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Capital Works Detail

Glamorgan Spring Bay Council
Budget 2025-26

Dept	Capital Item	Cost YTD	% Cost Spent	Status	Budget 2025/26	Carry Fwd Funds @ 30.6.25	Renewal Works	New Works	New Budget	Council Funded	Grant Funded
Roads, Footpaths, Kerbs											
	Resheet Program	-	0%	Not Started	**200,000**		200,000		200,000	200,000	
	Pavement Renewal Program	114,871	57%	In progess	**200,000**		200,000		200,000	350,000	150,000
	Reseal Program	148,912	74%	In progess	**200,000**		1,000,000		1,000,000	200,000	500,000
	CAP2026-RF RTR Reseal Program 4 West Shelly Road	143,623	96%	In progess	**150,000**						
	CAP2026-RF RTR Reseal Program 5 Charles St Tribunna	126,271	84%	In progess	**150,000**						
	CAP2026-RF RTR Reseal Program 6 Inkerman St Tribunna	132,486	88%	In progess	**150,000**						
	CAP2026-RF RTR Reseal Program 7 Roberts St Triabunna	62,224	62%	In progess	**100,000**						
	CAP2026-RF RTR Reseal Program 8 River St Swansea	124,058	83%	In progess	**150,000**						
	CAP2026-RF RTR Reseal Program 9 Buckland Road Buckland	-	0%	Not Started	**100,000**						
	Swansea St Margaret's Court seal and kerb	15,560	52%	Completed	**30,000**			30,000	30,000	30,000	
	Fisheries Coles Bay	39,435	99%	Completed	**40,000**		5,000	35,000	40,000	40,000	
	Triabunna Tomorrow Streetscapes Year 2	60,640	14%	In progess	**445,000**	100,000	300,000	45,000	345,000		445,000
	Foothpath Seal to Bark mill	-	0%	Not Started	**30,000**		10,000	20,000	30,000	30,000	
	Foothpath & Disability Compliance Renewal Program	129,471	86%	In progess	**150,000**		150,000		150,000	150,000	
	Gulch Car Park Pavement Rehabilitation	32,463	130%	Completed	**25,000**		25,000		25,000	25,000	
	Morrison St Bicheno -cul-de-sac head	-	0%	Not Started	**50,000**		5,000	45,000	50,000	50,000	
	Cross St to Walpole install Kerb	43,812	110%	Completed	**40,000**			40,000	40,000	40,000	
	West Shelly cul-de-sac K&C	53,410	82%	Completed	**65,000**			65,000	65,000	65,000	
	Kerb & Channel Renenwal Program	56,611	57%	In progess	**100,000**		100,000		100,000	100,000	
	Nailer Avenue top to Gamble Crescent	5,790	10%	In progess	**60,000**		5,000	55,000	60,000	60,000	
	Design Allocation	1,394	1%	Commenced	**100,000**		50,000	50,000	100,000	100,000	
	Contingency	-	0%	Not Started	**40,000**		40,000		40,000	40,000	
	Total Roads, Footpaths, Kerbs	**1,291,032**	**50%**		**2,575,000**	**100,000**	**2,090,000**	**385,000**	**2,475,000**	**1,480,000**	**1,095,000**
Bridges, Culverts											
	Wielangta Pipe Bridge	95,692	96%	Completed	**100,000**		100,000		100,000	100,000	
	Wielangta Sandspit Bridge Overflow	1,383	1%	Not Started	**100,000**		100,000		100,000	100,000	
	Redecking timber Bridges	80,642	81%	In Progress	**100,000**		100,000		100,000	100,000	
	Duck Park Bridge	32	0%	In Progress	**100,000**		100,000		100,000	100,000	
	Total Bridges, Culverts	**177,748**	**44%**		**400,000**	**-**	**400,000**	**-**	**400,000**	**400,000**	**-**
Parks, Reserves, Walking Tracks, Cemeteries											
	CDG Bicheno Triangle	472,589	76%	Completed	**620,190**	620,190					620,190
	Playground Renewals & Upgrade	4,521	2%	Commenced	**200,000**		200,000		200,000	200,000	
	Playground Bicheno Lions Park	-	0%	Commenced	**90,000**	90,000				-	90,000
	Orford Foreshore Masterplan	-	0%	Not Started	**218,400**	218,400				-	218,400
	Our Park Precinct Plan	-	0%	Not Started	**10,000**	10,000				10,000	
	FAI Coles Bay History Plaques	-	0%	Not Started	**12,000**			12,000	12,000	12,000	
	Coles Bay Dump Point	-	0%	In progress	**65,000**			65,000	65,000		65,000
	Deck/Boardwalk renewal outsde loo with a view	21,898	26%	In progress	**85,000**		85,000		85,000	85,000	
	NRM - Saltwater Creek Clearing	-	-	Not Started	**-**						
	Barbecue Replacement Program	52,122	69%	In progress	**75,000**		75,000		75,000	75,000	
	Bicheno Skate Park BBQ shelter	604	1%	Commenced	**45,000**		45,000		45,000	45,000	
	Total Parks, Reserves, Walking Tracks, Cemeteries	**551,733**	**39%**		**1,420,590**	**938,590**	**405,000**	**77,000**	**482,000**	**427,000**	**993,590**
Stormwater & Drainage											
	49 Rheban Rd design to West Shelley Bch Nautilus Detention Basin	-	0%	Not Started		200,000	200,000			200,000	
	Holkham Court	44,476	109%	Completed	**-**	40,759				40,759	
	Pit and Pipe Renewal Program	54,709	27%	In progress	**200,000**				200,000	200,000	
	Gordon St Bicheno Stormwater	-	0%	Not Started	**80,000**		40,000	40,000	80,000	80,000	
	Morrison St Stormwater replacement	-	0%	Not Started	**30,000**		30,000		30,000	30,000	
	Nautilus Drive - increased funding	-	0%	Not Started	**50,000**			50,000	50,000	50,000	
	SQID program	-	0%	Not Started	**25,000**	25,000				25,000	
	Total Stormwater & Drainage	**99,185**	**26%**		**385,000**	**265,759**	**270,000**	**90,000**	**360,000**	**625,759**	**-**

Capital Works Detail

Glamorgan Spring Bay Council
Budget 2025-26

Dept	Capital Item	Cost YTD	% Cost Spent	Status	Budget 2025/26	Carry Fwd Funds @ 30.6.25	Renewal Works	New Works	New Budget	Council Funded	Grant Funded
Building											
	Public Amenities - Loo with a View	43,785	101%	Completed		43,293				43,293	
	Bicheno Skate Park Toilet	49,684	60%	In progress		82,509				2,509	80,000
	Cranbook Hall	-	0%	In progress	**15,500**		15,500		15,500	15,500	
	Harold Street Reserve	-	0%	Not Started	**35,000**		35,000		35,000	35,000	
	Muirs Beach Toilets	1,618	20%	In progress	**8,000**		8,000		8,000	8,000	
	Toilet Strategy Works	7,810	2%	Not Started	**320,000**		300,000	20,000	320,000	320,000	
	Bicheno Hall new stage lighting	23,982	87%	Completed	**27,500**		12,000	15,500	27,500	27,500	
	Bicheno Surf Club and Toilet Upgrade	-	0%	Not Started	**250,000**	250,000				100,000	150,000
	Triabunna Recreation Ground	-	0%	Not Started	**70,000**	70,000				70,000	
	Triabunna Tomorrow New Amenities	740	1%	Design	**50,000**	50,000					50,000
	Swansea Football Clubrooms	20,400	35%	In progress	**57,500**		57,500		57,500	57,500	
	Swansea Hall floor revarnish	-	0%	Not Started	**8,000**		8,000		8,000	8,000	
	Public Amenities Marina Toilets and Shower	676	0%	Not Started	**300,000**		300,000		300,000		300,000
	Bicheno Lunch room facility	36,805	105%	Completed	**35,000**			35,000	35,000	35,000	
	Triabunna Office Carpet Replacement	24,219	44%	Completed	**55,000**		55,000		55,000	55,000	
	Buckland Blackwater Upgrade	39,240	60%	Completed	**65,000**		30,000	35,000	65,000	65,000	
	Total Building	**248,959**	**19%**		**1,296,500**	**495,802**	**821,000**	**105,500**	**926,500**	**842,302**	**580,000**
Marine Infrastructure											
	Lighting Bicheno Boat Ramp	23,086	100%	Completed	**23,085**	-		23,085			23,085
	Marina Renew 6 Piles	-	0	Not started	**54,000**	-		54,000		54,000	
	Saltworks Boat Ramp Upgrade	-	0	Not started	**99,123**	99,123					99,123
	Total Marine Infrastructure	**23,086**	**13%**		**176,208**	**99,123**	**-**	**77,085**	**-**	**54,000**	**122,208**
Sewerage		-									
	Swanwick Waste System Pump Upgrade	9,131	1	In progress	**15,000**	15,000		-		15,000	
	Total Sewerage	**9,131**	**61%**		**15,000**	**15,000**	**-**	**-**		**15,000**	
Plant Equipment & Other											
	Emulsion Trailer	-	0%	Not started		43,000				43,000	
	Truck 16t tipper replace 2008 Hino16t A85NU Swansea	198,714	105%	Completed		190,000				190,000	
	Waste Chipper	200,020	109%	Completed		183,571				83,571	100,000
	IT - Laptop & PC Replacements	-	0%	Not started	**30,000**		30,000		30,000	30,000	
	IT - Server, NAS and Backup Hard Drives	-	0%	Not started	**37,000**		-	37,000	37,000	37,000	
	Office Equipment	-	0%	Not started	**10,000**		10,000		10,000	10,000	
	Subaru replacement	-	0%	Not started	**40,000**		40,000		40,000	40,000	
	GM Vehicle replacement	54,669	91%	Completed	**60,000**		60,000		60,000	60,000	
	Waste Bulk Skip Bins	58,845	59%	In progess	**100,000**		100,000		100,000	100,000	
	Facilities Coordinator ute	-	0%	Not started	**48,000**		48,000		48,000	48,000	
	MUX replacement	43,237	86%	Completed	**50,000**		50,000		50,000	50,000	
	2 x tilt mower trailers	8,945	45%	In progess	**20,000**		20,000		20,000	20,000	
	Coles Bay WTS half container	7,308	81%	Completed	**9,000**			9,000	9,000	9,000	
	Swansea dual cab	-	0%	In progess	**48,000**		48,000		48,000	48,000	
	16 tonne - water cart	-	0%	In progess	**200,000**		200,000		200,000	200,000	
	Rapid Spray water tank	-	0%	In progess	**37,000**		37,000		37,000	37,000	
	John Deere mower	29,227	91%	Completed	**32,000**		32,000		32,000	32,000	
	JCB replacement	112,621	87%	Completed	**130,000**		130,000		130,000	130,000	
	small plant	6,941	35%	In progess	**20,000**		20,000		20,000	20,000	
	Total Plant Equipment & Other	**720,527**	**83%**		**871,000**	**416,571**	**825,000**	**46,000**	**871,000**	**1,187,571**	**100,000**
Total Capital Works		**3,121,401**	**44%**		**7,139,298**	**2,330,845**	**4,811,000**	**780,585**	**5,514,500**	**5,031,632**	**2,890,798**

Profit and Loss

Glamorgan Spring Bay Council
For the 6 months ended 31 December 2025

Account	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Budget Var	Var %	Annual Budget	Notes
Trading Income						
Rate Revenue	14,536,469	14,543,079	(6,610)	0%	14,543,079	
Statutory Charges	393,103	354,642	38,461	11%	703,968	
User Charges	532,031	624,387	(92,356)	-15%	922,390	1
Grants	408,044	408,626	(583)	0%	1,661,585	
Interest & Investment Revenue	540,156	414,294	125,862	30%	828,282	2
Other Revenue	456,651	464,373	(7,722)	-2%	827,915	
Total Trading Income	**16,866,454**	**16,809,401**	**57,053**	**0%**	**19,487,219**	
Gross Profit	**16,866,454**	**16,809,401**	**57,053**	**0%**	**19,487,219**	
Capital Grants						
Grants Commonwealth Capital - Other	300,000	0	300,000	0%	677,126	
Grants Commonwealth Capital - Roads to Recovery	0	0	0	0%	1,134,041	
Grants State Capital - Other	1,662,957	1,357,845	305,112	22%	1,975,574	3
Total Capital Grants	**1,962,957**	**1,357,845**	**605,112**	**45%**	**3,786,741**	
Other Income						
Net Gain (Loss) on Disposal of Assets	121,110	0	121,110	0%	50,000	
Contributions	106,235	135,000	(28,765)	-21%	270,000	4
Other Revenue - Donations, Contributions NON CASH	330,000	0	330,000	0%	0	
Total Other Income	**557,345**	**135,000**	**422,345**	**313%**	**320,000**	
Operating Expenses						
Employee Costs	2,600,112	2,820,310	(220,198)	-8%	5,949,486	5
Materials & Services	3,972,468	4,594,835	(622,367)	-14%	8,518,015	6
Depreciation	2,094,826	2,034,156	60,670	3%	4,068,306	
Interest	47,269	47,269	(0)	0%	167,803	
Other Expenses	100,546	156,288	(55,742)	-36%	299,914	7
Total Operating Expenses	**8,815,221**	**9,652,858**	**(837,637)**	**-9%**	**19,003,524**	
Net Profit	**8,051,232**	**7,156,543**	**894,689**	**13%**	**483,695**	
Total Comprehensive Result (incl Capital Income)	**10,571,535**	**8,649,388**	**1,922,147**	**22%**	**4,590,436**	

NOTES OF BUDGET VARIANCES > $50k and >10%.
1. **TIMING:** Prosser Plains Raw Water Scheme(PPRWS) is down by 25k and Marina Fees 3 phase power of $34k was not in the budget**.**
2. **PERMANENT**: Higher than expected interest on investments.
3. **TIMING**: Received capital grant earlier than budgeted.
4. **PERMANENT**:Contribution for public open space down by $90k and stormwater up by $61k.
5. **PERMANENT**: Staff vacancies creating shortfall in work productivity.
6. **TIMING:** Some periodic charges not received for IT, medical, insurances, water, waste and infrastructure activities.
7. **TIMING:** Periodic charges not received for audit cost.

Statement of Financial Position

Glamorgan Spring Bay Council
As at 31 December 2025

Account	31 Dec 2025	30 June 2025
Assets		
Current Assets		
Cash & Cash Equivalents	14,525,161	12,794,856
Trade & Other Receivables	6,450,116	1,621,436
Other Assets	197,456	44,397
Total Current Assets	**21,172,733**	**14,460,689**
Non-current Assets		
Investment in Water Corporation	34,533,233	34,533,233
Property, Infrastructure, Plant & Equipment	220,605,139	222,374,169
Total Non-current Assets	**255,138,372**	**256,907,402**
Total Assets	**276,311,105**	**271,368,091**
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Trade & Other Payables	693,810	1,431,730
Trust Funds & Deposits	423,228	442,225
Provisions	666,372	666,372
Contract Liabilities	0	1,604,871
Interest bearing Loans & Borrowings	1,010,434	1,147,209
Trade & Other Payables - Debtor Suspense Account	2,125	0
Trust Funds & Deposits - Retention Monied Held	8,392	19,074
Total Current Liabilities	**2,804,361**	**5,311,481**
Non-current Liabilities		
Provisions	69,930	69,930
Interest Bearing Loans & Borrowings	4,287,484	4,287,484
Total Non-current Liabilities	**4,357,414**	**4,357,414**
Total Liabilities	**7,161,775**	**9,668,895**
Net Assets	**269,149,330**	**261,699,196**
Equity		
Current Year Earnings	7,450,134	3,823,579
Retained Earnings	103,282,218	99,458,639
Equity - Asset Revaluation Reserve	156,575,385	156,575,385
Equity - Restricted Reserves	1,841,594	1,841,594
Total Equity	**269,149,330**	**261,699,196**

Statement of Cash Flows

Glamorgan Spring Bay Council
For the 6 months ended 31 December 2025

Account	YTD Actual	2025
Operating Activities		
Receipts from Customers	11,212,246	17,755,492
Operating Grants	407,694	1,677,967
Payment to employees and Suppliers	(6,540,367)	(13,630,277)
Other Payments	(111,595)	(244,092)
Finance Costs Paid	(85,083)	(182,876)
Rates Charged - Sewerage	45,599	0
Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities	**4,928,494**	**5,376,214**
Investing Activities		
Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment	137,845	189,055
Payment for property, plant and equipment	(3,729,976)	(4,979,253)
Receipts from capital grants	560,395	4,520,451
Net Cash Flows from Investing Activities	**(3,031,736)**	**(269,747)**
Financing Activities		
Trust funds & deposits	(29,679)	36,380
Proceeds from/ repayment of long term loans	(136,775)	(384,912)
Net Cash Flows from Financing Activities	**(166,454)**	**(348,533)**
Net Cash Flows	**1,730,305**	**4,757,934**
Cash and Cash Equivalents		
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period	12,701,948	7,944,014
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	14,432,253	12,701,948
Net change in cash for period	**1,730,305**	**4,757,934**

Profit and Loss

Glamorgan Spring Bay Council
For the 6 months ended 31 December 2025

Account	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Budget Var	Var %	Annual Budget
Trading Income					
Rate Revenue	14,490,870	14,492,219	(1,349)	0%	14,492,219
Statutory Charges	393,103	354,642	38,461	11%	703,968
User Charges	532,031	624,387	(92,356)	-15%	922,390
Grants	408,044	408,626	(583)	0%	1,661,585
Interest & Investment Revenue	540,156	414,294	125,862	30%	828,282
Contributions	106,235	135,000	(28,765)	-21%	270,000
Other Revenue	456,651	464,373	(7,722)	-2%	827,915
Rates Charged - Sewerage	45,599	50,860	(5,261)	-10%	50,860
Total Trading Income	**16,972,689**	**16,944,401**	**28,288**	**0%**	**19,757,219**
Gross Profit	**16,972,689**	**16,944,401**	**28,288**	**0%**	**19,757,219**
Capital Grants					
Grants Commonwealth Capital - Other	300,000	0	300,000	0%	677,126
Grants Commonwealth Capital - Roads to Recovery	0	0	0	0%	1,134,041
Grants State Capital - Other	1,662,957	1,357,845	305,112	22%	1,975,574
Total Capital Grants	**1,962,957**	**1,357,845**	**605,112**	**45%**	**3,786,741**
Other Income					
Net Gain (Loss) on Disposal of Assets	121,110	0	121,110	0%	50,000
Other Revenue - Donations, Contributions NON CASH	330,000	0	330,000	0%	0
Total Other Income	**451,110**	**0**	**451,110**	**0%**	**50,000**
Operating Expenses					
Employee Costs	2,600,112	2,820,310	(220,198)	-8%	5,949,486
Materials & Services	3,971,452	4,594,835	(623,383)	-14%	8,518,015
Depreciation	2,094,826	2,034,156	60,670	3%	4,068,306
Interest	47,269	47,269	(0)	0%	167,803
Other Expenses	100,546	156,288	(55,742)	-36%	299,914
Total Operating Expenses	**8,814,206**	**9,652,858**	**(838,652)**	**-9%**	**19,003,524**
Net Profit	**8,158,483**	**7,291,543**	**866,940**	**12%**	**753,695**
Total Comprehensive Result (incl Capital Income)	**10,572,550**	**8,649,388**	**1,923,162**	**22%**	**4,590,436**

Profit and Loss Summary - Governance

Glamorgan Spring Bay Council
For the 6 months ended 31 December 2025

Department is Governance.

Account	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Budget Var	Var %	Annual Budget
Trading Income					
Statutory Charges	48	173	(125)	-72%	173
Total Trading Income	**48**	**173**	**(125)**	**-72%**	**173**
Gross Profit	**48**	**173**	**(125)**	**-72%**	**173**
Other Income					
Net Gain (Loss) on Disposal of Assets	21,357	0	21,357	0%	0
Total Other Income	**21,357**	**0**	**21,357**	**0%**	**0**
Operating Expenses					
Employee Costs	253,718	225,881	27,837	12%	451,765
Materials & Services	55,092	80,577	(25,485)	-32%	154,611
Depreciation	8,406	10,602	(2,196)	-21%	21,203
Other Expenses	71,301	87,324	(16,023)	-18%	174,650
Total Operating Expenses	**388,517**	**404,384**	**(15,867)**	**-4%**	**802,229**
Net Profit	**(388,470)**	**(404,211)**	**15,741**	**-4%**	**(802,056)**
Total Comprehensive Result (incl Capital Income)	**(367,113)**	**(404,211)**	**37,098**	**-9%**	**(802,056)**

Profit and Loss Summary - Corporate Services

Glamorgan Spring Bay Council
For the 6 months ended 31 December 2025

Department is Corporate Services.

Account	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Budget Var	Var %	Annual Budget
Trading Income					
Rate Revenue	12,183,536	12,191,335	(7,799)	0%	12,191,335
Statutory Charges	60,966	47,034	13,932	30%	94,064
Grants	77,869	77,870	(1)	0%	268,276
Interest & Investment Revenue	536,466	408,900	127,566	31%	817,494
Other Revenue	355,483	341,134	14,349	4%	345,676
Total Trading Income	**13,214,320**	**13,066,273**	**148,047**	**1%**	**13,716,845**
Gross Profit	**13,214,320**	**13,066,273**	**148,047**	**1%**	**13,716,845**
Operating Expenses					
Employee Costs	432,882	530,770	(97,888)	-18%	1,080,046
Materials & Services	1,037,685	1,189,441	(151,756)	-13%	1,804,833
Depreciation	20,761	22,290	(1,529)	-7%	44,576
Other Expenses	29,245	68,964	(39,719)	-58%	125,264
Total Operating Expenses	**1,520,573**	**1,811,465**	**(290,892)**	**-16%**	**3,054,719**
Net Profit	**11,693,747**	**11,254,808**	**438,939**	**4%**	**10,662,126**
Total Comprehensive Result (incl Capital Incom	**11,693,747**	**11,254,808**	**438,939**	**4%**	**10,662,126**

Profit and Loss Summary - Community Development

Glamorgan Spring Bay Council
For the 6 months ended 31 December 2025

Department is Community Development.

Account	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Budget Var	Var %	Annual Budget
Trading Income					
Grants	350	300	50	17%	300
Other Revenue	3,334	595	2,739	460%	7,756
Total Trading Income	**3,684**	**895**	**2,789**	**312%**	**8,056**
Gross Profit	**3,684**	**895**	**2,789**	**312%**	**8,056**
Operating Expenses					
Employee Costs	129,666	73,970	55,696	75%	147,940
Materials & Services	36,783	57,791	(21,008)	-36%	113,860
Depreciation	26,777	26,748	29	0%	53,496
Total Operating Expenses	**193,226**	**158,509**	**34,717**	**22%**	**315,296**
Net Profit	**(189,542)**	**(157,614)**	**(31,928)**	**20%**	**(307,240)**
Total Comprehensive Result (incl Capital Incor	**(189,542)**	**(157,614)**	**(31,928)**	**20%**	**(307,240)**

Profit and Loss Summary - Tourism and Economic Development

Glamorgan Spring Bay Council
For the 6 months ended 31 December 2025

Department is Tourism & Economic Development.

Account	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Budget Var	Var %	Annual Budget
Gross Profit	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0%**	**0**
Operating Expenses					
Materials & Services	70,000	85,000	(15,000)	-18%	85,000
Total Operating Expenses	**70,000**	**85,000**	**(15,000)**	**-18%**	**85,000**
Net Profit	**(70,000)**	**(85,000)**	**15,000**	**-18%**	**(85,000)**
Total Comprehensive Result (incl Capital Income	**(70,000)**	**(85,000)**	**15,000**	**-18%**	**(85,000)**

Profit and Loss Summary - Development Services

Glamorgan Spring Bay Council
For the 6 months ended 31 December 2025

Department is Development Services.

Account	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Budget Var	Var %	Annual Budget
Trading Income					
Statutory Charges	332,696	299,945	32,751	11%	594,755
User Charges	3,004	11,494	(8,490)	-74%	22,988
Contributions	106,235	135,000	(28,765)	-21%	270,000
Other Revenue	802	1,723	(921)	-53%	2,443
Total Trading Income	**442,737**	**448,162**	**(5,425)**	**-1%**	**890,186**
Gross Profit	**442,737**	**448,162**	**(5,425)**	**-1%**	**890,186**
Other Income					
Net Gain (Loss) on Disposal of Assets	23,661	0	23,661	0%	0
Total Other Income	**23,661**	**0**	**23,661**	**0%**	**0**
Operating Expenses					
Employee Costs	515,788	645,674	(129,886)	-20%	1,291,344
Materials & Services	245,066	355,795	(110,729)	-31%	727,454
Depreciation	17,121	19,362	(2,241)	-12%	38,719
Total Operating Expenses	**777,975**	**1,020,831**	**(242,856)**	**-24%**	**2,057,517**
Net Profit	**(335,237)**	**(572,669)**	**237,432**	**-41%**	**(1,167,331)**
Total Comprehensive Result (incl Capital Income)	**(311,576)**	**(572,669)**	**261,093**	**-46%**	**(1,167,331)**

Profit and Loss Summary - Animal Control

Glamorgan Spring Bay Council
For the 6 months ended 31 December 2025

Department is Animal Control.

Account	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Budget Var	Var %	Annual Budget
Trading Income					
Statutory Charges	(606)	7,490	(8,096)	-108%	14,976
User Charges	14,248	17,160	(2,912)	-17%	36,388
Total Trading Income	**13,642**	**24,650**	**(11,008)**	**-45%**	**51,364**
Gross Profit	**13,642**	**24,650**	**(11,008)**	**-45%**	**51,364**
Operating Expenses					
Employee Costs	21,386	19,190	2,196	11%	38,387
Materials & Services	2,011	16,182	(14,171)	-88%	32,795
Depreciation	1,580	3,858	(2,278)	-59%	7,711
Total Operating Expenses	**24,977**	**39,230**	**(14,253)**	**-36%**	**78,893**
Net Profit	**(11,335)**	**(14,580)**	**3,245**	**-22%**	**(27,529)**
Total Comprehensive Result (incl Capital Incom	**(11,335)**	**(14,580)**	**3,245**	**-22%**	**(27,529)**

Profit and Loss Summary - Medical Services

Glamorgan Spring Bay Council
For the 6 months ended 31 December 2025

Department is Medical Centres.

Account	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Budget Var	Var %	Annual Budget
Trading Income					
Other Revenue	1,020	0	1,020	0%	0
Total Trading Income	**1,020**	**0**	**1,020**	**0%**	**0**
Gross Profit	**1,020**	**0**	**1,020**	**0%**	**0**
Operating Expenses					
Materials & Services	252,145	293,420	(41,275)	-14%	543,420
Depreciation	20,202	21,186	(984)	-5%	42,376
Total Operating Expenses	**272,347**	**314,606**	**(42,259)**	**-13%**	**585,796**
Net Profit	**(271,327)**	**(314,606)**	**43,279**	**-14%**	**(585,796)**
Total Comprehensive Result (incl Capital Income)	**(271,327)**	**(314,606)**	**43,279**	**-14%**	**(585,796)**

Profit and Loss Summary - Marina & Wharf

Glamorgan Spring Bay Council
For the 6 months ended 31 December 2025

Department is Marina & Wharf.

Account	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Budget Var	Var %	Annual Budget
Trading Income					
User Charges	440,171	468,919	(28,749)	-6%	610,573
Other Revenue	864	0	864	0%	268
Total Trading Income	**441,034**	**468,919**	**(27,885)**	**-6%**	**610,841**
Gross Profit	**441,034**	**468,919**	**(27,885)**	**-6%**	**610,841**
Operating Expenses					
Employee Costs	19,506	11,389	8,117	71%	22,786
Materials & Services	99,506	81,608	17,898	22%	163,259
Depreciation	79,074	67,404	11,670	17%	134,808
Interest	20,266	20,266	(0)	0%	51,735
Total Operating Expenses	**218,351**	**180,667**	**37,684**	**21%**	**372,588**
Net Profit	**222,683**	**288,252**	**(65,569)**	**-23%**	**238,253**
Total Comprehensive Result (incl Capital Incom	**222,683**	**288,252**	**(65,569)**	**-23%**	**238,253**

Profit and Loss Summary - Building & Facilites

Glamorgan Spring Bay Council
For the 6 months ended 31 December 2025

Department is Buildings & Facilities.

Account	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Budget Var	Var %	Annual Budget
Trading Income					
Interest & Investment Revenue	3,690	5,394	(1,704)	-32%	10,788
Other Revenue	393,409	50,736	342,673	675%	101,475
Total Trading Income	**397,099**	**56,130**	**340,969**	**607%**	**112,263**
Gross Profit	**397,099**	**56,130**	**340,969**	**607%**	**112,263**
Capital Grants					
Grants Commonwealth Capital - Other	0	0	0	0%	300,000
Grants State Capital - Other	121,931	98,845	23,086	23%	716,574
Total Capital Grants	**121,931**	**98,845**	**23,086**	**23%**	**1,016,574**
Operating Expenses					
Employee Costs	67,346	56,868	10,478	18%	113,737
Materials & Services	271,794	357,286	(85,492)	-24%	707,895
Depreciation	303,997	317,100	(13,103)	-4%	634,200
Total Operating Expenses	**643,136**	**731,254**	**(88,118)**	**-12%**	**1,455,832**
Net Profit	**(246,037)**	**(675,124)**	**429,087**	**-64%**	**(1,343,569)**
Total Comprehensive Result (incl Capital Income)	**(124,106)**	**(576,279)**	**452,173**	**-78%**	**(326,995)**

Profit and Loss Summary - Works & Services

Glamorgan Spring Bay Council
For the 6 months ended 31 December 2025

Department is Bridges & Culverts, Emergency Management, Parks & Reserves, Plant Costs & Recoveries, Private Works, Roads & Footpaths, Sewer, Stormwater & Drainage, Town Maintenance, Waste Management.

Account	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Budget Var	Var %	Annual Budget
Trading Income					
Rate Revenue	2,307,334	2,300,884	6,450	0%	2,300,884
User Charges	74,608	98,644	(24,036)	-24%	196,101
Grants	329,824	330,456	(632)	0%	1,393,009
Other Revenue	18,533	70,185	(51,652)	-74%	139,054
Rates Charged - Sewerage	45,599	50,860	(5,261)	-10%	50,860
Total Trading Income	**2,775,898**	**2,851,029**	**(75,131)**	**-3%**	**4,079,908**
Gross Profit	**2,775,898**	**2,851,029**	**(75,131)**	**-3%**	**4,079,908**
Capital Grants					
Grants Commonwealth Capital - Other	300,000	0	300,000	0%	377,126
Grants Commonwealth Capital - Roads to Recovery	0	0	0	0%	1,134,041
Grants State Capital - Other	1,541,026	1,259,000	282,026	22%	1,259,000
Total Capital Grants	**1,841,026**	**1,259,000**	**582,026**	**46%**	**2,770,167**
Other Income					
Net Gain (Loss) on Disposal of Assets	76,091	0	76,091	0%	50,000
Total Other Income	**76,091**	**0**	**76,091**	**0%**	**50,000**
Operating Expenses					
Employee Costs	1,306,780	1,392,785	(86,005)	-6%	2,785,493
Materials & Services	1,815,243	2,003,626	(188,383)	-9%	4,036,485
Depreciation	1,562,878	1,489,368	73,510	5%	2,978,739
Total Operating Expenses	**4,684,901**	**4,885,779**	**(200,878)**	**-4%**	**9,800,717**
Net Profit	**(1,909,003)**	**(2,034,750)**	**125,747**	**-6%**	**(5,720,809)**
Total Comprehensive Result (incl Capital Income)	**8,114**	**(775,750)**	**783,864**	**-101%**	**(2,900,642)**
Capital Works Program (Current Year WIP)					
Work In Progress Payroll - Salaries and Wages	(142)	0	(142)	0%	0
Work in Progress Capital Works - Materials	10,908	0	10,908	0%	0
Total Capital Works Program (Current Year WIP)	**10,766**	**0**	**10,766**	**0%**	**0**

Profit and Loss Summary - Prosser Plains Raw Water Scheme

Glamorgan Spring Bay Council
For the 6 months ended 31 December 2025

Department is Prosser Plains Raw Water Scheme.

Account	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Budget Var	Var %	Annual Budget
Trading Income					
User Charges	0	28,170	(28,170)	-100%	56,340
Other Revenue	0	0	0	0%	231,243
Total Trading Income	**0**	**28,170**	**(28,170)**	**-100%**	**287,583**
Gross Profit	**0**	**28,170**	**(28,170)**	**-100%**	**287,583**
Operating Expenses					
Materials & Services	14,092	28,956	(14,864)	-51%	56,340
Depreciation	54,031	56,238	(2,207)	-4%	112,478
Interest	27,003	27,003	0	0%	116,068
Total Operating Expenses	**95,126**	**112,197**	**(17,071)**	**-15%**	**284,886**
Net Profit	**(95,126)**	**(84,027)**	**(11,099)**	**13%**	**2,697**
Total Comprehensive Result (incl Capital Incom	**(95,126)**	**(84,027)**	**(11,099)**	**13%**	**2,697**

MINUTES OF MEETING OF
COLES BAY COMMUNITY HALL COMMITTEE
MONDAY 22 DECEMBER 2025

MEETING OPENED: 5.05PM

PRESENT: Nigel Carins (Chair), Kristin Hoerlein, Liz Swain, Max Swain, Rob Churchill, Graeme Whitchurch, Nola Cooke, Karen Pridham, Kathryn Whitchurch

APOLOGIES: Diana Carins

WELCOME: Nigel welcomed Committee members and visitors

PREVIOUS MINUTES: Liz moved that previous minutes as circulated, be accepted. Seconded Kristin. CARRIED

TREASURER'S REPORT: Liz tabled the report (attached) and moved that it be accepted. Seconded Nigel. CARRIED

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Nigel presented his annual report (attached). Nigel also thanked Sandra Adams for her support and input as Treasurer and Kristin Hoerlein as Secretary, particularly all her work to get the Annex completed.

ELECTION OF COMMITTEE:
Chairperson: Nigel indicated he is prepared to continue as Chair. Moved. Nigel. Seconded Liz. CARRIED
Secretary: Kathryn volunteered. Moved Nigel. Seconded Liz. CARRIED
Treasurer: Liz will continue in this role pending some investigation into whether we can change banks. As Post Office is only location to bank in Coles Bay, it would necessitate changing to a bank available there. Rob Churchill to investigate if we are obliged by Council to continue with Bendigo. It was acknowledged that Bendigo Bank support the local Community so if we do change banks we will keep the term deposit with them. Karen has volunteered to take money to Bicheno in interim.

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS: Committee members in addition to above are: Diana Carins, Kristin Hoerlein, Nola Cooke, Karen Pridham and Rob Churchill from Council.

APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR: We resolve not to appoint an auditor for this financial year. Moved Liz. Seconded Nigel. CARRIED

This ended the business of the AGM and continued with general meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Liz tabled the report from last quarter. (attached). Furniture, including three Mahjon tables and kitchen equipment has been purchased but still left with healthy bank balance. Moved Liz. Seconded Kathryn. CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING:

1. Tennis Court Lighting – to stay on Agenda – long term project
2. Facebook page and calendar: Hall may be booked on Council's website but difficult to find. Max suggested a QR code to be displayed on Noticeboard. No content has been posted on Facebook for some time. Kathryn to check with Jen Hackett, who administers the page to see if we can become a bit more dynamic.
3. Review of Hall Fees: Liz has drafted new fees which have not increased since 2021. As this requires a lot of consideration, please bring suggestions to next meeting. Liz asked if it is OK to refund cancellations and we agreed that this is acceptable. Discussion about encouraging regular users to pay their $2 per use which we agreed would not increase this year. Karen suggested an incentive and Nola suggested a membership fee which could be paid yearly as most people do not carry cash. It was agreed that a cleaning fee for all hires would be chargeable. It was agreed that the Hall and Annex needs to be cleaning once a month. Currently, Leave it to Me charge $110 for two hours minimum. We will put the cleaning out to quote.
4. Council Updates: Nil
5. Official Opening: The date of Sunday 5 April (Easter Sunday) was agreed to give us time to plan and issue invitations. Rob advised that council has a budget for Events. Kathryn to contacy Bernaadette at Council for application and advice on who to formally invite. Community Fund and local politicians also to be invited. Planning Committee Meeting set for Monday 2 February 2026 at 5pm in Annex.
6. Annex finishing: All small jobs listed at last meeting have been completed except the dishwasher connection – Nigel to follow up with ECC and barbecue – Council has budgeted for the barbecue to be moved closer to Annex with additional landscaping and outdoor furniture for verandah.
7. Library Key – again available at Post Office for casual community users.

NEXT MEETING: Monday 2 March, 5pm

MEETING SCHEDULE FOR REST OF YEAR:
Monday 1 June, 5pm
Monday 7 September, 5pm
Monday 7 December, 5pm.

MEERTING CLOSED: 6.10PM

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Minister for Health, Mental Health and Wellbeing
Minister for Ageing
Minister for Aboriginal Affairs

Level 5, 4 Salamanca Place, HOBART TAS 7000
GPO Box 123 HOBART TAS 7001
Phone: 03 6165 7794
Email: Minister.Archer@dpac.tas.gov.au

Ref: MIN25/3414

Tasmanian Government

5 January 2026

Mayor Cheryl Arnol
Glamorgan Spring Bay Council
admin@freycinet.tas.gov.au

Dear Mayor Arnol,

I am pleased to advise that on 22 December 2025, I released the exposure draft of *The Health Revolution* - Tasmania's 20-Year Preventive Health Strategy. This marks a crucial milestone in shaping a healthier future for our state. A future where prevention becomes the foundation for wellbeing, productivity, and resilience.

I would like to express my thanks to you and your representatives for your continued commitment and advocacy advancing preventive health for all Tasmanians. Local government plays a vital role in creating environments that keep people well, from planning and infrastructure to community programs. Your perspective is essential to making prevention real at the local level. We know that effective prevention cannot be driven by the Tasmanian Government alone. It requires a true partnership with the local leaders who understand the unique needs of their regions.

Over 5,000 Tasmanians contributed to the first round of consultation for the Strategy, helping to shape a shared vision for a healthier future. The exposure draft presents the high-level vision and strategic pillars for the next 20 years. We are aware that for councils to align their own long-term planning and investment with this Strategy, the direction must be clear, evidence-based, and actionable.

I now invite you to help us make it even stronger. The draft Strategy sets the long-term direction for the next 20 years. It will be supported by Action Plans and toolkits that make implementation practical, adaptable and reduce duplication of efforts across Tasmania.

Your feedback will help ensure the Strategy reflects local priorities and identifies opportunities for councils to work with the Tasmanian Government and other partners to deliver better outcomes for Tasmanians. We invite you to please review the draft and provide a submission to consultation@health.tas.gov.au by 27 February 2026.

When reviewing the draft Strategy, we'd like your perspective on whether:

1. The overall direction feels right, fair, and ambitious enough for Tasmania.
2. The long-term vision in this draft resonates with you.
3. The Strategy reflects the things you believe keep Tasmanians healthy and well.

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4. The sub-pillars feel like the right building blocks to achieve our goals.
5. The commitments about how we'll deliver this work are clear and complete.
6. The language is clear, accessible, and easy to understand.
7. This plan makes you feel included in Tasmania's long-term health journey.
8. There is enough data and evidence to back the Strategy's direction and demonstrate its importance—and please suggest where this could be strengthened or if additional statistics should be included.

The draft and supporting materials are enclosed with this letter.

Your feedback will help determine the final shape of this document. Thank you for your leadership and commitment to building healthier communities. Together, we can create a Tasmania where more people feel well, stay well, and keep doing the things they love for as long as possible.

Yours sincerely

Bridget Archer

Hon Bridget Archer MP
Minister for Health, Mental Health and Wellbeing

TasWaste South

6 January 2026

Mayor Cheryl Arnol
Glamorgan Spring Bay Council
PO Box 6
Triabunna TAS 7190

Dear Cheryl,

TASWASTE SOUTH – ANNUAL REPORT 2024-2025

It is my pleasure to provide you with a copy of the Annual Report for TasWaste South for 2024-2025.

This report highlights the significant progress we have made over the past year. Some of the key achievements include:

- Conducted bin audits across the region
- Secured increased resourcing and funding for the Rethink Waste program
- Coordinated Household Hazardous Waste collections
- Commenced development of the Infrastructure Plan

We look forward to demonstrating our achievements in the next 12 months.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Katrena Stephenson

Chair
TasWaste South

Contact Us:

326 Macquarie Street
South Hobart,
Tasmania 7004

GPO Box 1521
Hobart,
Tasmania 7001

Tel: 0409 963 061
taswastesouth.tas.gov.au
ABN 71 966 321 558

Supported by the Tasmanian Government through the Waste and Resource Recovery Board.



east coast tasmania

Glamorgan Spring Bay Council

Biannual Report

July - December 2025

Executive Summary

East Coast Tasmania Tourism (ECTT) delivered activity across all service areas of the Glamorgan Spring Bay Council (GSBC) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), supporting industry capability, community engagement, digital visibility, event support and regional project delivery. The July–December 2025 period strengthened alignment between operators, Council, communities, State agencies and industry partners within the GSBC municipality and across the wider East Coast.

ECTT focused on supporting operators through seasonal pressures, deepening engagement across key GSBC towns and destinations, enhancing industry capability, and progressing major place-based initiatives including Triabunna Tomorrow Marine Precinct Infrastructure Project (TTMPIP) and the Positive Impact Plan (PIP).

Representation at statewide forums ensured GSBC and broader East Coast issues, opportunities and future priorities were actively advocated for and considered within wider strategy, policy development and program delivery.



Industry development and operator support

ECTT supported operator capability and resilience within the Glamorgan Spring Bay Council municipality, while contributing to region-wide industry development across the East Coast through targeted development and direct support.

The annual Winter Famil, delivered in Coles Bay in 2025, was a key initiative showcasing GSBC destinations and operators while building shared capability and cross-region collaboration, including participation from operators across the Break O'Day Council area. The Famil operates as an adaptive, region-wide model, with delivery locations and emphasis shifting over time to support balanced regional benefit, continued collaboration across council areas, and ongoing involvement of GSBC operators as part of a connected East Coast tourism sector.

17
GSBC operators represented through Winter Famil

22+
GSBC operator engagements (Oct-Nov)

12
Attendees at Regional Priorities Dinner event in Orford

6
Operators sought cultural capability guidance

7
GSBC operators supported to attend Hobart Tourism Showcase

41
Winter Famil Participants

3.9%
Increase in East Coast visitation (YoY) TVS, YE September 2025

65
Famil Mini-Expo attendees

$14,500+
Famil investment via sponsorship



Advocacy, leadership and council engagement

ECTT was active in representing the issues, challenges, opportunities and future vision of the East Coast, advocating for regional tourism priorities across government and industry. This advocacy informed statewide tourism strategy, objectives and delivery, helping activity respond to East Coast needs, alongside ongoing engagement with Glamorgan Spring Bay Council, with local GSBC priorities and perspectives informing and shaping this advocacy.

Industry Representation
Active representation with TICT, Tourism Tasmania and Hospitality Tasmania

Government Engagement
12+ ministerial, agency and sector engagement touchpoints

Advocacy Focus Areas
Insurance affordability, workforce and seasonality, visitor behaviour and pressures, infrastructure and capacity, licensing and regulatory clarity

Strategic Influence
Participation in the Premier and Treasurer's Tourism Roundtable

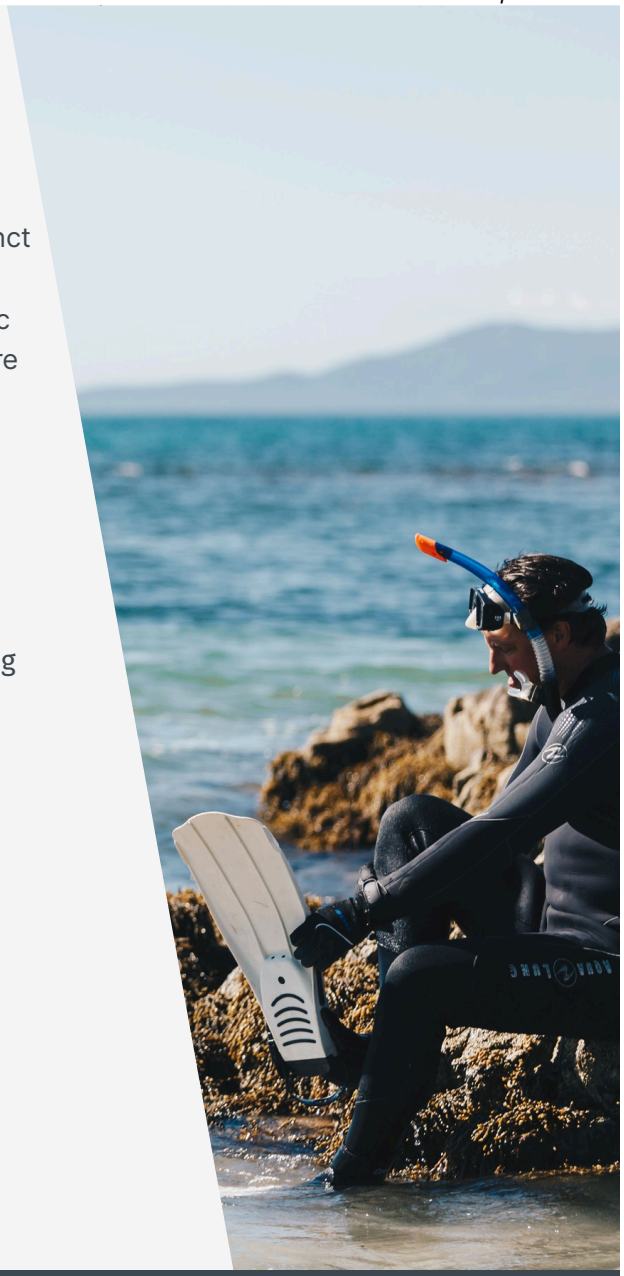
Council Communication
Regular briefings and updates to GSBC officers and Councillors

Media Visibility
Coverage via ABC Radio, WIN News and 7 Tasmania



Project delivery

ECTT progressed major place-based projects to ensure tourism perspectives relevant to the Glamorgan Spring Bay Council municipality informed regional planning, guided by community, industry and stakeholder input. This included leadership of the Triabunna Tomorrow Marine Precinct Infrastructure Project (TTMPIP) as a GSBC-specific initiative, alongside delivery of the Positive Impact Plan (PIP) as a region-wide project. Both projects form key components of ECTT's strategic delivery under the East Coast Strategic Regional Partnership (ECSRP), ensuring GSBC priorities are integrated within coordinated regional planning and investment.



Triabunna Tomorrow Marine Precinct Infrastructure Project (TTMPIP)

- Participation in weekly project working groups and SteerCo meetings
- Ongoing coordination with Stakeholders, DSG and ministerial advisers
- Tourism insights provided on visitor movement, precinct experience and activation, ensuring tourism considerations informed design
- Input into consultation materials and project articulation to support shared understanding
- Project continuity maintained during periods of external change

Positive Impact Plan (PIP)

- **7 community café sessions** delivered across the region (4 within GSBC region)
- **300+** responses received through the PIP check-in survey
- In-person **community engagement** undertaken at the Bicheno Food & Wine Festival
- **Project updates** presented at GSBC and BODC workshops
- Community and operator insights informing final priorities

Event Support

ECTT supported events within the Glamorgan Spring Bay Council municipality through targeted promotion, advisory support and industry connections. Activity during the reporting period strengthened event visibility, community participation and local economic impact, while contributing to the East Coast's broader capacity to deliver quality events and build its appeal as a destination with diverse events and cultural activity.

What we do

Promote → visibility, marketing, channels

Advise → planning, delivery, safety, readiness

Connect → operators, partners, media, Council

Enable → grant support, operational confidence, capacity

Reporting period highlights

Provided promotional advice and support to Bicheno Beams, strengthening event visibility and collaboration between local operators.

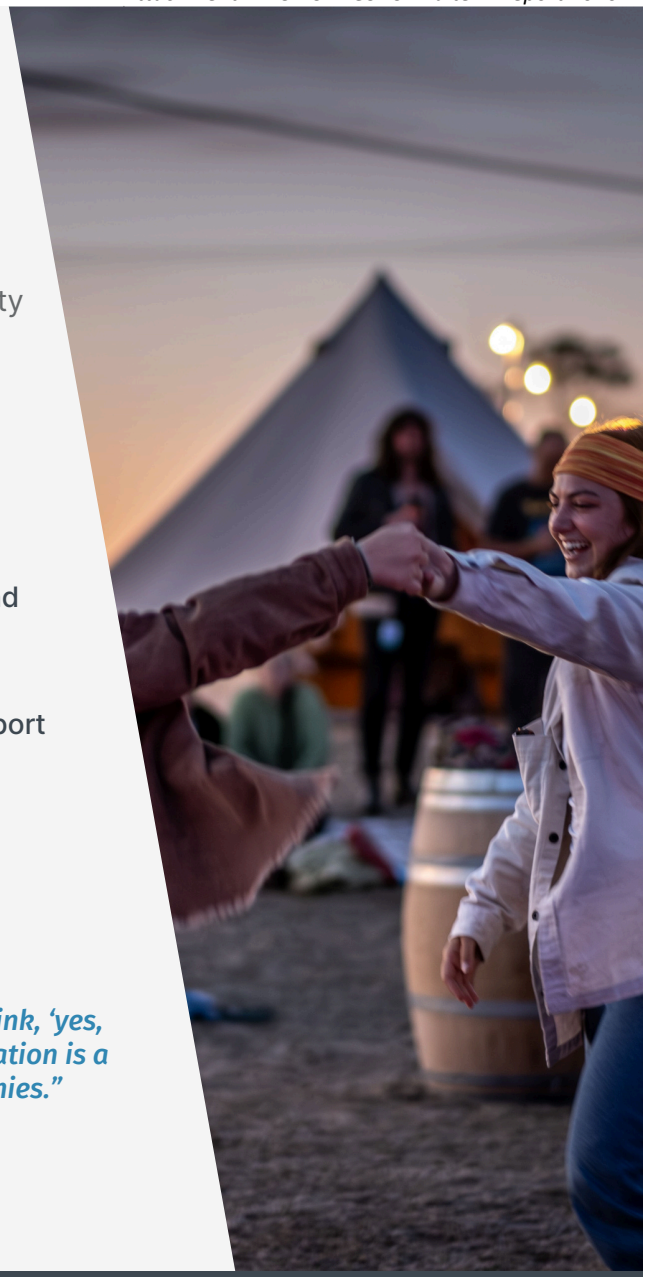
Supported media engagement at the ECHO Festival launch and promoted GSBC events through ECTT digital channels, strengthening visibility and audience reach.

Collaborated with the Bicheno Food and Wine Festival to support on-event engagement and capture Positive Impact Plan (PIP) survey responses, strengthening community and visitor input into regional planning.

Supported media engagement at the ECHO Festival launch, including ECTT Chair participation highlighting the economic value of regional events and repeat visitation.

"Attendees at regional events dip their toes in our water and think, 'yes, we're coming back and we're bringing our children'. That inspiration is a really important part of what events do for our regional economies."

— Jen Fry, Chair, East Coast Tasmania Tourism, ECHO Festival Launch (media coverage)



Digital reach & marketing

ECTT delivered consistent destination marketing and digital communication across July–October 2025, supporting visitor awareness, operator information sharing and seasonal transition.

46k+
Instagram accounts reached in July, with reach peaking at 71k+ in September.

900+
new Instagram followers gained in September, with continued growth through October.

5.7k+
members in the public Facebook Group by September, supporting community information sharing.

120%+
increase in comments and reactions in the public Facebook Group in September, indicating stronger two-way engagement.

High-frequency
operator communication delivered through the Industry Facebook Group during weather and seasonal disruption.

7.5k+
website users in July, with the highest average engagement time recorded in October.

Low bounce rates (≈30–35%)
across the reporting period, indicating strong content relevance and visitor intent.

Tourism Product Development

37
new tourism products launched across the region in 2025
25 within GSBC

27
existing products upgraded or enhanced
10 within GSBC

64
total product changes recorded across East Coast Tasmania.

42
new, revised or future product developments located within Glamorgan Spring Bay municipality.

Key Trends (2025)

Nature Based
Growth in low-impact, outdoor experiences connected to coast, landscape and parks.

Guided
Increase in small-group, hosted experiences focused on interpretation and local insight.

Wellness
Emerging demand for slower-paced travel, wellbeing and restorative experiences.

Cultural
Rising interest in place-based storytelling and culturally informed experiences.

Product Evolution
More upgrades and diversification of existing products rather than entirely new builds.

Name	Council Region	Town	Details	Product type
Wineglass Bay Estate	GSBC	Coles Bay	Future Development	Accommodation
Pondering Frog Development planned for caravan park	GSBC	Asplawn	Future Development	Accommodation
Brewery & Tap Room- Moulting Lagoon	GSBC	Coles Bay	Future Development	Food and drink
Sea Stacks (Landfall) Bicheno	GSBC	Bicheno	New Development	Accommodation
Land Nautical (Waverly Distillery) Glamping	GSBC	Triabunna	New Development	Accommodation
Bicheno by The Bay	GSBC	Bicheno	New Management	Accommodation
The Waterloo	GSBC	Swansea	New Ownership	Food and drink
Astron Triabunna Roadhouse – New owners	GSBC	Triabunna	New Ownership	Food and drink
Freycinet Holiday Houses	GSBC	Coles Bay	New Ownership	Accommodation
Orford Riverside Cafe and Providore	GSBC	Orford	New Ownership / Revised Product	Food and drink
Intrepid has purchased The Edge of the Bay Resort	GSBC	Coles Bay	New Ownership / Revised Product	Accommodation
Diamond Island Resort	GSBC	Bicheno	New Ownership / Revised Product	Accommodation
Palawa Paths; Food, Culture, Connection, at Edge of the Bay	GSBC	Coles Bay	New Product	Tour
Eastcoaster launching new accessible cabin	GSBC	Orford	Revised Product Offering	Accommodation

Name	Council Region	Town	Details	Product type
Apsley View	GSBC	Bicheno	New Product	Accommodation
Oceanview Bistro at Bicheno RSL & Bowls Club	GSBC	Bicheno	New Product	Food and drink
Apero Bistro	GSBC	Cranbrook	New Product	Food and drink
The Vignerons Creperie	GSBC	Cranbrook	New Product	Food and drink
Sierra Angasi	GSBC	Bicheno	New Product	General Service
Anasa	GSBC	Dolphin Sands	New Product	Accommodation
Alfie's Place	GSBC	Bicheno	New Product	Food and drink
Sherwood Loves Tasmania	GSBC	Buckland	New Product	Accommodation
Le Gulch Wine Bar	GSBC	Bicheno	New Product	Food and drink
Bicheno Beer Co - new tasting room & bar	GSBC	Bicheno	New Product	Food and drink
Picnic Island	GSBC	Coles Bay	New Product	Accommodation
Melshell Oyster Sand Shack accomodation	GSBC	Dolphin Sands	New Product	Accommodation
Selkie Wellness, Wellness Garden	GSBC	Bicheno	New Product	Hire

Name	Council Region	Town	Details	Product type
BodyinForm Mobility and Wellness Centre in Triabunna	GSBC	Triabunna	New Product	General Service
Edge Restaurant	GSBC	Coles Bay	New Product	Food and drink
Wild Sanctuary Retreat	GSBC	Bicheno	New Product	Accommodation
Biji Dining	GSBC	Swansea	New Product	Food and drink
The Bambino by Casa Bicheno	GSBC	Bicheno	New Product	Accommodation
Freycinet Coastal Retreat	GSBC	Coles Bay	New Product	Accommodation
Undersong Perfumery	GSBC	Bicheno	New Product	Attraction
Freycinet Resort & Mount Paul Lounge	GSBC	Coles Bay	New Product	Food and drink
Freycinet Association Incorporated Office at Freycinet Air	GSBC	Coles Bay	New Product	General Service
Governors - open for lunch everyday	GSBC	Bicheno	New product	Food and drink
Harvey Vin - Pump Track on site more info to come	GSBC	Bicheno	New Product	Attraction
Sauna at Numie Freycinet	GSBC	Coles Bay	Revised Product Offering	Hire
Saffire 3 Bedroom Villa	GSBC	Coles Bay	Revised Product Offering	Accommodation
Maria Island Cruises - Tour offerings diversified	GSBC	Triabunna	Revised Product Offering	Tour
Freycinet Experience Walk will be opening as Airbnb	GSBC	Coles Bay	Revised Product Offering	Accommodation

Foundations supporting delivery

Destination management

- Ongoing monitoring of visitor behaviour, seasonal pressures and workforce challenges.
- Tourism insights shared with Council, PWS and State agencies to inform planning and coordination.

Partnerships & preparedness

- Active collaboration with SES and TFS to support emergency preparedness, information sharing and future industry engagement.
- Strong cross-agency coordination supporting visitor safety and destination resilience.

Organisational effectiveness

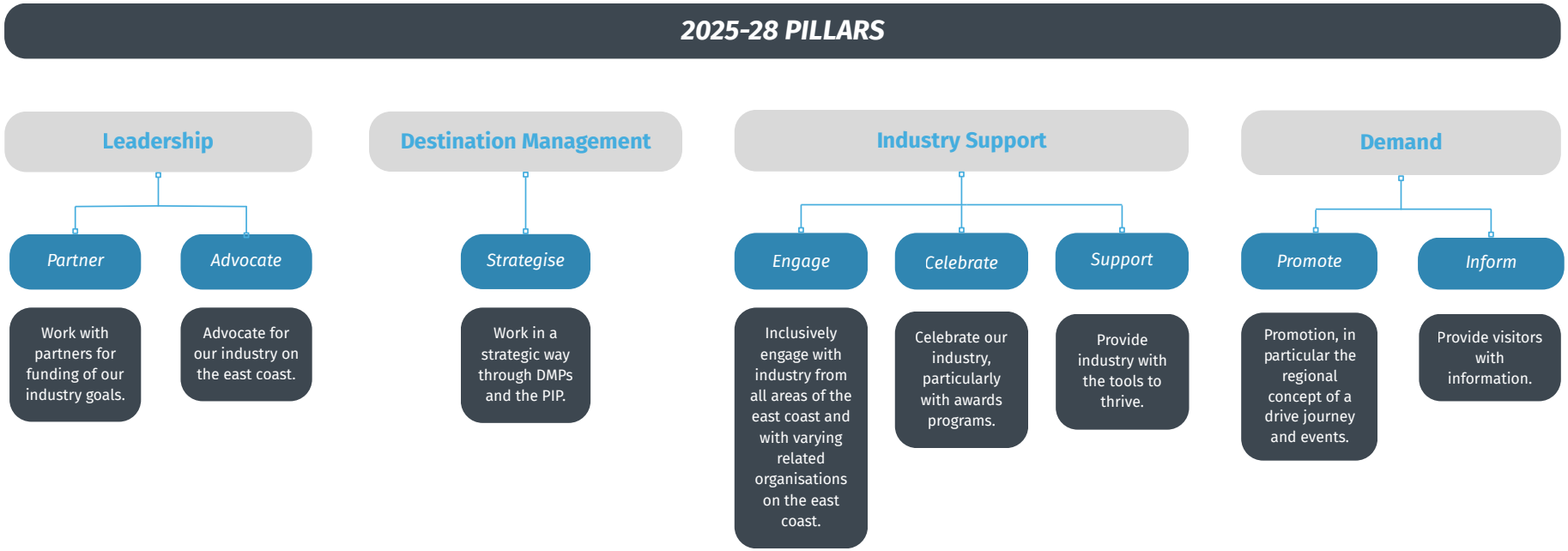
- Strong governance and reporting delivered through Board meetings, AGM and strategic oversight.
- Internal coordination supporting delivery of PIP, Triabunna Tomorrow and industry programs.
- Launch of a new corporate website supporting transparency and accessibility.

Cultural development

- Aboriginal perspectives integrated into industry development, famils and PIP engagement.
- Ongoing collaboration with Aboriginal organisations to strengthen culturally aligned tourim.

Forward focus

ECTT's strategic plan review, completed in May 2025, will guide future priorities and delivery, supporting alignment with Glamorgan Spring Bay Council priorities and broader funding partner objectives.



ECTT Activities July-December 2025

Category	Description	Activities	Outcomes
Industry Development	Strengthened operator capability across the region through development sessions, industry events and alignment with statewide partners.	• Delivered development sessions on seasonal readiness, digital visibility and operational issues. • Supported operator participation in Tourism Showcase. • Delivered Winter Tourism Famil in Coles Bay and Bicheno. • Hosted the Mini-Operator Expo. • Delivered GM Tourism Sessions (Regional Priorities Update) in St Helens and Orford with THA, TICT and Episteme. • Increased brand visibility via Launceston Airport content.	• Improved operator understanding of seasonal conditions and expectations. • Stronger regional networks and product familiarity. • Alignment with statewide industry direction. • Increased visibility to travelling audiences. • 3 Connect Sessions delivered • 41 famil participants • 20 operators in famil program • 15 operators at Tourism Showcase • 65 Expo attendees • 6 cultural capability enquiries • $14,500+ sponsorship value
Operator Support	Direct support to operators navigating weather impacts, staffing issues, insurance pressures and visitor behaviour changes.	• Supported operators with insurance, weather, staffing and communications issues. • Delivered one-to-one support across towns on digital improvements, operational adjustments and planning. • Provided ATDW guidance and distributed self-audit tool. • Maintained direct communication and industry group engagement.	• Increased operator confidence and readiness. • Strengthened trust in ECTT support. • Improved government and Council responsiveness to operator issues. • 46+ operator site visits (Oct–Nov). • Multiple operator enquiries supported. • ATDW self-audit tool produced and shared. • High operator group engagement. • Increased operator contact arising from development sessions.
Advocacy	Ensured East Coast issues and opportunities were visible within government and sector planning.	• Raised regional concerns on insurance, levy implications, licensing and infrastructure pressures. • Engaged with TICT, TTAS, THA and government departments. • Provided insights in Ministerial meetings and sector discussions. • Escalated issues relating to workforce shortages, visitor behaviour and seasonal pressures. • Represented the region at the Premier and Treasurer's Tourism Roundtable. • Participated in the PWS Nature Tourism Framework workshop.	• Greater recognition of East Coast priorities in statewide planning. • Stronger alignment between local issues and government decisions. • More effective escalation pathways and responses. • 12+ Ministerial, agency and sector engagements. • Multiple operator issues escalated. • Active representation across industry bodies.

Category	Description	Activities	Outcomes
Networking	Facilitated stronger industry relationships, collaboration and regional product knowledge.	• Delivered Connect Sessions across three towns. • Hosted the Mini-Operator Expo. • Strengthened operator relationships through famil participation. • Facilitated new connections with emergency services, cultural partners and sector bodies.	• Improved regional product understanding. • Strengthened operator collaboration and referrals. • Greater cohesion across the visitor economy. • 41 famil networking participants. • 65 Expo attendees. • Multiple networking events delivered.
Leadership	Demonstrated leadership through statewide representation, media visibility and strong sector partnerships.	• Shared regional insights at forums, workshops and leadership discussions. • Participated in statewide tourism events and award programs. • Maintained strong engagement with operators, Councils, agencies and sector partners. • Engaged media including ABC Radio, WIN News and 7 Tasmania. • Showcased regional content at Launceston Airport.	• Greater visibility for East Coast issues. • Stronger alignment with statewide strategies. • Increased confidence in ECTT's leadership role. • ABC, WIN and 7 Tasmania media coverage. • 100,000+ travellers exposed to Airport content. • Representation at statewide tourism forums.
Communication	Maintained proactive communication to support planning, enquiries and issue management.	• Provided regular updates on operator issues and visitor activity. • Shared insights from regional engagement and development sessions. • Responded to Councillor enquiries. • Supported Council planning discussions with tourism context.	• Improved Council awareness of tourism conditions. • Stronger partnership and responsiveness. • Enhanced visibility of regional issues. • Regular updates and end-of-month reporting provided. • PIP updates delivered through Episteme at Council workshops.

Category	Description	Activities	Outcomes
Project Delivery	Progressed the PIP and supported coordination of TTMPIP planning.	• PIP: Delivered PIP Café Sessions across seven towns. • Refined themes with community and operator input. • Presented updates at BODC and GSBC workshops. • Coordinated development and distribution of the regional survey. • TTMPIP: Participated in weekly working groups and SteerCo meetings. • Contributed to consultation materials and project articulation. • Worked with Council, DSG and ministerial advisers to maintain alignment. • Provided tourism insights relating to precinct planning.	• Strong community input shaping PIP priorities. • Improved coordination across TTMP partners. • Clear integration of tourism considerations into project design. • 7 PIP Café Sessions delivered. • Weekly PIP and TTMP working groups held. • Engagement with BODC, GSBC, AHC and SRP partners. • PIP survey developed and distributed region-wide.
Event Support	Supported regional events through advice, visibility and industry connection.	• Provided advice and promotional support for Bicheno Beams and other events. • Promoted events through ECTT digital channels. • Provided operational insights to event organisers.	• Increased event visibility. • Stronger linkage between events and local operators. • Improved organiser–Council–industry coordination. • Multiple events supported. • Event visibility boosted via ECTT channels. • Operator connections strengthened.
Collaboration	Delivered community-facing engagement aligned with the PIP.	• Delivered PIP Café Sessions across seven towns. • Held informal discussions with community members. • Provided updates via digital channels and networks.	• Strong community input into PIP development. • Improved transparency in planning processes. • 7 engagement sessions delivered. • Community insights integrated into PIP themes.

Category	Description	Activities	Outcomes
Social Media & Digital	Strengthened digital presence to promote East Coast experiences and support operators.	• Shared destination stories and operator features. • Delivered real-time communication through industry channels. • Supported seasonal and PIP messaging. • Analysed digital performance to guide strategy.	• Increased audience engagement and reach. • Improved digital communication pathways for operators. • 46,333 Instagram accounts reached (July). • 12,218 social interactions (July). • 7,519 website users (July). • 5,700+ public Facebook Group members. • 911 new Instagram followers (Sept). • Industry Group posts and comments increased significantly.
Cultural Development	Strengthened cultural capability and supported respectful engagement with Aboriginal organisations.	• Elevated Aboriginal-led content at industry events. • Encouraged operator cultural engagement. • Integrated cultural considerations into development sessions and famils. • Ensured cultural perspectives informed PIP engagement.	• Increased operator interest in cultural capability. • Stronger partnerships with Aboriginal organisations. • 6 operators sought cultural guidance. • Cultural input integrated across activities.
Destination Management	Monitored visitor behaviour, seasonal pressures and workforce challenges to inform planning.	• Monitored seasonal pressures and visitor behaviour. • Shared insights with Council, PWS and State agencies. • Supported operators with understanding visitor expectations. • Provided tourism perspectives to planning conversations.	• Clearer understanding of regional pressure points. • Enhanced cross-agency coordination. • Insights contributed to seasonal and planning responses.
Organisational Effectiveness	Maintained strong governance, reporting and coordination to deliver all commitments.	• Delivered Board meetings, AGM and reporting. • Maintained communication across CEO, Board, Council and partners. • Coordinated internal delivery of major regional projects. • Managed digital platforms and administration.	• Strong governance and stability. • Reliable delivery of MOU commitments. • AGM and Accessibility Awards delivered. • Governance processes completed. • New corporate website launched.

east coast tasmania

For any comments, questions or queries please contact:

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Minister for Housing and Planning
Minister for Infrastructure and Transport
Minister for Local Government

Level 10, 15 Murray Street, HOBART TAS 7000 Australia
GPO Box 123 HOBART TAS 7001 Australia
Email: Minister.Vincent@dpac.tas.gov.au

Tasmanian Government

8 DEC 2025

Dear Mayors and General Managers

As part of our *Local Government Priority Reform Program 2024-26*, the Tasmanian Government has today published an exposure draft Local Government Electoral Bill.

This draft Bill is an important step in establishing a standalone statutory framework for the conduct of local government elections.

The new Bill will introduce several important reforms, including:

- creating a more flexible format for future local government elections;
- strengthening the donations disclosure and electoral advertising requirements;
- improving the quality of public information at elections; and
- making changes to the eligibility to run for office, alongside a suite of changes intended to improve the integrity of elections

The Electoral Bill is also supported by a supplementary Local Government (Amendment) Bill which delivers supporting changes to the *Local Government Act 1993*, including:

- repealing existing electoral provisions from the Act;
- introducing reforms to better manage councillor interests; and
- introducing caretaker provisions for council conduct during an election.

The draft legislation, along with a supporting paper and an overview of provisions of both bills, is available on the Department of Premier and Cabinet's website at www.dpac.tas.gov.au/divisions/local_government.

We are inviting feedback from the sector and the community until midnight on Saturday 28 February 2026. Feedback can be provided by email to LG.Consultation@dpac.tas.gov.au.

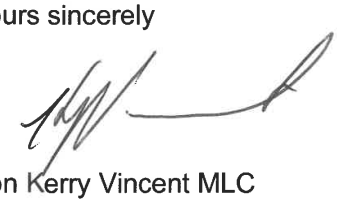
It is important to note that due to the technical complexity of moving to a new electoral framework, the new Local Government Electoral Act is expected to have a phased implementation. A crucial focus of this consultation will be identifying the highest priority reforms for implementation prior to the next elections.

This will inform which provisions the Government will seek to 'turn on' with sufficient lead time to allow for education, system updates, and readiness ahead of the October 2026 local government elections.

I encourage this to be a focus of your council's consideration and feedback of the Bill.

Your feedback on the draft Electoral Bill will help us ensure the Tasmanian community can make an informed and meaningful choice at voting time.

Yours sincerely



Hon Kerry Vincent MLC
Minister for Local Government

Natural Resource Management Quarterly Report

December 2025

Highlights

A highlight for the quarter was the notification of the success of the Disaster Ready Fund application which LRF prepared on behalf of Council.

"Building flood resilience in key areas of Glamorgan Spring Bay, Lutruwita, Tasmania" is a collaborative project led by Glamorgan Spring Bay Council with support from the Landscape Recovery Foundation and input from other stakeholders such as the SES and Taswater.

This project aims to increase the resilience of Glamorgan Spring Bay in key catchments and address risks of flooding by implementing effective infrastructure improvements and riparian management strategies to mitigate the effects of extreme water flows and improve waterway health. The project will also pilot flood monitoring devices to provide early warning to residents and visitors, working with key stakeholders and community to increase awareness and preparedness.

The LRF will work closely with council to implement this project, which will build on information, resources and programs being delivered by the SES and Red Cross and other agencies. Total value of the project including in-kind and cash contributions $568.777 with funding of $504,837 provided by the Commonwealth Government. The project team had their first meeting in December to plan the next steps forward including finalising the funding agreement.

General NRM Facilitation

The Landscape Recovery Foundation (LRF) continued to provide general facilitation support to the Glamorgan Spring Bay Council including:

- Providing input on project aboriginal heritage - complete desktop assessments in collaboration with project team and Phil;
- Revegetation input on works – including recommendations on plants species, procuring Plants/vegetation for projects, as requested.
- Site visits to confirm vegetation types and requirements for NVAs if applicable to works.

- Temporary fencing and monitoring of installed fencing in nominated areas of concern.
- Communication with the public on NRM items/issues that come to Council.
- Marking with tape of vegetation for road slashing activities undertaken by Council;
- Reviewing of Planning Applications
- Liaising with NRE Tas on items like potential clearing of threatened vegetation and weeds (Biosecurity Tas)
- Weed Notifications and visiting areas of concern, reported either internally or form the public.
- Meetings – general Council business and updates.
- Preparation of council reports and briefing papers.

Awareness raising and communication

Two issues of the new East Coast Nature News e-newsletter were distributed and articles prepared for Seaspeak and local newspapers.

Information stalls were held at the Triabunna Spring Market and at the Stepping into the Future Expo. These involved talking with school, community and services providers about NRM issues and opportunities for getting students and different sectors of the community in involved in activities that connect people with the natural environment.

A demonstration by Pippa the Phytophthora detection dog was relocated to Bicheno. Pippa and handler Morgan McPherson provided insights into this important conservation work.

Weed Management Program

The LRF has been working closely with Biosecurity Tasmania to develop new Biosecurity Directives with accompanying information for landholders about their responsibilities. The focus has been compliance for serrated tussock control around Swansea.

A weed mapping project has been set up using Mergin' maps and discussions on how this information can be intregrated in Council's GIS are underway.

NRM Strategy Implementation

A key activity in the annual work plan is to seek funding to implement activities in the NRM and Climate Resilience strategy.

In October the LRF submitted a funding application to the Future Drought Fund: Drought Resilience Innovation Challenges Pilot Program. "**A Landscape Approach to Natural Capital and Sustainability Planning-Little Swanport, Tasmania"** is a $887,200 project aimed at advancing natural capital and biodiversity for drought preparedness and resilience. It offers a practical, evidence-based and scalable model that strengthens landscape health, supports landholders to adopt sustainable practices, and improves long-term resilience in drought-prone regions. The project builds on proven Derwent C atchment methodologies for carbon and biodiversity assessment, supporting landholders to become investment ready through credible data and ESG-aligned reporting. The work begins in the Little Swanport catchment on Tasmania's east coast and is deliberately designed so that its methods, data and lessons can be transferred to other catchments and regions. Successful applicants will be notified in early-mid 2026, with project activities to start from May 2026.

Attached is a more detailed progress report against the annual work plan.

Quarterly GSBC Annual Plan Progress 25_26

December 2025

	Theme	Primary	Measure of Success	Annual % complete	Annual status	Priority	25_26 Progress	Next steps
1	**CULTURAL LANDSCAPES**	OBJECTIVE : Understand and maintain the diversity of Glamorgan Spring Bay's cultural landscapes						
2		1.1.1 Identify key people and/or groups to work with to improve understanding of Aboriginal community aspirations	1.1.1.1 Key people and/or groups are involved in NRM discussions by 2024	100%	Complete	H	Key people and groups identified	
3		1.1.6 Facilitate Aboriginal Heritage Awareness training for council staff and community volunteers	1.1.6.1 At least 80% of relevant council staff have undertaken training by 2028 1.1.6.2 One cultural awareness session for community members by 2026	25%	In progress	M	Waiting on dates for 2026 cultural awareness training. Undertaking Aboriginal Desktop assessment for Council projects, liaising with AHT to get approvals for proposed projects.	SEEK FUNDING
4		1.2.2 Promote Aboriginal participation in land management	1.2.2.1 At least one (1) Aboriginal identified position on land management teams working in GSB by 2027	50%	In progress	H	In discussions with Wildland Tas to come an watch a cultural burn on private land in the Little Swanport catchment area.	
5		1.2.3 Investigate training and pathways for Aboriginal participation in land management and conservation	1.2.31 Discussions with employment agencies and training providers - two (2) Aboriginal people have gained work experience with a land management crew by 2025	25%	In progress	H	Pilot program in Brighton funded by State Growth - meeting Jobs Tas re: funding opportunities - spoken to Sorell job hubs about potential for GSB	SEEK FUNDING
6		1.3.1 Seek funding to undertake Aboriginal Heritage assessments in priority areas	1.3.1.1 Aboriginal Heritage assessments completed for priority areas 1.3.1.2 Recommendations of the Aboriginal Heritage assessments implemented		Not started	H		SEEK FUNDING
7	**WATER**	OBJECTIVE : To improve or maintain the condition of freshwater, estuarine and coastal ecosystems						
8		2.1.1 Advocate for a reliable and equitable water supply for drinking water, irrigation, recreation and environmental flows	2.1.1.1 - A written advocacy position piece has been prepared and is submitted to relevant government initiatives by 2024		Not started	H		AWARENESS RAISING & COMMUNICATION
9		2.3.1 Identify and prioritise riparian, wetland and coastal areas for restoration	2.3.1.1 - Actions in catchment action plans reviewed and prioritised for restoration by 2024 2.3.1.2 - Previous restoration projects evaluated and key actions for follow up prioritised by 2024	25%	In progress	H	Had discussion with Greg Woolley owner of OKEHAMPTON PASTORAL PTY LTD, in Triabunna. To visit his land were he is completing a reveg program for the property.	Identify & prioritise areas
10		2.3.2 Restore and improve priority riparian, wetland and coastal areas	2.3.2.1 - Priority restoration activities have commenced by 2025 and 30% of priorities are implemented by 2027 2.3.2.2 -10% increase in riparian vegetation condition by 2028		Not started	H		SEEK FUNDING
11		2.4.1 Support practices that reduce erosion and pollution of waterways	2.4.1.1 - Increase in riparian areas fenced off and managed 2.4.1.2 -Off-stream watering points installed at identified hotspots 2.4.1.3 - Erosion and sediment control compliance is maintained in development settings by 2025 2.4.1.4 - Oil spill kits are installed and maintained at key locations	100%	Complete	M	Natural Capital Project submitted for funding to look landscpe scale improvments implemented at local level - focused on Little Swanport Successful DRF R3 funding application includes Saltwater Creek restoration	SEEK FUNDING
12		2.4.4 Manage the spread of riparian wetland and coastal weeds by implementing strategic cooperative weed control	2.4.4.1- Glamorgan Spring Bay weed management program in wetland and foreshore areas is implemented annually 2.4.1.4 - Oil spill kits are installed and maintained at key locations 2.4.1.4 - Oil spill kits are installed and maintained at key locations	25%	In progress	H		

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	Theme	Primary	Measure of Success	Annual % complete	Annual status	Priority	25_26 Progress	Next steps
13		2.5.1 Four (4) community clean-ups a year	2.5.1.1 - 60% reduction in rubbish observed at foreshore Clean up Australia activities (measured against the amount collected as part of the clean-up) by 2027		Not started	H	Have discussed and will progress clean up foreshore sessions with the Bicheno Primary School	Engage with PWS incl PS re: works authorities.
14		2.5.2 Assess need for litter traps in key locations	2.5.2.1 Key locations identified		Not started	H		
15		2.5.5 Advocate for and support campaigns to reduce waste and promote responsible recycling and composting of green waste	2.5.5.1 - 5 % reduction in general waste each year		Not started	H		AWARENESS RAISING & COMMUNICATION
16		2.6.3 Promote the importance of maintaining septic systems	2.6.3.1 - Septic awareness article/post annually	100%	Complete	H	LRF- article was sent to SeaSpeak Summer edition but Council had already completed one :)	AWARENESS RAISING & COMMUNICATION
17	**LAND**	OBJECTIVE: To improve land condition and management outcomes to facilitate long-term sustainability						
18		3.2.2 Improve awareness of acid sulphate and dispersive soil issues and recommended management	3.2.2.1 - Best practice information about acid sulphate and dispersive soils distributed to construction contractors, architects & designers, project managers and developers annually		Not started	M		AWARENESS RAISING & COMMUNICATION
19		3.3.1 Implement Glamorgan Spring Bay Weed Management Plan	3.3.1.1 - 80% implementation of weed management plan actions for each year	25%	In progress	M	Have completed weed training with NRE-now Authorised Officer for the GSBC. Have issued weed notices to landowners. Draft Weed Biosecurity Program developed as mechanism for coordination of action on ground- Discussion with Terry Higgs and Jarrod re past and current activities particularly serrated tussock	Engage with ECPPA Seek authrorities for works on PWS managed land Engage with PWS Psfor crown land
20		3.3.2 Coordinate a collaborative cross-tenure weed management program	3.3.2.1 - Council weed officer position maintained	50%	In progress	M	Engagement with landowners to discuss weeds of concern for them. Get updates on weed controls works being undertaken on private land. Gorse control active.	AWARENESS RAISING & COMMUNICATION
21		3.3.3 Support involvement in priority weed control programs such as the Serrated tussock and Chilean needlegrass control programs	3.3.3.1 - Priority weed control programs implement annual works in the Glamorgan Spring Bay Municipality	50%	In progress	M	Working with NRE- Biosecurity Tas to issue IBD and General BD - Biosecurity Directions (Weed Notices) for ST in the Swansea area.	Include biosecurity - look at disease introductions eg. Phytophthora SUPPORT ACTIVITIES
22		3.3.4 Encourage good hygiene practices at quarry and extraction sites	3.3.4.1 - Audit of local quarries for weed and Phytophthora undertaken by 2025	25%	In progress	H		AWARENESS RAISING & COMMUNICATION
23		3.4.3 Prepare for bushfire and flood events	3.4.3.1 - Work with SES to deliver workshops for flood and fire resilience planning, 2 workshops by 2025	25%	In progress	H		Talk to BOD re: flood alert system & STT re bushfire detection cameras(Indicium dynamics)
24	**BIODIVERSITY**	OBJECTIVE: To maintain and improve biodiversity						
25		4.1.1 Develop a baseline understanding of vegetation condition	4.1.1.1 - A baseline developed for the municipality using existing and new data by 2025	100%	Complete	H	Natural Capital Project Funding application submitted will look at baseline for Little Swanport	SEEK FUNDING
26		4.1.2 Develop closer cooperation and collaboration between key land managers such as Glamorgan Spring Bay Council and Tasmania Parks & Wildlife Service (including Property Services)	4.1.2.1 Management agreements in place with PWS - Property Services to enable community participation on public land by 2024	50%	In progress	H	Ongoing liaison with Property Services (PWS) re: Foreshore Management Plan concept. PWS provided LOS for Natural Capital project	
27		4.1.5 Control declared weeds on private land and public land	4.1.5.1 List of properties compiled by 2024	50%	In progress	H	Weed Officer is now authorised Working with Biosecurity Tasmania to develop both individual and general biosecurity directives aimed at Serrated Tussock in and around Cambria. Started compiling list of properties previously served notices for follow up. Letter to Biosecurity Tasmania requesting Mel Fazackerley also be authorised as Mel has already completed training.	SUPPORT ACTIVITIES

	Theme	Primary	Measure of Success	Annual % complete	Annual status	Priority	25_26 Progress	Next steps
28		4.1.6 Support carbon and biodiversity outcomes	4.1.6.1 At least two (2) carbon and biodiversity projects initiated by 2025	100%	Complete	M	Future Drought Fund Natural Capital Project submitted for Little Swanport - component of the project is carbon and biodiversity audit for particiating landholders	SEEK FUNDING
29		4.2.4 Promote the importance of and actively protect beaches and waterways as bird habitat	4.2.4.1 - A communications plan developed to support increased awareness of the significance of the coastal areas and waterways as bird sanctuaries by 2024	100%	Complete	H	Assisted Council install temporary fencing and signage around hooded plover nesting sites at West Sheely Beach in Orford. Monitoring fencing and potential breaches of the area. Email sent to FoOBS to engage in articles for Sea Speak and East Coast Nature News	AWARENESS RAISING & COMMUNICATION
30		4.2.5 Promote responsible pet ownership	4.2.5.1 Increase in number of desexed and microchipped cats and dogs.	5%	In progress	H	Waiting on figures from council so we can compare year to year, people busy so hard to acquire.	AWARENESS RAISING & COMMUNICATION
31		4.2.7 Promote the importance of dogs on leads in sensitive areas such foreshores and wetlands, and dog exclusion areas as needed to protect sensitive wildlife areas	4.2.7.1 Develop a targeted communications program to all registered dog owners on the potential impacts of dogs on sensitive areas annually to be distributed with rates notices/or dog registration renewals by 2024		On hold	H	New Dog Management Plan still to be endorsed - delays with PWS	AWARENESS RAISING & COMMUNICATION
32		4.5.1 Work with organisations such as the TLC to encourage the retention, protection, and active management of areas with high-value vegetation	4.5.1.1 Increase in high value areas being actively managed for ecological values	50%	In progress	M	Natural Capital Project funding submission for Little Swanport - TLC support providing introductions to landholders involved in their programs	
33	**PEOPLE**	OBJECTIVE : Incorporate regional community wellbeing into agricultural and natural area management programs to improve resilience						
34		5.1.1 Key stakeholders are engaged in the implementation of the NRM Strategy	5.1.1.1 - GSBC and key stakeholders commit to working together to implement the NRM strategy by 2024	50%	In progress	H	Ongoing conversations with stakeholders - Stakeholder workshop/s planned for 2026. Email with invite for workshop scheduled to send early Jan 2026.	
35		5.1.2 Identify and consolidate existing and new data to inform NRM projects and projects	5.1.2.1 - Investigate options for an central repository for GSB data that is accessible to the public for current and future projects	50%	In progress	M	LRF set up weed mapping in Mergin Maps for GSBC - Discussion about integration into Council GIS GSBC - meeting to discuss in more detail proposed for 2026	
36		5.1.3 Integrate NRM activities across council	5.1.3.1 - Ensure regular communication between NRM staff, works crews and relevant council staff	50%	In progress	M	NRM role continues to help works team to implement revegetation, provide input on species to plant and facilitate plant/veg purchasing. On site meetings with landowners requesting information on vegetation removal/managemnt. Investigate vegetation removal on crown Land - propriety services.	
37		5.1.4 Develop simple cross tenure foreshore management plans for community action based on GSBC Reserve Flora and fauna plans	5.1.4.1 - One foreshore management plan developed each year	50%	In progress	M	Draft Bicheno FMP completed. Seeking feedback for Bicheno Landcare Group.	
38		5.2.1 Utilise existing and new NRM data to develop priorities for climate adaptation	5.2.1.1 - Priorities for climate adaptation identified by 2025	5%	In progress	H	LGAT's coastal hazards project funded. LRF flagged GSB as an area of interest.	SEEK FUNDING - potential to get involved in LGAT project
39		5.3.4 Work with key organisations such as Landcare Tasmania, Wildcare, NRM South, Landscape Recovery Foundation, Birds Tasmania and Clean Up Australia to support community groups undertaking NRM activities	5.3.4.1 - An annual collaborative event with key organisations	50%	In progress	H	Liaison with Birdlife Tasmania re shorebird nesting, Biosecurity Tasmania re Weeds management, CUA, TLC	
40		5.3.5 Support community involvement in NRM (land, bush, coast and water care) activities including weed management	5.3.5.1 - Community groups and non-government organisations participate in weed management working bees. At least 3 working bees annually.	25%	In progress	H	Support for Nipaluna Nursery, Friends of Orford Bird Sanctuary, Bicheno Landcare	Assist groups to apply for grants to support activities AWARENESS RAISING & COMMUNICATION
41		5.3.8 Work with different stakeholders groups to promote outdoor activities that connect the community with each other and the natural environment, and promote health and well being	5.3.8.1 - Increase in number of different groups holding activities and events that celebrate the natural environment and health and wellbeing	50%	In progress	H	Discussion with different service providers at the Expo about volunteer opportunities	Invite groups to be involved in Great East Coast Clean up 2025

	Theme	Primary	Measure of Success	Annual % complete	Annual status	Priority	25_26 Progress	Next steps
42		5.3.9 Work with the tourism industry (Tourism Tasmania, East Coast Tourism Tourism Tasmanian Industry Council and local operators to raise awareness of the natural values of the east coast and how to reduce visitor impacts	5.3.9.1 - Key focus areas, audiences and communication methods identified by 2025		Not started	H		
43		5.3.10 Retain significant trees across the landscape particularly in urban and peri-urban areas	5.3.10.1 - Develop a significant tree register by 2026	75%	In progress	M	Ideas researched and developed and a presentation ready to deliver to council to assist them in choosing a register that works best for them.	

ACTION REGISTER

MEETING DATE	ITEM NO.	DECISION NO.	TITLE	ACTION OFFICER	DECISION	OFFICERS UPDATE	STATUS
23 September 2025	8.1	200/25	Sale of 50 Beattie Avenue land and Lions Park Playground Upgrade	DP&E	That Council 1. RESOLVE under section 178 of the Local Government Act 1993 (the Act) to form an intention to dispose, exchange or lease of public land, 50 Beattie Avenue, Bicheno (Title Ref: 62307/50) (the Land). 2. Proceeds with the playground construction for Lions Park, funding the budget shortfall from the land asset sales and public open space financial reserves.		April 2026

Minister for Housing and Planning
Minister for Infrastructure and Transport
Minister for Local Government

Level 10, 15 Murray Street, HOBART TAS 7000 Australia
GPO Box 123 HOBART TAS 7001 Australia
Email: Minister.Vincent@dpac.tas.gov.au

Tasmanian Government

8 DEC 2025

Dear Mayors and General Managers

As part of our *Local Government Priority Reform Program 2024-26*, the Tasmanian Government has today published an exposure draft Local Government Electoral Bill.

This draft Bill is an important step in establishing a standalone statutory framework for the conduct of local government elections.

The new Bill will introduce several important reforms, including:

- creating a more flexible format for future local government elections;
- strengthening the donations disclosure and electoral advertising requirements;
- improving the quality of public information at elections; and
- making changes to the eligibility to run for office, alongside a suite of changes intended to improve the integrity of elections

The Electoral Bill is also supported by a supplementary Local Government (Amendment) Bill which delivers supporting changes to the *Local Government Act 1993*, including:

- repealing existing electoral provisions from the Act;
- introducing reforms to better manage councillor interests; and
- introducing caretaker provisions for council conduct during an election.

The draft legislation, along with a supporting paper and an overview of provisions of both bills, is available on the Department of Premier and Cabinet's website at www.dpac.tas.gov.au/divisions/local_government.

We are inviting feedback from the sector and the community until midnight on Saturday 28 February 2026. Feedback can be provided by email to LG.Consultation@dpac.tas.gov.au.

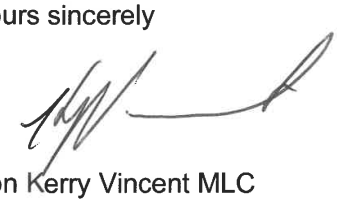
It is important to note that due to the technical complexity of moving to a new electoral framework, the new Local Government Electoral Act is expected to have a phased implementation. A crucial focus of this consultation will be identifying the highest priority reforms for implementation prior to the next elections.

This will inform which provisions the Government will seek to 'turn on' with sufficient lead time to allow for education, system updates, and readiness ahead of the October 2026 local government elections.

I encourage this to be a focus of your council's consideration and feedback of the Bill.

Your feedback on the draft Electoral Bill will help us ensure the Tasmanian community can make an informed and meaningful choice at voting time.

Yours sincerely



Hon Kerry Vincent MLC
Minister for Local Government

Local Government Electoral Reforms

Consultation draft legislation overview

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Local Government Electoral Bill 2025

Overview of key reforms by Part

Part	Key Reform
2 - ELECTION OF MAYORS, DEPUTY MAYORS AND COUNCILLORS	Provides for the election of the Deputy Mayor 'around the table' by councillors, rather than by direct elector ballot. This must be done by vote of the council (simple majority), and within the first two general meetings of council. The Bill allows councils to determine the term of deputy mayor to be either the term of council or a lesser period.
4 - ELECTORS AND ELECTORAL ROLLS	Amends the definition of "occupier" for enrolment purposes, to refer to actual occupation and use, and clarify that tenants and licensees are occupiers for the purposes of the Act.
	Preserves a supplementary roll ('general manager's roll') for electors not entitled to be on the House of Assembly (HoA) Roll in respect of an electoral area, as well as clear and consistent criteria for applying to be on this roll. This supplementary roll is now named the Local Government Electoral Roll. This roll is for persons with property-based entitlements (landowners/occupiers, corporate bodies) and non-citizen electors *who have lived in the electoral area for a continued period of at least 12 months.* Provides that responsibility for keeping and maintaining the supplementary rolls for electoral areas is to transfer to the TEC (currently council General Managers must maintain their council's supplementary rolls).
	Tightens the criteria for who can nominate to vote on behalf of corporate bodies, including that they: • Must not be a director or the secretary of the corporate body • Must not be already enrolled on the HoA roll for the electoral area • Not be the corporate body nominee for another corporate body in the same area.
	Provides for 'one vote, one value' by providing that each elector is entitled to one vote in an election for an electoral area.

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Part	Key Reform
	This changes the current situation where a person may have up to two votes (e.g. one in their own right, and one on behalf of a body corporate).
5 – COMPULSORY VOTING	Preserves compulsory voting for those on the HoA roll (status quo). Voting remains optional for electors on the supplementary Local Government Electoral Roll.
6 – ISSUING AND RECEIVING PLACES, POLLING PLACES AND ELECTION OFFICIALS	Reduces prescription and introduces flexibility to 'future proof' elections, allowing the Electoral Commissioner to determine the method of voting at an election. This can include one or more methods, including attendance voting at a polling place and/or postal voting (including provision and receipt of ballots in person and by mail). These provisions provide flexibility for the Commissioner to determine multiple methods of voting, supporting the position of moving to a hybrid postal electoral format, allowing for continued mail voting, with provision of pre-polling and polling places for in-person completion of ballots. The provides for the postal method (allowing for and encouraging for hand returns) as the default election method and allows for an attendance ballot only where the Commissioner is satisfied available postal services are inadequate to ensure the reliable conduct of the election by postal ballot, a postal ballot would be more expensive to conduct than an attendance ballot. The Commissioner will be required to issue a notice as to the chosen method of election at least six months in advance of the notice of an election.
	Preserves issuing and receiving places, which allow for issue and return of ballots during mail (or hybrid) elections. Provisions from the *Local Government Act 1993* are expanded for accessibility, including allowing the Electoral Commissioner to appoint a hospital, convalescent home, nursing home or other similar place at which a mobile facility may be operated as an issuing and receiving place – similar to polling place provisions in the *Electoral Act 2004*.
	Allows for appointment of polling places, pre-poll polling places and mobile polling places in the event of an attendance ballot. Accessibility provisions mirror those for issuing and receiving places. There is also an additional clause (35) which provides for

Part	Key Reform
	assistance to vote at a polling place to be provided for those who need it.
PART 7 – NOTICES OF ELECTIONS AND NOMINATIONS	Provides that a local government election or by-election may not be held such that the polling period overlaps the date of a Tasmanian or Australian Government parliamentary election.
	Provides for continuation of non-citizen voting via the supplementary roll, while requiring candidates for council to be Australian citizens eligible to vote in parliamentary elections.
	Retains a single-phase nomination process, with additional requirements in the notice of nomination – including: • A statement as to whether or not the candidate is formally endorsed by a registered party or is running under a group name not associated with a party. • An attestation that a candidate has completed the proposed mandatory pre-election training module. (does not apply to incumbent councillors). A notice of nomination must also be signed by at least 30 electors or 1% of electors in the municipal area (whichever is smaller). Currently a notice of nomination must be signed by only two electors.
	Requires the TEC to publish and distribute a candidate information package. This is currently done as a matter of convention and is the primary way electors become aware of the range of candidates, their reasons for seeking election, views and propositions. However, this is currently not a part of the formal legislative framework. At a minimum, this will include for each candidate - the candidate's name, a personal statement (if provided), and whether the candidate is endorsed by a registered party, running under a group name or is an independent candidate. This information is gathered as part of the notice of nomination.
PART 8 - BALLOTS	Provides guidance around ballot material, and provisions on issuing, completing and returning ballots based on various election methods enabled under Part 6.
PART 10 – ALTERNATIVE VOTING PROCEDURES	This is a broad Part which allows the Electoral Commission to approve and deliver alternative voting procedures for classes of electors who face barriers to traditional means of voting. This includes, but is not limited to electronic voting methods such as online voting or voting by telephone.

Part	Key Reform
	This supports universal franchise principles, consistent with recent reforms to the State *Electoral Act 2004*.
	Requires the TEC to approve procedures which enable and support accessible voting practices for electors with additional barriers to participation. The TEC is also required to publish after each election a statement on the implementation of the accessibility principles.
PART 13 – OFFENCES RELATING TO ELECTIONS	Introduces a range of offences related to polling and conduct at polling places consistent with the *Electoral Act 2004*, while also retaining offences relating to elections under the LG Act. It also contains offences relating to electoral bribery and treating and intimidation.
PART 14 – INVESTIGATORY POWERS	Provides standard investigatory powers for the Electoral Commissioner (or authorised officers) – consistent again with the *Electoral Act 2004.* This includes: • Power to enter and inspect places • Power to require production of documents or information • Power to seize and detain • Power to require attendance and questioning
PART 15 – ELECTORAL ADVERTISING AND PUBLICATION OF ELECTORAL MATTER	Introduces new prohibitions on the dissemination of misleading and deceptive statements (corresponding to the Electoral Act Review Final Report and the amended section 197 of the *Electoral Act 2004*).
	Repeals an existing provision that prohibits the publication of a candidate's name or image without their consent. This aligns local government elections with state and federal practices where no such restriction applies.
	Updates and clarifies what constitutes "electoral advertising" to ensure consistency and legal certainty. Seeks to align definitions with the *Electoral Act 2004* and reduce ambiguity for candidates and regulators.
	Requires electoral advertising to include information identifying who authorised the material. Aims to promote transparency and accountability in campaign communications.

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Part	Key Reform
PART 16 – ELECTORAL EXPENDITURE	Limits electoral expenditure to the candidate, intending candidate, or their formally nominated agent. Aims to prevent unregulated third-party campaigning and increase transparency.
	Replaces current advertising-specific limits with an overall cap on total electoral expenditure. Aligns local government elections with Legislative Council spending rules. Expenditure caps are as follows: • for a candidate for election to the Hobart City Council, Clarence City Council, Glenorchy City Council, Kingborough Council or Launceston City Council – $16 000 plus the applicable annual increment for that financial year. • for a candidate for election to any other council – $10 000 plus the applicable annual increment for that financial year. The annual increment is a cumulative increase to this limit of $500 every year for the councils referred to in the first bullet point, and $300 for all other councils, applying annually from 1 July 2027.
	Requires candidates to report not only their own spending but also any expenditure made on their behalf. Confirms that shared advertising must be fully attributed to each candidate featured.
	Prevents third parties from incurring expenditure on behalf of a registered party to influence election outcomes (strengthens transparency and restricts indirect or unregulated campaign spending).
PART 17 – GIFTS AND DONATIONS	Extends gift and donation disclosure obligations to all candidates. Maintains the $50 threshold and introduces disclosure via the TEC website during the election period.
	Prohibits indirect donations through intermediaries or third parties (ensuring all electoral donations are transparent and reported through candidates).

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Local Government Amendment (Electoral Reforms) Bill 2025

Overview of key reforms by Part

Part	Key Reform
5 – PECUNIARY INTERESTS	Expands the definition of a close associate to a councillor to include: • a person who has provided a gift or donation (as defined in the *Local Government Electoral Act 2025*); • a relative of the councillor or member who resides with that councillor or member on a regular basis.
	Establishes defence provisions for a councillor where they believe a pecuniary interest (where they receive or expect to receive a pecuniary benefit) is one held with a substantial proportion of electors in the municipality (meaning at least 5% or 1 000 electors, whichever is the lesser). This defence also applies to an application or request for approval, authorisation, licence, permit, exemption or other right, or beneficial interest in shares of a company or other body.
	Requires that the existing register of pecuniary interests kept by the general manager to be published on a council's website.
5B – PERSONAL INTEREST RETURNS	This is an entirely new Part which requires a councillor to lodge a personal interest return (PIR) with the general manager, within 28 days after a certificate of election is issued.
	A PIR is to be made by Ministerial Order – and may specify a range of matters including: • the assets and classes of assets to be disclosed, including real property and financial interests; • the liabilities and classes of liabilities to be disclosed; • the associated persons and classes of persons whose interests are to be disclosed, including individuals, bodies corporate and trustees; • employment, offices and other sources of income to be disclosed; • gifts, donations or contributions to other entities, and the classes of such gifts, donations or contributions, to be disclosed; • memberships of associations, including trade or professional associations, political parties and other organisations to be disclosed;

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Part	Key Reform
	• thresholds for disclosure and time periods to which the disclosures relate; • management strategies to be documented by councillors for managing actual, potential or perceived pecuniary interests or non-pecuniary interests arising from the matters disclosed. As with all Orders pertaining to councils, the Minister must consult with councils before amending, revoking or substituting the PIR. *Note: a draft PIR has been released alongside the consultation draft legislation package.*
	The general manager must publish each personal interest return, and any revised personal interest return, on the council's official website as soon as practicable after it's lodgement.
	The general manager must not provide to a councillor any information, other than information included on a public agenda or otherwise available to members of the public, if it is reasonably apparent to the general manager, from a personal interest return or other information known to the general manager, that the councillor has a pecuniary interest in the matter. Likewise, a councillor must not seek to obtain any information on the above grounds.
	The council must retain each personal interest return, and each revised personal interest return, until 2 years after the expiration of the term of the council during which the return was lodged.
	Offence provisions are included for providing false information, omitting known information, or refusal to lodge a PIR.
PART 5C - Conduct of Council During Election Period	This Part introduces 'caretaker' provisions related to the conduct of councils during election periods. During an election period a council cannot make any decision defined as a 'prohibited decision'. This includes a decision: • that relates to the appointment, reappointment or the remuneration of a general manager, other than the appointment, reappointment or remuneration of an acting general manager • that relates to the termination of a general manager • to enter into a contract, arrangement or agreement the total value of which exceeds whichever is the greater of – ○ $100 000; or

Part	Key Reform
	○ 1% of the council's revenue from general and service rating and fees and charges in the preceding financial year • that would enable the use of council resources in a way that is intended to influence, or is likely to influence, voting at a council election. A council may, if they determine it is necessary and in the public interest for a prohibited decision to be made during an election period, make an application to the Minister for an exemption. Prohibited decisions do not apply to decisions or actions required by councils under statutory timeframes.
	This Part also prohibits the use of any council resources or publication of information promoting or advantaging a particular candidate or group of candidates. It also prohibits councils from making resources available that advantage a candidate which are not equally available to all candidates. Information in relation to an election can only be published if it has been published by the Electoral Commission.
PART 6 – PETITIONS, POLLS AND PUBLIC MEETINGS	The threshold for petitions requesting elector polls or public meetings has been raised to 20% of electors (from 5% or 1,000 electors, whichever is lesser).
GENERAL CHANGES	Electoral parts are repealed and replaced by the new standalone *Electoral Bill* – including: • Part 4 – Elections • Part 15 – Council elections.

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Local Government Electoral Reform

Exposure Draft Legislation and Prior Consultation Report

December 2025

Office of Local Government
Department of Premier and Cabinet

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Tasmanian Government

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Introduction

In February 2025, the Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPAC) released a Discussion Paper outlining proposed reforms to how local government elections operate in Tasmania. The reforms are a key element of the Tasmanian Government's *Local Government Priority Reform Program 2024-26*. They will modernise the local government electoral framework and address longstanding challenges around accessibility, integrity, franchise eligibility, electoral advertising, and the growing limitations of a universal postal ballot model. The reform program aims to deliver a more adaptable legislative framework to support attendance, postal, hybrid and future electronic voting formats, in anticipation of the next council elections scheduled for October 2026.

Submissions on this initial phase of consultation have been reviewed, with feedback informing the development of **two** draft Bills related to Tasmania's local government electoral system:

1. A Local Government Electoral Bill 2025 which establishes a standalone statutory framework for the conduct of local government elections, and implements key reforms which aim to modernise Tasmania's local government electoral framework.
2. A supplementary Local Government Amendment (Electoral Reforms) Bill 2025 which repeals existing electoral provisions from the *Local Government Act 1993*, and delivers electoral reforms related to council operations including caretaker provisions and the management of pecuniary interests.

This paper provides information on how people can provide feedback on the draft Bills, and an overview of feedback received in response to the prior discussion paper and how this feedback has been incorporated into the draft legislation. Finally, this paper provides an overview on reforms related to the management of interests of elected members.

The paper is structured in three parts:

1. An overview of the current consultation process for the draft legislative package, including key matters we are seeking feedback on.
2. A report on the feedback received in response to the prior consultation, and a description of how this feedback has been incorporated into the draft legislation.
3. An overview of the proposed new management of councillor interests framework.

Current Consultation

The Tasmanian Government has now released the draft legislation for a 13-week consultation period – inviting feedback from the sector, community and key stakeholders until midnight on **28 February 2026.**

General comment is invited on:

- The **workability and implementation** of the provisions contained in the draft Electoral Bill.
- Whether the provisions **accurately reflect the intended policy direction**.
- How the draft Electoral Bill **responds to issues raised** during the initial consultation on the Discussion Paper.
- The **renewed framework for managing interests** included in the Local Government (Managing Interests, Caretaker and Electoral Provisions) Bill 2025, including the draft Personal Interest Return included in Appendix B.

Specific consultation matter – implementation priorities

Due to the technical complexity of moving to a new electoral framework, and delays in developing legislation caused by the 2025 State election, the Local Government Electoral Bill 2025 is expected to have a phased implementation once it becomes law.

A crucial focus of this consultation is identifying (through sectoral, peak body and expert feedback) the highest priority reforms for implementation prior to the next elections. This will inform which provisions the Tasmanian Government will seek to 'turn on' with sufficient lead time to allow for education, system updates, and readiness ahead of the October 2026 local government elections.

This is an important opportunity for the public, councils, and stakeholders to help shape Tasmania's future local government electoral system and ensure the legislation is practical, fair, and fit for purpose.

You can make a submission by email or post to:

Email: LG.consultation@dpac.tas.gov.au

Post:

Office of Local Government
Department of Premier and Cabinet
PO Box 123
Tasmania 7001

In accordance with the Tasmanian Government Public Submissions Policy, submissions will be treated as public information and will be published on our website at www.dpac.tas.gov.au after they have been considered. No personal information other than an individual's name or the organisation making a submission will be published.

For further information, please contact localgovernment@dpac.tas.gov.au.

Important information to note

In the absence of a clear indication a submission is intended to be treated as confidential (or parts of the submission), the Department of Premier and Cabinet will treat the submission as public.

If you would like your submission treated as confidential, whether in whole or in part, please indicate this in writing at the time of making your submission. Clearly identify the parts of your submission you want to remain confidential and the reasons why. In this case, your submission will not be published to the extent of that request.

Copyright in submissions remains with the author(s), not with the Tasmanian Government.

The Department of Premier and Cabinet will not publish, in whole or in part, submissions containing defamatory or offensive material. If your submission includes information that could enable the identification of other individuals then either all or parts of the submission will not be published.

The *Right to Information Act 2009* and confidentiality

Information provided to the Tasmanian Government may be provided to an applicant under the provisions of the *Right to Information Act 2009* (RTI). If you have indicated you wish all or part of your submission to be treated as confidential, your statement detailing the reasons may be taken into account in determining to release the information in the event of an RTI application for assessed disclosure. You may also be contacted to provide further comment.

Prior Consultation – Analysis and Outcomes

Scope of Consultation

The consultation on local government electoral reforms forms part of the Tasmanian Government's commitment to deliver a fit-for-purpose, flexible, and contemporary electoral framework for Tasmanian councils. The reforms build on prior work undertaken during the Local Government Legislation Review and reflects the Government's policy position that local government electoral laws should be structured as standalone legislation.

The purpose of the previous Discussion Paper released in February 2025 was to invite feedback on the design of the proposed electoral reforms ahead of drafting of new legislation. The paper presented high-level reform options in five key areas:

1. voting method flexibility
2. franchise and candidacy eligibility
3. access to electoral information
4. donation and advertising transparency
5. election integrity.

Stakeholders were encouraged to provide feedback on the feasibility and clarity of the reforms, and to raise any practical implementation considerations. With the exception of several key reform proposals, the consultation was not intended to re-examine the underlying policy direction or rationale, but rather to ensure the proposed design of reforms was robust and deliverable.

Approach to Consultation

The Discussion Paper was released in February 2025, with submissions invited until Thursday 4 April 2025. The Office of Local Government (OLG) advised all Tasmanian councils and key sector stakeholders of the consultation period. The paper was made available online via the Department of Premier and Cabinet website, alongside a summary version.

OLG provided an online consultation session for councillors on 25 March 2025, where they were invited to ask questions about the Local Government Electoral Bill reform discussion paper.

OLG also briefed the Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT) and coordinated targeted engagement with relevant government agencies. These included the Tasmanian Electoral Commission (TEC), whose operational input as

electoral administrator was essential to assessing the feasibility of the proposed reforms.

Submissions Received

21 submissions were received in response to the Discussion Paper. This included:

- 15 submissions from Tasmanian councils
- three (3) submissions from organisations and peak bodies
- three (3) submissions from individual community members, including councillors.

All submissions were reviewed in detail and thematically analysed to identify support, concerns, and implementation risks.

All submissions are available on the Department of Premier and Cabinet website.

A detailed summary of the technical reforms, feedback and the Tasmanian Government's response are in Appendix A.

Stakeholder Feedback – The Future Format of Local Government Elections

The Discussion Paper proposed two scenarios to guide the future delivery of local government elections in Tasmania, reflecting the need to modernise the electoral framework in response to declining postal service reliability, evolving voter expectations, and increasing delivery costs. Submissions were sought on the merits and limitations of each scenario: Scenario A (attendance voting) and Scenario B (a hybrid model).

Scenario A – Attendance Voting

Scenario A proposed a full move to attendance voting, either via a single polling day or a polling period, supported by limited access to postal and telephone voting for eligible electors. This scenario received limited support across the sector. A small number of submissions expressed support for reintroducing mandated in-person voting, citing perceived increases in vote security, alignment with state and federal electoral models, and improved oversight of ballot handling.

However, the majority of councils, individuals, and organisations opposed Scenario A. The primary concern was accessibility (particularly for voters in rural and remote areas, people with disability, older electors, and those without reliable access to transport). Stakeholders warned that the removal of mail-based voting options would disproportionately impact marginalised communities and would undermine the inclusivity of the voting system.

Submissions also highlighted cost and feasibility barriers, including the significant investment required to deliver and staff in-person polling locations across the state, along with the likely need for public education to shift voter expectations and behaviour. Several respondents noted that such a transition would not be achievable by the 2026 local government elections.

The TEC also did not support Scenario A, citing substantial logistical challenges and unsustainable costs without significant investment in new infrastructure and systems.

Scenario B – Hybrid Voting Model

Scenario B proposed maintaining postal delivery of ballot papers while encouraging in-person return at issuing places, such as council offices or public service centres. This model was strongly supported by most stakeholders and is regarded as a practical evolution of the current system. It was seen as a way to retain broad accessibility while addressing challenges with postal reliability and late returns under the compulsory voting model.

Councils viewed Scenario B as a measured and achievable step forward that could be implemented in time for the 2026 elections, subject to sufficient lead time for community education and investment in issuing place infrastructure. Stakeholders noted that this model would preserve the benefits of mail delivery, while providing additional flexibility to voters who prefer, or need, to return their votes in person. The inclusion of continued access to telephone and assisted voting services for eligible electors was welcomed as a necessary safeguard for inclusion.

The TEC expressed willingness to work with OLG on the development of a hybrid model for future elections.

Some submissions raised implementation concerns, including the need for clarity in the legislation around the roles and operating rules for issuing places, and the potential cost and staffing implications of managing these sites.

Based on the strong and consistent support for Scenario B during consultation, the Tasmanian Government has determined to proceed with this model as the preferred approach for the 2026 local government elections. Scenario B strikes an appropriate balance between accessibility, integrity, and practicality, and will be further developed in collaboration with the TEC and local government stakeholders.

While Scenario B will be adopted as the default delivery model, the legislative framework will retain the flexibility for the TEC to adapt electoral procedures over time, ensuring future models can respond to emerging challenges, technology, and voter needs. To enable this flexibility, the Electoral Commissioner will be given the ability to determine that local government elections are to be held by attendance ballot, but this method of election would only be activated in certain circumstances

(such as when the Electoral Commissioner believes it is not viable to use the hybrid postal model).

Stakeholder Feedback – New Reform Directions

The Discussion Paper sought targeted feedback on three potential reform directions that, if adopted, would depart from previously agreed outcomes of the Local Government Legislative Review. These proposals were included to test current sector and community sentiment, particularly in light of changing election delivery expectations, rising costs, and increasing participation.

The two directions tested were:

1. Whether non-citizens should retain a limited entitlement to vote in local government elections, with eligibility to nominate for council continuing to be restricted to those enrolled on the House of Assembly roll (Australian citizens and eligible British subjects).
2. Whether the deputy mayor should continue to be directly elected by the public or instead be elected by councillors “around the table”.

1. Continuing Non-Citizen Voting Rights

Stakeholders expressed a range of views on whether Tasmania should continue to permit non-citizen residents to vote in local government elections. The proposal in the Discussion Paper was to allow this entitlement to continue under a revised model, requiring at least 12 months of continuous residence in Tasmania (or personal ownership of property) prior to enrolment.

A number of councils and organisations supported continuing this entitlement, particularly for permanent residents, refugees, and long-term community members. These submissions noted that all residents interact with local government services and decisions regardless of citizenship, and argued that voting in local elections can foster civic inclusion and democratic participation.

However, some councils and individuals opposed continuing the franchise to non-citizens, raising concerns about electoral integrity and administrative feasibility. Stakeholders questioned the TEC’s capacity to verify immigration status and warned of potential misuse of the supplementary roll, particularly in areas with large temporary or seasonal populations.

Despite these differences, many submissions accepted the 12-month residence test as a workable alternative to assessing visa types and supported its use as an objective eligibility requirement. Stakeholders also generally agreed that such voters

should not be eligible to nominate to run for office unless they are enrolled on the House of Assembly roll.

From an administrative perspective, the TEC noted it is not desirable for the TEC to review or verify the immigration status of electors or make determinations based on visa categories, which may change.

Having considered the feedback, the Tasmanian Government will proceed with a revised model allowing for continued non-citizen voting rights, subject to a requirement of 12 months' continuous residence in Tasmania or personal property ownership. This approach balances inclusivity with electoral integrity and avoids placing administrative burden on the TEC to assess visa status.

There was strong support for the proposal to restrict nomination rights to those enrolled on the House of Assembly roll, thereby requiring Australian citizenship (or eligible British subject status). This position was seen as a fair and proportionate measure that upholds the responsibilities of elected representatives, while maintaining an inclusive franchise for voting (noting the above proposal for non-citizen voting in certain circumstances).

Submissions noted that local councillors exercise formal powers over public budgets, land use planning, and infrastructure decisions, and that those powers should be entrusted to individuals who are full participants in Australia's civic and legal framework. The reform was also viewed as aligning Tasmania with Victoria and South Australia, which apply a similar model.

The Tasmanian Government will proceed with the proposal to limit eligibility to nominate for council to those enrolled on the House of Assembly roll. This ensures that those holding elected office are fully part of Australia's civic and legal framework, while maintaining a broad franchise for voters.

2. Changing How the Deputy Mayor is Elected

The proposal to move away from popular election of the deputy mayor and instead allow councillors to elect the deputy from among their number received mixed feedback.

Most councils and many individuals opposed the change, citing what they see as the democratic value of a directly elected deputy mayor and the visibility of the role in public representation. Submissions emphasised that the deputy mayor often steps into the mayoral role in times of absence or transition and argued that the community should retain a say in selecting that person. Some also viewed direct election as a safeguard against factionalism in closely divided councils.

A smaller number of submissions supported reform, citing the significant cost associated with running an additional direct election, and the limited independent

authority held by the deputy mayor. Supporters of the change argued that the deputy mayor's role is essentially supportive and procedural, and that it makes sense for the council to select their own internal leadership at the beginning of the term. It was also noted that Tasmania is the only jurisdiction in Australia that directly elects its deputy mayors, and that casual vacancies in the role are already filled "around the table".

Preliminary estimates from the TEC suggest that the direct election of deputy mayors accounted for approximately $285,000 in 2022, or about seven per cent of total election delivery costs. These costs are expected to grow in future elections, particularly under compulsory voting and enhanced participation.

Having considered the feedback and the rising cost and complexity of local government elections, the **Tasmanian Government has included the reform in the draft Bill for further consultation**. The proposed new framework will provide for the deputy mayor to be elected by councillors at the first ordinary meeting following a general election. This approach aligns with some other jurisdictions, allows councils to select their own leadership, and supports a more efficient and cost-effective electoral process. The Tasmanian Government considers this change to be proportionate and consistent with the functional role of the deputy mayor – which is to act in the mayor's absence and provide support; not to independently lead or exercise executive power.

With a strong level of feedback from councils now received, the Tasmanian Government is seeking further input from the broader community on how this model should operate. This includes whether once elected by councillors, the deputy mayor should serve for the full council term or for a shorter fixed period. The draft legislation as it stands provides that councils are given the flexibility to appoint for a full term of for a shorter period.

Stakeholder Feedback – Technical Reforms

The Discussion Paper presented 33 technical reform proposals to modernise and improve the integrity, transparency, and efficiency of local government elections in Tasmania. These proposals built on reforms initiated through the Local Government Legislative Review and aligned with changes introduced through the *Electoral Disclosure and Funding Act 2023*. The reforms addressed matters including election delivery, campaign finance, advertising and nomination processes.

Stakeholders were asked to consider the design and practical impact of each proposal, and to provide feedback on implementation, administrative feasibility, and alignment with existing electoral processes.

A More Flexible and Accessible Format for Local Government Elections

Stakeholders broadly supported reforms aimed at creating a more flexible, modern electoral framework for local government elections. There was a strong appetite for reducing legislative prescription and allowing the TEC to approve and adapt electoral procedures under a principles-based model.

This flexibility was viewed as essential to "future-proofing" the electoral system and accommodating diverse voter needs, particularly in the context of increasing participation and technological advancements.

Reform proposals to enable voting by alternative means (such as telephone or electronic voting) for specific elector classes were also welcomed. Submissions noted the importance of improving access for voters with disability, those living remotely, and interstate or overseas electors. The TEC supported the direction of the reform but raised practical challenges, including the cost and complexity of implementing secure, independent and verifiable alternative voting channels. In response, the Tasmanian Government will proceed with these reforms, acknowledging that postal voting will remain available and that any new methods will be implemented with caution and clarity.

The proposal to legislate universal franchise principles also received conceptual support. Stakeholders, including councils, agreed with the importance of ensuring all electors can vote in an independent, secret and verifiable manner. However, the TEC noted that this standard may not always be achievable in practice, particularly for some alternative voting methods. The Tasmanian Government agrees the principles should guide future development, and will work with the TEC to ensure they are applied pragmatically outside the statutory framework.

The proposal for the Electoral Commissioner to publish post-election accessibility reports was supported by councils and the TEC. It was viewed as a valuable accountability measure to track progress in improving accessibility and participation across the system. The Tasmanian Government will proceed with this reform, with reporting requirements aligned to TEC's existing data practices and operational capabilities.

A Better Voting Franchise for Electors and Changes to Eligibility to Run for Office

This group of reforms focused on clarifying and strengthening the eligibility framework for enrolment and candidacy, particularly in relation to the General Manager's Roll (GMR), and ensuring candidates have sufficient knowledge and community backing.

There was strong support for reforming the GMR to improve integrity, verification, and consistency. Transferring responsibility for the GMR from councils to the TEC was

widely supported to reduce administrative burden on councils and centralise electoral oversight. Proposed changes to tighten the eligibility criteria for GMR enrolment including strengthening verification requirements and clarifying the definition of "occupier" also received broad backing, with submissions noting these steps would improve public trust and align enrolment with genuine community connection.

The reform to prohibit dual enrolment was similarly well supported and seen as a necessary step to uphold the "one person, one vote" principle. The TEC confirmed its capacity to monitor and enforce the provision.

The proposal to increase the nomination threshold to 30 electors (or one per cent of electors, whichever is the smaller) drew mixed views. While many considered it a reasonable way to confirm genuine candidacy and public support, others, particularly from smaller communities, raised concerns that it may discourage participation. The Tasmanian Government considers the threshold modest and proportionate and will proceed with the reform.

Finally, the proposal to introduce required pre-nomination training for new candidates received limited support. While the benefits of informed candidacy were acknowledged, feedback was mixed on its implementation and scope. Some called for the training to apply to all candidates. The Tasmanian Government will proceed with this reform, by expanding requirements for an intending candidate's notice of nomination to require an attestation that they have completed a pre-election training course. This training will be designed to be accessible and practical.

Better Quality of Public Information at Elections

Reforms in this category aimed to improve the quality, clarity, and accessibility of information available to voters during local government elections. Submissions reflected a broad commitment to supporting an informed electorate but revealed differing views on how best to achieve that goal.

Stakeholders generally supported the proposal to require the TEC to provide all candidates with the opportunity to submit a candidate information statement. While the TEC noted this is convention and questioned the need for a legislative requirement, other submissions suggested formalising the obligation would promote consistency and voter confidence. The Tasmanian Government will not enforce a mandatory requirement for a candidate information statement. The choice and responsibility for preparing and submitting statements will remain with candidates.

In contrast, there was strong concern about the proposal to allow the Director of Local Government to publish council performance information during the election period. Feedback highlighted risks of perceived political interference and the potential to undermine the neutrality of elections. As a result, the Tasmanian Government will

not proceed with this reform and will instead explore options for improving transparency outside the caretaker period.

Two reforms proposing to allow identification of political parties or candidate teams on ballot papers received mixed feedback and were not supported by the TEC. Submissions raised concerns about the risk of increasing partisanship in local government, administrative challenges, and a lack of enforceable naming standards. The Tasmanian Government has determined not to proceed with these reforms. However, it intends to provide for the inclusion of information about formal party endorsement and group affiliation in the official candidate information booklet to ensure voters continue to have access to relevant context when casting their vote.

Strengthened Donations Disclosure and Electoral Advertising Requirements

Stakeholders generally supported the suite of reforms aimed at increasing transparency and integrity in campaign financing and electoral advertising. Several proposals drew strong backing due to their alignment with existing State electoral laws, especially those introducing new prohibitions on misleading and deceptive statements (Reform 15), requiring authorisation on electoral material (Reform 19), and establishing clear rules on who can incur electoral expenditure (Reform 18 and 22). These changes were seen as necessary modernisations that bring local government elections into closer alignment with accepted electoral standards across Australia and with State elections.

There was also general support for changes that clarify and update definitions and thresholds for advertising and donations (Reforms 16, 17, 20 and 21). These changes were recognised as contributing to a clearer, more consistent and enforceable electoral framework. Where stakeholders requested additional guidance (such as on reporting shared campaign costs or calculating spending under a general cap) the Tasmanian Government will work with the TEC to ensure clear, practical resources are provided to candidates and parties.

The Tasmanian Government considers that, taken together, these reforms will deliver a significant uplift in electoral transparency and public confidence while balancing the practical realities of administering and participating in local government elections.

Other Changes to Support the Integrity of Elections

A number of proposed reforms aiming to reinforce the overall fairness and transparency of local government elections received strong support during consultation. Stakeholders broadly welcomed the introduction of a formal caretaker framework (Reforms 29–32), noting this would align local government practices with those of other levels of government and help maintain neutrality during election periods.

Councils supported the introduction of clear limits on decision-making during the caretaker period, particularly in relation to major financial or staffing decisions and the use of council resources. While some clarification was requested on what constitutes "routine operational" activity, stakeholders endorsed the principles underpinning these changes. The Tasmanian Government will proceed with these reforms and provide detailed guidance to ensure consistent and practical application.

Proposals to strengthen the enforcement powers of the TEC also received widespread support (Reforms 27–28). Submissions acknowledged that enabling the TEC to investigate potential breaches and aligning electoral offences with the *Electoral Act 2004* would promote greater accountability and legal consistency. These reforms will proceed as proposed.

Reforms to prevent the overlap of local government and parliamentary elections (State and Federal) (Reform 26) were similarly well received, with stakeholders recognising the need to reduce voter confusion and administrative strain. The Tasmanian Government will proceed with this reform as a practical safeguard for electoral delivery and public confidence.

The proposal to tighten the threshold and scope of elector polls (Reform 33) attracted more mixed views. While many stakeholders supported clearer criteria and higher thresholds to ensure elector polls are used appropriately, others expressed concern about the potential to limit community participation. The Tasmanian Government will proceed with this reform on the basis that elector polls should be focused on matters within council control and reflect broad community interest, particularly given the costs associated with running these polls. Guidance will support councils and communities in understanding how the provisions apply in practice.

Managing Councillor Interests

Context

Recognising the strong thematic alignment between electoral integrity and the transparent management of councillor interests, the Tasmanian Government has determined to introduce reforms to the councillor interests framework in the *Local Government Act 1993* at the same time as the Local Government Electoral Bill is delivered.

In 2023, the Tasmanian Government released a detailed discussion paper outlining significant proposals to reform how councillors disclose and manage their personal interests. The intent of these reforms is to ensure greater transparency and consistency in managing conflicts of interest across the local government sector.

These initial proposals were ambitious, aiming for comprehensive integration of interest management under the Local Government Act, including continuous disclosures, establishing a dedicated Principal Officer role, and detailed legislative management of perceived and potential conflicts.

A subsequent position paper, released in 2024, reaffirmed the Tasmanian Government's commitment to high standards of transparency, accountability, and integrity within local government. This is essential for maintaining public confidence in local governance and decision-making processes.

The Framework

Following extensive consultation and careful deliberation, the Tasmanian Government has now refined its approach to balance administrative practicality with robust governance requirements. The revised legislative framework, outlined in the supplementary Local Government Amendment Electoral Reforms) Bill 2025, enhances transparency and accountability without imposing unnecessary burdens on councillors.

The Bill introduces provisions addressing the following key areas:

- **Clear separation of interests**: Pecuniary interests involving direct financial implications will continue to be explicitly managed within the *Local Government Act 1993* to ensure rigorous oversight. Non-pecuniary interests (typically personal, social, or community-related) will continue to be effectively managed under the existing, more flexible Code of Conduct framework. This will be supported with further guidance and definitions on types of interests, including actual, potential and perceived interests.

- **Introduction of Personal Interest Returns (PIR)**: Councillors will now formally lodge an initial PIR within 28 days of their election, followed by annual submissions. These returns will transparently document relevant pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests and include proactive strategies to manage potential conflicts. This structured yet simplified approach significantly enhances transparency and accountability.
- **Practical conflict management approach**: Councillors will proactively manage conflicts through documented strategies such as declaring interests, recusing from discussions or decisions, and outlining clear mitigation steps. Definitions of conflicts have been clarified and strengthened to support consistent interpretation and effective management.
- **Balanced transparency and privacy**: PIRs will be publicly accessible, but sensitive details, including exact monetary values, residential addresses, and commercial information, will be explicitly protected. This approach balances transparency with necessary privacy protections, responding directly to stakeholder feedback.
- **Simplified and targeted compliance**: The compliance framework strategically targets deliberate breaches, such as knowingly submitting false disclosures or failing to lodge required returns. Minor or inadvertent breaches will primarily be addressed through education and administrative guidance, ensuring appropriate use of regulatory resources and encouraging proactive and voluntary self-identification of non-compliance.

Elements No Longer Proceeding and Reasons

- **Integration of non-pecuniary interests into primary legislation**: Initially proposed for inclusion within the *Local Government Act 1993*, non-pecuniary interests will remain under the Code of Conduct framework. This decision acknowledges the flexibility and responsiveness of the existing Code of Conduct process for dealing with non-pecuniary matters.
- **Regulation of perceived pecuniary interests**: Stakeholder feedback indicated that perceived pecuniary interests would be difficult to regulate effectively. Consequently, provisions relating specifically to perceived pecuniary interests have been removed from the draft Bill and the focus has shifted to how potential and actual interests can be more effectively managed.
- **Continuous or rolling disclosures**: Originally intended for real-time transparency, continuous disclosures raised practical and administrative feasibility concerns. The revised framework replaces this with structured annual disclosures, addressing stakeholder concerns without compromising transparency.

- **Legislated Principal Officer role**: Initially proposed to manage disclosures and conflicts, this role was deemed unnecessary following consultation. Existing responsibilities, particularly those of General Managers, already effectively manage these functions.

Next Steps

The Framework represents a balanced approach that ensures essential transparency and accountability without excessive administrative complexity. Clear separation of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interest management, introduction of formal PIRs, pragmatic conflict management strategies, and targeted compliance measures reflect stakeholder feedback and practical governance considerations.

The Tasmanian Government invites further feedback from stakeholders and the broader community on this refined legislative framework, recognising that ongoing engagement is vital to upholding integrity and accountability standards in Tasmanian local government.

To support consultation, the Tasmanian Government has developed a draft Personal Interest Return form for feedback, which gives a clear picture of the types of information to be provided by councillors. This is in Appendix B of this paper, and also on the consultation page of the Department of Premier and Cabinet's website.

Appendix A: Technical Reforms Summary

A more flexible and accessible format for local government elections

Reform 1: Reduce prescription in the statutory framework to enable the Tasmanian Electoral Commission to approve the electoral process.

Reform Overview	• Simplifies legislative requirements for election procedures. • Shifts detail from prescriptive legislation to TEC-approved procedures under a more flexible, principles-based model. • Aims to future-proof the electoral framework and support flexibility in delivery.
Summary of Feedback	• Broad support for a more modern, adaptable system. • Some concern about reduced transparency when procedures are not set in legislation. • Recommended TEC guidance and clear reporting to support public confidence.
Department Response	• Proceeding as proposed. • Transparency concerns will be addressed through formal TEC guidance and clear public reporting requirements.

Reform 2: Enable the Tasmanian Electoral Commission to approve procedures for voting, including by telephone and electronic means, for interstate and overseas electors and electors with impediments to ordinary participation, or for other classes of person prescribed by regulation.

Reform Overview	• Allows TEC to authorise alternative voting methods (such as telephone, electronic) for specific elector groups. • Will improve accessibility for voters unable to use postal or attendance voting. • Applies to electors with disabilities, remote voters, and others prescribed by regulation.
Summary of Feedback	• General support for enhancing voting accessibility and flexibility. • TEC supports the reform but noted challenges with secrecy, verification, and delivery costs.

	• Some feedback stressed the need for clear eligibility criteria and secure systems. • Some concern about resource implications and consistency with other electoral laws.
Department Response	• Proceeding with reform. • TEC will determine eligible voter categories and implement secure methods. • Postal voting will remain available as a complementary option.

Reform 3: Legislate that the Tasmanian Electoral Commission is required to approve procedures in accordance with universal franchise principles, namely all electors, including electors with additional barriers to participation, are to be afforded an opportunity to vote in an independent, secret and verifiable manner.

Reform Overview	• Embeds principles of electoral access in legislation. • Requires that voting procedures approved by the TEC ensure all electors can vote independently, secretly, and verifiably. • Supports equitable participation in elections.
Summary of Feedback	• Broad support for the principle of universal franchise. • TEC raised concerns about how some methods (such as telephone voting) may fall short of full independence or verifiability, and pragmatic application will be necessary in some cases. • Councils supported the principle but called for flexibility in implementation. • Some feedback noted this reform may create high compliance expectations that are hard to deliver in all cases.
Department Response	• Proceeding as proposed. • Framework will ensure TEC has latitude to apply the principles in a pragmatic and context-sensitive way.

Reform 4: Require the Electoral Commissioner to publish after each election a statement on the implementation of the accessibility principles, after information, including relevant statistics and initiatives undertaken to promote universal participation in the election.

Reform Overview	• Introduces a requirement for the TEC to report publicly on accessibility and inclusion measures after each election. • Aims to improve transparency and accountability for how elections support all electors, especially those facing participation barriers.
Summary of Feedback	• Support from councils and stakeholders. • Submissions noted it will promote continuous improvement and build public trust.
Department Response	• Reform will proceed. • Reporting requirements will be designed to align with TEC's operational practices and existing data collection to minimise additional reporting burden while ensuring transparency around compliance with principles.

A better voting franchise for electors and changes to eligibility to run for office

Reform 5: Require that a person lodging a notice of nomination must have it supported by 30 electors entitled to vote in the relevant election.

Reform Overview	• Increases the nomination threshold to require 30 signatures (or one per cent of electors) supporting each candidate. • Aims to ensure candidates have a basic level of community backing and commitment before nominating.
Summary of Feedback	• Mixed feedback from the sector. • Some feedback stated the higher threshold as a reasonable filter for genuine candidates. • Concerns were raised that it may deter candidates in smaller communities or create an unnecessary barrier.

	• TEC raised concern around the increased administration workload to check enrolment. It has indicated that it is feasible but may impact timeframes and costs.
Department Response	• Reform will proceed. • The proposed increase in threshold is considered a modest and reasonable standard that affirms community support for nominees without creating undue burden or introducing a nomination fee.

Reform 6: Transfer responsibility for the maintenance of the General Manager's Roll to the Tasmanian Electoral Commission.

Reform Overview	• Shifts responsibility for the General Manager's Roll (GMR) from councils to the TEC and creates a new Local Government Electoral Roll. • Seeks to improve consistency, accuracy, and public confidence in the administration of local government elections.
Summary of Feedback	• Broad support across councils, TEC, and stakeholders. • TEC supported the reform and noted alignment with their broader role in maintaining electoral integrity. • Councils welcomed the removal of administrative burden and supported centralised oversight.
Department Response	• Reform will proceed. • The TEC will be responsible for developing operational protocols to support the transition and ensure roll integrity.

Reform 7: Amend the definition of "occupier" for enrolment purposes, to refer to actual occupation and use, and clarify that tenants and licensees are occupiers for the purposes of the Act.

Reform Overview	• Clarifies the meaning of "occupier" for the purpose of enrolment on the General Manager's Roll. • Ensures eligibility includes tenants and licensees with genuine rights of occupation, not just property owners.

Summary of Feedback	• Widespread support for the reform. • Councils and individuals welcomed the clarification to improve fairness and remove ambiguity. • TEC supported the change.
Department Response	• Reform will proceed. • The updated definition will support consistent enrolment practices and inclusive participation across all councils.

Reform 8: Strengthen verification requirements for applications for enrolment on the General Manager's Roll.

Reform Overview	• Requires the TEC to apply more rigorous verification processes for enrolment on the General Manager's Roll. • Aims to ensure accuracy and integrity of the roll by confirming eligibility and preventing duplication.
Summary of Feedback	• Widespread support for the reform. • Stakeholders endorsed the need for improved verification to support trust in the electoral process. • Some submissions noted the importance of ensuring verification requirements remain proportionate and accessible.
Department Response	• Reform will proceed. • TEC will establish verification processes that balance roll integrity with administrative practicality and equity of access.

Reform 9: Expressly prohibit dual enrolment, and require a person enrolled on both the House of Assembly roll and the General Manager's Roll to be removed from the latter.

Reform Overview	• Prevents individuals from being enrolled on both the House of Assembly roll and the General Manager's Roll. • Ensures the principle of "one person, one vote" applies consistently in local government elections.

Summary of Feedback	• Broad support from councils, individuals, and TEC. • Submissions emphasised fairness, integrity, and democratic equality. • A small number of submissions called for further restriction of eligibility to exclude corporate nominees altogether. • TEC confirmed it can implement controls to enforce single enrolment.
Department Response	• Reform will proceed. • Legislative provisions will reinforce one vote per person and support TEC compliance and enforcement systems.

Reform 10: Require new candidates to complete a pre-nomination training course approved by the Director of Local Government.

Reform Overview	• Requires all intending candidates (except incumbent councillors) to complete a prescribed training module before nominating. • Aims to improve candidate preparedness and understanding of local government roles and responsibilities.
Summary of Feedback	• Limited support across submissions. • Submissions highlighted the benefits of informed candidacy and improved governance. • Suggested the training be accessible online and available in multiple formats. • Some called for training to be required for all candidates, including incumbents, at the first election following the reform.
Department Response	• Reform will proceed. • Training will be designed to be practical and inclusive, with consideration given to transitional arrangements for incumbent councillors.

Better quality of public information at elections

Reform 11: Require that the Tasmanian Electoral Commission provides all people submitting a notice of nomination the opportunity to provide a candidate information statement (in an approved format, providing prescribed information) and that the Commission is to publish candidate information through appropriate means.

Reform Overview	• Mandates the TEC to offer all candidates the opportunity to submit a candidate statement. • Requires the TEC to publish these statements in an accessible format to inform voters.
Summary of Feedback	• TEC noted it already provides this opportunity in practice and questioned the need to legislate it. • TEC suggested that candidate obligations (such as lodgement timing) remain their responsibility. • Some feedback supported legislating the requirement to ensure consistency and transparency. • Submissions emphasised that the published information helps voters make informed choices.
Department Response	• Reform **will not** proceed. • Candidates will still be able to lodge a candidate information statement under existing practices, however this will not be legislated.

Reform 12: Enable the Director of Local Government to publish council performance statements during election periods.

Reform Overview	• Enables the Director of Local Government to publish factual statements about council performance during an election period. • Intended to provide electors with accurate, non-political information that may support informed voting.
Summary of Feedback	• Concerns were raised about timing and the potential perception of political interference. • Much of the opposition feedback cited risks to the neutrality of the election period. • Some stakeholders supported improved transparency, but recommended performance reporting occur outside caretaker periods.
Department Response	• Reform **will not** proceed.

	• Transparency around council and councillor performance will be pursued through other mechanisms outside of the election period to avoid perceptions of influence or bias.

Reform 13: Establish that nomination by a registered party is to be included in the information published by the Tasmanian Electoral Commission and printed on the ballot paper.

Reform Overview	• Provides that candidates formally nominated by a registered political party would be identified as such on the ballot paper. • Aims to increase transparency by informing voters which candidates are officially endorsed by political parties.
Summary of Feedback	• Mixed feedback. • TEC opposed the reform, citing concerns about increased administrative complexity, and attendant cost increases (such as larger ballot papers).
Department Response	• Reform **will not** proceed. • Instead, information about party endorsement will be included in the legislated TEC candidate information booklet, ensuring voters are informed while avoiding additional ballot paper complexity and cost.

Reform 14: Provide for candidates whose nomination form is not lodged by a registered party to request to be identified with a group name.

Reform Overview	• Enables candidates to nominate a group or team name (other than a registered political party) for inclusion on the ballot paper. • Intended to reflect informal candidate alliances or teams.
Summary of Feedback	• Mixed feedback. • TEC opposed the reform, raising concerns about administrative complexity. • Some submissions expressed concern about the enforceability of naming conventions.

Department Response	• The Tasmanian Government has determined not to proceed with this reform. • Group or team names may be communicated through published candidate information and campaign materials, but not included on the ballot paper itself.

Strengthened donations disclosure and electoral advertising requirements

Reform 15: Introduce new prohibitions on the dissemination of misleading and deceptive statements (corresponding to the Electoral Act Review Final Report and the amended Section 197 of the *Electoral Act 2004*).

Reform Overview	• Aligns local government electoral law with the Electoral Act by prohibiting the publication of statements that are misleading or deceptive in relation to the election process. • Aims to protect electoral integrity and voter confidence.
Summary of Feedback	• Broad support across submissions. • Submissions welcomed consistency with state election laws and the clarity this provides to candidates and electors.
Department Response	• Reform will proceed. • This measure strengthens trust in the election process and ensures consistency with other electoral frameworks.

Reform 16: Remove the general restriction on publishing a candidate's name or image without their consent.

Reform Overview	• Repeals an existing provision that prohibits the publication of a candidate's name or image without their consent. • Aligns local government elections with state and federal practices where no such restriction applies.
Summary of Feedback	• Broad support across submissions. • A few submissions raised concerns about privacy and reputational risks.

Department Response	• Reform will proceed. • The change modernises the electoral framework and brings it into alignment with other jurisdictions while preserving broader legal protections.

Reform 17: Clarify the definition of electoral advertising.

Reform Overview	• Updates and clarifies what constitutes "electoral advertising" to ensure consistency and legal certainty. • Seeks to align definitions with the *Electoral Act 2004* and reduce ambiguity for candidates and regulators.
Summary of Feedback	• Broad support from stakeholders. • Some councils and individuals requested that the definition remain broad enough to capture modern communication formats (such as social media, sponsored posts). • No significant concerns were raised.
Department Response	• Reform will proceed. • The updated definition will be aligned with the Electoral Act and supported by guidance from the TEC to ensure clarity and adaptability to emerging formats.

Reform 18: Provide that only a candidate, intending candidate, or a nominated person may incur electoral expenditure; expenditure by others to promote or procure election will be an offence.

Reform Overview	• Limits electoral expenditure to the candidate, intending candidate, or their formally nominated agent. • Aims to prevent unregulated third-party campaigning and increase transparency.
Summary of Feedback	• Broad support from stakeholders. • Some concern about protecting candidates from liability for unauthorised third-party activity. • Some concern about how the reform will be adequately implemented.
Department Response	• Reform will proceed. • Safeguards will be included to ensure candidates are not penalised for unauthorised third-party actions.

Reform 19: Institute authorisation requirements for electoral advertising and associated material.

Reform Overview	• Requires electoral advertising to include information identifying who authorised the material. • Aims to promote transparency and accountability in campaign communications.
Summary of Feedback	• Strong support from stakeholders. • Recognised as a standard integrity measure consistent with other jurisdictions. • No significant concerns raised.
Department Response	• Reform will proceed. • Authorisation requirements will be clearly defined and enforced through TEC guidance.

Reform 20: Replace advertising expenditure limits with a general expenditure limit, with reference to the Legislative Council expenditure cap in the *Electoral Disclosure and Funding Act 2023.*

Reform Overview	• Replaces current advertising-specific limits with an overall cap on total electoral expenditure. • Aligns local government elections with Legislative Council spending rules.
Summary of Feedback	• General support from stakeholders. • Recognised as a clearer and more enforceable approach to managing campaign spending. • Some requests for detailed guidance on calculating and monitoring total expenditure.
Department Response	• Reform will proceed. • Guidance will be developed to assist candidates in understanding and complying with the new expenditure cap.

Reform 21: Require that a candidate is to report expenditure made on their behalf in their electoral expenditure return, in the same manner as personal expenditure. The present requirement to attribute, in full, to each candidate featured in joint advertising will be retained.

Reform Overview	• Requires candidates to report not only their own spending but also any expenditure made on their behalf.

	• Confirms that shared advertising must be fully attributed to each candidate featured.
Summary of Feedback	• Broad support across submissions. • Seen as improving transparency and accountability. • Some stakeholders noted the need for clear instructions on how to complete returns accurately.
Department Response	• Reform will proceed. • Guidance will be provided to clarify reporting obligations, including shared advertising attribution.

Reform 22: Prohibit any person from incurring any expenditure for or on behalf of a registered party with a view to promoting or procuring the election of a candidate or intending candidate.

Reform Overview	• Prevents third parties from incurring expenditure on behalf of a registered party to influence election outcomes. • Aims to strengthen transparency and restrict indirect or unregulated campaign spending.
Summary of Feedback	• Broad support across submissions. • Feedback noted the importance of ensuring consistency with other expenditure-related provisions.
Department Response	• Reform will proceed. • Ensures electoral spending remains traceable and accountable.

Reform 23: Maintain the $50 threshold for the disclosure of gifts and benefits and extend this requirement from incumbent councillors to all candidates, who will be required to lodge donation returns with the Tasmanian Electoral Commission.

Reform Overview	• Extends donation disclosure obligations to all candidates. • Maintains the $50 threshold and introduces disclosure during the election period via the TEC website.
Summary of Feedback	• Broad support across submissions. • Recognised as an important transparency measure. • Some noted administrative complexity and requested support for compliance.

Department Response	• Reform will proceed. • TEC will provide clear instructions and support tools to assist candidates with disclosure requirements.

Reform 24: Provide that it is an offence for a person other than a candidate or intending candidate to accept a gift or benefit for the purpose of promoting or procuring the election of a candidate, or for the dominant purpose of influencing the way electors vote in an election; and that it is an offence to make a gift or donation to a person other than a candidate or intending candidate for this purpose.

Reform Overview	• Prohibits indirect donations through intermediaries or third parties. • Aims to ensure all electoral donations are transparent and reported through candidates.
Summary of Feedback	• Support from councils and individuals for closing donation loopholes. • TEC raised concerns about administrative complexity and suggested responsibility may be better placed with councils or OLG. • Some concern about enforceability and overlap with existing regulatory responsibilities.
Department Response	• Reform will proceed. • Intended to provide a simpler alternative to third-party campaigner registration schemes. • Implementation details will consider TEC's role and administrative resourcing.

Reform 25: Provide that it is an offence for a councillor, intending candidate or candidate, at any time, to accept a donation for the purpose of promoting or procuring the election of a candidate or intending candidate at a local government election:

- **over $50, including services or goods valued in kind, without recording the basic details of that donor**
- **over $50 in cash**
- **over $50 from a foreign donor.**

Reform Overview	• Introduces clear donation limits and record-keeping obligations. • Prohibits cash and foreign donations above $50 and ensures traceability.

Summary of Feedback	• Broad support for integrity and transparency purposes. • TEC raised concerns if they were required to manage disclosures across the council term, noting administrative complexity and precedent from other jurisdictions.
Department Response	• Reform will proceed. • Gifts and donations for incumbent councillors will continue to be managed under the existing framework set out in the Local Government Act. • The TEC will not need to have a role in gifts and donations registers for councils outside of election periods.

Other changes to support the integrity of elections

Reform 26: Provide that a local government election or by-election may not be held such that the polling period overlaps the date of a Tasmanian or Australian Government parliamentary election.

Reform Overview	• Prevents overlap between local government elections and state or federal parliamentary elections. • Aims to avoid voter confusion and administrative pressure.
Summary of Feedback	• Broad support for integrity and transparency purposes. • Recognised as a sensible measure to protect electoral integrity and manage resourcing.
Department Response	• Reform will proceed. • Aligns with electoral best practice and supports efficient election delivery.

Reform 27: Provide the Tasmanian Electoral Commission with powers of investigation.

Reform Overview	• Grants the TEC investigative powers to enforce electoral laws effectively. • Intended to support stronger compliance and deterrence.
Summary of Feedback	• Broad support across submissions. • Seen as necessary for the Commission to fulfil its expanded responsibilities.

	• Some feedback noted the need for clear scope and procedural safeguards.
Department Response	• Reform will proceed. • Powers will be clearly defined to ensure fair and proportionate enforcement.

Reform 28: Align electoral offences and sanctions with those in the Electoral Act.

Reform Overview	• Aligns the offences and penalties in the Local Government Electoral framework with those in the *Electoral Act 2004*. • Aims to ensure consistency, fairness, and legal clarity across electoral systems.
Summary of Feedback	• Broad support across submissions. • Viewed as necessary to streamline enforcement and promote consistent standards. • No significant concerns raised.
Department Response	• Reform will proceed. • Consistent penalties will support better understanding and enforcement of electoral rules.

Reform 29: Provide a statutory caretaker framework, applying from the notice of election to the date of the issue of the certificate of election for all elections other than by-elections and countbacks.

Reform Overview	• Establishes a formal caretaker period during elections. • Aims to prevent councils from making major decisions that could influence electoral outcomes.
Summary of Feedback	• Broad support across submissions. • Recognised as standard electoral practice that supports fairness and transparency. • Some submissions requested clarification on the caretaker timeframe and scope of decisions affected.
Department Response	• Reform will proceed. • Guidance will clarify caretaker obligations and ensure consistent application across councils.

	• Caretaker provisions will be included in the *Local Government Act 1993,* as they relate to the operational decisions of councils as opposed to the conduct of elections.

Reform 30: Provide that during the caretaker period, prohibit a council from making any major policy or financial decisions, namely decisions:

- relating to the appointment, reappointment, remuneration or termination of a general manager (except acting appointments)
- committing the council to expenditure greater than 1 per cent of general revenue or $100,000 (whichever is greater)
- directing council resources to influence voting
- relating to matters that could reasonably be deferred, except for statutory or routine operational decisions.

Reform Overview	• Prohibits councils from making major decisions during the caretaker period to avoid perceptions of bias or misuse of position. • Defines clear limits on financial, staffing, and policy decisions.
Summary of Feedback	• Broad support across submissions. • Seen as an important safeguard for electoral fairness. • Some councils requested clarification on what constitutes “routine operational” decisions.
Department Response	• Reform will proceed. • Supporting guidance will be provided to ensure consistent and practical application.

Reform 31: Provide that during the caretaker period, it is an offence for a council to:

- publish any material promoting any candidate or group of candidates, or seeking to influence voters
- publish material related to the election other than information promoting participation or official electoral process information
- make council resources available to benefit one candidate over others.

Reform Overview	• Prohibits councils from using their platforms or resources to influence election outcomes during the caretaker period.

	• Ensures councils maintain neutrality.
Summary of Feedback	• Broad support across submissions. • Seen as a necessary integrity safeguard. • Requests for guidance on acceptable communication during the period.
Department Response	• Reform will proceed. • TEC and OLG will develop guidance to support compliant council communication practices.

Reform 32: Provide that major policy or financial decisions of a council during the caretaker period are of no effect, and provide that persons who incur loss or damage due to an ineffectual decision of a council, who acted in good faith, are entitled to recover compensation from the council.

Reform Overview	• Invalidates major decisions made by councils during the caretaker period. • Allows compensation for affected parties who relied on such decisions in good faith.
Summary of Feedback	• Broad support across submissions. • Recognised as a necessary enforcement mechanism to support the caretaker provisions. • Some requests for further detail on liability and compensation processes.
Department Response	• Reform will proceed. • Implementation will include guidance to councils on the operation of the framework. • Councils will remain responsible for obtaining their own legal or financial advice where required in relation to potential liability or compensation claims.

Reform 33: Increase the proportion of electors signing a petition required to compel a council to hold an elector poll to 20 per cent; while restricting the matters about which an elector poll may be held to matters with a legitimate connection to the exercise of a council's functions or powers or to the incorporation of the council, as determined by the council.

Reform Overview	• Raises the petition threshold for triggering elector polls and limits poll topics to council-related matters.

	• Aims to reduce misuse and align polls with council responsibilities.
Summary of Feedback	• Mixed feedback from councils and stakeholders. • Some supported the reform as a way to ensure elector polls remain focused and relevant. • Others raised concerns about restricting democratic participation and increasing the threshold too far.
Department Response	• Reform will proceed. • Clear criteria and explanatory materials will be developed to ensure community understanding and consistent application.

Appendix B: Personal Interest Return (PIR) Form (Draft Example Only)

Introduction

This form is issued under the *Local Government Act 1993* (the Act) and must be completed by all Councillors. It is a requirement of the Act that Councillors disclose certain personal interests to ensure transparency and support public confidence in the integrity of local government decision-making.

The purpose of this disclosure is to:

- provide a clear record of interests that may conflict, or be perceived to conflict, with a Councillor's public duties
- support the effective management of conflicts of interest
- assist Councils in promoting good governance and accountability.

This return requires you to declare interests held by you and your spouse (including a person in a significant relationship as defined in the *Relationships Act 2003*) as at the primary return date, and to provide details of any income, property, positions, debts, memberships, contributions or other interests that meet the thresholds set out in the form.

You are also required to, where appropriate, indicate how any interests that could give rise to a conflict with your public duties will be managed. Your General Manager can help you decide whether management strategies are required to be listed.

Lodging a complete and accurate return is a legal obligation under the Act. If you are unsure about what to disclose or how to manage a declared interest, you are encouraged to seek independent legal or professional advice.

Directions

a) The interests you are required to disclose in this return are set out in legislation and apply to you, as the Councillor, and your spouse (including someone in a significant relationship as defined in the *Relationships Act 2003*).
b) You must complete and lodge a return even if you (and/or your spouse) have no interests to disclose. If you have nothing to declare, please indicate this by selecting 'No' at each question. All sections must be completed.
c) If there is not enough space in the form to provide all required details, please attach an appendix that is clearly numbered, signed and dated. Be sure to cross-reference the appendix in the relevant section of this form.
d) You may wish to seek independent legal, financial or other advice to assist you in understanding your obligations and ensuring your return is complete.

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e) In this return, you must also, where appropriate, briefly describe how any disclosed interests that could give rise to a conflict of interest will be managed, including steps such as declaring interests at meetings, abstaining from decisions, or other appropriate actions.
f) Your completed return must be signed, dated and lodged with your General Manager or another authorised person.

Name of Councillor	
Council	
Date of Return	
Signature of Councillor	

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Part A. Sources of income

Have you, or your spouse, received or do you, or your spouse, expect to receive any income in the period between the primary return date and the next 30 June, excluding income received as a councillor allowance?

☐ No – continue to Part B

☐ Yes – provide particulars below

Explanatory notes

- 'Income' means assessable income under the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1936* (Cth), including but not limited to: employment income, superannuation, pensions, annuities and government payments, investment income, business, partnership and trust income, and foreign income.
- A source of income only needs to be declared if you or your spouse received, or expect to receive, more than $500 from that source during the return period.
    - When disclosing income from your occupation, you must also provide:
        - a description of the occupation
        - the name and address of your employer, or a description of the office
        - the name of any partnership (if relevant).
- You do not need to disclose one-off sales of personal items (such as a second-hand car or household furniture) unless those sales are made in the course of a business or with the intent of making a profit.

Indicate the source of income (amounts are not necessary)

	Person or entity from which income was received or is expected to be received	**Why the income was/is expected to be received (For example: salary, investments, trusts, rental payments)**	**Details**
Example	Acme Consulting Pty Ltd	Salary	Policy Advisor Acme Consulting, 22 Example St, Hobart
Self			
Spouse			

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Part B. Land and real property

Have you, or your spouse, held an interest in land or real property as at the primary return date?

☐ No – continue to Part C

☐ Yes – provide particulars below

Explanatory notes

- This includes any ownership or beneficial interest in land (not as security for a debt) within the municipal district of the Council or an adjoining municipal district.
- You must provide:
  - the full address of the land (as it appears on council rates notices)
  - the purpose for which the land is held (such as residence, investment)
  - the nature of the interest (such as sole owner, joint tenant, trustee).

Exceptions

- You are **not required to disclose** an interest in land if:
  - You or your spouse hold the interest only as the executor or administrator of the estate of a deceased person, and you are not a beneficiary under the will or under intestacy.
  - You or your spouse hold the interest only as a trustee, and the interest was acquired in the ordinary course of a profession or occupation that is not related to your duties as a Councillor.

Example: If you are managing property as part of your work as an accountant or solicitor (unrelated to your Councillor role), and you hold the land only as a trustee, you do not need to declare it.

Complete the table below

	Full Address of Property	**Purpose (such as residence, investment)**	**Nature of Interest (such as sole owner, joint tenant, trustee)**
Example	12 Smith Street, Springvale TAS	Residential	Sole owner
Self			
Spouse			

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Part C. Corporations and business interests

Have you, or your spouse, held any position or interest in a corporation, business, trust or other entity as at the primary return date, including in a fiduciary capacity (such as trustee or executor)?

This includes positions whether paid or unpaid.

☐ No – continue to Part D

☐ Yes – provide particulars below

Explanatory notes

- You must disclose the name and address of the corporation, business, partnership or trust, and describe your position or interest (such as director, shareholder, sole trader, trustee, partner).
- This applies regardless of whether or not you received payment for the role.
- This includes business interests carried out in your own name (such as sole trader or freelancer), or as part of a partnership or trust that carries on commercial activities.
- It also includes fiduciary roles where you or your spouse owe duties to act on behalf of another person or entity. For example, as:
  - a trustee of a private or family trust
  - an executor or administrator of a deceased estate (unless exempt)
  - a partner in a business or professional firm
  - a nominee with control or discretion over assets.
- Roles held purely as part of your professional occupation (such as solicitor acting for a client) **do not need to be declared** unless they involve control or decision-making powers over land or assets that may intersect with Council matters.

Exceptions

- You are not required to disclose an interest or position if the corporation is:
  - formed to provide recreation, charity, religion, art, science or other community purpose
  - required to apply all profits to its purpose (it cannot distribute profits)
  - prohibited from paying dividends to members.
- You are also not required to disclose an interest or position if you:

- Hold the position only in your professional capacity and have no discretion or control over relevant assets or decisions (such as an accountant lodging a BAS on behalf of a client).

Example: If you are on the board of a local community garden association that operates as a not-for-profit and does not distribute profits, you do **not** need to declare this role.

Additional guidance (superannuation funds)

- You are not required to declare shareholdings or interests held by a superannuation fund (such as a retail or industry fund) unless:
  - you personally control or direct the investment decisions of the fund (such as via a self-managed super fund)
  - or you are aware of a specific investment that may give rise to a conflict of interest (such as your fund is heavily invested in a company seeking Council approval for a development).
- In most cases, managed funds or pooled investments (such as those held via industry super funds) do not need to be declared, as individual holdings are not within your knowledge or control.

Complete the table below

	Name of Corporation	**Address**	**Nature of Interest / Position**
Example	Dovetail Accounting Trust	21 Harper Street, Moonville TAS	Self – Trustee and Beneficiary of family trust
Self			
Spouse			

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Part D. Liabilities and debts

Do you, or your spouse, owe money to any person or organisation as at the primary return date? This applies whether or not the debt was due or payable at that time.

☐ No – continue to Part E

☐ Yes – provide particulars below

Explanatory notes

- You must declare the name and address of any person or entity to whom you or your spouse owe a debt of $5,000 or more.
- This includes loans, credit agreements, or any other outstanding payments.

Exceptions

- You are **not** required to disclose a debt if:
  - The amount owed is less than $5,000, unless:
    - it is one of two or more debts owed to the same person during the return period and the total owed is $5,000 or more.
  - The debt is owed to a relative of the Councillor.
  - The debt is a loan of money and:
    - it is owed to a bank or authorised lender (someone whose usual business is lending money) and it was made in the ordinary course of business.
  - The debt is for goods or services provided:
    - during the period of 12 months immediately before the primary return date or during the annual return period
    - in the ordinary course of an occupation unrelated to your role as a Councillor (or your spouse's occupation).

Example: You do **not** need to declare a $3,000 loan from a bank or a $1,000 invoice from your mechanic, unless you owe the same mechanic several invoices totalling $5,000 or more.

Complete the table below

	Name of Creditor	**Address**	**Nature of Debt**
Example	John Smith	12 Hilltop Drive, New Town TAS	Private loan of $7,000 for vehicle repairs
Self			

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	Name of Creditor	Address	Nature of Debt
Spouse			

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Part E. Trade unions, associations, and political parties

Do you, or your spouse, currently hold a position (paid or unpaid) in any trade union, professional association, or business association?

☐ No – continue to Part F

☐ Yes – provide particulars below

Explanatory notes

- You must declare any position (such as member, delegate, board role) held by you or your spouse in a:
  - trade union
  - professional association
  - business association.
- This includes positions that are voluntary, unpaid or honorary.
- You must also declare the name of any political party of which you are a member.

Complete the table below

	Name of Organisation	**Position Held**
Example	Bank of Tasmania	101 Main St, Hobart
Self		
Spouse		

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Part F. Travel or accommodation contributions

Did you, or your spouse, receive any financial or other contribution (such as free or upgraded accommodation, flights, meals, or hospitality) in relation to any travel during the annual return period?

☐ No – continue to Part G

☐ Yes – provide particulars below

Explanatory notes

- You must disclose:
  - the name and address of the person or organisation who made the contribution
  - the dates, destinations, and purpose of the travel.

Exceptions

- You do **not** need to disclose a contribution if:
  - it was made from public funds (e.g. council-funded travel)
  - it was made by a relative
  - it was made in the ordinary course of another occupation (not related to your role as a Councillor or your spouse's occupation)
  - the value of the contribution did not exceed $250, unless:
    - more than one contribution was made by the same person in the return period and the total of those contributions exceeded $250.
  - it was made in a personal capacity, and it would not reasonably be seen as related to your role as a Councillor
  - it was made by a political party of which you are a member, and the travel was undertaken:
    - for political activity in Tasmania or to represent the party within Australia.

Note: A non-financial contribution (such as a gift or in-kind support) is treated as equal in value to what it would cost if paid for directly.

Complete the table below

	Name and Address of Contributor	**Type of Contribution (such as flight, hotel)**	**Dates of Travel**	**From/To Locations**
Example	Local Gov Assoc 2 Civic Way	Flights and accommodation	4–6 March	Hobart – Melbourne

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	Name and Address of Contributor	Type of Contribution (such as flight, hotel)	Dates of Travel	From/To Locations
Self				
Spouse				

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Part G. Dispositions of real property

Have you, or your spouse, transferred an interest in property during the return period but retained a benefit, or acquired a benefit from someone else's transfer?

☐ No – continue to Part H

☐ Yes – provide particulars below

Explanatory notes

- You must disclose:
  - any property you or your spouse disposed of (in whole or part) where you kept the right to use or benefit from the property
  - any property another person disposed of where you gained use or benefit (even if you don't legally own it).
- This includes arrangements where legal ownership changes, but you still use, access or benefit from the property in some way.

Complete the table below

	Property / Arrangement	**Nature of Benefit Retained or Acquired**
Example	Transfer of family shack	Continued right to occupy
Self		
Spouse		

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Part H. Discretionary disclosures

Is there any other substantial interest (financial or otherwise) that could be seen as creating a conflict between your personal interests and your public duties as a Councillor?

☐ No – continue to Part I

☐ Yes – provide details below

Explanatory notes

- You must declare **any other significant interest** that:
  - you are aware of
  - might reasonably be seen to conflict with your public responsibilities as a Councillor.
- This includes interests held by you or by a related person or entity, even if the interest is not financial in nature.
- These may include unpaid or voluntary positions in clubs, associations, or community groups, particularly where those groups interact with Council (such as apply for funding, use Council facilities, or make submissions on Council decisions).
- **Example 1**: If a close family member owns a company that regularly tenders for Council contracts, or if you volunteer in a leadership role in a group advocating for decisions your Council makes, you may wish to disclose that interest here.
- **Example 2**: If you are the president of a local sporting club that applies for Council grants or leases Council-owned facilities, this may be a relevant interest to disclose.

Complete the table below

	Description of Interest
Example	My sister-in-law is CEO of a company that regularly tenders for council waste management contracts.
Self	
Spouse	

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Part I. Declaration on management of interests

Briefly outline how you propose to manage any disclosed interests to ensure they do not conflict with your public duties as a Councillor.

This may include:

- recusal from specific Council decisions or meetings
- use of a formal conflict of interest register
- disclosure at the start of relevant proceedings
- other appropriate actions.

Complete the table below

	Interest (brief description)	**How the interest will be managed**
Example	Sister-in-law is CEO of council contractor	Will declare and not participate in any related procurement matters
Example	Joint owner of local business property	Will recuse from votes involving zoning or development in the area
Example	Member of planning industry association committee	Will declare interest at meetings dealing with industry regulation
Self		
Spouse		

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Part J. Primary return appendix

- This appendix is provided for use if you need additional space to disclose information beyond what the standard Personal Interest Return form allows.
- Please clearly number, sign, and date each page you include as an appendix.
- Make sure each appendix page is cross-referenced to the relevant part of the Primary Return form.
- Example: If you have multiple income sources, land holdings, or corporation positions that don't fit within the main tables, use the appendix to continue your disclosures.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

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Drafted in the Office of
Parliamentary Counsel

TASMANIA

_____

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AMENDMENT (ELECTORAL REFORMS) BILL 2025

_____

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56K. Interpretation of Part
56L. Conduct of council during election period

13. Section 58 amended (Tabling petition)
14. Section 59 amended (Petitions seeking public meetings)
15. Section 60C amended (Petition requesting elector poll)
16. Section 214A amended (Scope of review)
17. Section 214E amended (Result of review)
18. Part 15 repealed
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LOCAL GOVERNMENT AMENDMENT (ELECTORAL REFORMS) BILL 2025

(Brought in by the Minister for Local Government, the Honourable Kerry John Vincent)

A BILL FOR

An Act to amend the *Local Government Act 1993*

Be it enacted by Her Excellency the Governor of Tasmania, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and House of Assembly, in Parliament assembled, as follows:

1. Short title

This Act may be cited as the *Local Government Amendment (Electoral Reforms) Act 2025*.

2. Commencement

The provisions of this Act commence on a day or days to be proclaimed.

3. Repeal of Act

This Act is repealed on the first anniversary of the day on which the last uncommenced provision of this Act commenced.

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4. Principal Act

In this Act, the *Local Government Act 1993** is referred to as the Principal Act.

5. Section 3 amended (Interpretation)

Section 3 of the Principal Act is amended as follows:

(a) by omitting the definition of *ballot material*;

(b) by omitting the definition of *by-election*;

(c) by omitting the definition of *candidate* and substituting the following definition:

candidate means *candidate* as defined in the *Local Government Electoral Act 2025*;

(d) by omitting the definition of *certificate of election*;

(e) by omitting the definition of *closing day*;

(f) by inserting "in accordance with the *Local Government Electoral Act 2025*" after "council" in the definition of *councillor*;

(g) by omitting the definition of *declaration of a poll*;

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(h) by omitting the definitions of *election agent* and *elector*;

(i) by omitting the definitions of *electoral advertising* and *electoral area*;

(j) by omitting the definitions of *electoral material*, *electoral officer*, *electoral officer in charge* and *electoral roll*;

(k) by omitting ", in Part 15, includes a person nominated under section 253A" from the definition of *general manager* and substituting "includes a person nominated as the general manager under the *Local Government Electoral Act 2025*";

(l) by omitting the definitions of *intending candidate* and *issuing place*;

(m) by omitting the definition of *list of electors*;

(n) by omitting ", in Part 15," from the definition of *municipal area*;

(o) by omitting the definitions of *nomination period*, *notice of election* and *ordinary election*;

(p) by omitting the definition of *polling period*;

(q) by omitting the definitions of *relevant period* and *returning officer*;

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(r) by omitting the definitions of *roll closure day* and *scrutineer*.

6. Section 25 amended (Constitution of council)

Section 25(1) of the Principal Act is amended by omitting "in accordance with Part 4." and substituting "in accordance with the *Local Government Electoral Act 2025*.".

7. Section 28A amended (Information and documents relating to functions)

Section 28A(3) of the Principal Act is amended by inserting after paragraph (a) the following paragraph:

(ab) the general manager believes that the information –

(i) is not publicly available; and

(ii) is a matter in relation to which the councillor has completed a personal interest return under Part 5B; or

8. Part 4 repealed

Part 4 of the Principal Act is repealed.

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Local Government Amendment (Electoral Reforms) Act 2025
Act No. of 2025

9. Section 51 amended (Close associate)

Section 51 of the Principal Act is amended by inserting after paragraph (g) the following paragraphs:

(ga) a person from whom the councillor or member has received a *gift or donation*, as defined in the *Local Government Electoral Act 2025*, that has been disclosed by the councillor in accordance with Part 16 of that Act; or

(gb) a person from whom the councillor or member has received a gift or donation that is recorded in the register of gifts and donations referred to in section 56B(1); or

(gc) a relative of the councillor or member who resides with that councillor or member on a regular basis; or

10. Section 52 amended (Non-application of Part)

Section 52 of the Principal Act is amended as follows:

(a) by omitting paragraph (a) from subsection (1);

(b) by omitting paragraph (c) from subsection (1);

(c) by omitting paragraph (e) from subsection (2);

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(d) by inserting the following subsections after subsection (2):

(2A) It is a defence to a prosecution under this Part if the councillor charged reasonably believes that –

(a) the pecuniary interest of the councillor, being a pecuniary benefit received or reasonably expected to be received as a result of the decision in question, is one held in common with a substantial proportion of electors in the municipal area; and

(b) the extent of the councillor's pecuniary interest is not greater than the extent of the pecuniary interest that is held in common by that substantial proportion of electors.

(2B) It is a defence to a prosecution under this Part if the councillor or member charged reasonably believes that –

(a) the pecuniary interest of the councillor or member, being a pecuniary benefit

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received or reasonably expected to be received as a result of the decision in relation to an application or request for approval, authorisation, licence, permit, exemption or other right under this or any other Act, is one held in common with a substantial proportion of electors in the municipal area; and

(b) the extent of that pecuniary interest is not greater than the extent of the pecuniary interest that is held in common by that substantial proportion of electors.

(2C) It is a defence to a prosecution under this Part if the councillor or member charged reasonably believes that –

(a) the pecuniary interest of the councillor or member, being a beneficial interest in shares of a company or other body, is one held in common with a substantial proportion of electors in the municipal area; and

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(b) the extent of that pecuniary interest is not greater than the extent of the pecuniary interest that is held in common by that substantial proportion of electors.

11. Section 54 amended (Register of pecuniary interests of councillors)

Section 54 of the Principal Act is amended by omitting subsections (2) and (3) and substituting the following subsection:

(2) The general manager must publish the register of interests on the council's official website.

12. Parts 5B and 5C inserted

After section 56B of the Principal Act, the following Parts are inserted:

PART 5B – PERSONAL INTEREST RETURNS

56C. Interpretation of Part

In this Part –

associated person means, in relation to a councillor –

(a) the councillor's spouse or partner; or

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(b) a child or other member of the councillor's family who ordinarily resides with the councillor; or

(c) any body corporate or trust in which the councillor or a person referred to in paragraph (a) or (b) has a controlling interest;

non-pecuniary interest means an interest that does not involve financial gain or loss but arises from personal relationships, affiliations or beliefs that may influence a person's decision making;

pecuniary interest means an interest that a person has in a matter if there is a reasonable likelihood or expectation of financial gain or loss, whether direct or indirect, to the person or to an associated person;

personal interest return means a return completed by a councillor under this Part, in the form and containing the information specified in a personal interest return order, and includes a revised personal interest return lodged under this Part;

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personal interest return order means an order made under section 56E specifying the form, content and procedural requirements for personal interest returns.

56D. Lodgement of personal interest returns

A councillor must lodge a completed personal interest return with the general manager –

(a) within 28 days after the date on which the certificate of election, as defined in the *Local Government Electoral Act 2025*, is issued in respect of the councillor; and

(b) on or before 31 July in each subsequent year in which the person holds office as a councillor.

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 100 penalty units.

56E. Personal interest return order

(1) The Governor, on the recommendation of the Minister, may make an order specifying –

(a) the form and content of a personal interest return; and

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(b) the matters that are to be disclosed in a personal interest return; and

(c) any procedural or administrative requirements relating to the lodgement of personal interest returns.

(2) Without limiting subsection (1), an order may specify the following matters:

(a) the assets and classes of assets to be disclosed, including real property and financial interests;

(b) the liabilities and classes of liabilities to be disclosed;

(c) the associated persons and classes of persons whose interests are to be disclosed, including individuals, bodies corporate and trustees;

(d) employment, offices and other sources of income to be disclosed;

(e) gifts, donations or contributions to other entities, and the classes of such gifts, donations or contributions, to be disclosed;

(f) memberships of associations, including trade or professional associations, political parties and

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other organisations to be disclosed;

(g) thresholds for disclosure and time periods to which the disclosures relate;

(h) management strategies to be documented by councillors for managing actual, potential or perceived pecuniary interests or non-pecuniary interests arising from the matters disclosed;

(i) the information to be withheld from publication under section 56G(b).

(3) The Minister may amend, revoke or revoke and substitute an order.

(4) Before recommending that an order be made, amended or revoked, the Minister must consult with councils.

(5) An order is a statutory rule within the meaning of the *Rules Publication Act 1953*.

(6) An order is subordinate legislation for the purposes of the *Subordinate Legislation Act 1992*.

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Local Government Amendment (Electoral Reforms) Act 2025
Act No. of 2025

56F. Requirement to submit revised personal interest return

(1) The general manager may, by written notice to a councillor, require the councillor to submit a revised personal interest return if the general manager reasonably believes that a return lodged by the councillor –

(a) is incomplete or does not comply with the requirements of this Part; or

(b) contains an error.

(2) A councillor must submit a revised personal interest return within 14 days after receiving the notice under subsection (1).

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 50 penalty units.

56G. Publication of personal interest returns

The general manager must publish each personal interest return, and any revised personal interest return, on the council's official website –

(a) as soon as practicable after it is lodged; and

(b) in accordance with any requirements or exemptions specified in the personal interest

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return order in relation to the publication of information contained in a personal interest return.

56H. Restriction on access to non-public information

(1) The general manager must not provide to a councillor any information, other than information included on a public agenda or otherwise available to members of the public, if it is reasonably apparent to the general manager, from a personal interest return or other information known to the general manager, that the councillor has a pecuniary interest in the matter.

(2) A councillor must not seek or obtain information, other than information included on a public agenda or otherwise available to members of the public, if the councillor has, or is likely to have, a pecuniary interest in the matter were it to be considered by the council or a council committee.

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 100 penalty units.

56I. Retention of personal interest returns

The council must retain each personal interest return, and each revised personal interest return, until 2 years after the

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expiration of the term of the council during which the return was lodged.

56J. Offences

(1) A councillor must not –

(a) provide information in a personal interest return that the councillor knows is false or misleading in a material particular; or

(b) omit from a personal interest return any information knowing that the omission renders the return misleading; or

(c) fail to lodge a personal interest return or a revised personal interest return, within the period specified under this Part, with the intention of avoiding disclosure of a pecuniary interest.

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 100 penalty units.

(2) In addition to any penalty imposed under this section, a court may make an order –

(a) barring the councillor from nominating as a candidate at any election for a period not exceeding 7 years; and

(b) dismissing the councillor from office.

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Local Government Amendment (Electoral Reforms) Act 2025
Act No. of 2025

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PART 5C – CONDUCT OF COUNCIL DURING ELECTION PERIOD

56K. Interpretation of Part

In this Part –

election period, in relation to an election conducted in accordance with the *Local Government Electoral Act 2025*, other than a by-election or a recount within the meaning of that Act, means the period –

(a) commencing on the date and time of the closure of an *electoral roll*, as defined in the *Local Government Electoral Act 2025*, that is specified in a *notice of election* as defined in that Act; and

(b) ending on the date on which the *certificate of election*, as defined in the *Local Government Electoral Act 2025*, for the election conducted in accordance with that Act is issued;

prohibited decisions means a decision by a council –

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(a) that relates to the appointment, reappointment or remuneration of a general manager, other than the appointment, reappointment or remuneration of an acting general manager; or

(b) that relates to the termination of a general manager; or

(c) to enter into a contract, arrangement or agreement the total value of which exceeds whichever is the greater of –

(i) $100 000; or

(ii) 1% of the council's revenue from general and service rating and fees and charges in the preceding financial year; or

(d) that would enable the use of council resources in a way that is intended to influence, or is likely to influence, voting at an election conducted in

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accordance with the *Local Government Electoral Act 2025*; or

(e) that relates to a matter, that is not of a routine or operational nature, that could be reasonably deferred until the election period ends –

but does not include a decision by the council required or authorised by or under any law to be made within a timeframe prescribed by or under that law.

56L. Conduct of council during election period

(1) During an election period a council must not –

(a) use council resources for the advantage of a particular candidate, or group of candidates; or

(b) publish any information in any format which promotes any candidate or group of candidates; or

(c) publish any information in any format in relation to the election, conducted in accordance with the *Local Government Electoral Act*

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2025, other than information published by the Electoral Commissioner; or

(d) make council resources available for the advantage of a particular candidate, which are not equally available to all candidates.

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 100 penalty units.

(2) Subject to subsection (3), a council must not make a prohibited decision during an election period.

(3) If a council is satisfied that it is necessary and in the public interest for a prohibited decision to be made during an election period, the council may make an application to the Minister for an exemption from the application of this section to the prohibited decision specified in the application.

(4) An application under subsection (3) must –

(a) be in writing; and

(b) set out the reasons why the prohibited decision must be made by the council during the election period.

(5) On receipt of an application under subsection (3), if the Minister is satisfied

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that there are extraordinary circumstances, the Minister may grant an exemption from the application of this section to the prohibited decision specified in the application, subject to any conditions or limitations that the Minister considers appropriate.

(6) A prohibited decision made by a council in contravention of this section is invalid.

(7) Any person who suffers loss or damage as a result of acting in good faith on a prohibited decision made in contravention of this section is entitled to compensation from the council for that loss or damage.

13. Section 58 amended (Tabling petition)

Section 58 of the Principal Act is amended by omitting subsection (3) and substituting the following subsection:

(3) A general manger is only required to table a petition if the general manager is satisfied that the petition –

(a) relates to the functions and powers of the council; or

(b) relates to the incorporation of the council.

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14. Section 59 amended (Petitions seeking public meetings)

Section 59 of the Principal Act is amended by omitting subsection (2) and substituting the following subsection:

(2) A council must hold a public meeting if the petition complies with section 57 and section 58(3) and it is signed by at least 20% of the electors in the municipal area.

15. Section 60C amended (Petition requesting elector poll)

Section 60C(1)(b) of the Principal Act is amended by omitting "least 5% of the electors in the municipal area or 1 000 of those electors, whichever is the lesser" and substituting "least 20% of the electors in the municipal area".

16. Section 214A amended (Scope of review)

Section 214A of the Principal Act is amended as follows:

(a) by inserting in paragraph (j) "in accordance with the *Local Government Electoral Act 2025*" after "area";

(b) by inserting in paragraph (k) "in accordance with the *Local Government Electoral Act 2025*" after "district".

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17. Section 214E amended (Result of review)

Section 214E of the Principal Act is amended as follows:

(a) by omitting from subsection (2) "closing day, within the meaning of Part 15" and substituting "*closing day* within the meaning of the *Local Government Electoral Act 2025*";

(b) by omitting from subsection (7) "in accordance with Part 15 and any regulations made for the purpose of that Part" and substituting "in accordance with the *Local Government Electoral Act 2025*".

18. Part 15 repealed

Part 15 of the Principal Act is repealed.

19. Schedules 6, 7 and 8 repealed

Schedules 6, 7 and 8 to the Principal Act are repealed.

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Local Government Electoral Bill 2025

Overview of key reforms by Part

Part	Key Reform	**Glamorgan Spring Bay Council Response**
2 - ELECTION OF MAYORS, DEPUTY MAYORS AND COUNCILLORS	Provides for the election of the Deputy Mayor 'around the table' by councillors, rather than by direct elector ballot. This must be done by vote of the council (simple majority), and within the first two general meetings of council. The Bill allows councils to determine the term of deputy mayor to be either the term of council or a lesser period.	The Council is generally supportive of the election of the deputy mayor 'around the table' rather than by direct elector ballot. At GSBC it is not considered the election of the deputy mayor by elector ballot is a significant financial impost therefore council is equally comfortable if it is determined to continue using the elector ballot . There is a view that should the election of the deputy mayor revert to 'around the table' it would be preferable for the election not to occur at the first meeting of a new council, thereby allowing new councillors an opportunity to 'meet and get to know each other' before being asked to either nominate for and/or vote for one of their colleagues as deputy mayor. Changing the timeframe from 'within the first two general meetings' to 'within the first three general meetings' is suggested. GSBC supports the proposal for councils to determine the length of the term which is to apply to the deputy mayor's appointment.

Part	Key Reform	**Glamorgan Spring Bay Council Response**
3 - ELECTORS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTORAL ROLLS	Amends the definition of "occupier" for enrolment purposes, to refer to actual occupation and use, and clarify that tenants and licensees are occupiers for the purposes of the Act.	Supported
	Preserves a supplementary roll ('general manager's roll') for electors not entitled to be on the House of Assembly (HoA) Roll in respect of an electoral area, as well as clear and consistent criteria for applying to be on this roll. This supplementary roll is now named the Local Government Electoral Roll. This roll is for persons with property-based entitlements (landowners/occupiers, corporate bodies) and non-citizen electors *who have lived in the electoral area for a continued period of at least 12 months.* Provides that responsibility for keeping and maintaining the supplementary rolls for electoral areas is to transfer to the TEC (currently council General Managers must maintain their council's supplementary rolls).	Supported Supported Supported GSBC agrees the Electoral Commissioner is better placed to maintain the renamed Local Government Electoral Roll. There is some concern that the costs for promoting and maintaining the Roll is unknown and therefore could result in an additional financial cost being passed onto councils.

	Tightens the criteria for who can nominate to vote on behalf of corporate bodies, including that they: • Must not be a director or the secretary of the corporate body • Must not be already enrolled on the HoA roll for the electoral area • Not be the corporate body nominee for another corporate body in the same area.	Supported
	Provides for 'one vote, one value' by providing that each elector is entitled to one vote in an election for an electoral area. This changes the current situation where a person may have up to two votes (e.g. one in their own right, and one on behalf of a body corporate).	Supported

Part	Key Reform	**Glamorgan Spring Bay Council Response**
4 – COMPULSORY VOTING	Preserves compulsory voting for those on the HoA roll (status quo). Voting remains optional for electors on the supplementary Local Government Electoral Roll.	Council supports compulsory voting for electors on the House of Assembly Roll. Council supports voluntary (optional) voting for those electors on the proposed new Local Government Electoral Roll (formerly the General Managers Roll).

Part	Key Reform	**Glamorgan Spring Bay Council Response**
5 – METHOD OF ELECTION, ISSUING AND RECEIVING PLACES, POLLING PLACES AND ELECTION OFFICIALS	Reduces prescription and introduces flexibility to 'future proof' elections, allowing the Electoral Commissioner to determine the method of voting at an election. This can include one or more methods, including attendance voting at a polling place and/or postal voting (including provision and receipt of ballots in person and by mail). These provisions provide flexibility for the Commissioner to determine multiple methods of voting, supporting the position of moving to a hybrid postal electoral format, allowing for continued mail voting, with provision of pre-polling and polling places for in-person completion of ballots. Provides for the postal method (allowing for and encouraging for hand returns) as the default election method and allows for an attendance ballot only where the Commissioner is satisfied available postal services are inadequate to ensure the reliable conduct of the election by postal ballot, a postal ballot would be more expensive to conduct than an attendance ballot. The Commissioner will be required to issue a notice as to the chosen method of election at least six months in advance of the notice of an election.	Although it is noted continuation of the postal method is the default election method, there is some concern that should the Electoral Commissioner change the method and/or introduce additional methods of voting, this could result in additional financial costs being passed onto councils. Council supports the use of voting methods which ensures 'inclusivity' for all electors. Noting the Electoral Commissioner will be required to issue a notice as to the chosen method of election at least six months in advance of the notice of election, therefore it is assumed alternative voting procedures will not be contemplated for by-elections.

	Preserves issuing and receiving places, which allow for issue and return of ballots during mail (or hybrid) elections. Provisions from the *Local Government Act 1993* are expanded for accessibility, including allowing the Electoral Commissioner to appoint a hospital, convalescent home, nursing home or other similar place at which a mobile facility may be operated as an issuing and receiving place – similar to polling place provisions in the *Electoral Act 2004*.	
	Allows for appointment of polling places, pre-poll polling places and mobile polling places in the event of an attendance ballot. Accessibility provisions mirror those for issuing and receiving places. There is also an additional clause (35) which provides for assistance to vote at a polling place to be provided for those who need it.	Supported Supported

Part	Key Reform	**Glamorgan Spring Bay Council Response**
	Provides that a local government election or by-election may not be held such that the polling period overlaps the date of a Tasmanian or Australian Government parliamentary election.	Supported
	Provides for continuation of non-citizen voting via the supplementary roll, while requiring candidates for council to be Australian citizens eligible to vote in parliamentary elections.	Supported
PART 6 – NOTICES OF ELECTIONS AND NOMINATIONS	Retains a single-phase nomination process, with additional requirements in the notice of nomination – including: • A statement as to whether or not the candidate is formally endorsed by a registered party or is running under a group name not associated with a party. • An attestation that a candidate has completed the proposed mandatory pre-election training module. (does not apply to incumbent councillors). A notice of nomination must also be signed by at least 30 electors or 1% of electors in the municipal area (whichever is smaller). Currently a notice of nomination must be signed by only two electors.	Supported providing it is not extended to require a candidate who is a 'member' of a party to disclose that information as part of the nomination process. Supported – ensuring that candidates have at a minimum completed 'pre-election training' should improve the knowledge and understanding of what the role of councillor entails. There are mixed views on whether it is necessary/appropriate to require additional nomination signatures to that which already exists.

	Requires the TEC to publish and distribute a candidate information package. This is currently done as a matter of convention and is the primary way electors become aware of the range of candidates, their reasons for seeking election, views and propositions. However, this is currently not a part of the formal legislative framework. At a minimum, this will include for each candidate - the candidate's name, a personal statement (if provided), and whether the candidate is endorsed by a registered party, running under a group name or is an independent candidate. This information is gathered as part of the notice of nomination.	Supported Supported

Part	Key Reform	**Glamorgan Spring Bay Council Response**
PART 7 – VOTING AND BALLOTS	Provides guidance around ballot material, and provisions on issuing, completing and returning ballots based on various election methods enabled under Part 6.	Supported

Part	Key Reform	**Glamorgan Spring Bay Council Response**
PART 9 – ALTERNATIVE VOTING PROCEDURES	This is a broad Part which allows the Electoral Commission to approve and deliver alternative voting procedures for classes of electors who face barriers to traditional means of voting. This includes, but is not limited to electronic voting methods such as online voting or voting by telephone. This supports universal franchise principles, consistent with recent reforms to the State *Electoral Act 2004*.	Ensuring all electors have access to participate in local government elections is strongly supported.
	Requires the TEC to approve procedures which enable and support accessible voting practices for electors with additional barriers to participation. The TEC is also required to publish after each election a statement on the implementation of the accessibility principles.	Supported Supported

Part	Key Reform	**Glamorgan Spring Bay Council Response**
PART 12 – OFFENCES RELATING TO ELECTIONS	Introduces a range of offences related to polling and conduct at polling places consistent with the *Electoral Act 2004*, while also retaining offences relating to elections under the LG Act. It also contains offences relating to electoral bribery and treating and intimidation.	Supported

Part	Key Reform	**Glamorgan Spring Bay Council Response**
PART 13 – INVESTIGATORY POWERS	Provides standard investigatory powers for the Electoral Commissioner (or authorised officers) – consistent again with the *Electoral Act 2004.* This includes: • Power to enter and inspect places • Power to require production of documents or information • Power to seize and detain • Power to require attendance and questioning	Supported

Part	Key Reform	**Glamorgan Spring Bay Council Response**
PART 14 – ELECTORAL ADVERTISING AND PUBLICATION OF ELECTORAL MATTER	Introduces new prohibitions on the dissemination of misleading and deceptive statements (corresponding to the Electoral Act Review Final Report and the amended section 197 of the *Electoral Act 2004*).	Supported
	Repeals an existing provision that prohibits the publication of a candidate's name or image without their consent. This aligns local government elections with state and federal practices where no such restriction applies.	Supported There is a view that if 'how to vote' cards which specifically names any candidate/s apart from the individual, there should be a requirement for the consent of each of the named candidates to be obtained prior to printing/distribution.
	Updates and clarifies what constitutes "electoral advertising" to ensure consistency and legal certainty. Seeks to align definitions with the *Electoral Act 2004* and reduce ambiguity for candidates and regulators.	Supported
	Requires electoral advertising to include information identifying who authorised the material. Aims to promote transparency and accountability in campaign communications.	Supported

Part	Key Reform	**Glamorgan Spring Bay Council Response**
PART 15 – ELECTORAL EXPENDITURE	Limits electoral expenditure to the candidate, intending candidate, or their formally nominated agent. Aims to prevent unregulated third-party campaigning and increase transparency.	Supported
	Replaces current advertising-specific limits with an overall cap on total electoral expenditure. Aligns local government elections with Legislative Council spending rules. Expenditure caps are as follows: • for a candidate for election to the Hobart City Council, Clarence City Council, Glenorchy City Council, Kingborough Council or Launceston City Council – $16 000 plus the applicable annual increment for that financial year. • for a candidate for election to any other council – $10 000 plus the applicable annual increment for that financial year. The annual increment is a cumulative increase to this limit of $500 every year for the councils referred to in the first bullet point, and $300 for all other councils, applying annually from 1 July 2027.	Supported

	Requires candidates to report not only their own spending but also any expenditure made on their behalf. Confirms that shared advertising must be fully attributed to each candidate featured.	Supported Councillors in the majority agree that any shared advertising should be apportioned equally to those candidates involved, rather than what appears to be proposed whereby each candidate featured is to include the total expenditure in each of their individual returns. As an example, if say 5 candidates were to agree to joint advertising with a total cost of $5,000, each of the candidates would be required to declare $5,000 in their individual expenditure returns, when in reality the actual cost to the candidate was only $1,000. Conversely the alternate view supporting total costs being declared in full on each candidates expenditure returns on the basis it would likely have equal benefits to each of the candidates included in the advertising material.
	Prevents third parties from incurring expenditure on behalf of a registered party to influence election outcomes (strengthens transparency and restricts indirect or unregulated campaign spending).	Supported

Part	Key Reform	**Glamorgan Spring Bay Council Response**
PART 16 – GIFTS AND DONATIONS	Extends gift and donation disclosure obligations to all candidates. Maintains the $50 threshold and introduces disclosure via the TEC website during the election period.	Supported – ensuring there is an accessible and easy to use disclosure system implemented by the TEC will be important.
	Prohibits indirect donations through intermediaries or third parties (ensuring all electoral donations are transparent and reported through candidates).	Supported

Local Government Amendment (Electoral Reforms) Bill 2025

Overview of key reforms by Part

Part	Key Reform	**Glamorgan Spring Bay Council Response**
5 – PECUNIARY INTERESTS	Expands the definition of a close associate to a councillor to include: • a person who has provided a gift or donation (as defined in the *Local Government Electoral Act 2025*); • a relative of the councillor or member who resides with that councillor or member on a regular basis.	Supported
	Establishes defence provisions for a councillor where they believe a pecuniary interest (where they receive or expect to receive a pecuniary benefit) is one held with a substantial proportion of electors in the municipality (meaning at least 5% or 1 000 electors, whichever is the lesser). This defence also applies to an application or request for approval, authorisation, licence, permit, exemption or other right, or beneficial interest in shares of a company or other body.	Supported

	Requires that the existing register of pecuniary interests kept by the general manager to be published on a council's website.	There are mixed views in relation to publishing the existing register of pecuniary interests kept by the general manager on the council website. Although some see this as providing a higher level of transparency, others believe that the current provision under the *Local Government Act 1993* (s.54(2)) whereby *'a person, by notice in writing to the general manager, may apply to inspect the register of interests'* is already sufficient.

Part	Key Reform	**Glamorgan Spring Bay Council Response**
5B – PERSONAL INTEREST RETURNS	This is an entirely new Part which requires a councillor to lodge a personal interest return (PIR) with the general manager, within 28 days after a certificate of election is issued.	The majority of councillors are opposed to the introduction of the Personal Interest Return (PIR) in its current form. A contrary view expressed was that the PIR would provide a greater level of transparency and public accountability. Although the PIR is similar to what is required to be completed annually by members of parliament, the role of councillor does not have the same level of remuneration and therefore being required to provide this level of personal information publicly, especially in relation to spouses could be considered an invasion of privacy. Although Council can see the merit in the General Manager having sufficient information available to assist councillors in managing any conflicts of interest, the current PIR as drafted is not

		considered appropriate at the local government level and may act as a deterrent to some people from seeking election.
	A PIR is to be made by Ministerial Order – and may specify a range of matters including: • the assets and classes of assets to be disclosed, including real property and financial interests; • the liabilities and classes of liabilities to be disclosed; • the associated persons and classes of persons whose interests are to be disclosed, including individuals, bodies corporate and trustees; • employment, offices and other sources of income to be disclosed; • gifts, donations or contributions to other entities, and the classes of such gifts, donations or contributions, to be disclosed; • memberships of associations, including trade or professional associations, political parties and other organisations to be disclosed; • thresholds for disclosure and time periods to which the disclosures relate; • management strategies to be documented by councillors for managing actual, potential or perceived pecuniary interests or non-pecuniary interests arising from the matters disclosed. As with all Orders pertaining to councils, the Minister must consult with councils before amending, revoking or substituting the PIR.	The PIR as currently drafted requires the full address details of land and real property. This is inconsistent with the requirements for Tasmanian parliamentarians who are only required to include 'suburb or locality and postcode'. The standard being required for councillors should not be any greater than State parliamentarians. Part D of the draft PIR requires the names, addresses and nature of debts to be disclosed. Listing this information on a publicly available form without the consent of the person/business being named needs to be considered further – does this raise any privacy issues? It is also noted that the HoA disclosure form only requires the name or entity and address (suburb and postcode if an individual, full head office address if a corporation). Noting the Minister is required to consult with councils prior to making a Ministerial Order, the council does not see the PIR as a priority at this stage and believes there should be further consultation with local government before this aspect of the proposed electoral changes are further considered.

	Note: a draft PIR has been released alongside the consultation draft legislation package.	
	The general manager must publish each personal interest return, and any revised personal interest return, on the council's official website as soon as practicable after it's lodgement.	A revised disclosure is preferred, one that is not publicly available on a councils website but can be inspected via application to the General Manager, similar to Part 5 – Pecuniary Interests provisions of the *Local Government Act 1993*.
	The general manager must not provide to a councillor any information, other than information included on a public agenda or otherwise available to members of the public, if it is reasonably apparent to the general manager, from a personal interest return or other information known to the general manager, that the councillor has a pecuniary interest in the matter. Likewise, a councillor must not seek to obtain any information on the above grounds.	Supported
	The council must retain each personal interest return, and each revised personal interest return, until 2 years after the expiration of the term of the council during which the return was lodged.	There should be further consultation with local government before this aspect of the proposed electoral changes are further considered.
	Offence provisions are included for providing false information, omitting known information, or refusal to lodge a PIR.	There should be further consultation with local government before this aspect of the proposed electoral changes are further considered.

Part	Key Reform	**Glamorgan Spring Bay Council Response**

PART 5C - Conduct of Council During Election Period	This Part introduces 'caretaker' provisions related to the conduct of councils during election periods. During an election period a council cannot make any decision defined as a 'prohibited decision'. This includes a decision:
	• that relates to the appointment, reappointment or the remuneration of a general manager, other than the appointment, reappointment or remuneration of an acting general manager
	• that relates to the termination of a general manager
	• to enter into a contract, arrangement or agreement the total value of which exceeds whichever is the greater of –
	  ○ $100 000; or
	  ○ 1% of the council's revenue from general and service rating and fees and charges in the preceding financial year
	• that would enable the use of council resources in a way that is intended to influence, or is likely to influence, voting at a council election.
	
	A council may, if they determine it is necessary and in the public interest for a prohibited decision to be made during an election period, make an application to the Minister for an exemption.
	
	Prohibited decisions do not apply to decisions or actions required by councils under statutory timeframes.
		Council supports the introduction of 'caretaker' provisions.
		
		Clarity should be provided that ensures the General Manager can continue to make delegated decisions relating to contracts, arrangements or agreements and that the caretaker provisions only apply to matters which are ordinarily referred to a council for formal decision.

	This Part also prohibits the use of any council resources or publication of information promoting or advantaging a particular candidate or group of candidates. It also prohibits councils from making resources available that advantage a candidate which are not equally available to all candidates. Information in relation to an election can only be published if it has been published by the Electoral Commission.	

Part	Key Reform	**Glamorgan Spring Bay Council Response**
PART 6 – PETITIONS, POLLS AND PUBLIC MEETINGS	The threshold for petitions requesting elector polls or public meetings has been raised to 20% of electors (from 5% or 1,000 electors, whichever is lesser).	Supported

Part	Key Reform	**Glamorgan Spring Bay Council Response**
GENERAL CHANGES	Electoral parts are repealed and replaced by the new standalone *Electoral Bill* – including: • Part 4 – Elections • Part 15 – Council elections.	Supported


Our water future
Price and Service Plan 5 Proposal
Water. It's Tasmania's thing.
TasWater



Since creation, the Palawa have lived here in Lutruwita – Tasmania. More than 2,000 generations of Aboriginal families have cared for this Country, looking after its lands, seas, skies and waterways.

In the spirit of respect and gratitude, TasWater acknowledges the Tasmanian Aboriginal community as the traditional and ongoing custodians. We pay our respects to them, their culture and to elders past and present.

TasWater commits to working collaboratively and respectfully with the Tasmanian Aboriginal community to protect and sustain the precious resources on this ancient land for future generations.

Image credit – Caleb Nichols-Mansell

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Our water future

Planning for the future is never easy, especially when it comes to something as fundamental as clean drinking water, reliable sewerage systems, and the protection of Tasmania's environment. TasWater's fifth Price and Service Plan (PSP5) Proposal addresses a reality we can no longer ignore.

For decades, Tasmania's water infrastructure has been underfunded, leaving us with outdated and overstretched systems.
Despite serving just two per cent of Australia's population, TasWater manages 38 per cent of the nation's treatment plants ran by major utilities - a legacy of fragmented planning before TasWater's formation.

We've made real progress. Boil-water alerts in 28 towns are now history, and water leakage rates have dropped from 29.2 to 24.5 per cent. But challenges remain; only nine per cent of sewage treatment plants meet all EPA licence conditions, and many of our water and sewer pipes still underperform.

Meeting these challenges requires investment, funded largely through customer bills.
That's why we worked with more than 3,500 Tasmanians to find a fair balance between price and service. Their priorities - affordability, reliability, environmental protection, and support for vulnerable households - shaped this proposal.

PSP5 focuses on sustainability, water security, and reliability. We're upgrading treatment plants, tightening environmental controls,
and renewing infrastructure to reduce service interruptions. We're also strengthening our TasWater Assist program, to support those doing it tough.

To give customers more control, we're shifting to a fairer pricing model, with a greater share of bills based on usage. While we've kept price increases below inflation for four years, we now propose an 8.8 per cent annual increase to fund critical upgrades and avoid higher costs in the future.

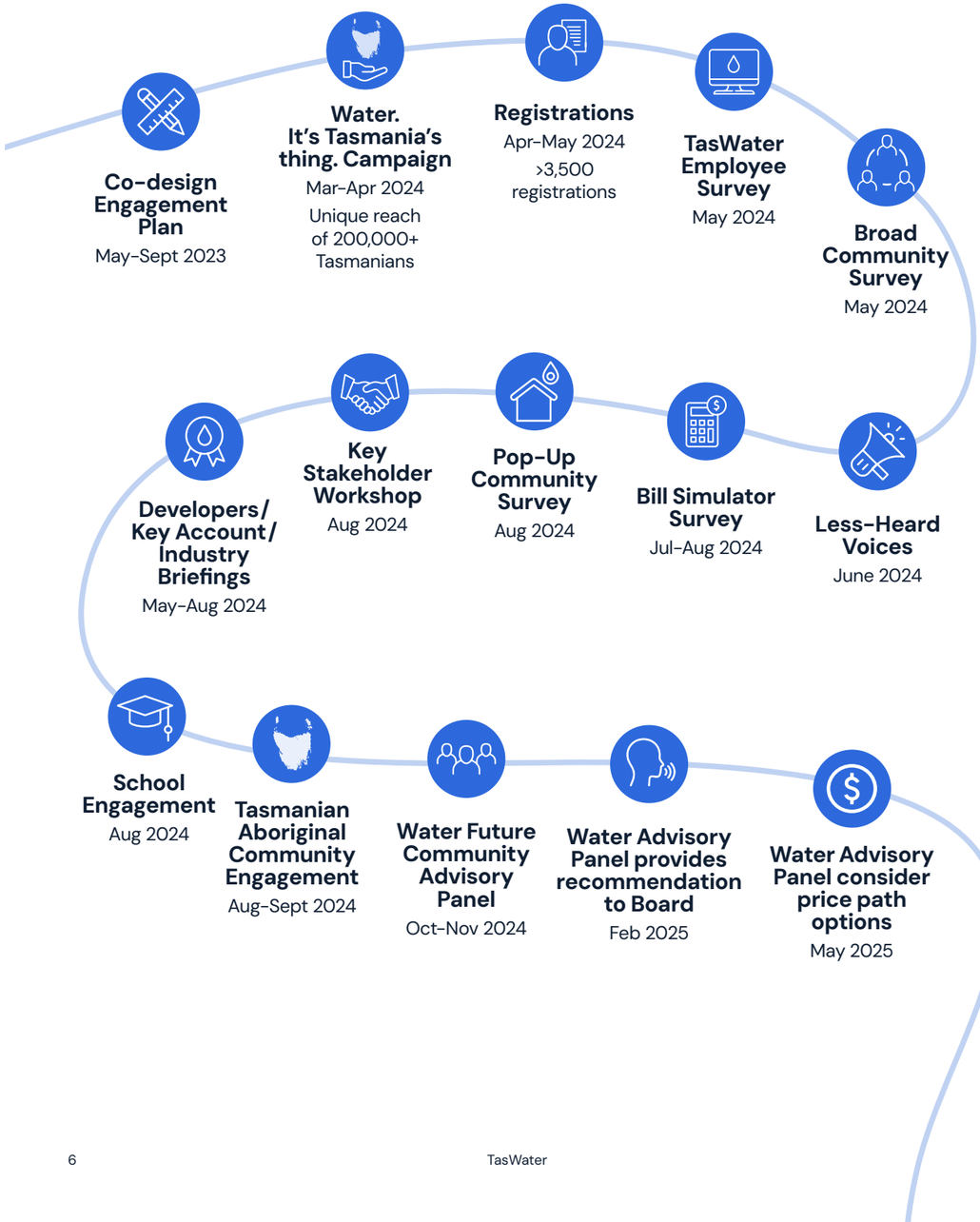
We believe this PSP5 Proposal, developed in collaboration with our customers, is in the long-term interests of the Tasmanian community. We have set new, clear, measurable customer outcomes to remain accountable. Striking this balance has not been easy, however one thing is clear, we cannot ask future Tasmanians to carry the cost of our inaction today.

We thank everyone who participated in our community engagement program to help develop this PSP5 Proposal and we encourage all Tasmanians to stay involved in this process with the Tasmanian Economic Regulator and in our future engagements.

Finally, this PSP5 Proposal isn't just about pipes and plants, it's about the kind of Tasmania we want to live in and leave behind for our children and grandchildren. One where clean water flows freely, where our waterways are healthy and clean, and where every Tasmanian, regardless of circumstance, can rely on a service that is fair, sustainable, and resilient.



Our Water Future



A proposal shaped by what matters to Tasmanians

Like any essential service provider, we plan to ensure our infrastructure can meet the needs of Tasmanians - now and into the future. Every four years, we submit a detailed plan to our independent regulator that sets out the prices we'll charge and the service levels we'll deliver. This is called our Price and Service Plan.

PSP5 will cover the period from 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2030. It's a critical opportunity to take stock of our current performance, respond to the challenges we're facing, and map out the investments needed to improve.

To shape PSP5, we asked for your help - and thousands of Tasmanians answered the call. This was the biggest community engagement we've ever done, reaching more than 200,000 people through advertising and involving more than 8,000 interactions with nearly 3,500 people in surveys, bill simulations and conversations about the future of water and sewerage services in our state.

Your feedback helped guide our thinking and shaped our plan. It all culminated in late 2024, when our Community Advisory Panel delivered its final report and recommendations - confirming the need for further investment and helping us set priorities that reflect what matters most to you.

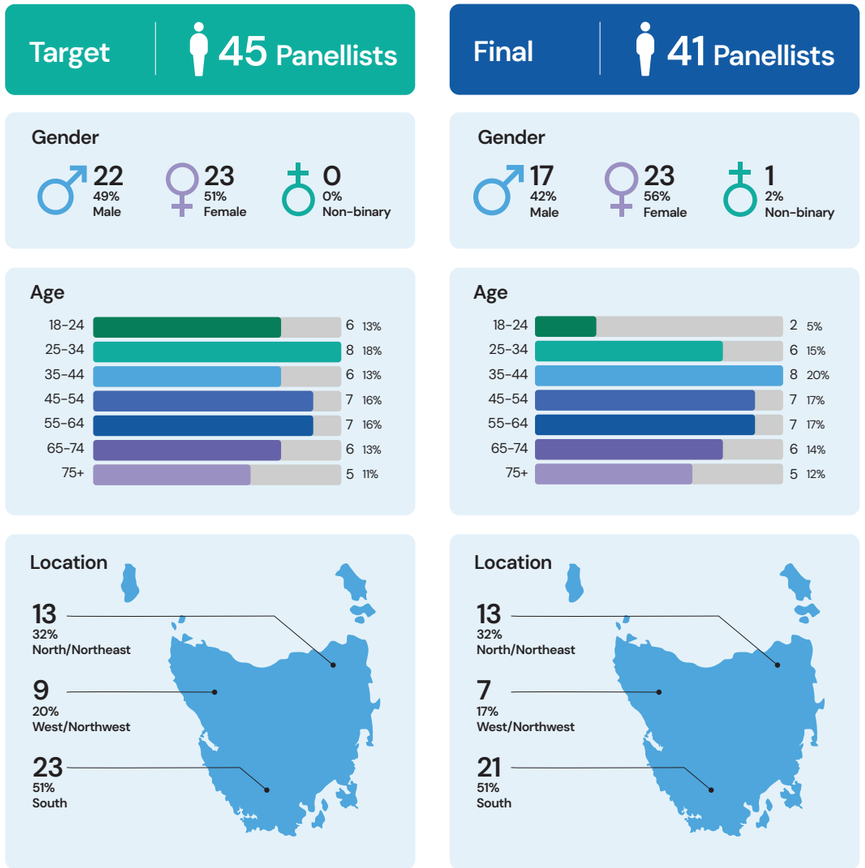
Customer testimonial

"I feel privileged to have been able to participate in such an important conversation regarding Tasmania's water future. Thank you for the opportunity to be involved. I have found the process really enlightening and enjoyed the collaborative approach that culminated in our report being presented to the TasWater Board on the final face-to-face day. I also enjoyed meeting and sharing perspectives with a diverse range of Tasmanians."

Community Advisory Panel member



About the Water Future Community Advisory Panel particpants



Meeting our challenges head-on

The water and sewerage industry – across the country and around the world – is facing some of its toughest challenges yet. Rising living costs are putting pressure on households, making affordability more important than ever.
At the same time, the need for investment is growing rapidly – driven by ageing infrastructure, population growth, climate change, and increasing regulatory and community expectations.

In Tasmania, these pressures are compounded by a legacy of underperforming assets and the need to modernise our systems. These are complex, long-term issues that can't be ignored – and PSP5 is our opportunity to start addressing them head-on.

Poorly performing assets

Our current reality is:

- We still lose around 24 per cent of the water we produce, down from nearly one-third in recent years.
- About 23 per cent of our 110 sewage treatment plants pose a high risk to the environment, and only nine per cent meet all environmental licence conditions.
- In 2023-24, we recorded more than 64 sewer main breaks and chokes per 100km – more than double the national median of 26.
- We also had more than 43 water main bursts per 100km, compared to the national median of 18.
- Only 48 per cent of customers are served by systems that meet our proposed water security standard.

Regulations have tightened and communities expect more

Understanding what our customers and communities care about is key to how we tackle the challenges ahead. It's also important that we meet the changing – and increasingly strict – requirements set by health, environmental, and dam safety regulators, who are there to protect the interests of the public. As the rules become tougher and expectations rise, we need to make sure our plans reflect what matters most to the people we serve.

Smart investment today means better services tomorrow

We're taking important steps to modernise Tasmania's sewerage systems, starting with major upgrades in key urban areas. These long-term improvements will allow us to streamline our infrastructure, reduce the number of ageing treatment plants, and deliver better environmental and public health outcomes.

They'll also help support population growth and development in our major regions.

We know these challenges are solvable with the right planning, funding, and focus. That's why we've developed a 50-year roadmap to guide our investments. For the next four years, we've prioritised the most critical projects - those that offer the greatest benefits for customers, the environment, and long-term cost savings. We've shown we can deliver large, complex infrastructure programs and are on track to exceed our long-term investment goals.

External factors are forcing prices higher

Like many Tasmanians, we're feeling the impact of rising costs and higher interest rates. These external pressures are making it more expensive to deliver essential water and sewerage services.

During the current pricing period (PSP4), we kept annual price increases to 3.5 per cent and even froze prices during the COVID years. But the cost of materials, labour, and services has risen much faster than that. We've absorbed these increases as much as possible, but it's no longer sustainable if we want to keep investing in the infrastructure Tasmania needs.

What we propose to deliver

We have developed a comprehensive set of ambitious, yet achievable, service standards to measure our performance across PSP5 as we strive to deliver these customer outcomes.

The achievement of these outcomes is reflected in our proposed capital and operating investment plans.

Achieving these PSP5 outcomes is an important step towards getting us on a sustainable footing for the future.

Through our proposal, we aim to deliver long-term value for the Tasmanian community and protect the environment for future generations.

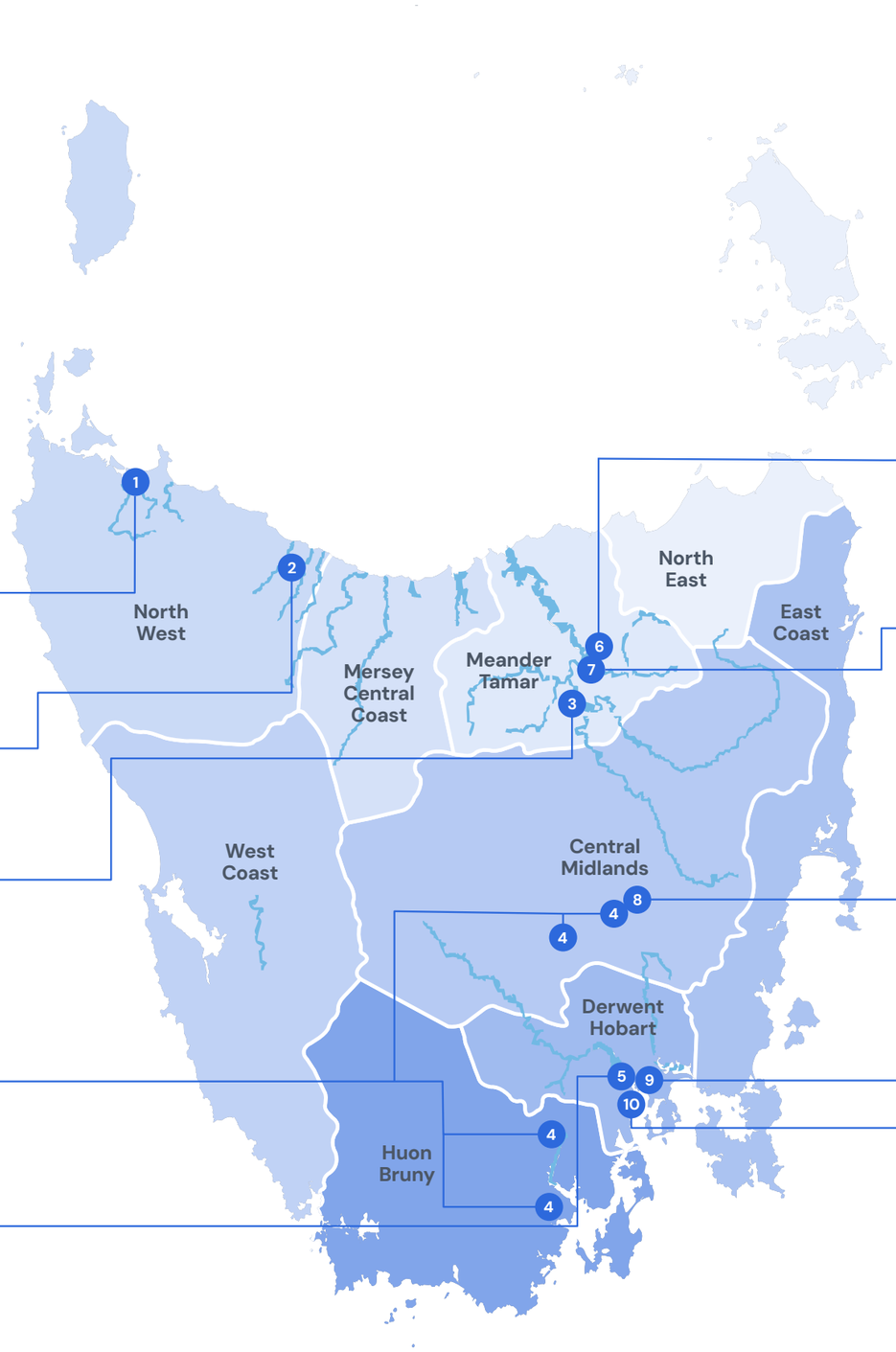
We propose to achieve this by:

1. Reducing water leakage
2. Securing our water future
3. Providing safe and reliable services
4. Protecting the environment and waterways
5. Providing better customer experience and support
6. Giving you more control over your bills

Major Projects

Over the four years of PSP5, we proposed to deliver a $1.7 billion capital program, which will help future-proof our infrastructure.

This map shows some of our major projects and how much is proposed to be spent on them in PSP5.



1. Smithton – STP recycled water scheme **$23.2M**
2. Burnie – Pet Dam Ridgley safety upgrade **$97.1M**
3. Hadspen and Carrick to Longford pipeline **$34.2M**
4. Regional Towns Stage 4 - upgrades in Bothwell, Oatlands, Franklin and Dover **$13.5M**
5. Selfs Point Sewer Transformation **$31.5M**
6. Launceston Sewer Transformation – Ti tree Bend Sewage Treatment Plant upgrade **$355.5M**
7. Launceston Sewer Transformation – Hoblers Bridge STP rationalisation **$24.8M**
8. Oatlands – Blackman River Dam upgrades **$22.6M**
9. Bowen Bridge to Risdon Brook bulk water main upgrade **$17.6M**
10. Hobart – Ridgeway Dam upgrade **$143.8M**

Price and Service Plan – Customer outcomes

TasWater is at a critical juncture. With ageing infrastructure, a changing climate, and rising customer expectations, our fifth Price and Service Plan (PSP5) sets out a clear path forward. PSP5 balances the need for significant investment as outlined below, with fair and sustainable pricing—ensuring we deliver reliable, high-quality water and sewerage services for all Tasmanians, now and into the future.

Outcome	Investment	Measure
Reducing water leakage	**$100.6M** In leak reduction **$45.1M** Water meter upgrades **$95.2M** Water main renewals **$87.4M** In electrical and SCADA upgrades	To help protect our Tasmanian resources, water lost through leaks will be halved — reduced from 24.5 per cent to 14.4 per cent or less.
Securing our water future	**$367.7M** To improve water security, including dam safety upgrades and water treatment plant improvements Continued water conservation campaigns	Fewer customers (three per cent or less) will be impacted by water restrictions. Through education and water literacy programs, the aim is to help you reduce your daily water use from 217 litres to 170 litres per person, contributing to a more sustainable water future.
Safe & reliable services	**$228.1M** In renewals for water/sewer networks, treatment plants, reservoirs, and pump stations Continued electrical, SCADA and meter upgrades	There will be fewer disruptions to services, with water main breaks reducing from 42.8 to 16 per 100km; sewer breaks and chokes from 63.9 to 20 per 100km by 2030. You can rely on safe and healthy water.
Protecting the environment & waterways	**$655.8M** To improve environmental performance and compliance	Our waterways will be cleaner, carbon emissions will be lower, and more water will be recycled. Major upgrades to sewage treatment facilities, including investment in Hobart and Launceston will consolidate smaller treatment plants into single state-of-the-art facilities, reducing environmental pollution by 50 per cent.
Better customer experience & support	**$3M** Self-service platform **$2.4M** Boost to TasWater Assist	You will have easier access to your account(s), payments, issue reporting, and service tracking via the online system. There will be more support for vulnerable customers in our community, through our TasWater Assist program.
More control over your bills	Increasing variable charges on your bill from **16 per cent** to **33 per cent**	If you use less, you'll pay less — thanks to an increase in variable charges from 16 per cent to 33 per cent. You will see a $176 annual reduction in your fixed costs.

Reducing water leakage

Our customers have made it clear: reducing water leakage is a top priority. Feedback from the Water Future Community Advisory Panel and our surveys shows strong support for proactive maintenance and long-term infrastructure upgrades. In fact, 78 per cent of Bill Simulator respondents said they'd be willing to pay more to fix leaks and faults faster. Customers told us ageing infrastructure is a major concern. They want us to tackle water waste now and not delay.

Reducing leakage is a key part of our strategy.
We have historically had the highest water loss rate in the country, with approximately 30 per cent of treated water going unaccounted for in recent years. These losses come from leaks, overflows, unauthorised use, and metering errors. While we've reduced this to 24.5 per cent, we know there's more to do.

What we'll invest in:

$100.6 M
Dedicated programs to reduce water leakage

$95.2 M
Renewing water mains - a **600% increase** from PSP4

$45.1 M
Upgrading and replacing water meters

$87.4 M
Renewing electrical systems and SCADA
(our monitoring and control technology)

What we'll do:

Reduce real water losses

- Replace old pipes and assets based on risk and priority
- Use technology to monitor the network and find hidden leaks
- Manage water pressure to reduce strain on the system

Reduce apparent water losses

- Prevent water theft
- Replace and maintain water meters
- Test and use new metering technology

Use water more efficiently in operations

- Improve how we use water in treatment and day-to-day operations
- Install new technology to reduce water use during operations

Build a smart, sustainable water network

- Create a system that constantly monitors for leaks, pressure changes, and faults
- Automatically trigger repairs, maintenance, or upgrades when issues are found

Securing our water future

Our customers have told us that securing a reliable water supply is a top priority. We're responding with targeted investments to protect long-term access to safe, sustainable water across Tasmania.

We'll invest **$367.7 million** in PSP5, including major dam upgrades and treatment plant improvements to improve water security outcomes across the state. Our goal is to reduce the number of customers affected by water restrictions **from 16.5 per cent to less than 3 per cent by 2030**.

In addition, safe drinking water remains one of the most important services we provide — and our customers consistently tell us it's a top priority. We've achieved 100 per cent microbiological compliance for the past six years, and we're committed to maintaining this strong performance.

We will invest **$65.1 million** in PSP5 to maintain and improve drinking water safety. This includes treatment plant upgrades and new water treatment barriers.

We will also help customers use water more efficiently, it is essential for long-term sustainability. By reducing demand, we can delay costly system upgrades, protect our water sources, and respond to the challenges of a changing climate. Our Water Future Community Advisory Panel strongly supported this, recommending more education, incentives, and support to help customers save water.

We're aiming to reduce average residential water use from **217 litres to 170 litres per person per day by 2030.**

What we'll invest in:

$143.8 M
Upgrading the Ridgeway Dam

$97.1 M
Upgrading the Pet Dam

$22.6 M
Upgrading the Blackman River Dams

$10 M
Improving water treatment barriers for St Marys

$9.8 M
Improving water treatment barriers for Kunyani/ Mt Wellington catchments

$7.9 M
Upgrading the Adventure Bay Water Treatment Plant

$6 M
Upgrading the Bridport Water Treatment Plant

$1.6 M
Upgrading the Campbell Town Water Treatment Plant

$1.3 M
Upgrading the Roseberry Water Treatment Plant

$400 k
Water saving devices

$13.5 M
Regional Towns Stage 4 Program (Upgrades to the Bothwell, Tullah, Oatlands, Yolla, Ellendale and Dover water treatment plants.

What we'll do:

Upgrade our infrastructure

- Upgrade high-risk dams at Ridgeway, Pet, and Blackman River
- Improve treatment plants at Lake Fenton, Adventure Bay, Bridport, Mathinna, and Tunbridge
- Strengthen system connections, including the Waverley Pump Station and Mt Leslie to Upper Brougham pipeline
- Secure future water licences and allocations
- Investigate new supply options for Orford, Triabunna, and Lady Barron
- Progress planning for the North-West Water Supply Strategy

Water Conservation

- Continue investing in water conservation campaigns and education programs
- Help customers monitor and manage their water use to lower bills
- Provide subsidised water-efficient products and water audits for vulnerable customers
- Promote recycled water as a sustainable alternative for non-drinking uses
- Work with state and local governments to design and deliver water-saving programs

Providing safe and reliable services

Customers have told us that unplanned water outages and sewer overflows are frustrating and disruptive. These issues are more common in Tasmania than in most other states, and we know we need to do better.

We will invest **$228.1 million** in PSP5 to improve the reliability of water and sewerage services across Tasmania. This includes major upgrades to pipes, treatment plants, and supporting infrastructure. By 2030, we aim to reduce water main breaks from **42.8 to 16 per 100km**, sewer main breaks from **63.9 to 20 per 100km**, and limit repeat interruptions to **less than 0.5 per cent of customers**.

We know customers also expect fast, reliable responses when services are disrupted. While we're close to meeting our targets for unplanned water outages and sewage spills, we know there's room to improve - especially for planned water outages, where only 62 per cent are restored within five hours.

By 2030, we aim to meet or exceed **92 per cent** of our response and rectification targets across water and sewerage services, ensuring faster, more consistent service restoration.

What we'll invest in:

$95.2 M
Renewing water mains

$14.6 M
Renewing water treatment plants

$12.1 M
Renewing water reservoirs

$30.1 M
Renewing sewer mains

$25.5 M
Renewing sewage treatment plants

$14.5 M
Renewing sewage pump stations

What we'll do:

Renew our infrastructure

- Invest in targeted upgrades to ageing water and sewer pipes
- Use smarter monitoring to detect and fix issues before they become major problems
- Focus on areas with the highest rates of complaints and failures
- Invest in technology to support faster, data-driven decision-making

Improve our response time

- Standardise and streamline operational processes
- Improve performance tracking, accountability, and escalation procedures
- Enhance data reporting and use activity-based costing to improve efficiency
- Focus on 'nailing the basics' through a dedicated operational improvement program
- Improve response times and reduce repeat service interruptions
- Continue listening to customer feedback to guide service improvements

Protecting the environment and waterways

Improving environmental outcomes is a key focus of PSP5. Our customers have told us they value clean waterways and healthy ecosystems; "protecting and enhancing waterways and catchments" was their third highest priority in our broad survey. Our Water Future Community Advisory Panel also recommended we take stronger action to protect the environment.

We're starting a long-term program to upgrade sewage treatment and reduce pollution, investing **$655.8 million** in PSP5 to improve environmental outcomes and meet compliance obligations. While this work will take several pricing periods, starting now is essential to avoid growing environmental risks and passing the burden to future generations.

What we'll invest in:

$31.5 M
Delivering the final year of the Selfs Point Sewer Transformation

$355.5 M
Upgrading the Ti Tree Bend Sewage Treatment Plant, an essential project for the Launceston Sewer Transformation

$24.8 M
Rationalising the Hoblers Bridge Sewage Treatment Plant

$20.7 M
Rationalising the Prospect Vale Sewage Treatment Plant

$16.6 M
Increasing capacity at the Cambridge Sewage Treatment Plant

$23.2 M
Expansion of the Smithton Recycled Water Scheme

$14.8 M
Upgrading the Scottsdale Sewage Treatment Plant

$25.5 M
Upgrading sewage treatment plants across the state

What we'll do:

Upgrade our infrastructure and improve efficiency

- Upgrade or rationalise sewage treatment plants with high-risk discharges
- Complete the Selfs Point Transformation Project and begin the Launceston Sewer Transformation projects
- Reduce the number of treatment plants in larger population centres to improve efficiency
- Address nine high-risk sewage treatment plants in PSP5 and begin work on six more in PSP6
- Focus on reducing nitrogen and phosphorous discharges and increasing beneficial reuse of treated water

Provide better customer experience and support

Our customers have told us that being easy to deal with is a top priority. While our customer satisfaction scores are strong, we know expectations are changing — especially around digital services and faster, more convenient support.

Using our existing operating budget, supported by a **$3 million** investment for a self-service platform, we aim to lift overall customer satisfaction from **72 per cent to 80 per cent**, reduce complaints, and improve response times across all key service channels.

Supporting vulnerable customers is a core part of our role. We understand that price increases can have a greater impact on those experiencing hardship and, while broader social supports exist, TasWater has a responsibility to help where we can.

Our Water Future Community Advisory Panel reinforced this, recommending we raise awareness of the TasWater Assist program and ensure it provides flexible payment options - especially as we shift more of the bill to usage-based charges. We're committed to strengthening this support.

What we'll invest in:

$3 M
To deliver a self-service platform

$2.4 M
Additional funding, to strengthen our TasWater Assist program

What we'll do:

Support our customers

- Launch a new customer self-service platform before the start of PSP5, allowing customers to manage accounts, make payments, report issues, and track requests online
- Improve transparency, reduce effort, and increase convenience for customers
- Continue refining our customer service systems and processes to improve response and resolution times
- Focus on key customer moments, including first contact resolution and timely complaint handling
- Boost support through TasWater Assist through tailored case management, account reviews, financial health checks, water efficiency support and support for customers experiencing family violence.
- Awareness campaign to ensure our customers know that support is available

More control over your bills

TasWater has the highest proportion of fixed charges in the country, meaning most of the bill doesn't change based on how much water is used. This makes it harder for customers to control their bills by using less water.

To address this, we're shifting to a more usage-based model. By 2030, we aim to increase the variable portion of the average residential bill from 16 per cent to 33 per cent, giving customers more control and encouraging water-saving behaviour.

What we'll do:

Reduce our fixed charges

- Reduce fixed charges and increase the variable water charge
- Introduce a variable sewerage charge, in line with the Tasmanian Economic Regulator's 2024 review
- Deliver a customer education program to explain the changes and support customers, especially those with higher water use
- Fund this transition within our existing PSP4 operating budget



Our proposed prices:

We've heard from our customers that they want more control over their water and sewerage bills. Right now, 84 per cent of the average residential bill is made up of fixed charges - the highest proportion of any major water provider in Australia. That means customers have very little ability to influence their bills through how much water they use.

In response, our PSP5 Proposal introduces a fairer balance between fixed and usage-based charges.

For the average residential customer, this means shifting to 67 per cent fixed and 33 per cent variable charges.

This is a significant step forward in making water and sewerage pricing in Tasmania more responsive and equitable.

Tariff	FY26	FY27	FY28	FY29	FY30
Regulated water and sewerage price increase including inflation	--	8.8 per cent	8.8 per cent	8.8 per cent	8.8 per cent
Average annual residential water and sewerage bill	$1,407.33	$1,497.64	$1,629.43	$1,772.82	$1,928.83

	FY26	FY27	FY28	FY29	FY30
Fixed water charge					
20mm	$407.33	$345.73	$376.15	$409.25	$445.27
40mm	$1,629.32	$1,382.91	$1,504.60	$1,637.01	$1,781.06
200mm	$40,732.89	$34,572.64	$37,615.04	$40,925.16	$44,526.57
Fixed sewerage charge					
Minimum charge	$781.69	$667.54	$726.28	$790.19	$859.73
Variable water charge					
Full service ($/kL)	$1.26	$1.81	$1.97	$2.14	$2.33
Variable sewerage charge					
Full service ($/kL)	$0.00	$1.81	$1.97	$2.14	$2.33
Residential sewerage discharge cap (kL)					
kL	0	240	240	240	240

*Most common pipe connections listed. For the complete list of fixed water charges, visit https://www.taswater.com.au/accounts-and-billing/fees-and-charges/water-and-sewerage-charges

Pathway to pricing

30 June 2025: TasWater submits its PSP5 Proposal to TER

Our PSP5 Proposal was formally submitted to the Tasmanian Economic Regulator on 30 June 2025. The proposal outlines our intended pricing structures, service standards, and investment plans for the four years from 1 July 2026.

July – December 2025: TER Investigation and consults on TasWater's PSP5 Proposal

Between July and December, the TER will undertake a comprehensive investigation and consultation process to assess the PSP5 Proposal. This phase includes detailed analysis of TasWater's financial and operational assumptions, as well as public consultation with customers, industry groups, and government bodies. The goal is to ensure the proposal aligns with regulatory requirements and delivers fair, efficient, and sustainable outcomes for Tasmanians.

February 2026: TER Draft Report and Draft Determination

In February 2026, the TER will release its Draft Report and Draft Determination, presenting its preliminary findings and proposed decisions regarding TasWater's PSP5. This document will outline the regulator's assessment of TasWater's proposed prices and service levels, including any recommended adjustments. Stakeholders will have the opportunity to review and comment on the draft, contributing to a transparent regulatory process.

30 April 2026 – TER Final Report and Final Determination

By 30 April 2026, the TER will publish its Final Report and Final Determination, concluding the regulatory review of PSP5. This final decision will set the approved pricing, service standards, and investment parameters for TasWater over the next regulatory period. The determination ensures that TasWater operates within a framework that balances affordability, service quality, and long-term sustainability for the benefit of all Tasmanians.

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TasWater

Office of the Chief Owners' Representative

28 November 2025

Dear Cheryl,

Letter of support – TasWater's Price and Service Plan 5

I am heartened that many councils have either provided letters of support for TasWater's Price and Service Plan 5 (PSP5) or are currently considering the matter with their councillors to determine the best way forward for their communities. I recognise the time and care that goes into these deliberations and appreciate the willingness to consider being an advocate for a better Tasmania.

With the Tasmanian Economic Regulator scheduled to release its draft determination on PSP5 in February 2026, now is a critical time for councils to affirm their support. Letters provided during this period of assessment will have the greatest impact as the Regulator forms its view ahead of publishing the draft determination.

As individual councils, we each want to ensure that the water and sewerage infrastructure needed to support growth, liveability and regional development is in place. At the same time, as TasWater's owners, we share a responsibility to recognise the company's statewide mandate and ensure it is able to deliver consistent, reliable services for all Tasmanians.

PSP5 sets out the program required to meet these needs over the coming years. TasWater's proposal includes tariff reform to make bills more reflective of use, significant investment in community infrastructure, and firm commitments to capital and operating efficiencies. Together, these measures aim to improve service reliability and safety, reduce environmental harm, and strengthen long-term affordability and sustainability. Your council's support for PSP5 will help deliver lasting benefits for the communities we all serve.

Letters can be directed to the Tasmanian Economic Regulator at office@economicregulator.tas.gov.au and I would appreciate it if you could also copy TasWater's Company Secretary, Kate Crawford, at kate.crawford@taswater.com.au.

Thank you once again for your ongoing partnership and for your commitment to achieving the best outcomes for Tasmanians.

Regards,

Mayor Wayne Johnston

Chief Owners' Representative

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