



GLAMORGAN
SPRING BAY
COUNCIL

4 June 2020

Message from the Mayor

I can assure the community that Glamorgan Spring Bay Council has thought long and hard about what it must do to meet its statutory obligations and the needs of ratepayers and residents in the current challenging times.

Council's decision to divest itself of the three Visitor Information Centres by 31 October 2020 was not taken lightly and was difficult for everyone, particularly the dedicated staff. The decision on the Visitor Information Centres will save Council around \$360,000 annually.

There is no argument that tourism is especially important to the State and to the East Coast region, and that the sector is doing it tough. However, it needs to be acknowledged that all sectors of the Tasmanian community are struggling at the moment. Government, councils, businesses, sporting organisations and charities, as well as many families and individuals, are all facing extraordinary financial pressures as a result of COVID-19.

The impact of the virus has seen a reduction in Council income which includes a general rate freeze for the next financial year. This leaves Council with less money to deliver its services resulting in an inability to continue doing everything we have been doing to date.

Hard decisions have had to be made to ensure Council's long-term financial sustainability and that statutory obligations are met.

Council's focus must be on delivering core services such as maintaining roads and pavements, providing an adequate waste management service and upgrading stormwater infrastructure.

We are not abandoning the tourism industry; far from it. We are, like many others, responding to a challenging situation. We remain committed to working with industry and the Government to ensure tourism is supported and promoted as visitors make a welcome return to the region over the coming months.

Yours sincerely

**Councillor Debbie Wisby
Mayor**