brand Policy (07-PI-012) ...(Cont'd)

It needs to be acknowledged that the City of Launceston has fully funded the development of the Place Brand and that many other businesses, organisations and surrounding Councils will be benefited by the Council's work. As the largest Council within the Northern region is it considered necessary for the City of Launceston lead in this manner to ensure that the unique attributes, experience and sentiment of Launceston can be expressed in a modern and exciting way.

Annual review of the guidelines and digital assets will be conducted and may inform changes dependent on demand. A number of qualitative and quantitative measures have been determined to measure implementation success. The greatest measure will be in the proposed revisit of the Place DNA research in 2028 (10 years after the initial analysis) to determine whether Launceston's sentiment score has increased, and clarified in some of the categories.

ECONOMIC IMPACT:

Modern economies are depending increasingly on creating *value*, based on intangible assets such as place brand. According to the recent studies, up to 12% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of modern cities can be attributed to brand assets due to its positive economic impact on tourism, exports and general attractiveness to industry and population. This is particularly relevant to Launceston where brand plays a large part in overcoming other economic barriers such as distance and small scale and ensure we remain economically competitive.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT:

Not considered relevant to this report.

SOCIAL IMPACT:

Not considered relevant to this report.

STRATEGIC DOCUMENT REFERENCE:

City of Launceston Corporate Strategic Plan 2014-2024

Strategic Priority 4: We value our City's unique identity by celebrating our special heritage and culture and building on our competitive advantages to be a place where people choose to live, work and visit.

10-Year Goal: To sustain and promote Launceston as a unique place to live, work, learn and play.

16.1 Place Brand Policy (07-PI-012) ...(Cont'd)

BUDGET & FINANCIAL ASPECTS:

Development of the Launceston Place Brand has been funded from within existing budgets over the past five financial years. To date, total expenditure for all elements is \$287,045.12. This has involved contracts or engagements with at least five different entities. A breakdown of this expenditure is as follows:

Kick off and Discovery	\$17,557
Sentiment Analysis and Research	\$30,360
Stakeholder Engagement	\$7,623
Place DNA Framework Development	\$38,065
Ground Truthing of Place DNA	\$21,755
Secondary Analysis and Research	\$55,120
Creative Expression Development	\$52,980
Consultation and Engagement	\$7,620
Development of Digital Assets	\$55,965
	\$287,045

The implementation of the Launceston Place Brand will be managed within existing resources.

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:

The officer has no conflict of interest in this item.

I certify that I have reviewed and approved this advice and recommendation.



Dan Ryan (General Manager Community and Place Network)

17 CREATIVE ARTS AND CULTURAL SERVICES NETWORK ITEMS

No Items have been identified as part of this Agenda

18 INFRASTRUCTURE AND ASSETS NETWORK ITEMS

18.1 *Sustainability Action Plan 2021-2030*

FILE NO: SF2675

AUTHOR: Sophie Hipkin (Sustainability Officer)

GENERAL MANAGER: Shane Eberhardt (Infrastructure and Assets Network)

DECISION STATEMENT:

To consider endorsement of the *Sustainability Action Plan 2021-2030*.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL CONSIDERATION:

Workshop - 9 December 2021 - Sustainability Action Plan 2021-2030

Council - 3 October 2019 - Agenda Item 18.3 - Sustainability Strategy

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council approves the *Sustainability Action Plan - 2021-2030* (ECM Doc Set ID 4665127).

REPORT:

The City of Launceston developed and endorsed the *Sustainability Strategy* (the Strategy) on 3 October 2019 (ECM Doc Set ID 4145059). The Strategy provides an overarching direction for the organisation and a vision for the future of the community. The *Sustainability Action Plan 2021-2030* (SAP) is the implementation plan of the Strategy and also the final commitment coming out of the Strategy.

The SAP sets out how environmental sustainability will be improved across the City of Launceston's operations, service delivery and assets, how support and advocacy will be provided for the community and how the City of Launceston will better align its sustainability approach with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

The SAP captures sustainability related goals, targets and actions under one umbrella and provides a clear pathway to meet the many challenges and opportunities of the future. Under the SAP, the City of Launceston strives to be leaders in sustainability, work towards zero emissions and zero landfill, to be an adaptive, resilient and smart city and to value, protect and promote its unique natural capital.

18.1 Sustainability Action Plan 2021-2030 ... (Cont'd)

The SAP has been developed in collaboration with the City of Launceston employees and in response to community engagement activities.

The SAP focuses on six key priority areas:

1. Leadership and Advocacy
2. Towards Zero Emissions
3. Adaptation and Resilience
4. Material Efficiency, Recovery and Optimisation
5. Natural Capital
6. Smart Assets

ECONOMIC IMPACT:

Some actions will require the allocation of capital spending. Some actions will deliver long term cost savings such as improvements in energy and water efficiencies, the transition from fossil fuel energy use in buildings (eg. fossil fuel gas) and fleet to electrification and renewable energy and the increased adaptation capacity and resilience of assets to the impacts of climate change (eg. bushfire, flood, extreme storms events, etc.). The plan will also support opportunities in new and creative industries, green infrastructure and local investment.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT:

The implementation of the *Sustainability Action Plan 2021-2030* will have positive environmental impacts through the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, protection and improvement of natural capital including waterway health, local biodiversity, vegetation communities and tree canopy cover.

SOCIAL IMPACT:

The Council will work collaboratively with the community, businesses, industry and neighbouring councils to increase sustainability outcomes for the region. The City of Launceston will communicate its progress to help educate and build awareness of the positive changes achieved and the lessons learnt along the way. There will be an exploration of emerging technologies and innovative practices to achieve the best outcomes for current and future generations.

18.1 Sustainability Action Plan 2021-2030 ... (Cont'd)

STRATEGIC DOCUMENT REFERENCE:

City of Launceston Corporate Strategic Plan 2014-2024

Strategic Priority 6: We protect our environment by caring for our unique natural assets and amenity and sensitively managing future development opportunities.

10-Year Goal: To enhance the unique natural character, values and amenity of our City by minimising the impacts of our organisations and our community's activities in the environment.

Focus Areas:

1. To reduce our and the community's impact on the natural environment.
2. To contribute to air and river quality improvements in Launceston.
3. To manage the risks of climate-related events, particularly in the area of stormwater management and riverine flooding.

BUDGET & FINANCIAL ASPECTS:

Actions that require capital spending from 2021/2022 to 2022/2023 have been allocated in the budget.

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:

The officer has no conflict of interest in this item.

I certify that I have reviewed and approved this advice and recommendation.



Shane Eberhardt - General Manager Infrastructure and Assets Network

ATTACHMENTS:

1. *Sustainability Action Plan 2021-2030* (ECM Doc Set ID 4665127) (*electronically distributed*)
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19 ORGANISATIONAL SERVICES NETWORK ITEMS

19.1 Appointment of Members to City of Launceston Audit Panel

FILE NO: SF3611

AUTHOR: Duncan Campbell (Acting Manager Governance)

GENERAL MANAGER: Louise Foster (Organisational Services Network)

DECISION STATEMENT:

To consider the appointment of two members to the City of Launceston Audit Panel.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council, pursuant to section 85 of the *Local Government Act 1993* (Tas) and clause 5 and 6 of the *Local Government (Audit Panels) Order 2014* (Tas), appoints:

- (a) Mr Enrico (Ric) De Santi as a member (independent person) and Chair of the City of Launceston Audit Panel; and
 - (b) Mr Ken Clarke as a member (independent person) of the City of Launceston Audit Panel.
-

REPORT:

The City of Launceston Audit Panel is an advisory committee established under section 85(1) of the *Local Government Act 1993* (Tas).

The membership of the Audit Panel is currently comprised of Mr Steven Herynk as an independent person, together with Councillor Hugh McKenzie and Councillor Tim Walker.

Inaugural Panel members, Mr Mark Scanlon (Chair and independent person) and Ms Lyndal Kimpton (independent person) completed their membership appointments to the Audit Panel on 30 November 2021. Both Mr Scanlon and Ms Kimpton provided valuable contributions to the Panel over their tenures and the Council is extremely appreciative of the commitment to improving the governance of the Council.

An expression of interest process was undertaken in respect of the appointment of the Chair and independent persons to the Audit Panel, which included two advertisements in *The Examiner* newspaper on 20 and 27 November 2021.

The Council received a total of four applications for the appointments under consideration, with one application being later withdrawn. Interviews were conducted with the remaining three applicants to assess their suitability for appointment to the Audit Panel.

19.1 Appointment of Members to City of Launceston Audit Panel ...(Cont'd)

The Recommendation, if carried, will see Mr Ken Clarke being appointed as a member (independent person), and Mr Ric De Santi being appointed as a member (independent person) and Chair, of the Audit Panel.

The Chair, and members of the Audit Panel who are independent persons, are remunerated in accordance with established arrangements.

ECONOMIC IMPACT:

Not considered relevant to this report.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT:

Not considered relevant to this report.

SOCIAL IMPACT:

Not considered relevant to this report.

STRATEGIC DOCUMENT REFERENCE:

City of Launceston Corporate Strategic Plan 2014-2024

Strategic Priority 3: We are a progressive leader that is accountable to our governance obligations and responsive to our community.

10-Year Goal: To ensure decisions are made in a transparent and accountable way, that effectively meet our statutory obligations, support quality services and underpin the long-term sustainability of our organisation.

Focus Areas:

2. To fairly and equitably discharge our statutory and governance obligations.
3. To ensure decisions are made on the basis of accurate and relevant information.
4. To continually improve our service delivery via a continuous improvement mindset, pursuing efficiency gains and adopting technological and other process innovations.
5. To maintain a financially sustainable organisation.

BUDGET & FINANCIAL ASPECTS:

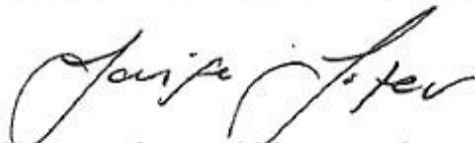
Members who are independent persons are remunerated for the days on which the Audit Panel meets and this is a standing item in the budget.

19.1 Appointment of Members to City of Launceston Audit Panel ...(Cont'd)

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:

The officer has no conflict of interest in this item.

I certify that I have reviewed and approved this advice and recommendation.



Louise Foster - General Manager Organisational Services Network

19.2 State Grants Commission - Tourism Cost Adjustor Review and Administration Expenditure Cost Adjustors**FILE NO:** SF0490**AUTHOR:** Paul Gimpl (Chief Financial Officer)**GENERAL MANAGER:** Louise Foster (Organisational Services Network)

DECISION STATEMENT:

To endorse the City of Launceston's response to the State Grants Commission regarding questions asked in the papers distributed to Councils entitled *Tourism Cost Adjustor Review Discussion Paper DP22-01* and the *Administration Expenditure Cost Adjustors Conversation Starter CS22-01*.

RECOMMENDATION:

That in respect to the State Grants Commission *Tourism Cost Adjustor Review Discussion Paper DP22-01* and *Administration Expenditure Cost Adjustors Conversation Starter CS22-01*, the Council:

1. reiterates that the existing factors underpinning the General Purpose grant model do not adequately compensate for regional responsibilities, namely:
 - (a) the Council's role as a regional centre offsets the (economics of scale) scale cost adjustor and is not adequately recognised in the annual model.
 - (b) the cost adjustment process is distorting the relative financial needs of Councils:
 - (i) by increasing per capita costs through the inclusion of special expenditure;
 - (ii) by applying cost adjustors to special expenditure that should be treated by exception; and
 - (iii) inconsistent classification of expenditure by Councils; and
 - (c) the outcome of the allocation process is not in the best interests of the region or State by undermining the financial capacity of the City of Launceston.
2. endorses the following specific comments on the Tourism Cost Adjustor Review:

Question 1:

Are there any data sources that the Commission may not have considered that could be suitable replacements for the current data sources?

Answer 1:

The use of regularly updated independent, objective and defensible data for cost adjustors is a sound approach, however, the correlation level using the Tourism Cost Adjustor is minimal and should be discontinued.

19.2 State Grants Commission - Tourism Cost Adjustor Review and Administration Expenditure Cost Adjustors ...(Cont'd)

Question 2:

What comments do you have regarding the Commission's preliminary decision to cease the use of the Tourism Cost Adjustor?

Answer 2:

We agree that the Tourism Cost Adjustor should be discontinued.

Question 3:

Do you have any other comments in relation to this matter that have not been adequately covered above?

Answer 3:

No.

3. endorses the following specific comments on the Administration Expenditure Cost Adjustors Conversation Starter:

Scale (Administration) Cost AdjustorQuestion 1:

What systems do you have in place for separately identifying costs relating to General Administration?

Answer 1:

The City of Launceston uses a general ledger chart of accounts and cost centres to enable reporting of actual operational costs against approved budgets. Cost centres are also grouped together by function, General Administration being one of these functions.

Question 2:

Does reporting these costs involve any cost allocation decisions (eg. employees may work across a number of different categories)?

Answer 2:

Generally, employees do not significantly work across different functions.

Question 3:

To what extent is the population of a council significant in impacting on costs?

Answer 3:

The population of a council does impact costs mainly due to larger volumes of transactions. For example, larger volumes of rate transactions (rate notices, rate enquiries, supplementary valuation adjustments and rate revaluation costs), larger volumes of transactions relating to the billing of venue hire and the multitude of other user charges. In general, the City of Launceston's management systems are likely more sophisticated than smaller councils with limited resources mainly due to their size (population).

19.2 State Grants Commission - Tourism Cost Adjustor Review and Administration Expenditure Cost Adjustors ...(Cont'd)

Maintaining the City of Launceston's Information Technology systems requires significant resources (employees, software and hardware charges) and whilst the costs of operating the systems can be spread over a larger number of rateable properties the effort (the costs) to have more advanced systems is considerable but necessary to ensure the City of Launceston remains an efficient and sustainable organisation.

Isolation Cost AdjustorQuestion 1:

Given the rapid advancements in communication and other technologies, do you think that remoteness is still a significant factor when it comes to attracting and retaining staff, and in the costs of staff and other inputs?

Answer 1:

Technology definitely assists staff and councils to operate in remote areas, however, it is still often difficult to attract and retain staff in such areas. The impact of COVID-19 and lockdowns may, however, attract new employees looking for a sea-change for their families but only time will tell.

Question 2:

To what extent do you think that the inherent cost advantages or disadvantages captured by the Isolation Cost Adjustor are also reflected in the Scale (Administration) Cost Adjustor, particularly as it relates to employee costs?

Answer 2:

The Scale (Administration) Cost Adjustor would most likely reflect to some degree the Isolation Cost Adjustor, but to what extent may vary depending on the remoteness of different councils and their community's appeal to prospective and existing employees with regard to salary levels.

Population Decline Cost AdjustorQuestion 1:

To what extent is population decline an issue for your council?

Answer 1:

The City of Launceston is not experiencing population decline, however, the population increase in the Launceston municipality is quite low.

Question 2:

Which expenditure areas are most affected by this cost disadvantage?

Answer 2:

The City of Launceston is currently more affected by growth in nearby municipalities which significantly impacts road infrastructure (increased traffic) and parking infrastructure.

19.2 State Grants Commission - Tourism Cost Adjustor Review and Administration Expenditure Cost Adjustors ...(Cont'd)

REPORT:***Background:***

The City of Launceston, over a number of years, has requested that the State Grants Commission (the Commission) review the factors that underpin the General Purpose model in respect to regional responsibilities. It is pleasing to see that the Commission continually strives to develop more objective evidence based cost adjustors, however, the City of Launceston's requests remain unchanged and are as follows:

- (a) the Council's role as a regional centre offsets the (economics of scale) scale cost adjustor and is not adequately recognised in the annual model.
- (b) the cost adjustment process is distorting the relative financial needs of Councils:
 - i. by increasing per capita costs through the inclusion of special expenditure;
 - ii. by applying cost adjustors to special expenditure that should be treated by exception; and
 - iii. inconsistent classification of expenditure by Councils; and
- (c) the outcome of the allocation process is not in the best interests of the region or State by undermining the financial capacity of the City of Launceston.

These concerns are reiterated below.

The City of Launceston has, for a number of years, submitted that the Commission model and Local Government structure is perpetuating the status quo and not supporting a sustainable future. The City of Launceston has taken the view that for the region and the State to be attractive into the future it must ensure that the residents have access to a comprehensive range of facilities and services that meet today's standards and expectations.

Whilst much of the City of Launceston's capital spending on regional facilities has been funded with assistance from State and Australian Governments, the ongoing operational costs are not covered under the current grant distribution model.

The City of Launceston understands the principles that underpin the grant model calculations but for Tasmania to be able to compete with other States and regional centres, an approach that adequately considers the economic impact of the grant funding allocations should be applied.

The Commission takes the view that typically regional infrastructure is recreation or culturally based, however, it is the Council's view that regional responsibility extends to a broader range infrastructure types for a variety of reasons. A summary of regional infrastructure provided by the City of Launceston is included below*:

19.2 State Grants Commission - Tourism Cost Adjustor Review and Administration Expenditure Cost Adjustors ...(Cont'd)

Facility	Rationale
Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery	The Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery is Australia's largest regional gallery and services northern Tasmania.
Princess Theatre and Earl Arts Centre	The Princess Theatre and Earl Arts Centre provides regional performance space for a diverse range of local shows and interstate/international performances.
Launceston Leisure and Aquatic Centre	Large recreational swimming and gym services are offered which are enjoyed by residents from the greater Launceston area. The Centre hosts regional and state level swimming championships and events for the Northern region. The Centre is servicing the North and North-western regions for high level swimming events.
Cataract Gorge Reserve	An iconic northern location which has been enjoyed by residents of the northern region for decades. Because of its regional importance it compels the Council to maintain a high level of infrastructure such as the 50m outdoor pool. The Council simply does not have an ability to reduce its level of service in the gorge as the community would not accept it.
City Park	Similarly to the Cataract Gorge, the Council maintains the City Park for the northern region and offers attractions such as the monkey exhibit which has entertained Tasmanian children for decades. There is little ability to reduce levels of service due to community expectation.
Riverbend Park	Riverbend Park is a regional all-abilities playground which provides the highest level of play facilities and grounds within the northern Region. There are limited all abilities playgrounds in the Northern region and, therefore, this park services an important regional need.
Churchill Park	The Churchill Park Recreational facility accommodates the junior soccer needs of the northern region with well over 1,000 people being accommodated in the facility each weekend. The facility also provides for high level softball competition and is the only facility of its type in the northern region.
Regional Netball Centre (Hobblers Bridge)	A regional netball centre servicing the northern region.
Regional Athletics track, BMX Track and Hockey facility	The only facilities of their type in the Northern region, this centre is clearly servicing the broader northern region as the only similar level of facilities are provided in Hobart and on the North West Coast.
Central Business District	Launceston is the only Central Business District zoned land in the Northern region under the interim Planning Scheme. The Launceston CBD is required to provide for higher order commercial and business needs of the region which results in a higher level of cost to maintain than other business areas in the Northern region.

* York Park (UTAS Stadium) has not been included on this list as the Council is currently in the process of transferring ownership to Stadiums Tasmania.

19.2 State Grants Commission - Tourism Cost Adjustor Review and Administration Expenditure Cost Adjustors ...(Cont'd)

Tourism Cost Adjustor Review Discussion Paper DP22-01

The correlation level using the Tourism Cost Adjustor is minimal and the City of Launceston supports discontinuing its use.

The Conversation Starter CS22-01 Administration Expenditure Cost Adjustors

The paper distributed by the Commission seeks responses from the City of Launceston for various questions with the proposed answers listed in the recommendation.

Essentially the Conversation Starter paper is looking to review the accuracy of the data used to determine the Administration Expenditure Cost Adjustors.

The 2020-2021 Base Grants Model used by the Grants Commission shows Launceston as having a \$3.536m cost adjusted surplus which means that after Horizontal Fiscal Equalisation only councils with deficits participate in the relative needs grants (70% of the base grant pool of \$38.78m in 2021-2022 equates to \$27.1m). Clarence, Glenorchy, Hobart, Kingborough and Launceston currently receive no funding from this part of the base grant funding. All councils receive the minimum grant (30% of the base grant pool, \$11.6m in 2021-2022) and the grants are calculated based on population, a per capita grant.

In conclusion, the City of Launceston has responsibility for funding and operating a large number of facilities for the region and any cost adjustors recognising the City of Launceston's regional disadvantage currently would need to be greater than \$3.536m (2020-2021 figures) to allow Launceston to receive any additional funding from the relative needs pool. It is highly unlikely that this would be achieved and, therefore, whatever the Commission decides regarding these cost adjustors will not impact the funding level the City of Launceston receives. The review of the governance and ownership model for UTAS Stadium will assist the City of Launceston once this facility is transferred to the State Government and will be a significant cost reduction for the ratepayers of the City of Launceston.

ECONOMIC IMPACT:

The proposed changes are estimated not to have an impact on the City of Launceston.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT:

Not considered relevant to this report.

19.2 State Grants Commission - Tourism Cost Adjustor Review and Administration Expenditure Cost Adjustors ...(Cont'd)

SOCIAL IMPACT:

Not considered relevant to this report.

STRATEGIC DOCUMENT REFERENCE:

City of Launceston Corporate Strategic Plan 2014-2024

Strategic Priority 3: We are a progressive leader that is accountable to our governance obligations and responsive to our community.

10-Year Goal: To ensure decisions are made in a transparent and accountable way, that effectively meet our statutory obligations, support quality services and underpin the long-term sustainability of our organisation.

Focus Areas:

1. To provide for the health, safety and welfare of the community.
2. To fairly and equitably discharge our statutory and governance obligations.
3. To ensure decisions are made on the basis of accurate and relevant information.
4. To continually improve our service delivery via a continuous improvement mindset, pursuing efficiency gains and adopting technological and other process innovations.
5. To maintain a financially sustainable organisation.

Strategic Priority 4: We value our City's unique identity by celebrating our special heritage and culture and building on our competitive advantages to be a place where people choose to live, work and visit.

10-Year Goal: To sustain and promote Launceston as a unique place to live, work, learn and play.

Focus Areas:

1. To promote and enhance Launceston's rich heritage, culture and natural environment.
2. To continue to offer an attractive network of parks, open spaces and facilities throughout Launceston.
3. To promote and attract national and international events and support the sector to ensure a diverse annual events calendar.
4. To support the central business district (CBD) and commercial areas as activity places during day and night.
5. To support sustainable population growth in the Northern Region.

BUDGET & FINANCIAL ASPECTS:

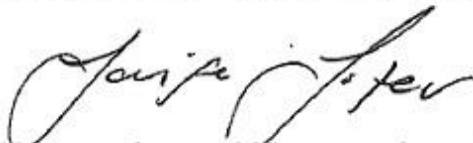
The proposed changes are estimated not to have an impact on the City of Launceston.

19.2 State Grants Commission - Tourism Cost Adjustor Review and Administration Expenditure Cost Adjustors ...(Cont'd)

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:

The officer has no conflict of interest in this item.

I certify that I have reviewed and approved this advice and recommendation.



Louise Foster - General Manager Organisational Services Network

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Tourism Cost Adjustor Review Discussion Paper DP22-01 (*electronically distributed*)
 2. Administration Expenditure Cost Adjustors Conversation Starter CS22-01
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Attachment 2 - Administration Expenditure Cost Adjustors Conversation Starter CS22-01

December 2021

Conversation Starter CS22-01: Administration Expenditure – Cost Adjustors

- ON WHAT BASIS ARE COUNCILS ATTRIBUTING ADMINISTRATION EXPENDITURE?
- TO WHAT EXTENT IS SCALE A FACTOR IN DETERMINING ADMINISTRATION COSTS?
- DOES REMOTENESS STILL HAVE A MATERIAL IMPACT ON EMPLOYEE COSTS?
- TO WHAT EXTENT DOES POPULATION IMPACT ON COUNCIL EXPENDITURE?

As part of a process of continual improvement, the State Grants Commission (the Commission) regularly seeks council feedback and comments on the Commission’s processes and dealings with councils.

The Commission also seeks to better understand the drivers of council revenue and expenditure and also the processes involved in capturing and reporting data in Consolidated Data Collection (CDC) returns.

With these objectives in mind, the Commission is seeking feedback from councils on the following:

- How are councils attributing administration expenditure reported in CDC returns, particularly employee costs?

- Does remoteness still have a material impact on administration expenditure?
- Are the Scale (Administration), Isolation and Population Decline Cost Adjustors duplicating impacts on council expenditures?

The Commission considers these questions to be important for the following reasons:

- Administration expenditure reported in CDC returns is used for calculating the Administration (Scale) Cost Adjustor, which is the largest cost adjustor in the Base Grants Model (BGM).
- There are currently three population-based cost adjustors being applied to administration expenditure in the BGM, including

Administration (Scale), Isolation and Population Decline, which may result in a duplication of inefficiencies in administration expenditure.

- Population decline is not a significant factor for Tasmanian councils.

The feedback received from councils will be used to inform discussions during the 2022 hearings and visits program.

The Commission seeks this engagement while also not wanting to be a burden on council resources.

Background

On an annual basis, councils are requested to provide details of revenue, expenditure and other data in CDC Returns.

This information is used by the Commission as a basis for

distributing Financial Assistance Grants to councils.

The Commission applies 11 cost adjusters to reflect the inherent relative cost advantages or disadvantages faced by councils in providing services.

Any errors in data reported have a direct impact on the distribution of grants to all councils. Applying more than one cost adjuster to the same expenditure category may also result in assessed expenditure being overstated, particularly if they are both attempting to address the same disadvantage.

The Commission is committed to recognising these differences in the capacity of councils to attract lower costs due to location, scale and population.

The Commission is seeking to better understand the operation of the Scale (Administration), Population Decline and Isolation Cost Adjusters:

Scale (Administration) Cost Adjustor

The Scale (Administration) cost adjuster accounts for the diseconomies of scale that smaller councils face in providing administration services.

Diseconomies occur because the cost per person of providing a service is greater for councils with a small population than for those councils with larger populations.

A major component of General Administration being reported in

CDC returns is wages and salaries (reported under "Legislative, Executive and Financial and Fiscal Affairs"), which may also relate to other expenditure categories.

The Commission would appreciate feedback from councils on:

- What systems do you have in place for separately identifying costs relating to General Administration?
- Does reporting these costs involve any cost allocation decisions (e.g. employees may work across a number of different categories)?
- To what extent is the population of a council significant in impacting on costs?

Isolation Cost Adjustor

The Isolation cost adjuster recognises the increased costs that arise from geographical isolation. Such costs include attracting staff to remote areas, communicating with relevant bodies, travel and the supply of necessary construction and maintenance materials.

This is calculated according to a weighted sum of distances between each council's administrative (or most populous) centre, relevant regional centres and Hobart, these being the focus for administrative and economic activity within the State.

The Commission would appreciate feedback from councils on:

- Given the rapid advancements in communication and other technologies, do you think that remoteness is still a significant factor when it comes to attracting and retaining staff, and in the costs of staff and other inputs?
- To what extent do you think that the inherent cost advantages or disadvantages captured by the Isolation Cost Adjustor are also reflected in the Scale (Administration) Cost Adjustor, particularly as it relates to employee costs?

Population Decline Cost Adjustor

The Population Decline cost adjuster was introduced when, for varying economic and structural reasons, many councils were impacted by significant declines in population. It reflects the delays that a council can incur when employee and other expenditures do not reduce in line with a declining population.

The Commission would appreciate feedback from councils on:

- To what extent is population decline an issue for your council?
- Which expenditure areas are most affected by this cost disadvantage?

Submissions deadline

To enable discussion at the Commission's 2022 Hearings and Visits which are expected to commence on 8 February 2022, submissions should be received by Friday 28 January 2022.

These Conversation Starter flyers are not intended to be detailed papers. Council submissions on Conversation Starter issues can take any form councils wish – written and/or discussion at the 2022 Hearings and Visits.

20 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER NETWORK ITEMS

No Items have been identified as part of this Agenda

21 CLOSED COUNCIL

No Closed Items have been identified as part of this Agenda

22 MEETING CLOSURE