

SeaSpeak

GLAMORGAN SPRING BAY COUNCIL NEWS
SPRING 2023



Mayoral Message

Welcome to the Spring edition of SeaSpeak,

The last couple of months have been significant in the ongoing journey for Glamorgan Spring Bay Council.

In June Council unanimously passed its 2023/24 budget and rates resolution. This was a noteworthy achievement given a period of economic turmoil including the Hobart Consumer Price Index (CPI) running at 6.9%. This CPI was more than double the financial forecasts of 12 months ago. Council also had to accommodate substantial increases to waste management costs, outside of its control and in the order of \$750k.

Despite these substantial costs pressures Council was able to keep rates revenue at a level that was lower than was forecast in the Long-Term Financial Management Plan (LTFMP). Holding the budget to plan and achieving a better than expected outcome has been the result of continuous and

prudent assessment for value, cutting of waste and review of all available income options. The LTFMP continues to provide focus for Council to be sustainable for future generations.

The 2023/24 capital works budget is \$7.3million including \$4.9million for grant funded projects. Key priorities of the capital program are the continued renewal of unsealed and sealed roads. This is in line with the community budget survey feedback that highlighted the importance of roads to the ratepayers and road users of our municipality.

In July Council announced cohealth as the preferred tenderer to operate its medical practices in Triabunna and Bicheno. A leading not for profit community health agency cohealth has well-respected expertise in managing medical practices. The Council decision is a significant step forward for our community particularly given the historical trials and tribulations of Council managing health care practices. The future looks bright for the provision of health care in our community and we are delighted to welcome cohealth to the area.

At the time of writing the Premier had announced that there would be no forced amalgamations as part of the current local government reform process. Notwithstanding this announcement, Glamorgan Spring Bay Council remains committed to reform where it serves the residents and ratepayers of our municipality well. Council remains open to discussion with all stakeholders as we continue the reform journey together.

Cheryl Arnol
Mayor



L-R Carlo Demaio, Nicole Bartholomeusz (co-health, Chief Executive), Glamorgan Spring Bay Council Mayor Cheryl Arnol, Ashley Nind, Elysse Blain (Glamorgan Spring Bay Council, Director of Corporate & Community), Christopher Turner (co-health, Deputy Chief Executive).



The Joy of Volunteering

A committed group of residents from Friends of Triabunna Reserves undertaking volunteering work on Pelican Walk in Triabunna. It is great to have people positively contributing to the wellbeing of other individuals, our environment, and the wider community generally.

The Pelican Walk work was an undertaking to enhance the natural vegetation along the waterfront location. Foreshore vegetation helps to stabilise the river bank against erosion and also provides habitat for various bird and animal species that can be easily observed on the walk.

Glamorgan Spring Bay Council remains committed to working with community groups on mutual objectives and projects.

Tasmanians are particularly well known for volunteering their time with past research showing that Tasmania leads Australia in rates of participation. Our community is no exception. If you are interested in volunteering please visit <https://volunteeringtas.org.au/>





From the General Manager

Dear residents and ratepayers,
Spring has sprung and I reflect on a very important and consequential period since the winter SeaSpeak edition.

Councils endorsement of a preferred tender, cohealth Ltd, for the provision of primary health care services in our municipality is a significant step forward for us and potentially ground breaking for Tasmania. The Mayor has covered more of this good news story in her message but I would like to take the opportunity to thank all stakeholders, in particular the Council staff who have enabled us to get to this position. Their efforts cannot be underestimated.

The unanimous endorsement and adoption of the 2023/24 budget estimates and rates resolution in June was also significant. For the first time in many years Council will be funding its asset renewal at 100%. The budget responds to the Asset Management Plan reviews that have taken place over the last year, asset revaluations as required by the Tasmanian Audit Office and external market forces. The 2023/24 budget includes an increase of \$0.9million from last year. This investment to the 100% measure will see significant reduction in deterioration of asset condition in the coming year.

The \$7.3million capital works component of the budget includes major projects in Bicheno and Coles Bay. In addition, there is a focus on the unsealed and sealed road network renewal, Councils biggest asset in terms of value, and the most important asset as indicated by residents in the Community Budget Survey.

In adopting the Budget Council is addressing budget deficits leading to depleted cash reserves and lack of investment into asset maintenance which as history has shown, leads to a loss of financial sustainability and recoverability.

An impressive response to the aforementioned Community Budget Survey assisted Council in its budget deliberations. (See Winter SeaSpeak or Council website for survey info)

In breaking news the State Government has announced

that it will shortly be commencing development of a new legislated pathway to allow some planning decisions to be made by an independent Development Assessment Panel established by the Tasmanian Planning Commission, rather than those decisions being made by Councils as planning authorities.

The initiative is about providing a second decision making option, where the 'politics are removed from planning', and is intended to assist with meeting Tasmanias affordable housing needs by reducing unnecessary delays. The Government states that it will consult widely with Councils and the Local Government sector more broadly, to identify the types and scale of projects, and provide clarity on the circumstances where applications can be referred to the independent assessment panel.

The Government intends that draft legislation will be out for consultation towards the end of this year for introduction to Parliament in early 2024.

Greg Ingham
General Manager

COUNCIL MEETINGS

Upcoming Council Meeting Dates

Ordinary meetings of Council are held at the Triabunna Council Offices typically on the fourth Tuesday of each month commencing at 2pm. Meetings are live streamed on Council's YouTube channel and members of the public are invited to register to attend the Council Meeting in person.

Upcoming Dates:

- Tuesday 26 September
- Tuesday 24 October
- Tuesday 28 November
- Tuesday 12 December



Scan this QR
Code for Council's
YouTube Channel.

Do you know a local hero?

Australia Day Award Nominations

The Glamorgan Spring Bay Council are honoured to be running the Australia Day Awards.

Nominations for the 2023 Australia Day Awards are now open!

The Awards recognise the achievements, significant contributions, reflect values and recognise individuals that have made a noteworthy contribution during the current year, and/or give an outstanding service over several years, above normal employment duties. The categories this year are:

- Citizen of the Year (all Ages)
- Senior Citizen of the Year (ages 65+)

- Young Citizen of the Year (ages <30)
- Community Volunteer of the Year
- Emergency Services Volunteer of the Year

Nomination forms are available at the Council Chambers in Triabunna or on the Council website and are accepted until close of business 20 November 2023.

For further information about nominations or to nominate someone, please refer to the Council website or telephone Council on 6256 4777.

<https://gsbc.tas.gov.au/community-projects/australia-day-awards>



Orford Foreshore Master Plan

Parks and Wildlife have finally endorsed the Orford Foreshore Master Plan. This is great news for our community and for the environment.

The foreshore has significant conservation values with the mouth of the Prosser River being a very important foraging and nesting area for seabirds and shorebirds. The foreshore is also an important recreational area and Glamorgan Spring Bay Council has recognised the need to balance recreation and conservation in developing the Master Plan.

The Plan will assist land managers and the community to:

- better understand, conserve and manage natural and cultural values;
- improve community and visitor experience;
- improve the provision of appropriate recreational facilities and;
- enhance community connectivity between the Orford foreshore and the town centre






The Orford Foreshore Master Plan can be viewed on Councils website at <https://gsbc.tas.gov.au/community-projects/major-projects/> or you can scan the QR code.



Rates Instalments

Mark your calendars! Your annual rates are payable in 4 instalments. Don't miss the remaining upcoming deadlines on, November 30th, February 29th, and April 30th. Stay on top of your payments and avoid any late fees.

eNotices GO TO GSBC.ENOTICES.COM.AU		SEE FRONT OF NOTICE FOR YOUR ENOTICE REFERENCE NUMBER
 Schedule a payment Schedule a date between today and the due date to pay your notice. Use a Visa, Mastercard, or EFT from your bank account and go to gsbc.enotices.com.au	 Rates notice reprints Charges may apply for re-issuing of notices for previous financial years, please keep your notices for your records. To view and download your rates notice from 2019/20 onwards free of charge, sign up for eNotices at gsbc.enotices.com.au	
 Postal address change You can request a change of address online at gsbc.tas.gov.au , by emailing admin@freycinet.tas.gov.au or by mailing Glamorgan Spring Bay Council, PO BOX 6 Triabunna.		

Works and Infrastructure Update

Road works

In response to both community identified priorities and asset management plan identified risks and priorities, additional funds have been made available in this year's budget to fully fund asset renewal. That means after many years of asset decline, the level of funding is now sufficient to hold asset condition as is, with no further decline in the overall level of asset condition and service.

The reseal and pavement renewal program has sufficient funds to make a substantial difference to the worst roads in the municipality. This year that will include Sally Peak Road which has reached the top of the list for worst condition. Renewal will include resetting of culverts, box out of the worst pavement deviations and pavement rehabilitation and resealing.

Other selected roads in Bicheno, Coles Bay and Orford are in the program this year. These works generally commence in January and run through to the end of April.

Footpath and Kerb renewal

With the changes made in this year's budget, funds have been made available to dedicate to footpath renewal, which frequently requires kerb replacement as well to make kerb ramps disability compliant. No funding had been provided for these key asset classes in recent years. Staff are putting together



a program to renew existing footpaths at present with \$300,000 in footpath and kerbs to be renewed this financial year. Priority will be given to defective footpaths in high pedestrian traffic areas and includes pedestrian ramps.

Stormwater infrastructure renewal

Funds have been allocated to continue with Council pipe and pit program and for renewal works. This allocation enables officers to complete projects which have been unfinished for many years and generally improve the existing pipe and pit network.

Recent works include Sand River Road where a corner has been widened in response to a collapse of the outside corner of the road above a steep bank. Co-funding from the Defence Force has enabled this work to be conducted.

Works continue on Wielangta Road to stabilise the inside corner which collapsed in late 2021



during storm conditions. The contractor was required to establish a solid base, remove all loose soil and rock and backfill with suitable quarry materials. This work is co-funded from the State Governments Natural Disaster Relief to Local Government Policy.

Swansea main street works are progressing well with final elements underway and practical completion likely in August.



Customer Requests

Customer requests are a valuable source of information for Council's service provision. Requests filled in online and those taken by phone provide statistics for us to track on where the most common issues in service provision of failure are occurring. We encourage residents to log their infrastructure concerns through this system.

Do you have a problem near you?

Let Council know by filling out a Works Request. Please scan the QR code to submit a Works Request to notify Council of the following:

- Missed kerbside collection
- Footpath and walking track maintenance
- Stormwater
- Trees
- Signage
- Public amenities
- Road maintenance (on Council roads only)



Change to mowing of nature strips



The Glamorgan Spring Bay Council will stop regular mowing of nature strips adjacent to private properties, commercial properties or properties owned by government authorities, except in key strategic locations and areas, or where the service is provided under any assistance program, from the end of July 2023. The considerable savings from this program will be directed back into road and footpath renewal programs within the community. These areas were highlighted in the recent survey undertaken by ratepayers as a priority.

Many residents were already mowing nature strips in between Council mowing programs. All residents may now undertake the maintenance of their nature strips, other than trees. There is a level of risk with mowing nature strips as a property owner's home insurance may not cover the public liability risks in the event of an incident and Council's insurance may also not cover the incident. Thrown stones are the most likely incident to occur. Residents may like to consult their insurer about their cover.

Council will continue to mow nature strips when they become a hazard and for fire abatement if left untended.

Where a resident is unable to maintain their nature strip due to age, disability, or illness, or need help maintaining their nature strip, they may be eligible for assistance.

People who need assistance may be covered through My Aged Care, National Disability Insurance Scheme, and other aged care providers under help at home services.

Collection of nature strip clippings is not recommended as Council practice has been to leave the clippings in place. This accords with current recommended horticultural practice for a healthy lawn.

Bin springs available

What bin springs do:

- Reduce spills from your bin and helps stop loose rubbish
- Protects bin from wind, smells, birds and animals
- Protects your bins from damage if knocked over
- Resistance to UV rays and extreme temperatures



Bin Springs are available from the Triabunna Council Office for \$15 each.



Glamorgan Spring Bay Council Compliance Officers will be undertaking a Municipal Dog Registration Audit between the months of September and November to encourage responsible pet ownership and help build a safer, happier community. Any dogs found to be unregistered will result in an infringement of one (1) penalty unit per offence (\$195.00) being issued, in accordance with s.8(1) of the *Dog Control Act 2000*.

Under the *Dog Control Act 2000*, all dogs aged six (6) months and over are required to be registered and microchipped by 30 June each year (this includes working dogs).

Be a responsible pet owner by registering your dog with Council and ensure that the tag provided is always worn. Registering your dog increases the likelihood of your pet returning should it become lost. A pension concession is available for one (1) dog, once the concession card has been sighted and validated by a Council Officer. If in the unfortunate situation that your dog is deceased or is no longer at your premises, you are obligated to notify the Council. Once notified, Officers will cancel the registration and you will not receive any further registration reminders.

Kennel Licensing

Council's Compliance Officers are currently undertaking a Kennel Licence audit.

If you have more than two (2) domestic dogs, or more than four (4) working dogs aged six months and over residing at your premises, you are required to hold a Kennel Licence in accordance with s.50 of the *Dog Control Act 2000*.

Further information and a kennel licence application is available on Council's website or alternatively you can phone the Council Office on 6256 4777.

Vietnam Veterans' Day – Remembering their Service

On the 18 August 2023, the anniversary of the battle of Long Tan, we remember one of the largest battles fought by Australians in the Vietnam War. On that day, outnumbered by at least 10 to one, Australian Soldiers withstood a massed Viet Cong (an abbreviation of Vietnamese Communist) attack and suffered the heaviest Australian casualties in any single engagement in Vietnam.

Only three months earlier, the soldiers of the 6th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (6RAR) arrived in South Vietnam and the Australian operational base of Nui Dat.

In the days before the battle, patrols had found no sign of enemy activity despite radio signals indicating the presence of strong Viet Cong forces within five kilometres of the base. On the day before 17 August 1966, the base had come under fire.

In response to that attack, the 6th Battalion, the Royal Australian Regiment (6RAR) was directed to find the Viet Cong's firing positions. At midday on 18 August D Company followed parallel cart tracks leading away from the firing positions into a rubber plantation towards the abandoned village of Long Tan.

It may have been just a routine patrol, with some disappointed they were going to miss a much-anticipated concert by Australian celebrities Little Pattie and Col Joye. The performers had arrived by helicopter as D company left the Task Force area, and the men could hear the band setting up as they moved away from the base.

When they entered the Long Tan rubber plantation, they had no idea that less than an hour later they would be fighting for their lives. The infantry company of 108 men would be all but cut off and almost surrounded.

As D Company moved through the rubber plantation (with two platoons up and one platoon moving behind), 11 Platoon on the right ran into a small group of Viet Cong. After a short exchange, the enemy fled eastwards with 11 Platoon in pursuit.

Just after 4.00 pm, 11 Platoon was forced to ground after coming under heavy fire. The 10 Platoon was ordered to move to 11 Platoon's help; however, the 10 Platoon was also stopped by intense fire.

With the two Platoons cut off and as rain and mist blanketed the plantation, the 108 men from 'D' Company fought for their lives against a force estimated to be up to 2,500 men.

Australia's casualties were 18 killed and 24 wounded. Although that number exceeded any other single day loss in the Vietnam War, the number could have been much higher given the disparity in troop numbers between the two sides.



Long Tan cross ceremonies with D Company, 6th Battalion, and The Royal Australian Regiment – New Zealand (Anzac).



The battle of Long Tan has never been forgotten. On the third anniversary of the battle, 6RAR – renamed 6RAR/NZ (ANZAC), with the addition of two New Zealand rifle companies, returned to the battle site to commemorate the losses in the Long Tan action and erect a cross in memory of those who died.

On Vietnam Veterans' Day 18 August 2023 there will be a nationally broadcast commemorative service to mark the 50th anniversary of the end of Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War. More locally, the Swansea RSL, East Coast Heritage Museum and War Memorial invites Veterans to help place a Long Tan cross within the War Memorial gardens in Swansea. For more details contact the East Coast Heritage Museum and War Memorial on (03) 6256 5066.

EAST COAST
Heritage Museum
& Visitor Centre

Cnr Franklin & Noyes Streets Swansea

Reclink

The Triabunna School Reclink team has resumed its participation in the rural schools football competition at Campania. The Triabunna Roos have demonstrated excellent performance and improvement in their skills both on the field and in their personal development.

Council is pleased to be associated with local football and see the enjoyment and enthusiasm of the students and to provide them with support and encouragement in their sport. Well done, Roos!



Bicheno Beams shine bright

In the beautiful township of Bicheno, nestled along the picturesque shores of Tasmania, a wonderful laser light show called "Bicheno Beams" is held annually during the month of July. The event is organised by the Bicheno Beams Committee, comprising of 7 dedicated members. The event aims to bring bright lights and joy to the calm winter season.

The 2023 Bicheno Beams saw a remarkable turnout of 11,962 people over the 22 days it ran. This achievement was a testament to the hard work and dedication of the committee, volunteers and the support of the fabulous sponsors who made the event possible.

The laser light show, a central feature of the Bicheno Beams, illuminated the night sky with mesmerising patterns

and colors. Families, friends, and tourists alike gathered to witness the spectacle, creating a lively and joyous atmosphere.

The event served as a winter activation, drawing people to the area during the usually quieter season. The success of the Bicheno Beams brought the community together, fostering a sense of unity and togetherness.

Council is proud to be associated with an event that has in three years established itself as a premier celebration in our community.

As the Bicheno Beams came to a close, the Bicheno Events Committee expressed their gratitude to all the sponsors and attendees who made the event unforgettable.



YOUR COUNCIL



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General Manager

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Alternatively, if you are wishing to communicate with all Councillors please email: council@freycinet.tas.gov.au

LOCAL MARKETS

Triabunna

Third Sunday in each month, from 10:00am to 1:00pm

Swansea

Second Saturday in each month from 9:30am to 1:00pm starting in September

Bicheno

17 September 9:00am to 1:00pm
15 October 9:00am to 1:00pm
12 November 9:00am to 1:00pm
16 December 3:00pm to 7:00pm
28 January 2024 9:00am to 1:00pm



Autumn/Winter Waste Transfer Station Hours

May till October Operating Hours (Oct–May see Council's website)

The following opening hours will apply from Monday 1 May 2023 to Sunday 29 October 2023 at Orford, Swansea, Coles Bay and Bicheno:

Open: Monday, Wednesday and Friday 2.30pm – 4.30pm

Open: Sunday 10.00am – 2.00pm

Closed: Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday

Closed: Christmas Day and Good Friday

*Normal operating hours apply on all public holidays

Please Note: The Orford Waste Transfer Station may close with limited notice due to adverse weather conditions (such as excessive wind gusts), for the safety of customers.

Eftpos is now available at all Waste Transfer Stations.

Stay informed on issues you care about

Did you know? that Council regularly uses email databases to directly communicate with our communities on a variety of issues.

We have databases for:

- Various Townships
- The Business Community
- Community Groups
- A Newsletter Database

We use these to share information about Council activities relevant to you and is one of the easiest ways for you to know what is happening in our area. If you would like to join one of our databases please email: community@freycinet.tas.gov.au and advise which databases you would like to join.

Contacting Council

📍 9 Melbourne Street (PO Box 6), Triabunna, TAS 7190

☎ (03) 6256 4777

📠 (03) 6256 4774

@ admin@freycinet.tas.gov.au

🌐 www.gsbctas.gov.au

📺 You Tube Glamorgan Spring Bay Council

Please note: As a Local Government Authority, Councils are required under the Archives Act and the Local Government Act to keep accurate records of Council business. Any records created, received or sent in an official capacity as a Councillor are part of Council's public record and hence a State record. Any email or other correspondence to Councillors may be viewed, copied and retained by Council.