

**COUNCIL MEETING  
AGENDA  
MONDAY, 28 MARCH 2022**



**GLENORCHY CITY COUNCIL**

**QUALIFIED PERSON CERTIFICATION**

The General Manager certifies that, in accordance with section 65 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, any advice, information and recommendations contained in the reports related to this agenda have been prepared by persons who have the qualifications or experience necessary to give such advice, information and recommendations.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tony McMullen', is positioned above a horizontal line.

Tony McMullen  
**General Manager**  
23 March 2022

**Hour:** 6.00pm

**Present (in Chambers):**

**Present (by video link):**

**In attendance (in  
Chambers):**

**In attendance (by video  
link):**

**Leave of Absence:**

**Workshops held since  
last Council Meeting**

**Date:** Monday, 7 March 2022

**Purpose:** To discuss:

- GM Performance Review

**Date:** Tuesday, 15 March 2022

**Purpose:** To discuss:

- CityScape sub-precinct Masterplan
- LGAT General Meeting – submission of motions

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**1. APOLOGIES**

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**2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES (OPEN MEETING)**

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That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 28 February 2022 be confirmed.

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**3. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE CHAIR**

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**4. PECUNIARY INTEREST NOTIFICATION**

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**5. RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS PUBLIC QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE**

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Questions on notice – Janiece Bryan, (received 22 February 2022)  
Consultants fees

**Q1. Could Council please provide details of spending on Consultant Fees for Council's period of Office from January 2018 to the present time (4 Calendar Years)?**

A. Council regularly engages consultants and contractors for various projects or tasks. Consultants or contractors are engaged when the work is unable to be undertaken in house either due to a lack of resources or specific expertise. Examples would include

(for example) auditors, designers, planning consultants, builders, engineers, valuers, legal advisors etc. Because this information is captured across multiple cost codes, it would take an unreasonable amount of officer time to collate, as it would require individually reviewing hundreds of invoices.

**Q2. Could you also provide separate details of fees paid to Media and Marketing Companies since January 2018 to the present time?**

- A. As with the previous question, this information would take an unreasonable amount of time for officers to collate, as it would involve reviewing hundreds of invoices individually. Council employs two full-time communications staff who manage day to day media liaison and communications tasks. Council also regularly places public notice advertisements in News Limited publications, and other online publications (e.g. Seek online for job advertisements) that are necessary for it to conduct its business operations.

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## **6. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (15 MINUTES)**

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**Please note:**

- the Council Meeting is a formal meeting of the Aldermen elected by the Glenorchy community. It is chaired by the Mayor
- public question time is an opportunity in the formal meeting for the public to ask questions of their elected Council representatives about the matters that affect ratepayers and citizens
- question time is for asking questions and not making statements (brief explanations of the background to questions may be given for context but comments or statements about Council's activities are otherwise not permitted)
- the Chair may permit follow-up questions at the Chair's discretion, however answers to questions are not to be debated with Council
- the Chair may refuse to answer a question, or may direct a person to stop speaking if the Chair decides that the question is not appropriate or not in accordance with the above rules
- the Chair has the discretion to extend public question time if necessary.

**Questions on notice – Eddy Steenbergen (received 18 March 2022)**

**Q1. Can Council please provide a list of Council plans, strategies and policies due for review in the 2022 calendar year, including for each review:**

- a) the schedule start date
- b) whether the general public will be invited to contribute
- c) whether open public consultation will be part of the review, and
- d) the form that the public consultation, if any, will take?

The following Council's policies are due for review in 2022:

<b>Record Name</b>	<b>Adopted Date</b>
Sponsorship Policy	20/03/2017
Event Management Policy	15/02/2016
Planning Appeals and Enforcement	13/04/2016
Meeting Procedures Policy	30/07/2018
Public Open Space Reserve and Expenditure Policy	19/12/2016
Human Resources Policy	20/03/2017
Advertising Devices on Council Property Policy	20/03/2017
Sports Ground Lighting Policy	20/03/2017
Telecommunications Infrastructure on Council Property Policy	20/03/2017
Notification to Purchasers of Contaminated Land in Lutana Policy	21/11/16
Subdivisions - Public Open Space Acquisitions and Contributions Policy	13/06/2017
Leasing and Licensing of Council Owned and Managed Property Policy	29/06/2020
Dog Management Policy	20/02/2017
Grievances Involving the General Manager Policy	26/02/2018
Dealing With Unreasonable Customer Conduct	26/03/2018
Remissions and Rebates of Fees and Charges Policy	30/07/2018
Asset Management Policy	30/07/2018
Disposal of Council Assets Policy	30/07/2018
Disposal of Council Land Policy	30/07/2018
Enforcement Policy	30/07/2018
Bushfire Mitigation	27/09/2021
Audit Panel Code of Conduct	29/10/2018

#### **Questions on notice – Joshua Cortes (received 21 March 2022)**

**This question is regarding the Sports and Recreation Strategy and its outcomes in relation to the Arrogone Archery club. This club engages in an Olympic and Paralympic Sport that is ideally accessible to all persons including those with disabilities.**

**They also provide a program for the LGBTI+ community, have school engagement and support, have been selected to host the finals of a national tournament at the end of the year and are home to two State Team/Regional Development members.**

**The community involvement and engagement from the club is substantially more than the usual measure of membership numbers.**

**Q1. The club made a submission to the Strategy on the 28/03/21 and a separate email to Ben Bainbridge from Otium Planning on the 09/04/21, providing more information to and expanding on questions in the original survey for the Strategy. Having then been left out of the draft documentation for the Strategy, the club made further submissions on the 20/07/21 and submitted documentation later in August of 2021, with further information being passed on to the planning group via Allison Coombe. Why were the club's submissions and pages of additional information not included in the supporting report for the Strategy? Were there other sporting clubs that had submissions left out of "Appendix 2 – Stakeholder Engagement" of that supporting report?**

A. Council Officers have checked with consultants, Otium Planning, who have confirmed that not all club submissions were included in full in the report and that exclusions had to be made to keep the size of the report manageable. Otium also confirmed that Arrogonne Archers' submission was received and considered when developing the strategy, and a specific section and recommendation relating to the site and the Archery Club was included in the adopted strategy.

**Q2. The club has occupied their location in Moonah for some twelve years. However, they do not have access to toilets, water, electricity, shelter, or a wheelchair-accessible field. The closest public toilet is a Version: 1, Version Date: 21/03/2022 Document Set ID: 3095798 900m walk or a 1.5km drive from the playing field. The club was informed in a meeting with Council officers on the 15th September 2020 that the council was unaware of what clubs were in the greatest need of facilities and hence were unable to approve or assist the club in making submissions for grants until the Sports and Recreation Strategy was completed. Now that the Strategy has been concluded, What sporting clubs in the Glenorchy Council area do not have access to toilets, water, shelter or electricity? How many of those that don't have access to toilet facilities have public toilets within 150m? How many of the clubs that are lacking basic amenities are sports that are accessible to persons with a disability?**

A. Council Officers have not attempted to audit every sport and recreation club in Glenorchy to respond to this question, however there are many Council properties and reserves that do not have public toilet facilities. Council's *Public Toilet Strategy 2020-2030* prioritises upgrade works on existing and proposed new facilities, but does not include Gerrard Street Reserve in this forward plan. It is appreciated that a 900m walk to the nearest public toilet is not ideal, however Council has limited resources to develop and maintain public toilets, and as such not all Council reserves and properties can have toilet facilities.

It is acknowledged that the Gerrard Street site is only of a basic standard, being a former quarry and that it has steep access and no services or built facilities. Council officers have been open with the club about the site's constraints and lack of amenities when offering the space to the club (which is reflected in the very low licence fees charged to the club for the site). Council Officers have noted to the club that the site may not be suitable for the club's future use if significant development is required or desired by the club, and this challenge is also referenced in the Glenorchy Sport and Recreation Framework 2040.



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## **7. PETITIONS/DEPUTATIONS**

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# COMMUNITY

***Community Goal: “Making Lives Better”***

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## 8. ACTIVITIES OF THE MAYOR

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Author: Mayor (Ald. Bec Thomas)

Qualified Person: General Manager (Tony McMullen)

ECM File Reference: Mayoral Announcements

### Community Plan Reference:

Under the City of *Glenorchy Community Plan 2015 – 2040*, the Community has prioritised ‘transparent and accountable government’.

### Strategic or Annual Plan Reference:

Objective 4.1 Govern in the best interests of the community

Strategy 4.1.1 Manage Council for maximum efficiency, accountability, and transparency

### Reporting Brief:

To receive an update on the recent activities undertaken by the Mayor.

### Proposal in Detail:

The following is a list of events and external meetings attended by Mayor Thomas during the period Monday, 21 February to Saturday, 19 March 2022.

#### Monday 21 February 2022

- Chaired the Glenorchy Planning Authority meeting

#### Tuesday 22 February 2022

- Chaired the Glenorchy Jobs Hub reference group meeting

#### Thursday 24 February 2022

- Attended the Local Government Review briefing from Local Government Board Chair, Sue Smith

#### Friday 25 February 2022

- Met with Ella Haddad MHA to discuss increasing housing densification in the municipality
- Attended a cooking class at Zafira Fine Foods in Moonah

#### Monday 28 February 2022

- Chaired the Council meeting
- Attended the Jack Jumpers game at the MyState Bank Arena

#### Tuesday 1 March 2022

- Interviewed by Ryk Goddard on ABC breakfast radio

- Interviewed by Phil on Triple M breakfast radio
- Met with Josh Willie, MLC to discuss housing and other priorities in Glenorchy
- Met with Vanessa Ward from HOFM to discuss communications opportunities
- Met with Larry Kestelman and Boris Rozenvasser from LK Group to discuss the MyState Bank Arena redevelopment and Wilkinson's Point
- Attended Collinsvale Community Association meeting

**Wednesday 2 March 2022**

- Inaugural speaker at the opening of the Glenorchy School for Seniors at Golden Years Club
- Presented Lenna Grainger with her Community Award nomination certificate at the Lady Clark Recreation Centre
- Attended the media launch for the Showgrounds Grant Deed signing with Minister Michael Ferguson and RAST board members and CEO

**Thursday 3 March 2022**

- Visited the new Troublesmiths venue in the Glenorchy Bus Mall
- Attended a Salvation Army Red Shield Appeal meeting

**Friday 4 March 2022**

- Met with Inspector John Ward from Glenorchy Police to discuss anti-social behaviour
- Participated in a Greater Hobart Mayors and GMs Forum meeting
- Opened the *Kindred* exhibition at the Moonah Arts Centre

**Monday 7 March 2022**

- Chaired the Council Workshop

**Tuesday 8 March 2022**

- Chaired the CBD Safety Roundtable meeting
- Guest panellist at the International Women's Day luncheon held at Motor Yacht Club of Tasmania, Lindisfarne
- Chaired the Glenorchy Jobs Hub Steering Committee meeting

**Friday 11 March 2022**

- Chaired a GMPRC workshop
- Met with Katie Cooper, CEO Metro Tasmania
- Met with Lesley Van Tuil at the site of their new business, Brewlab
- Met with Anna Holiday from Ice Sports Tasmania

**Saturday 12 March 2022**

- Attended the Buffalo Lodges fundraising event in Moonah

**Tuesday 15 March 2022**

- Chaired the Council workshop

**Wednesday 16 March 2022**

- Attended HOFM marketing and communications seminar
- Participated in the Greater Hobart Committee meeting
- Met with Premier Peter Gutwein to discuss housing, council funding priorities and the Northern Suburbs Transit Corridor

**Thursday 17 March 2022**

- Participated in the LGAT Mayor's Professional Development Day held in Launceston

**Friday 18 March 2022**

- Participated in the LGAT General Meeting held in Launceston
- Participated in the LGAT General Management Committee meeting, including a discussion with Minister for Local Government, Michael Ferguson

In addition to the above meetings and events, the Mayor attended numerous internal meetings and performed other administrative duties.

**Consultations:**

Nil.

**Human Resource / Financial and Risk Management Implications:**

Nil.

**Community Consultation and Public Relations Implications:**

Nil.

**Recommendation:**

That Council:

RECEIVE this report about the activities of Mayor Thomas during the period from Monday, 21 February to Saturday, 19 March 2022.

**Attachments/Annexures**

Nil.

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## 9. GLENORCHY CBD SAFETY

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Author: Director Community and Customer Services (David Ronaldson)

Qualified Person: Director Community and Customer Services (David Ronaldson)

ECM File Reference: CBD Revitalisation

### Community Plan Reference:

#### Making Lives Better

We continue to be a safe, inclusive, active, healthy and vibrant community.

#### Leading our Community

We will be a progressive, positive community with strong Council leadership, striving to make Our Community's Vision a reality.

#### Our Community's Priorities

Providing a safe city with quality open spaces...

### Strategic or Annual Plan Reference:

#### Making Lives Better

- Objective 1.1 Know our communities and what they value
- Objective 1.1.1 Guide decisions making through continued community engagement based on our Community Plan
- Objective 1.3 Facilitate and / or deliver services to our communities
- Objective 1.3.2 Identify and engage in partnerships that can more effectively deliver defined service levels to our communities

#### Leading our Community

- Objective 4.1 Govern in the best interests of our community
- Objective 4.1.1 Manage Council for maximum efficiency, accountability and transparency

### Reporting Brief:

The purpose of this report is to update Council on actions taken to address public place behaviour in the Glenorchy CBD since the December 2021 Council meeting and to recommend that Council continues the security guard trial within the Glenorchy CBD, with some minor changes.

**Proposal in Detail:****Background**

Council recently adopted the *Community Strategy 2021-2030 (Community Strategy)*, which builds on the delivery of the Community Plan goal. One of the Community Strategy's four priority outcomes is specifically focussed on safety, and provides:

**"Priority Outcome: Safe**

*We are a safe community with a strong sense of belonging, ownership and pride."*

The Community Strategy sets out five (5) goals which flow from that outcome. Goals 'S1' and 'S2' provide as follows:

- S1.** People, including our most vulnerable, are **safe and connected in our community**
- S2.** **Public spaces provide for diverse activity** and strengthen our social connections

The measures in the Community Strategy against these statements are aimed at ensuring we are, and are seen to be, a strong, safe and well-connected community.

The status of measures to address public space behaviour in the Glenorchy CBD is as follows:

**Security guards in CBD****Trial details**

At its meeting on 21 December 2021, Council was advised that a trial of stationing security officers in and around the Council forecourt and surrounding area had commenced. Council resolved to continue the trial until 14 April 2022, and to receive a follow-up report on the outcomes of the trial.

The security guards patrol the CBD area and work with Tasmania Police to constructively discourage antisocial behaviour so that the CBD is a place for everyone to enjoy and where our most vulnerable are safe and feel connected.

Under the trial, the security guards are in place on weekdays for five hours per day within an interval from 10:30am to 6:00pm. They patrol the area between the Glenorchy Bus Mall, Main Road, Terry Street and the rear of the Council Chambers building. Since restarting the trial in January 2022, security guards have varied their start and finish times to continue to reinforce the message that the CBD is a desirable place to be at all times. It was found that operating rigidly from noon - 5:00pm under the 2021 roster simply saw anti-social behaviour relocated away from the area during those times. The broadened approach has somewhat mitigated this effect, but not eradicated it.

A weekend patrol has also been trialled, where security staff will pass through and patrol for 15-minutes three times at varying times of the day.

The security guard's work has continued to involve meeting and greeting people in the area, reminding visitors to the area of the behaviour expected of them and, if behaviours do not align with what is expected, asking the offending person to leave the area. Police are being called if behaviours exceed those boundaries or requests to leave are ignored.

Finally, as outlined in the December report to Council, Council officers have continued to meet with Council's security contractor, Tasmania Police and the Salvation Army fortnightly to ensure the engagement of security is being used to the best possible effect.

### Cost

As noted in the previous report to Council, the current trial for placement of security officers was an unforeseen expense that was not part of Council's 2021-22 budget.

Engaging security officers for the current hours is costing approximately \$2,200 per week (exc GST) and will have incurred approximately \$48,400 (exc. GST) by the time the current finishes on 14 April 2022.

If Council wishes to continue with the provision of security in some form for the remainder of the 2021/22 financial year and the 2022/23 budget period, provision will need to be made in the current and next year's budgets.

### Effectiveness

Over the period from November 2021 to the present, the security guard trial has been highly successful in four areas:

- reducing poor behaviours (daytime violence, public urination, vandalism, littering, excessive alcohol consumption, the use of profane language and various other types of anti-social behaviour) in the immediate Council forecourt area
- de-escalating behaviours deemed unsafe
- quickly escalating any incidents to Tasmania Police that previously might have been not acted upon or noted
- returning a level of confidence to our community that the Council forecourt area / Glenorchy CBD is a place for all to enjoy safely.

However, it should be noted:

- a number of these behaviours return when security is not present
- anecdotal evidence suggests that the behaviours have not ceased, merely moved to other areas of our community
- provision of security guards alone will not address the broader underlying issues experienced by some members of our community.



Other anecdotal evidence/trends reported by the security guards include:

- when the weather is good, more people come to the forecourt and some behaviours deteriorate
- there is a cohort that continues to function in and around the Glenorchy area that have been moved from the forecourt area
- there are a number of young people not attending school who cause significant issues
- weekend patrols have seen families engaging together, picnics, lunches and playing, groups of people interacting and enjoying the area, people sitting, laying down reading/ listening to music/ waiting for buses, small areas (shade under trees) where groups of people smoked, music (through a portable speaker) being played by various groups of people.

### **Salvation Army Street Teams initiative**

The Salvation Army, in conjunction with Your Church (Moonah), has launched its Street Teams initiative in the Glenorchy Council Gardens and Bus Mall areas.

The Street Teams commenced on Wednesday, 2 March operating approximately 1:00pm to 4:00pm one-day per week and coordinated by a Social Worker employed by Salvation Army, working with trained volunteers from Your Church and City North Church.

The main objectives of the Street Teams are to:

- form connections with local members of the Glenorchy community, particularly young people who frequent the space
- increase positive use of the Glenorchy CBD area
- help tackle some of the areas of concern, such as safety, crime prevention, anti-social behaviour, respond to incidents and bullying amongst the youth
- provide passive surveillance within the area.

The Street Teams will be particularly focused, but not necessarily restricted to, working with local youth and school children and providing a helping hand to people who need assistance. This may range from providing a bottle of water, an emergency bus ticket or a band-aid, helping to read a bus timetable, or giving access to a phone. It is hoped that the Street Teams will be able to also provide a safe point of contact if people need further assistance and support.

Some additional things the Street Teams will bring to Glenorchy will be:

- providing general information and advice to people in the area
- working alongside Tasmanian Police and Council to address issues in the CBD
- basic first aid

- being able to respond to emergency situations and liaise with emergency services when necessary, and
- being able to link in and support Council and other events in the open space.

A key part of the Street Teams' approach will be how they interact with Tasmania Police and security guards engaged by Council. The outcomes are expected to be positive but the impact will not be able to be measured accurately until the Street Teams are more established and operating for more days each week.

The clear target for this program is to be operating in the space five-days per week and be able to interact positively with all users of the area to reduce unwelcome behaviours. It is expected that an increase in this program would be aligned to a decrease in the services of security guards.

### **Active Policing of the Glenorchy CBD area**

The Glenorchy Branch of Tasmania Police, represented by Inspector John Ward and Senior Sergeant Karl Krelle, has been involved in active discussions with Council over the past 12-months to review and address the current behavioural problems in the CBD, and creating strategies to deal with this behaviour.

Tasmania Police has been supportive of the introduction of security guards and continue to work with Council to maximise the outcomes of this intervention. The Glenorchy Police station is doing everything it can with its existing resources to respond to calls for assistance in and around the Glenorchy CBD and since November 2021, there have been many examples of this.

Officers have increased the number of daily patrols through the CBD area and made concerted efforts to make arrests where necessary. This has undoubtedly contributed to the overall improvement of safety and reduction in poor behaviour we have been seeing.

Police continue to provide advice and updates via the Council's Safer Communities Reference Group and CBD roundtable.

### **CBD Round Table and development of a Community Action Plan**

During 2020, in response to the escalation in anti-social behaviour around the Glenorchy CBD, Council's Community Department, with the support of then Mayor, Kristie Johnston, convened a 'CBD round table', bringing together agencies, schools, local businesses and other stakeholders affected by this behaviour to discuss and propose ways it could be addressed.

This work has continued throughout 2021 and into 2022. Mayor Bec Thomas has convened three meetings (December 2021, February and March 2022). A Community Action Plan was drafted at the February meeting ([Attachment 1](#)).

The Plan identifies a range of actions that can be implemented by a range of parties (not just Council or Tasmania Police) as part of a whole of community approach to addressing the issues of concern.

## **The Troublesmiths**

Troublesmiths is a youth social enterprise providing a hands-on coaching program designed to support young people aged 18-24 years to commence work or study.

The Employability skills coaching program helps young people become job-fit by developing confidence and capacity while making and selling Tasmanian gifts.

The Glenorchy City Council has provided Troublesmiths with the Labour Bureau Building located in the Glenorchy Bus Mall to use in-kind for six-months.

Troublesmiths' February intake of participants will focus on jobseekers living in the Glenorchy City Council municipality who are motivated to commence work or study. The participant commitment is two shifts and one workshop per week for seven (7) weeks, in both the Hobart and Glenorchy locations.

Each course contains up to 15 young people. Induction will occur at the Hobart site initially, with training to begin at the Glenorchy site in late March. The shop itself opened on Tuesday, 15 March 2022 and will operate five days per week from 11:00am – 3:00pm.

## **Further considerations**

### Public Address System / Provision of Music

One approach to add to the range of actions identified to explore was the provision of classical music (or some other), to be played into the identified area.

The assumption is that classical music will force those displaying undesirable behaviours to leave the area or modify their behaviours. This approach has been tried in a range of public spaces and shopping precincts across the country with varying levels of success, with this approach also producing unexpected consequences.

Initial investigations show that where music has been piped into areas deliberately to dissuade a certain element of the public to attend, it has been supported with some form of security (Collins Court Hobart) or the ability to control the area (shopping mall) to be successful in removing an element of the community from a space. However, it also draws complaints from other users who are subjected to the same music.

Further, experience in other jurisdictions outlines that the approach has been to the detriment of surrounding business and in one incidence started an escalation of music styles and volume in the location.

Regardless and prior to further investigation as to the effectiveness of this approach, Council's electrical contractor was asked to make assessment and estimation of how this could be done with the following objectives:

- on request, play music to be heard exclusively in the Council Lawns area
- explore the possibility of this system to accommodate other uses eg: used as a PA system for events (annual ANZAC Day service, Gig in the Gardens, Market, live performers)
- be centrally controlled from Council Chambers
- be as wireless as possible

- cause as little distraction to the surrounding businesses and Council's own offices.

Council's electrical contractors reported back for a system to be fully functional in the identified space (due to the proximity to traffic movements, especially the bus movements and local business) the system was expensive and quite specialised, approximating just under \$100,000.

If Council wishes to pursue this action during the 2021/22 financial year, there is a financial capacity to achieve this through underspending in the CBD Revitalisation Project. If not pursued in the current financial year, the project would require support in future financial years to be achieved. Council's electrical contractors advise that, due to the current environment (as a result of the COVID pandemic) physical completion of the project may cross into the next financial year.

At this time, it is recommended that the project to provide music / PA system into the Council Lawns area is placed on hold until it is determined whether the desired change can be achieved through the other measures and / or other requirements such as a regular market that would use the system regularly, are in place.

### **Community Programs – intervention/building relationships**

In addition to the above actions Council officers are:

- supporting a local community house and the Department of Education with their trial to run an outreach Tier 3 program for young people from the site. A number of the young people in the trial are often engaged in anti-social behaviour in the Glenorchy CBD and other areas of the community
- continuing to work with local schools to deliver a Youth Mentor Program and Teen Mental Health First Aid workshops to keep students engaged in school
- working on projects with community members within the Salvation Army building.

### **Options**

Going forward, Council has a number of options available to consider:

1. cease security arrangements completely – this could see a return to the behaviours in the CBD seen before the security guard trial was undertaken
2. reduce the level of security and continue to monitor the space in conjunction with Tasmania Police, Salvation Army and other stakeholders in the Community Action Plan. This would allow officers to strategically plan the use of resources appropriately to reflect behaviours experienced over the coming 9 months.
3. leave security in place as currently provided and review again at a later date – this option continues the current scenario with no exit strategy in place
4. decide whether or not to pursue the installation of a public address system

**Consultations:**

Executive Leadership Team  
 Manager Community  
 Manager Property  
 Manager City Strategy and Economic Development  
 Manager Works  
 Coordinator Community Development  
 Coordinator Property Assets  
 Operations and Maintenance Supervisor

**Human Resource / Financial and Risk Management Implications:**Financial

As noted in the body of this report, the trial for placement of security guards was an unforeseen expense that was not in Council's 2021-22 budget.

Engaging the guards for the current hours is costing approximately \$2,200 per week (ex GST), and will have incurred approximately \$48,400 (ex GST) to the current trial end date of 14 April 2022.

The trial has been funded from Council's cash reserves and managed by overspending an existing budget line.

Installation of a suitable PA system has been estimated at just under \$100,000 by Council's electrical contractors.

Human resources

Council's Director Community and Customer Services has convened an internal working group from across Council to monitor the implementation of this trial and continues to meet fortnightly with Tasmania Police, Salvation Army and the Security company to monitor and refine operations.

Risk management

Risk Identification	Consequence	Likelihood	Rating	Risk Mitigation Treatment
<b>Adopt the recommendation</b> There is a risk that Council is perceived as a pseudo police force – which is not a sustainable long-term solution. Implementation is expensive and may also shift the issue to other areas within the municipality.	Minor (C2)	Possible (L3)	Medium (8)	Continue to monitor the operation of the security guard trial. Continue to work strongly with Tasmania Police the Salvation Army Street Teams and the CBD Round Table grouping to create an environment within the CBD that is welcoming safe and not tolerate poor behaviour.

<b>Do not adopt the recommendation</b>				
The pre-existing behaviours in and around Council forecourt may revert as they were prior to the trial, thus normalising those behaviours to the CBD area.	Moderate (C3)	Almost Certain (L5)	High	<p>Continue to work strongly with Tasmania Police, Salvation Army Street Teams and the broader community in and around the Glenorchy CBD to create an environment within the CBD that is welcoming safe and not tolerate poor behaviour.</p> <p>Continue to monitor other more cost-effective actions to reduce this behaviour in the CBD and report back to Council as options become available.</p>

### Community Consultation and Public Relations Implications:

#### Community consultation

Community feedback is currently being received via the members of the CBD roundtable discussions including:

- Local primary and secondary schools
- Vicinity Centre (Northgate)
- Glenorchy Central Shopping Centre (managed by Knight Frank)
- Aurora Disabilities
- Mission Australia Youth Health Service (South)
- Trustees of the Diocese of Tasmania
- Jabeks Hair
- Glenorchy Library Speak Out Advocacy
- Migrant Resource Centre
- Metro
- THS - Breast Screen Bus
- Infinity Pacific
- Glenorchy Library
- St Vincent de Paul Society Tasmania
- Karadi Aboriginal Corporation
- Southern Liquor Licensing Services.

Ongoing external consultation continues with:

- Tasmania Police - Glenorchy

- Salvation Army – Glenorchy and State bodies
- Vicinity Holdings (Northgate centre managers)
- Troublesmiths (Impact Communities)

#### Public relations

Council is sharing information about what is being done to address poor behaviour in the Glenorchy CBD through its media channels, Facebook, and website, and will continue to keep the community informed about action being taken.

#### **Recommendation:**

That Council:

1. ENDORSE the continuation of a security presence in the Glenorchy CBD across the week at varying times and days until 31 December 2022, with appropriate provision for these services to be made in the budget estimates for the current 2021/22 year and the 2022/23 year, noting that the likely costs are:
  - a) up to \$24,200 (ex GST) for the remainder of the 2021/22 financial year, and
  - b) up to \$52,800 (ex GST) within the 2022/23 financial year, and
2. REQUEST an update report to the November 2022 ordinary Council meeting on the outcomes of the Community Action Plan, including the use of security services and Salvation Army Street Teams.

#### **Attachments/Annexures**

- 1 Glenorchy CBD Community Action Plan



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## 10. LAND DISPOSAL UPDATE - PRIORITY DISPOSALS TO SUPPORT HOUSING SUPPLY

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Author: Acting Open Space Coordinator (Jasmine Young)  
Manager Property Environment and Waste (Luke Chiu)

Qualified Person: Director Infrastructure and Works (Emilio Reale)

ECM File Reference: Council land - disposal & sale

### **Community Plan Reference:**

#### Making Lives Better

We continue to be a safe, inclusive, active, healthy and vibrant community.

#### Leading Our Community

We will be a progressive, positive community with strong council leadership, striving to make Our Community's Vision a reality.

### **Strategic or Annual Plan Reference:**

#### Making Lives Better

- Objective 1.1 Guide decision making through continued community engagement based on our Community Plan
- Objective 1.2.2 Build relationships and networks that create opportunity for our communities
- Objective 1.3.2 Identify and engage in partnerships that can effectively deliver defined service levels to our communities
- Action 1.1.2 Implement the Glenorchy Community Strategy

#### Leading Our Community

- Objective 4.1 Govern in the best interests of our community
- Objective 4.3 Build strong relationships to deliver our communities' goals
- Strategy 4.3.1 Foster productive relationships with other levels of government, other councils and peak bodies to achieve community outcomes

### **Reporting Brief:**

To provide an update on the progress of Council's current land disposals;

to present an assessment of Council-owned land with the greatest potential for disposal to increase housing supply; and

to recommend Council begins preliminary investigations into the disposal of Council-owned properties at 261 Main Road, Austins Ferry, and 23A Norman Circle, Glenorchy.



## **Proposal in Detail:**

### **Update on progress of Council's current land disposals**

Council currently has eight properties approved for disposal by way of sale or long-term lease. All properties are land only.

The disposal status of each site is:

#### **11 and 13 Nielson Drive, Montrose**

The part of the land that is approved for disposal and will form two separate lots, is zoned General Residential. The balance that will remain in Council ownership, is zoned Landscape Conservation. The lot size for 11 Nielson Drive is approximately 619 square metres and 13 Nielson Drive is approximately 591 square metres.

Civil works are complete at both lots. Final surveying works are currently being undertaken and, once complete, a schedule of easements will be prepared. Once this is complete and all outstanding permit requirements have been met, the final plan will be sealed and lodged with the Land Titles Office. This is likely to occur in April

#### **119 Pitcairn Street, Montrose**

The part of the land that is approved for disposal is zoned General Residential. The balance that will remain in Council ownership is zoned Utilities. The lot size for 119 Pitcairn Street is approximately 721 square metres.

Civil works are complete. Final surveying works are currently being undertaken and once complete, the schedule of easements will be drafted. Once this is complete and all outstanding permit requirements have been met, the final plan will be sealed and lodged with Land Titles Office. This is likely to occur in April.

#### **345 Main Road, Glenorchy**

This property is a car park and has been approved for disposal via long-term lease. It is zoned Central Business and is approximately 1,180 square metres.

Rezoning was approved in late December 2021 and officers are in the process of preparing these car parking spaces for lease via an Expression of Interest process.

#### **5a Taree Street, Chigwell**

This property is zoned General Residential and is approximately 4,798 square metres. While it is a large block, it only has a 6.1m frontage to Taree Street.

Rezoning was approved in late December 2021 and officers are in the process of engaging real estate agents to list this property for sale.

#### **3 Edgar Street, Claremont**

This property is zoned General Residential and is approximately 508.5 square metres.

Rezoning was approved in late December 2021 and officers are in the process of engaging real estate agents to list this property for sale.

#### **14a Colston Street, Claremont**

This property is zoned Utilities and is approximately 8,320 square metres in area.

This property's assessment was withdrawn from the joint rezoning application for the Main Rd, Taree St and Edgar Street properties and has been placed on hold due to complications involving TasWater infrastructure.

It will resume under a separate rezoning application if the infrastructure challenges can be resolved. The proposed new zone would be General Residential.

#### Lot 2 Bournville Crescent, Claremont

This property is currently zoned Open Space. It is undergoing a joint rezoning and subdivision application with Claremont Bowls Club for part of 1 Bournville Crescent.

The application was approved for submission to the Tasmanian Planning Commission (TPC) after receiving an objection at the GPA meeting in October. An initial TPC hearing was held in early December. TPC advised that it has received final submissions from all parties, and we expect that the TPC Panel will hand down its decision within the next month.

If the proposed rezoning and subdivision permit are approved, the next step would be to review and progress the outstanding subdivision planning permit conditions. If the subdivision application is successful, the land size of the proposed development the lot would be 1,638 square metres.

#### **Report on land disposals for housing development**

Following an Annual General Meeting resolution in November 2021, Council made a range of resolutions at its meeting on 21 December 2021 aimed at addressing the current housing accommodation shortage in Greater Hobart.

Resolution 6 was:

*That Council:*

....

*NOTE that officers are progressing a strategic review of land suitable for disposal for housing and will bring advice back to Council by June 2022 regarding suitable sites, seeking approval to commence public consultation and exploring ways to expedite the rezoning process*

....

This report addresses resolution 6 and recommends Council approve the commencement of preliminary investigations into the disposal of two (2) parcels of land within the municipality with the greatest potential to support increased housing supply in the City.

#### **Assessment of suitable Council land for increased housing supply**

Council's Property Section commenced investigations of potential properties for disposal to increase housing supply early in 2022.

The assessment of whether to pursue a disposal of Council land is guided by the Council's *Disposal of Public Land Framework*. The framework recognises that Council

owns numerous properties that are not fit for purpose and/or underutilised. By disposing of these properties, maintenance budgets can be used more efficiently, and sale proceeds can be used to acquire or improve other properties that have a greater community benefit.

A number of factors are considered in the assessment of suitability for disposal to ensure that any decision to sell public land is in the best interests of the community. Some of these factors include strategic aims, costs and benefits, recreational, historical, cultural, scenic and environmental values, adjacent land impacts, site constraints, community perceptions, and legal requirements.

In some cases, Council land proposed or approved for disposal is suitable for residential development. Council will typically seek to re-zone these properties to residential where appropriate prior to the sale process.

The allotments listed below are to be recommended for disposal as they have been identified as either surplus to Council's requirements or not fit for the purpose that they were intended for. The two properties below are identified as land with potential for significant multiple dwelling housing developments and are considered priority potential sites for increasing the supply of land for housing.

Prior to commencing the statutory process for the disposal of public land under section 178 of the *Local Government Act 1993* (**the Act**) for disposing of these properties, a community engagement process would be initiated to identify whether there are any significant concerns within the community that warrant further consideration by Council before proceeding.

The recommendations to this report reflect the above process.

### 23A Norman Circle

23A Norman Circle is 2.66-hectares of vacant land located entirely within the General Residential zone. It would therefore would not require a planning scheme amendment to develop residential uses.

A map showing the location of the property is figure 1, below.

Council has received an expression of interest to purchase the land to develop approximately 18 multiple dwellings and improve connectivity between Brent Street and Norman Circle across Humphreys Rivulet. This development proposal would be subject to a requirement for a planning permit.

It is noted that the site currently has access constraints. However, it appears suitable access may be possible via adjoining properties (which are also owned by the proponent).

The large size of this block, the existing developer interest, and the central residential-zoned location provides scope for potentially significant housing development.



Figure 1 – Location of 21A Norman Circle

### 261 Main Road, Austins Ferry

261 Main Road, Austins Ferry is a very large, 7.14-hectare block which is zoned as a combination of Light Industrial 58%, Open Space 24%, General Residential 11%, Rural Living (Zone A) 7%.

The property would need to be rezoned, in whole or part, to 'General Residential' under the Tasmanian Planning Scheme (**Planning Scheme**) to accommodate residential uses.

A map showing the location of the property is figure 2, below.

If approval to dispose was given, officers would seek to commence preliminary investigations of the land to ensure it could be disposed of in a way which transparently demonstrates achievement of the best value for the community and does not expose Council or the community to unacceptable risks around the process or the outcome. This is a requirement of Council's Land Disposals Policy.

Preliminary investigations would include appointing a planning consultant to produce a report on the potential rezoning of the land and engaging specialist consultants to undertake contamination, natural and cultural values assessments, and prepare a planning scheme amendment request.

While there is some complexity to this site and process, its large size and proximity to the major adjacent residential subdivisions provides scope for potentially significant housing development.

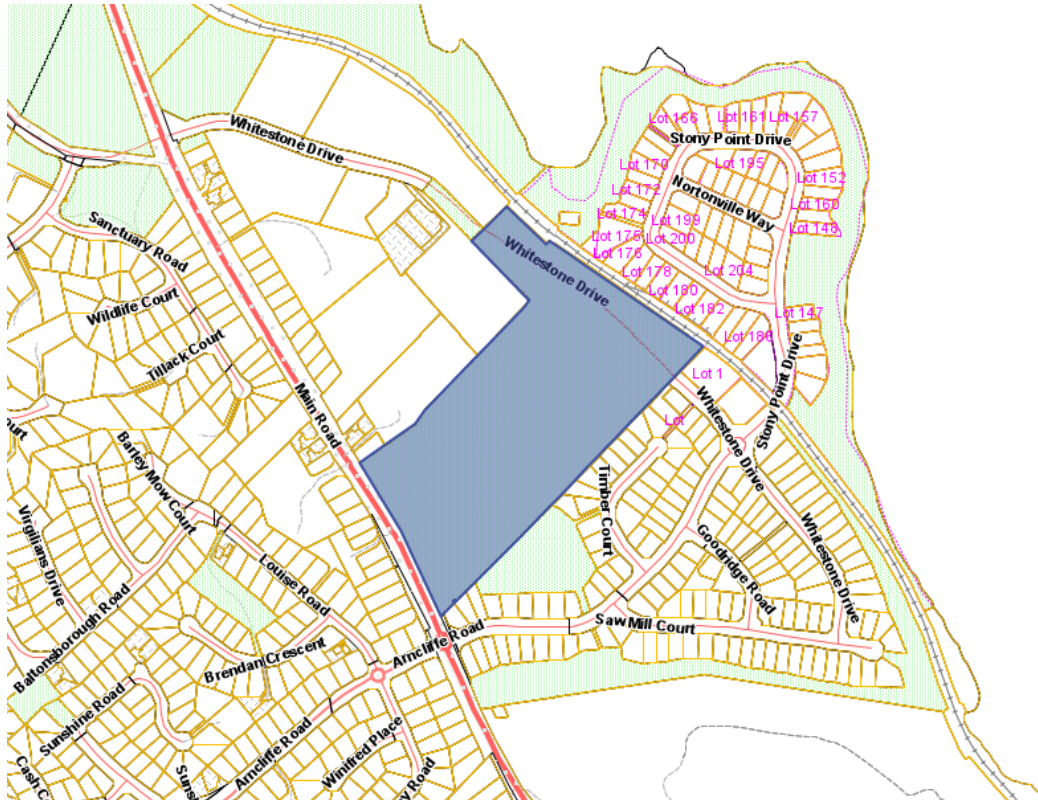


Figure 2 – Location of 261 Main Road, Austins Ferry

## Continuing investigations

At present, the above two properties are the priority ones that have been identified as suitable for disposal to encourage housing developments of a significant scale.

Council officers will continue to review opportunities for disposal of potentially surplus Council land, including those with residential potential.

## Process for disposal of public land

If Council adopts the recommendations in this report, officers would commence the process for investigating and potentially disposing of the land under both Council's internal processes and also section 178 of the Act.

This would begin with officers conducting an initial community consultation process in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Framework to identify whether there are any serious concerns about the proposed disposal. At a minimum, this would consist of the following:

- developing a survey using Council's 'Let's talk Glenorchy' community engagement platform for consultation with residents. The survey would identify any concerns about the disposals and also seek suggestions on the expenditure of any funds from the sale towards open spaces
- conducting a doorknock of residents directly adjacent to the properties to encourage them to participate in the survey, and

- sending a letter to residents whose properties are located within a 100m radius (or potentially more), advising of the survey, providing a web address for the survey and providing an option for it to be provided in hardcopy.

Depending on the feedback received from the survey activities, officers would then take one of the following actions:

- If any concerns or issues were identified that could not be adequately addressed, provide a report to Council outlining the concerns and giving Council the option to proceed with the section 178 process, or
- If any issues or concerns were able to be addressed to the satisfaction of the General Manager, proceed with the statutory land disposal process under section 178 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, which would provide community members with a further opportunity to make representations about the proposed disposal.

After the regulatory process has been completed, a report will be provided back to Council providing an overview of the initial community consultation, any representations received and detailing the information required under Council's *Disposal of Council Land Policy*.

If there were no unresolved concerns after the community consultation process, Council Officers would proceed with the legislative process under section 178 of the Act. This section sets out the process that must be followed by a Council which intends to dispose of public land.

Council's *Disposal of Council Land Policy* (**the Policy**) deems all land owned by Council to be 'public land' for the purposes of the Act.

A resolution of Council to dispose of public land is required to be passed by an absolute majority of Council. If such a resolution were passed:

- the intention must be advertised on two (2) occasions in a daily newspaper circulating in the municipal area, and
- a copy of the notice must be displayed on any boundary of the public land that abuts a highway and notifies the public that objection to the proposal may be made to the General Manager within 21 days of the date of the first publication.

The Policy also provides that, in addition to the notification requirements in section 178, Council is required to:

- display a plan and relevant property information on the community notice board in Council's chambers (near the chambers' rear public entrance), and
- notify the owners of neighbouring and affected properties advising of the proposed disposal.

If Council resolves to commence the public notification and consultation process, officers will ensure that the requirements of section 178 and the Policy are complied with.



Following the completion of the notification, Council is required to consider any objections lodged with objectors having an opportunity to appeal a decision to dispose of the land. This will be provided in a future report to Council.

**Expressions of interest:**

As part of that process, Council will consider any expressions of interest received from any parties interested in purchase of the two properties.

**Consultations:**

Executive Leadership Team  
Manager Property, Environment and Waste  
Operations and Maintenance Supervisor

**Human Resource / Financial and Risk Management Implications:**

Financial

The cost of advertising the proposed new disposal investigations would be approximately \$1,680 (if run concurrently or per property if run separately).

If Council decided to proceed with the section 178 process, valuations would be sought following the 21-day consultation process which would cost approximately \$2,000 per property.

As part of the disposal process, Council would incur costs associated with the administration of the program, servicing of land blocks, planning costs (rezoning, subdivision etc.), and marketing and conveyancer/solicitor fees.

Preliminary investigations for the land include appointing a planning consultant to produce a report to rezone the land at 261 Main Road, Austins Ferry, and engaging specialised consultants to undertake contamination, natural and cultural values assessments, as well as a planning scheme amendment application. These services would cost approximately \$140,000.

Council's finance system also identifies a value for these blocks and so the sale will result in a net reduction in Council's assets on its balance sheet but would still record a net gain in cash received after any costs of sale were deducted.

However, any disposals of Council's open space assets would assist Council's bottom-line in various ways. Firstly, Council's ongoing maintenance needs of these assets will stop, providing savings that can be reinvested into meeting required maintenance service levels. Secondly, any construction of dwellings on these properties would both increase potential housing supply and Council's rate base.

Any cash proceeds from sales would be reinvested into the community. The community would be consulted as part of the process for identifying and prioritising spending these funds. It is envisaged that some of these funds would assist Council to improve local open space infrastructure including parks, reserves, playgrounds, and pathways.

Any other financial implications of the proposed disposals (for example, the expected revenue from sales) would be set out in a future report to Council after the completion of the statutory advertising period.

## Human resources

Council staff will facilitate the consultation and disposal process as part of their normal duties. It is noted that it would be difficult to pursue more than the two recommended properties next financial year with current resources given the eight other disposals already in process as detailed above.

## Risk management

Risk Identification	Consequence	Likelihood	Rating	Risk Mitigation Treatment
<b>Adopt the recommendation</b>	Moderate (C3)	Possible (L4)	Medium	An independent valuation will be obtained by Council and will be considered following the completion of public notification and as part of any decision to proceed with a disposal.
Council does not achieve best value for the community on disposal of the land.				
Adverse public reaction of decision to advertise Council's intention of disposal	Moderate (C3)	Possible (L4)	Medium	Council considers all objections received during the statutory consultation process, as required under s. 178 of the Act.
<b>Do not adopt the recommendation</b>	Moderate (C3)	Almost Certain (L5)	High	Council considers a strategy for realising land assets that are not required for strategic purposes. Council articulates any issues with the proposed disposal and instructs officers to address these in a future report.
Council will delay the opportunity to potentially dispose of surplus land that serves no strategic purpose and may be able to be disposed of for money or land with greater strategic benefits including the potential to increase the supply of much-needed housing.				

## **Community Consultation and Public Relations Implications:**

### Community consultation

Council action on housing demonstrates Council's understanding and knowledge of its community, the challenges for its community and that it will be proactive to address the housing need within our municipality.

It is recommended that a community consultation process is undertaken before Council decides whether to commence the section 178 process under the Act (as identified above).

This will provide the community opportunity to raise any significant concerns early in the process and give Council a proper understanding of the community's view of the potential sales. If the section 178 process subsequently commences, any intention to dispose of the land would be advertised in accordance with the requirements of section 178. The public would have the opportunity to make submissions during this period additional to the preliminary community consultation process.



Council's community consultation process for potential land disposals goes above and beyond the requirements specified in section 178 of the Act.

#### Public relations

Council action on housing will have a positive community benefit, recognising Council's legislated powers and functions of the *Local Government Act 1993 (the Act)* to provide for the health, safety and welfare of the community; represent the interests of the community; and provide for peace, order and good government of the municipal area

#### **Recommendation:**

That Council:

1. AUTHORISE a community engagement process to be undertaken to identify any community concerns about the potential disposal of the following properties:
  - a) 23A Norman Circle, Glenorchy (CT 212565/1) and
  - b) 261 Main Road, Austins Ferry (CT 52246/1),**(the Properties),**
2. If there are no unresolved community concerns, AUTHORISE the General Manager to commence the statutory process for the disposal of the Properties under section 178 of the *Local Government Act 1993*; and
3. If there are unresolved community concerns, REQUIRE a report to a future Council meeting to enable Council to consider those concerns and decide whether or not to commence a process under s. 178 of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

#### **Attachments/Annexures**

- 1 Land Disposals Program Data



# ECONOMIC

***Community goal: “Open for Business”***

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## 11. BMX TRACK RELOCATION INVESTIGATION

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Author: Director Infrastructure and Works (Emilio Reale)

Qualified Person: Director Infrastructure and Works (Emilio Reale)

ECM File Reference: BMX Facility

### **Community Plan Reference:**

#### Leading Our Community

The communities of Glenorchy will be confident that the Council manages the community's assets soundly for the long-term benefit of the community.

### **Strategic or Annual Plan Reference:**

#### Leading our community

Objective 4.1 Govern in the best interests of our community

Strategy 4.1.1 Manage Council for maximum efficiency, accountability and transparency

Strategy 4.1.2 Manage the City's assets soundly for the long-term benefit of the community

Objective 4.2 Prioritise resources to achieve our communities' goals

Strategy 4.2.1 Deploy the Council's resources effectively to deliver value

### **Reporting Brief:**

To provide a report to the open Council meeting about Council's agreement with Sorell Council to relocate the Southern City BMX Track at Berriedale to Pembroke Park in Sorell.

### **Proposal in Detail:**

#### **Background**

At its meeting in February 2022, Council considered a report in its closed session on investigations into the relocation of the Southern City BMX Track at Berriedale. The item was considered in closed Council because, at that time, negotiations between the two Councils and the Tasmanian Government about the location were still progressing.

Since that meeting, Sorell Council has given its in-principle approval to progressing a project to build a new track at Pembroke Park, and Council is now able to release information previously considered in closed Council, for the information of the Glenorchy community.

## Need to relocate BMX Track

At its September 2019 Council meeting, Council resolved to commence a process to dispose, exchange or lease Council land at 671 Main Road Berriedale (**the Land**), on the Berriedale peninsula.

The Southern City BMX track is located on part of the Land.

Following the completion of the statutory process of advertising and seeking public feedback about potential disposal of the Land, a report was presented to the April 2020 Council meeting, leading Council to resolve the following:

*That Council:*

*APPROVE the disposal of the part of 671 Main Road, Glenorchy by way of, sale or lease, in whole or in part; as well as AUTHORISE the General Manager to enter into exclusive negotiation with MONA on the sale and/or lease of the property.*

To facilitate the land disposal, the BMX club was required to relocate its track to another site. The Southern City BMX Club was aware of this requirement and Council has been working closely with the Club for some years about potential move.

At the time of the resolution in 2019, Council's intent was to relocate the BMX track to Tolosa Park. To support the track relocation, Council was successful in securing a Community Sport and Recreation Grant of \$250,000. It also committed \$460,000 in funds from its Economic Recovery Program (funded through an interest free loan from the Tasmanian Government under its COVID-19 relief measures) to the project.

After that resolution Council officers undertook detailed site investigations of the Tolosa Park location, which identified significant complexities associated with the relocation of the BMX track to Tolosa Park.

This included conducting a geotechnical survey and preparing conceptual designs for the proposed site. The investigations identified that the ground at the proposed Tolosa Park location was highly reactive due to an historical landslip and would need substantial additional works to ensure its stability to support the track development. These major works escalated the estimated cost of the project to over \$2.1m (if it were constructed at that location).

The Tolosa Park site also presented issues in relation to the siting of the track due to major underground services (a major water main) and overhead services (high voltage electrical power lines). Further, the only location in which the BMX track could be located at Tolosa Park would be in a very prominent position and requiring the removal of heritage trees, the demolition of an existing picnic shelter and the loss of a sealed car park (14 spaces). This would have significantly affected the recreational values of the Park.

Due to these concerns, other potential sites within the Glenorchy municipality were subsequently evaluated. However, no other viable site was able to be found because of the required size of the track and the need to be in close proximity to toilets, power and parking (or having to develop their own).

The Southern City BMX club is a regional club supporting the southern Tasmanian region and has approximately 100 members, many of whom live outside of the Glenorchy area.

Officers presented these concerns to Council at the Council meeting on 25 October 2021 (closed session) and recommended that Council investigate opportunities for the BMX track to be relocated to a different local government area and consider seeking approval to have the Community Sport and Recreation Grant of \$250,000 and the remainder of the \$460,000 (which, after funds spent on investigation and preliminary design costs was \$433,597) from the Economic Recovery Program transferred to either the club or another southern Tasmanian council to fund a relocation at a more suitable location.

While it might appear an unusual decision to contribute funds to a facility outside of the Glenorchy local government area, that option, would be the lowest cost option for Council ratepayers. It would also allow Council to unlock the economic benefits and development potential of the Berriedale Peninsula in accordance with the vision in the 2020 master plan, for the benefit of our community. It should also be noted that, as the BMX track is a regional facility for southern Tasmania, the membership of the BMX Club, as a whole, would still benefit, given the new facility would be significantly upgraded from the current one.

The decision also needs to be considered in the context of the potential broader community negative feedback related to:

- the high costs of constructing the facility at Tolosa Park (estimated at \$2.1m)
- the substantial ongoing maintenance and asset depreciation expenses of the facility, and
- the significant impacts on the amenity and facilities at Tolosa Park, which would persist into the long-term.

Council subsequently supported this approach at its meeting of 25 October 2021 (closed session) and investigations into an alternative location commenced.

### **Sorell proposal**

Following Council's support for investigating a new location for the track in October 2021, Council, in discussion with the Southern City BMX Club and other councils, identified a preferred alternative site for the BMX track at Pembroke Park in Sorell. Some of the factors that supported this location include:

- the Southern City BMX Club is a regional club that supports Southern Tasmania (not Glenorchy specifically), as such a relocation to the centrally located Pembroke Park in Sorell is a minor and positive move that will support the Southern Region catchment of the club, noting it would be the only BMX track in the south of Tasmania
- Pembroke Park is an existing, and expanding, sport and recreation hub that will have strong synergies with a state level BMX facility. The project also aligns with Sorell Council's strategic sport and recreation planning, which had already identified a desire to develop a bike jumps track at this location

- the site is flat and stable and already has supporting infrastructure including toilets and parking, greatly reducing construction costs to be in line with the original budget, and
- Sorell is a fast-growing municipality and Pembroke Park is centrally-located within the CBD, making this an ideal location to support the Southern Region BMX facility. It is also located close to the airport, which would further enhance opportunities for a track in that location to host state and national events.

Discussions with the Sorell Council progressed favourably, and Council considered the proposal in detail at its meeting on 28 February 2021 (closed session). The resolution from that session enabled the matter to be formally considered by Sorell Council.

At its meeting on 15 March, Sorell Council resolved to give its in-principle support to pursue the project, subject to funding and the transfer of the Community Sport and Recreation grant funds and the \$433,597 of funds from Council's Economic Recovery Program.

Sorell Council's resolution from its meeting on 15 March 2021 was:

*"That Council resolve to:*

- (i) authorise the General Manager to notify Glenorchy City Council confirming Sorell Council's in principle support to facilitate the southern Tasmanian BMX facility project at Pembroke Park; and*
- (ii) authorise the General Manager to execute the necessary agreements with Glenorchy City Council and the Department of Communities, Sport and Recreation to transfer funding of \$433,597 and \$250,000 respectively."*

Sorell Council has since advised that:

*On the assumption the position of GCC and CSR will not change with respect to part (ii), it is our intention to further engage the track designing consultant to prepare a tender specification and to proceed to a public tender in April.*

*[Sorell] Council requires confirmation of actual cost as soon as possible this FY and subject to tender cost submissions, Council will be able to confirm with all parties if the project will progress to construction in 22/23.*

Discussions with Community Sport and Recreation have also progressed favourably, resulting in in-principle support for the \$250,000 grant to be transferred to the Sorell Council if it proceeds with the project. It is noted that Community Sport and Recreation stated it would only support a transfer of the grant to a Council and not a sporting club.

There is, however, pressure from Community Sport and Recreation to formally action this now, as the Council has been unable to meet the project progress requirements that were due in December 2021. An extension was provided until March 2022 to allow these negotiations to take place. In accordance with Council's February 2022 decision (closed Council), the Community Sport and Recreation grant has now been returned to the Department to enable reallocation of the funds.

In respect to the \$433,597 balance of the Economic Recovery Program funding to Sorell Council (subject to its agreement to commit to the BMX relocation project), this

would be, as noted above, a preferable outcome for ratepayers when compared to other scenarios (e.g. the estimated \$2.1m (or higher) capital cost, plus ongoing depreciation and maintenance costs and loss of a large part of Tolosa Park).

#### **Consultations:**

Executive Leadership Team  
 Property Section  
 Manager Community  
 Sorell Council  
 Community Sport and Recreation  
 Southern City BMX Club  
 Jane Howlett, former Minister for Sport and Recreation

#### **Human Resource / Financial and Risk Management Implications:**

##### Financial

Council has received the following funds for the project:

- \$250,000 Community Sport and Recreation Grant
- \$460,000 Economic Recovery Program interest free loan

To date Council has spent \$26,403 on the project undertaking design work and geotechnical studies leaving a balance of \$433,597.

As noted above, Community Sport and Recreation has provided its in-principle support for the grant funds to be transferred to the Sorell Council if they are willing to commit to the project.

Council has approved the transfer of the balance of the Economic Recovery Program funds to Sorell Council to facilitate the transfer of the facility.

Both Councils are exploring potential opportunities for additional grant funding from the Tasmanian Government. If successful, this would reduce the amount of funds Council would be required to commit from its Economic Recovery Program.

##### Human resources

Existing Council staff will continue to facilitate the process as part of their normal duties.

##### Risk management

Risk Identification	Consequence	Likelihood	Rating	Risk Mitigation Treatment
<b>Adopt the recommendation</b> Adverse public reaction to the relocation of the BMX track to outside of the municipal area.	Minor	Possible	Medium (6)	Reinforce key points explained throughout this report including that it is a regional club and facility, that the site is better suited, and that it is overall a much better outcome for ratepayers.

Risk Identification	Consequence	Likelihood	Rating	Risk Mitigation Treatment
The Sorell project fails to eventuate or is delayed.	Moderate	Possible	Medium (9)	Council has waited until in-principle agreements have been made with both Sorell Council and Community Sport and Recreation.  Potential delays are out of Council's control, however the Sorell project appears to be able to be progressed quicker than any other known alternative.
<b>Do not adopt the recommendation</b>	Moderate	Likely	High (12)	Don't develop the facility. However this would meet subsequent adverse reactions for taking over the site and not facilitating an alternative facility.
Adverse public reaction to the very high cost, and park impacts, of developing the BMX track in Tolosa Park.				

### Community Consultation and Public Relations Implications:

#### Community consultation

No broader community consultation has been undertaken specifically relating to the proposed relocation of the BMX track to Sorell. However, as detailed above, engagement has occurred with the BMX club, Sorell Council and the State Government.

#### Public relations

Council issued a media release following Sorell Council's decision. Understandably, some community members have expressed concern about the loss of the BMX facility from the City, the potential cost to Council and the reasons it was not preferable to relocate the facility to Tolosa Park as originally planned.

### Recommendation:

That Council:

NOTE the update on the potential relocation of the Southern City BMX Track to Pembroke Park in the Sorell Council LGA and the decision of Sorell Council to give its in-principle support to the project, subject to further investigations of the total cost.

### Attachments/Annexures

Nil.



# GOVERNANCE

***Community goal: “Leading our Community”***

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## 12. UPDATED COUNCIL POLICIES

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Author: Manager Corporate Governance (Tracey Ehrlich)

Qualified Person: Director Corporate Services (Jenny Richardson)

ECM File Reference: Council Policies

### **Community Plan Reference:**

Under the *City of Glenorchy Community Plan 2015 - 2040*, the Community has prioritised 'transparent and accountable government'.

### **Strategic or Annual Plan Reference:**

#### Open for Business

Objective 2.1 Stimulate a prosperous economy.

Strategy 2.1.1 Foster an environment that encourages investment and jobs.

#### Leading our Community

Objective 4.1 Govern in the best interests of our community.

Strategy 4.1.1 Manage Council for maximum efficiency, accountability and transparency.

### **Reporting Brief:**

To present two updated policies to Council for adoption and recommend the rescission of two policies.

### **Proposal in Detail:**

All policies adopted by Council are reviewed cyclically. The ordinary review period for Council policies is four (4) years after adoption. However, policies may be reviewed earlier if it is appropriate to do so, for example if there are changes to a relevant governing act.

This report presents the following updated policies to Council and recommends them for adoption:

- Notification to Purchasers: Contaminated Land in Lutana Policy, and
- Sponsorship Policy.

It is also recommended that Council rescind the following:

- Human Resources Policy 2017, and
- Planning Appeals and Enforcement Policy 2016.

### **Notification to Purchasers: Contaminated Land in Lutana Policy**

The policy was adopted by Council at its meeting on 21 November 2016 and has been reviewed having reached the end of its four year term.

- Attachment 1 is a copy of the 2016 Policy with tracked changes, and
- Attachment 2 is a copy of the recommended updated Policy.

The revised policy continues to provide for Council to alert prospective purchasers of land in the Lutana notification area as to potentially contaminated soil as a result of dust containing heavy metals blowing from stockpiles at the zinc works.

It gives effect to a recommendation of a Steering Committee formed by the Tasmanian Government in 2008 that local councils place an advisory message on council land information certificates issued under section 337 of the *Local Government Act 1993* in respect of the affected properties alerting purchasers to the potential contamination. The General Manager has an obligation under section 337 to include such information on a land information certificate.

The revised policy will have the same effect as the existing policy. However, it contains the following amendments:

- the Planning Scheme reference has been updated to reflect the new Tasmanian Planning Scheme – Glenorchy, and
- a few grammatical improvements not affecting the intent of the policy.

The revision of this policy involved input and feedback from Council's Development department and Council management. No other consultation was sought as the policy's content is mostly determined by legislative requirements.

### **Sponsorship Policy**

The Sponsorship Policy was adopted by Council on 20 March 2017 and has been reviewed having reached the end of its four (4) year cycle.

- Attachment 3 is a copy of the 2016 policy with tracked changes, and
- Attachment 4 is a copy of the recommended updated policy.

Amendments made in the updated policy include:

- referencing Council's Gifts and Benefits Policy in relation to staff development opportunities and ensuring transparency of sponsorship arrangements
- amalgamation of the 'Appropriate Association' and 'Due Probity' sections to reinforce all probity considerations more clearly and ensure they are assessed regarding sponsorship opportunities
- amended authorisation limits from \$5,000 to \$20,000 to align with Council's Grant Guidelines Directive, including authorisation by the General Manager', and
- including consideration of the financial / economic benefits which may accrue to Council through the sponsorship arrangement.

The revision of this policy has included consultation with Council management and Property Services, Finance and Economic Development departments.

### **Human Resources Policy**

The Human Resources Policy was adopted by Council at its 20 March 2017 meeting. The Policy was approved for four (4) years, after which it was to be reviewed. The policy is Attachment 5

A review of this policy indicates it is an internally focussed statement which reiterates the General Manager's requirement to comply with section 63(1) of the *Local Government Act 1993*. The policy does not have any content of relevance to the community, nor does it add any clarity beyond the General Manager's compliance with s. 63(1).

It is therefore recommended that the policy is rescinded.

### **Planning Appeals and Enforcement Policy**

The Planning Appeals and Enforcement Policy was adopted by Council at its meeting on 13 April 2016. The Policy was approved for four (4) years, after which it was to be reviewed. The policy is Attachment 6.

The policy has now been reviewed by a number of stakeholders including Development Coordinators, Senior Legal Counsel, as well as the Management team. Feedback resulted in the removal of the majority of the content based on the following:

- duplication with the existing, and more recent, Enforcement Policy
- low value statements which offer no guidance to the community
- statements of law and/or existing statutory obligations which Council has no discretion over and are already included in legislation and regulation; and
- superfluous background information of no value.

The remaining few statements are process orientated and would be more appropriate to be captured in a Planning Practice Note which is currently being drafted.

It is therefore recommended that the policy is rescinded.

### **Consultations:**

Executive Leadership Team  
Management  
Corporate Governance  
Senior Legal Counsel  
Council Officers

### **Human Resource / Financial and Risk Management Implications:**

There are no material human resources or financial implications.

Risk Identification	Consequence	Likelihood	Rating	Risk Mitigation Treatment
<b>Adopt the recommendation</b>	Minor	Unlikely	Low	Responsible officers continue to monitor compliance with policies and ensure that any amendments are made in a timely manner, as required.
None of the recommended updated, new policies or rescinded policies represent any significant departure from established practices or statutory requirements. There is a chance that procedural difficulties may be identified once they are implemented, leading to operational inefficiencies.				
<b>Do not adopt the recommendation</b>	Minor	Likely	Medium	Council officers are instructed to review the policies and implement any changes requested by Council as soon as practicable.
Governance administration would be less optimal due to the presence of outdated and less effective policies.				

### Community Consultation and Public Relations Implications:

The updated policies, once adopted by Council, will be available on Council's website.

### Recommendation:

That Council:

1. ADOPT the updated Notification to Purchasers: Contaminated Land in Lutana Policy in the form of Attachment 2
2. ADOPT the updated Sponsorship Policy in the form of Attachment 4
3. RESCIND the Human Resources Policy in the form of Attachment 5, and
4. RESCIND the Planning Appeals and Enforcement Policy in the form of Attachment 6.

### Attachments/Annexures

- 1 Notification to Purchasers: Contaminated Land in Lutana Policy 2016  
[⇒](#) tracked changes
- 2 Notification to Purchasers: Contaminated Land in Lutana Policy 2022  
[⇒](#)
- 3 Sponsorship Policy 2017 tracked changes  
[⇒](#)
- 4 Sponsorship Policy 2022  
[⇒](#)
- 5 Human Resources Policy 2017  
[⇒](#)

## **6 Planning Appeals and Enforcement Policy 2016**



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## 13. PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTS - MONTHLY REPORT

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Author: Manager Corporate Governance (Tracey Ehrlich)

Qualified Person: Director Corporate Services (Jenny Richardson)

ECM File Reference: Procurement

### **Community Plan Reference:**

#### Leading our Community

The communities of Glenorchy will be confident that Council manages the community's assets soundly for the long-term benefit of the community.

### **Strategic or Annual Plan Reference:**

#### Leading our Community

Objective 4.1 Govern in the best interests of our community

Strategy 4.1.1 Manage Council for maximum efficiency, accountability and transparency

Strategy 4.1.3 Maximise regulatory compliance in Council and the community through our systems and processes

### **Reporting Brief:**

To inform Council of exemptions that have been applied to procurements under Council's Code for Tenders and Contracts for the period 16 February to 14 March 2022 and provide an update on external legal expenditure in accordance with the Ministerial Directions.

### **Proposal in Detail:**

#### **Exemption report**

Council's Code for Tenders and Contracts (**the Code**) has been made and adopted by Council as required under section 333B of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

Under the Code (Annex A), the General Manager is required to report to Council any purchases in circumstances where a normally required public tender or quotation process is not used. Instances of non-application of the quotation or public tender process are to be reported at ordinary Council meetings as soon as possible after a contract is executed or a purchase order is issued.

The information reported for each contract or purchase order will include:

- the contract or purchase order value (excluding GST)
- the circumstances for engaging the contractor or supplier without seeking the required number of quotes

- the date approval was given to engage the contractor or supplier
- the date of the contract or purchase order
- if the contract or purchase order was as a result of a prescribed situation or prescribed contract under regulation 27 of the *Local Government (General) Regulations*, the sub regulation relied on for not calling for public tenders.

For the period from 16 February to 14 March 2022 there were no exemptions to Council's Code for Tenders and Contracts.

### **Expenditure on external legal services**

In compliance with Item 32 of the Ministerial Directions, Council adopted a policy and process relating to the appointment of external legal advisors and monthly reporting to Council external legal services expenditure.

For the month of February 2022, the total amount spent on external legal services for all of Council was \$2,919.00. This expenditure related to a human resources advisory matter and a tribunal hearing.

The expenditure was provided for in Council's 2021-22 budget.

### **Consultations:**

Executive Leadership Team  
Senior Legal Counsel  
Procurement and Contracts Coordinator  
Accounts Payable Supervisor

### **Human Resource / Financial and Risk Management Implications:**

#### Human resources

There are no material human resources implications.

#### Financial

The report documents expenditure of \$2,919.00 in budgeted operational costs.

#### Risk management

As this report is recommended for receiving and noting only, no risk management issues arise. Risks around procurement are monitored and reported on a continuous basis as part of standard processes and procedures.



**Community Consultation and Public Relations Implications:**

Community consultation was not required or undertaken. There are no material public relations implications.

**Recommendation:**

That Council:

RECEIVE and NOTE the Procurement and Contracts Monthly Report for the period from 16 February to 14 March 2022.

**Attachments/Annexures**

Nil.

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## 14. FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE REPORT TO 28 FEBRUARY 2022

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Author: Chief Financial Officer (Tina House)  
Qualified Person: Director Corporate Services (Jenny Richardson)  
ECM File Reference: Corporate and Financial Reporting

### **Community Plan Reference:**

#### Leading Our Community

We will be a progressive, positive community with strong council leadership, striving to make Our Community's Vision a reality.

The communities of Glenorchy will be confident that Council manages the community's assets soundly for the long-term benefit of the community.

### **Strategic or Annual Plan Reference:**

#### Leading Our Community

- Objective 4.1 Govern in the best interests of our community
  - Strategy 4.1.1 Manage Council for maximum efficiency, accountability, and transparency
- Objective 4.2 Prioritise resources to achieve our communities' goals
  - Strategy 4.1.2 Manage the City's assets soundly for the long-term benefit of the community
  - Strategy 4.2.1 Deploy the Council's resources effectively to deliver value

### **Reporting Brief:**

To provide the monthly Financial Performance Report to Council for the period ending 28 February 2022.

### **Proposal in Detail:**

#### **FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE REPORT**

Council's Financial Performance Report (**Report**) for the year-to-date ending 28 February 2022 is Attachment 1.

The Report highlights that Council's actual operating result as at the end of February, is \$2.491 million better than the budgeted position. The favourable variance to the budgeted position is the combined result of a \$1.912 million increase in revenue and a \$0.579m decrease in expenditure.

## **Executive Summary**

Council continues to report a favourable budget to actual operational position. However, in line with the Mid Year Budget Review approved by Council in January 2022 the forecast for the financial year is an operating deficit of \$0.775m. This forecast takes into consideration expected income and expenditure for the remaining months of the financial year, together with all end-of-financial year accounting movements.

### **Revenue**

Year-to-date operational revenue is \$59.677 million compared to budgeted operational revenue of \$57.765 million. This represents a favourable result of \$1.912 million or 3.3% against budget.

More than half of the favourable result is represented by accrued and current grants received by Council which, if utilised, will result in additional expenditure. The remainder of the favourable result represents user fees spread across statutory development, landfill and waste management.

### **Expenditure**

Year-to-date operational expenditure is \$40.226 million compared to budgeted expenditure of \$40.805 million. This represents a favourable result of \$0.579 million or 1.4% compared to budget.

This is largely represented by reduced employee expenses generated by vacancy savings. This is offset by an increase in materials and services expenditure, some of which is attributable to expenditure of grants received.

### **Non-operating – Capital Grant Revenue**

Capital grants revenue is \$2.652 million against an annual budget of \$2.178 million.

A wide range of capital grants represent the actual year-to-date figure including accrued grants from last financial year yet to be expended, new local roads and community infrastructure grants, and vulnerable road user grants.

### **Non-Operating – Net Gain/(Loss) on Disposal of Assets**

Disposal of assets currently records a gain of \$58,000 against an annual budgeted loss of \$370,000.

### **Non-Operating – Contributions Non-Monetary Assets**

At this stage in the financial year, there has been no non-monetary assets received against the annual budget of \$2.1 million.

These are typically infrastructure assets constructed in new subdivisions which pass to Council ownership upon completion of works, or found assets not previously recorded in Council's asset register.

## **Capital Works**

Council's year-to-date Capital Works expenditure is \$8.574 million against a revised annual budget of \$19.654 million.

Council considered a comprehensive update report at the February 2022 meeting and there has been no material change to the forecast provided in that report.

## **COVID-19 Expenditure**

It is considered necessary to resume regular reporting of expenditure resulting from the COVID-19 situation in Tasmania, due to the increased prevalence of COVID-19 affecting Council and the community. As at the reporting date, \$96,762 has been expended on COVID-19 activities with a further \$10,764 currently committed into the immediate future.

## **Summary**

Further information on revenue, expenditure and capital works figures is provided in [Attachment 1](#) to this report.

## **Consultations:**

General Manager

Executive Leadership Team

Officers responsible for Capital and Operational Budget reporting

## **Human Resource / Financial and Risk Management Implications:**

Financial implications are set out in the body of this report and in [Attachment 1](#).

As this report is for receiving and noting only, no risk management issues arise. Risks associated with Council's financial expenditure and sustainability were managed through the process for developing Council's annual budget and are monitored through ongoing reporting on Council's Strategic and Key Operational risk register.

## **Community Consultation and Public Relations Implications:**

Community consultation was not required due to the regular and operational nature of this report. There are no material public relations implications.

## **Recommendation:**

That Council:

RECEIVE and NOTE the Financial Performance Report for the year-to-date ending 28 February 2022 as set out in [Attachment 1](#).

## **Attachments/Annexures**

**1** Attachment 1 - Financial Performance Report to 28 February 2022

[⇒](#)

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## **15. NOTICES OF MOTIONS – QUESTIONS ON NOTICE / WITHOUT NOTICE**

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### **Answers to previous questions taken on notice**

**Question without notice – Alderman Sims - Glenorchy Historical Society (from 28 February 2022 meeting)**

**Q. Over recent months I've again had a number of the community approach me regarding the Glenorchy historical committee. There appears to be a lot of confusion regarding councils approach and role, as well as various cohorts of the community who are extremely passionate and keen to see improved progress and support.**

**In saying this I have several questions. From Council's knowledge:**

- Is the publicly available CBOS Registration information correct?**
- Why is the principle activity listed as 'unknown' and what does this mean?**
- Are there any other members, board members & chairpersons?**
- What are their functions and outputs?**
- Is the currently listed venue open to the public for accessing these important historical archives?**

**A. Alderman Sims has provided Council with a copy of the Association Extract for the Glenorchy Historical Society. The registration extract is available by conducting a search on the Consumer Building and Occupational Services (CBOS) website and is publicly available.**

Council has no formal affiliation or involvement with the Glenorchy Historical Society so does not know and is unable to advise whether any of the information on the registration is correct, nor provide answers to any of the other questions. All of the questions would need to be directed to the Glenorchy Historical Society itself.

The listed address for the society (193 Tolosa St, Glenorchy) appears to be a residential house and it is not owned or managed by Council. The Society previously operated from a building leased from Council on the grounds of St Mathews Church in the Glenorchy CBD, however the lease ended in 2021 and the premises is now occupied by the Glenorchy Jobs Hub.

**Question without notice – Alderman Sims – Suicide Prevention Community Action Plan (from 28 February 2022 meeting)**

**Q. We recently signed on to the LGAT suicide prevention community action plan. It was an LGAT initiative funded through the state government facilitated by Relationships Australia and is suppose to be implemented by local councils.**

- **Where is our action plan?**
- **What is the progress feedback & outcomes so far?**

A. The Suicide Prevention Action Plan process is a Relationships Australia program.

Council's Community Department has a long history of working in the area of suicide prevention, with support from partners such as Relationships Australia, Lifeline, the Phoenix Centre and other key organisations.

Community Development convened the Glenorchy Suicide Prevention Network for many years which resulted in community training and development of resources, including some that were translated. Council officers are now participating in the Tasmanian Suicide Prevention Community Network (TSPCN) and working with the Relationships Australia Suicide Prevention Officer with the view to developing a Suicide Prevention Community Action Plan (SPCAP).

The process we are following is to consult with community service providers initially. Other actions of note are:

- the Suicide Prevention Officer has attended a Thrive to 25 meeting
- the Suicide Prevention Officer will attend next Linkages interagency meeting
- the development of a SPCAP was discussed at the Healthy Communities Reference Group meeting at the end of 2021.

Once feedback from the above actions and consultation with other stakeholders has been collated, Council officers will develop a plan that will also bring together the work that we are currently undertaking in the Mental Health space, such as:

- Teen Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) Training, which will be delivered to 120 Montrose Bay High school students last term. A further 90 Grade 8 students will be trained at Cosgrove this term
- Conducting a Mental Health First Aid Instructor Course later this year
- A health and wellbeing session will be delivered in Chigwell, including a mental health component
- Delivery of a youth mentor program at Montrose Bay High School, which has a focus on keeping young people in school and positive mental health
- Delivering Mentors in Violence Bystander Intervention training, and
- Continuing to distribute the Family Violence Contact Card

The above initiatives will be included in the SPCAP as well as any additional actions that will be identified during the consultation process.

**Questions on notice – Alderman Fraser (received 11 March 2022)**

**Wild rabbits seem to be an increasing problem In Glenorchy City at the moment. In West Moonah, where I live, we have seen an explosion in their numbers and they are moving into areas that I've never seen before. Other residents have also mentioned rabbits in Berriedale and Rosetta.**

**Q1. Is the Council aware of this issue and are there any plans to better control their population?**

- A. Council is aware of the increase in numbers around Glenorchy City, and have fielded many calls regarding the issue. We have also received a number of calls regarding dead rabbits appearing in very high numbers around the city. The Invasive Species branch of the Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania is responsible for the control of rabbits in the State, periodically scheduling control programs, and are also aware of the current issue. Council's Animal Management Officers are in constant communication with the State department regarding rabbits, and assist with programs where possible.

It is worth noting, however, that the Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania does not have a control program currently active that is resulting in the large number of dead rabbits appearing. The State department advised us that in a few pockets within the State, many rabbits have been getting sick and dying from Myxomatosis. Myxomatosis, or what is commonly known as "Myxo", is a pox virus (disease) which occurs in rabbits and is spread through fleas and mosquitoes that ingest the virus while biting infected rabbits then transmit the disease to other susceptible rabbits, and is most likely the cause of the increased numbers of dead rabbits being sighted.

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## 15.1 NOTICE OF MOTION - ALD. RYAN - REFUGEE WELCOME ZONE DECLARATION

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Author: Ald. Angela Ryan (Alderman)  
Qualified Person: Director Community and Customer Services (David  
Ronaldson)  
ECM File Reference: Community Development

### Reporting Brief:

To consider a notice of motion by Alderman Angela Ryan submitted in accordance with the requirements of regulation 16(5) of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015*

### Motion

That Council:

1. SIGN the Refugee Council of Australia Declaration and DECLARE Glenorchy City Council a Refugee Welcome Zone, such Declaration being a commitment in spirit to welcoming refugees into our community, upholding the human rights of refugees, demonstrating compassion for refugees, and enhancing cultural and religious diversity in our community.
2. Holding to the spirit of declaring Glenorchy a Refugee Welcome Zone, DECLARE its support for the endorsement on 31 January 2022 by Hobart City Council to voice support and advocate on behalf of the refugees stranded at the Park Hotel in Melbourne.

### Rationale:

This motion seeks a resolution that Council Declares the City of Glenorchy a Refugee Welcome Zone and gives voice to its support for the Hobart City Council initiative to support and advocate on behalf of the refugees stranded at the Park Hotel in Melbourne

The following is background and information regarding the above.

As stated on the Refugee Council of Australia website, a Refugee Welcome Zone is a Local Government Area which has made a commitment in spirit to: welcoming refugees into the community, upholding the human rights of refugees, demonstrating compassion for refugees and enhancing cultural and religious diversity in the community.

The Refugee Welcome Zone initiative began in June 2002 as part of Refugee Week celebrations. Currently, there are 166 Local Government Areas across Australia that have joined the initiative and become Refugee Welcome Zones.



Eleven Local Government Areas in Tasmania have joined up: Break O'Day, Northern Midlands, Derwent Valley, West Tamar, Burnie, Launceston, Latrobe, Huon Valley, Kingborough, Clarence and Hobart.

Considering that Glenorchy Municipality prides itself on its ethnic diversity and celebration of cultural expression, declaring Glenorchy City a Refugee Welcome Zone would be an obvious formalisation of an existing attitude.

Currently, Glenorchy is a 'Welcoming City' and a part of the International Welcoming Cities movement – indeed Glenorchy was the first Local Government Area in Tasmania to join this initiative. 'Welcoming Cities' is a national network of cities, towns and LGAs that are committed to a diverse and inclusive cultural, economic, and civic life. There are now 65 member Councils across Australia, with 200 municipalities globally. Glenorchy is also a signatory to the "Racism. It Stops With Me" campaign.

Accordingly, joining the Refugee Welcome Zone initiative fits well with actions already taken by this Council.

As stated on the Refugee Council of Australia website:

*Local Government has historically played an important role in assisting refugee settlement and promoting community harmony. Becoming a Refugee Welcome Zone is a way to continue this proud tradition of supporting the settlement of refugees. It can motivate Local Government and local organisations and support groups to work together more effectively so as to improve settlement outcomes for refugees.*

Signing the Declaration is also intended to promote social cohesion and respect for human rights in the local community.

## **Process**

The process for becoming a Refugee Welcome Zone is simple and involves the Council signing the *Refugee Welcome Zone Declaration*. [Attachment 1](#) is some information from the Refugee Council of Australia as well as a sample Declaration which it is proposed that Council signs.

## **Obligations and responsibilities**

The Refugee Welcome Zone Declaration does not confer any formal obligations and Refugee Welcome Zones are not required to uphold any statutory responsibilities or financial commitments. The signing of the Declaration is a way of demonstrating support for the principles it contains. Any actions or activities undertaken by Refugee Welcome Zones to implement the Declaration are voluntary.

As the Refugee Council of Australia states, the signing of the Declaration can also help to raise awareness about the issues affecting refugees. And it is in the spirit of this aim that the second part of this motion is proposed.

At the Hobart Council meeting on 31 January 2022, Hobart City Council passed a motion, in effect, to voice support and advocate on behalf of the refugees stranded at the Park Hotel in Melbourne.

In relation to recommendation #2, officers note that this position is consistent with Council's Community Strategy Priority Outcome # 1 in that "We are a welcoming, accessible and inclusive community, caring for all and Goal # 1 People from different social, language and cultural backgrounds are involved and included."

The background of that motion is the events surrounding the 2022 Australian Open Tennis Tournament in Melbourne which was overshadowed by the legal status of the World number 1 tennis player, Novak Djokovic. Whilst the legality of his presence in Australia was subjected to judicial process, Mr Djokovic was detained at the Park Hotel, Melbourne – the same hotel where a number of 'Medevac' refugees were also housed. The publicity which Mr Djokovic received threw into sharp relief the plight of the 'Medevac' refugees who had been stuck in the Park Hotel for up to nine years without any end on sight, and without the wider public being aware of their presence or circumstances.

A number of activist groups as well as groups of ordinary concerned citizens lobbied and demonstrated to bring attention to the plight of these men. One of these groups was the Tassie Nannas in Hobart, which was ultimately the catalyst for the motion being put at the Hobart City Council meeting by Deputy Lord Mayor, Helen Burnet. A copy of the final resolution by Hobart City Council is [Attachment 2](#)).

As a result of the motion being passed by Hobart City Council, the Premier, Peter Gutwein, has said that he was open to discussion on the subject. Since then, a number of the refugees have been released, but not all of them, and those that have been released are still vulnerable.

At this time, we are now seeing a new humanitarian crisis unfolding. In 2021, the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan erupted as the Taliban retook control of the country. Now it is Ukraine. But there are many other humanitarian crises throughout the world that are ongoing. It is easy to see how people can be forgotten in a world where one crisis follows another.

It is the intention of clause 2 of this present motion to lend support to Hobart City Council's motion. It is an attempt to keep the issue alive, so that perhaps these people will not so easily be forgotten.

**Consultations:**

Members of Hobart City Council

Migrant Resource Centre, Glenorchy

Refugee Council of Australia <https://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/refugee-welcome-zones/>

Tasmanian Refugee Legal Service

## Officers' Response:

### Introduction

Council's Community Department has a long history of working with migrants, refugees and migrant settlement services. Council's work assists new arrivals and established communities to share their stories, have access to health information and support to navigate a different lifestyle and customs. This has been achieved in many ways, including targeted advisory groups, the arts, public celebrations, visits to Council, workshops, women's gatherings and significantly by providing a dedicated, safe space for migrants and refugees to celebrate cultures, conduct religious practices and hold meetings and workshops.

### Refugee Welcome Zone declaration

The Refugee Welcome Zone declaration would further support Council's commitment to being a Welcoming City.

The wording of the sample declaration describes the declaration as follows:

*This Declaration is a Commitment in Spirit to*

- *Welcoming refugees into our community,*
- *Upholding the Human Rights of refugees,*
- *Demonstrating Compassion for refugees and*
- *Enhancing cultural and religious Diversity in our community.*

### Welcoming Cities

Under the Welcoming Cities framework to which Council has already committed, Standard 1.0 Leadership provides:

*The local council partners with diverse stakeholders to promote a welcoming culture through advocacy and communication activities across various platforms.*

Declaring the City a Refugee Welcome Zone would be consistent with this standard.

### Community Strategy

Declaring Glenorchy City Council a Refugee Welcome Zone is also supported by Council's Community Strategy Priority Outcome: *Accessible, Inclusive and Diverse. We are a welcoming, accessible and inclusive community, caring for all*

### Refugee Week

An opportune time to declare Glenorchy City a Refugee Welcome Zone would be during Refugee Week between Sunday 19 and Saturday 25 June 2022.

The aims of Refugee Week are:

- To **educate** the Australian public about who refugees are and why they have come to Australia;
- to help people **understand** the many challenges refugees face coming to Australia;
- to **celebrate** the contribution refugees make to our community; to focus on how the community can provide a safe and welcoming environment for refugees;
- for community groups and individuals to **do something positive** for refugees, asylum seekers and displaced people, within Australia but also around the world; and
- for service providers to **reflect** on whether they are providing the best possible services to refugees.

The theme of Refugee Week this year is **Healing**. The Refugee Week website states:

*Australia and the rest of the world have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to hit the reset button on how we behave towards one another. The importance of human connections has been underscored by the pandemic and such lessons can help us in so many ways. Mainstream and refugee communities alike can draw upon shared hardship to heal wounds, to learn from each other and to move forward. Healing can occur through storytelling, through community and also through realisation of our intrinsic interconnectedness as individuals.*

#### **Attachments/Annexures**

- 1 Refugee Welcome Zone information and sample declaration



- 2 City of Hobart resolution



**CLOSED TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

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## **16. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES (CLOSED MEETING)**

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That the minutes of the Council meeting (closed meeting) held on 28 February 2022 be confirmed.

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## **17. APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

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# **GOVERNANCE**

***Community goal: “Leading our Community”***

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## **18. GENERAL MANAGER'S MID-TERM PERFORMANCE REVIEW 2021/22**

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*This item is to be considered at a closed meeting of the Council by authority of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015 Regulation 15(2)(a) (Personnel matters, including complaints against an employee of the Council and industrial relations matters).*

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## **19. NOTICES OF MOTIONS – QUESTIONS ON NOTICE / WITHOUT NOTICE (CLOSED)**

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