

SeaSpeak

GLAMORGAN SPRING BAY COUNCIL NEWS
SUMMER 2025-2026



Water Play and Swimming preparations for Summer

The beautiful beaches in Glamorgan Spring Bay area invite us to get in the water. Warming weather is a perfect time to review your water safety knowledge and swimming skills. I suggest you practise and master an active float for surviving, in case you get into trouble.

Ask yourself...

Who will I watch? Who will watch me?

How deep is the water? Is the water moving?

If you get in trouble in the water, or get tired, stop swimming and float!

Your legs will probably sink – that doesn't matter. Your chest and mouth need to be near the air. Feet and hips don't breathe.

Tips to check and review your water fitness and skills

- Check the weather and sea conditions to see if you can manage wind, swell, air temperature. Wind can blow you out of position, currents can too.

- If you are swimming strokes, travel parallel to the shore where you can stand.
- Do short distances 10 metres stop stand up, breathe out a few strong exhales then go again. You will soon discover how fit or unfit you are.
- When you are doing face-in-the-water-swimming make sure you are exhaling strongly into the water to get rid of the old air. A puff will not work.

Knowing how to float can save your life as it gives you time – time to drift back to where you can stand, saves your energy, and time for someone to come and help you. Don't swim, float is the message! Oatlands pool is warm, take a drive there with the family to review your skills. The Clarence pool in Hobart is welcoming to everyone too.

Shane Gould

Australian Sports Legend and Bicheno Swimmer

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www.floattosurvive.au

The new 2025 Tasmania Fire Service *Bushfire-Ready Challenge*

This completely online experience will challenge you across 4 weeks, prompting you to understand your bushfire risk, create a bushfire plan, complete a property assessment, put together an emergency kit, and most importantly keep your household safe!

Register now and ensure you're ready for the bushfire season. <https://bushfire.tas.gov.au/bushfire-challenge/bushfire-ready-challenge>

Why not invite others? Share this message and encourage friends and family to register to increase their bushfire safety knowledge and strengthen our community's preparedness.

Questions? Email us at community@fire.tas.gov.au

Take it on. Be prepared.

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Message from the Mayor



Welcome to this edition of SeaSpeak.

I cannot believe that we are talking about the summer edition so soon. Even worse is the fact that 2025 seems to have rocketed by and we are seeing Christmas decorations in stores!

Council was very fortunate to attract a number of well-qualified applicants for the role of Chief Executive Officer (CEO) on the retirement of our former General Manager. After an exhaustive recruitment process, the role was offered to Greg Tory. Greg has come to Glamorgan Spring Bay Council (GSBC) from a rural Council in New South Wales with 7 years' experience in a General Manager role and more than 40 years' experience in local government. During the selection process, Council decided to change the General Manager's title to the more contemporary Chief Executive Officer. Greg has been out and about meeting as many community members as he can as well as reviewing processes in the operational space. He and his partner Kerry have a home in the Orford-Triabunna area, so he is a ratepayer as well as our CEO.

The Director Planning and Development role was vacant for a significant period, but again an extensive recruitment process was followed, and we have secured the services of Dick Shaw. Dick comes to the role with valuable experience across different government departments and will play a significant role in ensuring we have policies and procedures in place that will assist developers and ratepayers alike.

Citizenship ceremonies are always a pleasure for me in my role as Mayor and it was my privilege to present 16 new Australians with their citizenship certificates recently. In 2025 we have welcomed 20 new citizens to our area.

In 2023, I reported that live streaming of meetings has been very successful and provides the opportunity to 'attend' a Council meeting without the tyranny of distance to meet in the Chamber. Whilst we had a good system of cameras and speakers, it has come to our attention that microphones may not be sufficient for those of us in the chamber who have hearing problems and the live streaming is not always clear for those watching. The CEO is currently investigating an upgrade.

Throughout the year, Council has supported several community groups and events for various reasons through our community grants and events budget. If you think your group might qualify for a community grant or event allocation, contact our Community Engagement team on community@freycinet.tas.gov.au for the guidelines.

We continue to put pressure on the State Government and the State Grants Commission for an increase in our poor allocation of untied grant money under the Federal Assistance Grants program. You may recall as a Council we receive around \$250,000 compared to our neighbouring Councils who have \$1 million+ tacked on the front of their allocation! The methodology used by the State Grants Commission is a complex matter that we have questioned for many years and will continue to lobby and campaign for change at every opportunity.

The Future of Local Government Review into potential voluntary amalgamations has not progressed as far as GSBC is concerned. Earlier in the year, we had representatives from the Local Government Division at a Council meeting who requested confirmation of our commitment to the process so that they could source funds through the State budget to undertake the necessary data collection for an informed decision to be made by our residents and ratepayers. We committed to the process by motion in a council meeting and then an election was called that appears to have stalled the process. The Government is committed to making some targeted changes to the *Local Government Act* to make the 30-year-old Act fit for purpose. An additional discussion paper is looking at reducing the number of councillors across the State including reducing GSBC from 8 to 7.

Finally, on behalf of the Councillors and staff, I wish each and every one of you a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year. Please stay safe on the water and on the roads. In this tough economic time, I trust everyone has an amazing Christmas. Always remember it is not about the presents we do or don't get. It is about sharing joy with families, friends and those we love. Please treat everyone with kindness and we will see you in 2026.

Cheryl Arnol
MAYOR

Council Meetings for 2026

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, unless otherwise stated below.**

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 at the Triabunna Council Offices:

- Tuesday 27 January 2026 • Tuesday 24 February 2026
- Tuesday 24 March 2026 • Tuesday 28 April 2026
- Tuesday 26 May 2026 • Tuesday 23 June 2026
- Tuesday 28 July 2026 • Tuesday 25 August 2026
- Tuesday 22 September 2026 • Tuesday 27 October 2026
- Tuesday 24 November 2026
- Tuesday 8 December 2026 – 3:30pm
- Tuesday 8 December 2026 Annual General Meeting – 5:30pm



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Channel.



From the General Manager's desk

I am happy to have joined Glamorgan Spring Bay Council as the Chief Executive Officer and am enjoying becoming part of this vibrant community. I have been fortunate to have had a long career in local government supporting communities throughout NSW and am excited to bring this experience to our beautiful region. My focus is on delivery of excellent customer service, sustainable infrastructure delivery, responsible financial management, and open, transparent governance practices. I also have a history of strong representation to government on the issues that are important to my community, and I intend to continue to represent Glamorgan Spring Bay in this manner.

It has been a busy couple of months meeting the council staff, our Councillors, community members, government representatives, community organisations and business owners in the area. I have participated in some very insightful community meetings in some of our towns, and I am looking forward to catching up with more people over time to build my understanding of how the Council can support our community into the future. If you would like to set up a meeting with me for your community or sporting group, please get in touch with me via email to general.manager@freycinet.tas.gov.au.

Preparation of Council's Annual Report and Financial Statements is underway, pending receipt of final documentation from the Tasmanian Audit Office. The Annual Report will be presented at the Annual General Meeting on 9 December 2025. Work will start on Council's 2026/2027 Budget early in the New Year and a review of Council's Long Term Financial Plan is being undertaken.

We recently welcomed Dick Shaw to the Executive Leadership Team as Director of Planning and Development. Dick has a wealth of experience at Local and State Government level and has already shown himself to be an asset to our team and the community.

In October we also said farewell to Council's Director of Infrastructure and Works, Peter Porch. Peter was with Council for five (5) years and served as the Acting General Manager for 12 months prior to my appointment. Peter left Council to move closer to his family, and he is genuinely missed by his colleagues. We are currently recruiting for the positions of Director of Infrastructure and Works and Director of Corporate and Finance. I look forward to introducing these new members of the leadership team to you over the coming months.

As I meet people and become aware of the various service organisations, I continue to be amazed at the strength of our community. We have a wonderful network of organisations supporting our community and celebrating our unique history and culture. The 2025 Seafarers Memorial Service and the 10-year anniversary celebration of the Pop-Up Book Store (PUBS) are two of the events which I had the privilege to attend in recent weeks. I also attended the Australian Citizenship Ceremony on 10 November in Triabunna. We were thrilled to welcome 16 new Australians to our area.

As we head into summer and the holiday season, we will no doubt see many visitors to our region with increased traffic on our roads and waterways. I encourage everyone to take care of themselves and others over this time, so we all have a safe and relaxing summer.

I wish everyone a joyful holiday season with their families and friends and I look forward to a prosperous new year for our community.

Greg Tory
Chief Executive Officer



Stay On Top Of Your Rates Payments

A reminder that the 2nd instalment due date for rates is 30 November 2025.

Instalment Dates 2025/2026

1st Instalment due date 31/08/2025

2nd Instalment due date 30/11/2025

3rd Instalment due date 28/02/2026

4th Instalment due date 30/04/2026

To make payments easier, you can set up regular direct debit payments.

Forms can be downloaded from our website or contact council to have one sent out.

Payment can be made online via BPAY, or in person at your local council office.

Ensure your payment is made on time to avoid late fees.

If you're facing financial difficulty, contact the Rates Department to discuss support options.

Pension Remission:

If you're eligible for pension remission for 2025/26, please contact the Rates Department on 6256 4782.

If you received a remission last year, it should be applied automatically. New applicants or changes in ownership will need to apply.

Shorebird nesting season

The beaches, estuaries, and wetlands of Glamorgan Spring Bay are home to many remarkable shorebirds. This includes the Pied oystercatcher and the Hooded plover just to name a few.

Unfortunately, many shorebird populations have been in declining. Species that nest on our beaches are among the most vulnerable, with their habitats threatened by erosion, king tides, invasive weeds, and urban development.

How human activity puts shorebirds at risk

Disturbance by people, dogs, and cats is one of the most significant threats to shorebirds. Even small, friendly dogs are seen as predators. Their scent and movement can cause nesting birds to abandon their eggs.

How you can help

Stay on the wet sand below the high-tide mark at the beach. Many nests are little more than a shallow scrape in the sand and are almost impossible to see, so avoid known nesting areas. If you see signs about nests, give the area a wide berth. Finally, be a responsible pet owner: keep cats indoors at night and always follow dog-access signage – restrictions are carefully considered to balance public safety, recreation, and wildlife protection.



Dog (not under effective control) chasing a Hooded plover on the beach. Photo by Eric J Woehler

Taking a pair of binoculars and watching these incredible birds from a respectful distance is a great way to appreciate them. Thanks to an alert raised by young resident Audrey and her mum about Hooded plovers nesting at Spring Beach, the Friends of Orford Bird Sanctuary, with help from Council, have erected temporary fencing and signage to protect the nesting birds.

Seniors Week 2025 Celebrations

Council was proud to support a range of Seniors Week activities this year, bringing people together to celebrate our older residents.

Triabunna Seniors Luncheon – 14 October

The Triabunna luncheon was well attended and enjoyed by many. Guest speakers included **Mirela Roberts** from *Authoritus Tasmania*, who shared helpful information about services for seniors, and **Steve Bussey** from *Probus*, who spoke about the benefits of joining Probus and encouraged new members to get involved.

Swansea Seniors Lunch

Council also assisted with the Swansea Seniors Lunch, where attendees enjoyed entertainment, including singing and plenty of community spirit.



A Week of Appreciation

Thank you to everyone who participated and helped make Seniors Week 2025 a warm and welcoming celebration across our community.



Join Our Council Team

Looking for a rewarding career in your community? Glamorgan Spring Bay Council is always on the lookout for passionate people to join our team.

Visit <https://gsbc.tas.gov.au/council/employment/> to see current vacancies and find out how you can make a difference.



Managing your Septic Tank

Around 30% of Australian homes rely on septic tank systems for disposal of household wastewater.

These homes are generally not connected to a reticulated sewer system and in turn a sewage treatment plant, instead relying on managing their wastewater onsite.

If not properly maintained, these systems can pose risks to both public health and the environment.

NRM South has recently developed a new guide to septic tank management, with a focus on households in sandy coastal areas.

The guide highlights practical steps for maintaining septic systems to prevent overflow and reduce pollution entering our waterways.

Steps include; 1. choosing and seeking approval from Council for the right system for sandy soils, 2. scheduling regular maintenance and 3. protecting the land application area (absorption trenches/beds).

Proper management not only protects the health of local flora and fauna, but also helps safeguard community health and the long-term sustainability of our coastal environments.

You can access the new guide here: [NRM-South-Septic-Tank-Maintenance-Flyer.pdf](#)

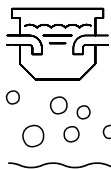
Council's Environmental Health Officer is also available to discuss wastewater disposal options, together with Council application and approval processes for both new systems and amendments to existing systems.



How do septic systems pollute in sandy coastal areas?

STEP 1

Untreated wastewater in sandy soils



Sandy soils drain quickly, allowing untreated wastewater to seep into groundwater.

STEP 2

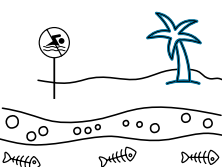
Contamination of groundwater and waterways



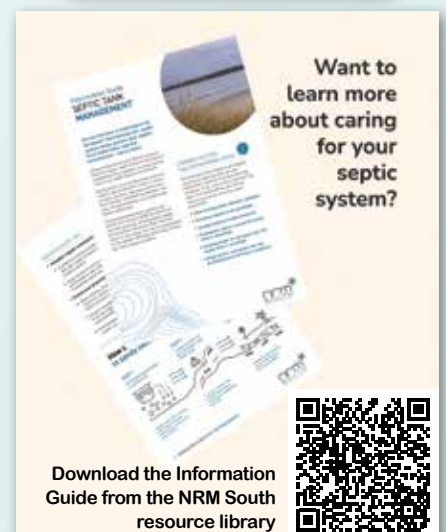
This can contaminate nearby waterways, especially in beachside suburbs.

STEP 3

Environmental and recreational impact



Contamination affects swimming, fishing, and local wildlife.



Works and Infrastructure Report

As of the time of writing, the annual Glamorgan Spring Bay Council road reclaiming, stabilising, and resealing campaign is underway and is on track for completion by the end of November 2025.

The program includes reclaiming the existing sealed pavement to a depth of 150mm or 200mm, depending on traffic volumes. The reclaimed material is then blended with cement powder to strengthen and improve the pavement (a process known as pavement modification), before being resealed—most commonly with a two-coat seal.

As part of this program, Council has also completed the reclaiming and asphaltting of the Riverside Drive boat ramp in Orford, significantly upgrading what was previously a rough gravel surface.

A number of important footpath and kerb renewal projects have recently been completed across the municipality to improve safety, accessibility, and stormwater management. Works include:

- **Garnet Avenue, Coles Bay (near the convenience store)** – Removal of the old asphalt footpath and installation of a new concrete path, including an upgraded stormwater pit and grate.
- **Garnet Avenue, Coles Bay (near the public toilet)** – Construction of a new concrete footpath to improve pedestrian safety and accessibility. This replaces the previously uneven gravel track linking the toilet to the boat ramp. Hand-railing installation is scheduled to follow.
- **River Street / Julia Street, Swansea** – Installation of a new footpath and kerb from the existing pathway to the corner of Julia Street and River Street. Works included a new pram ramp and an upgraded stormwater pit.
- **St Margarets Court, Swansea** – Completion of the turning-head kerb ahead of upcoming asphaltting.
- **West Shelly Road, Orford** – Installation of new kerb in the cul-de-sac prior to asphaltting.
- **Cross Street, Orford** – Installation of roll-over kerb on both sides of the street, along with a new side-entry pit/grate, a new manhole, and approximately 30 metres of stormwater pipe. Cross Street is now prepared for resealing.



- **Erica Street / Riverside Drive, Orford** – Installation of new kerb on both sides of the intersection to help mitigate flooding. Two new pit grates and upgraded pipework were also completed to improve stormwater capacity and flow.

Wielangta Road – Pipe Bridge Replacement

Council has completed the replacement of the failing pipe bridge on Wielangta Road. The deteriorated steel pipes were removed and replaced with two large new headwalls, providing a more reliable and durable structure.

Recent stormwater upgrades across the municipality include:

- **West Shelly Road / Jetty Road, Orford** – Installation of two new culverts to replace existing infrastructure that was no longer effectively managing stormwater.
- **Charles Street, Triabunna** – A 50-metre stormwater pipe extension, including the installation of a new manhole and a new side-entry pit.
- **Okehampton Road, Triabunna** – Multiple culvert upgrades to improve stormwater flow and reduce localised flooding.



Swansea – “Loo with a View” Deck Renewal

Council has completed the replacement of the deck outside the “Loo with a View” in Swansea. These works were carried out in-house by Council staff. Planning and scheduling are now underway for repairs to the nearby stone wall.



Northern view of the Amphitheatre and Amenities

Public Facilities Upgrades

- **Garnet Avenue, Coles Bay** – Both holding tanks beneath the public toilets have been replaced following concerns regarding the integrity of the original concrete tanks.
- **Buckland Public Toilets** – The toilet outflow system has been upgraded to improve performance and better meet current usage demands.

Bicheno Triangle Amphitheatre and Amenities

Construction of the Amphitheatre and Amenities will be completed by the end of this month as planned by the Contractor, East Coast Constructions. Construction work to be completed includes installation of plumbing fixtures and fittings to the amenities and electrical only.

The perimeter security fence will be removed early December, and the site will be reinstated and open to the public by mid-December.

The amenities comprise three unisex toilets, one accessible and two ambulant.

The amphitheatre has a seating capacity of around 60 and includes accessible spaces for wheelchair attendees.

The building is a steel frame structure with Hydrowood Celery Top Pine batten cladding. The Hydrowood Celery Top Pine has been salvaged from Tasmanian dams.

This project was initially promoted by the Bicheno community through the BCDA and has been delivered through a Commonwealth Government Community Development Grant.



Western view of the Amphitheatre



South-western view showing handrail, steps and terraced seating

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Chief Executive Officer

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

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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.

**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

**Waste Transfer Stations – Summer Operating Hours**

The following operating hours will apply from Monday 17th November 2025 – April 2026 at Orford, Swansea, Coles Bay, and Bicheno:

Open: Monday to Friday 2.30pm – 4.30pm

Open: Sunday 10.00am – 2.00pm

Closed: Saturday

*Normal operating hours apply on all public holidays.

Closed: Christmas Day and Good Friday

Eftpos is available at all Waste Transfer Stations.

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

BUILDERS WASTE IS NOT ACCEPTED AT ANY OF GLAMORGAN SPRING BAYS WASTE TRANSFER STATIONS.

Christmas and New Year Office Closure notice

Please note that Council will be closed on **Thursday, 18 December 2025 at 12.00pm** and will reopen on **Friday, 19 December 2025 at 9.00am**.

Council's Administration office at 9 Melbourne Street Triabunna will be closed to the public from Tuesday 23 December until Monday 5 January 2026 for planned maintenance work and the Christmas New Year holiday.

Council and staff apologise for any inconvenience this temporary closure may cause.

**Contacting Council**

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

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🌐 www.gsbc.tas.gov.au



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.