

**Minutes of the Meeting
of the Glenorchy City Council
held at the Council Chambers
on Monday, 30 June 2025 at 3:30 PM**



**Present
(in Chambers):**

Alderman Sue Hickey (Mayor), Aldermen Shane Alderton, Josh Cockshutt, Steven King, Tim Marks, Peter Ridler, Stuart Slade, Justin Stringer, Russell Yaxley (Deputy Mayor) and Councillor Molly Kendall

**In attendance
(in Chambers):**

Tony McMullen (Chief Executive Officer), Emilio Reale (Deputy Chief Executive Officer), Tracey Ehrlich (Director Community and Corporate Services), Christine Lane (Manager Stakeholder and Executive), Emma Watkins (Coordinator Executive and Strategy), Luke Chiu (Manager Property, Environment and Waste), Michael Sokulski (Chief Financial Officer), Tim Douglass (Events Officer), Sushanta Sedhai (Community Events and Engagement Officer), Katya Brownjohn-Moss (Senior Communications Officer), Paul Garnsey (Manager Development), Melanie Burk (Executive Assistant to the Mayor)

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

Mandy Henderson (Executive Assistant to the Chief Executive Officer)

Leave of absence:

Workshops held since last Council Meeting

Date: Monday, 2 June 2025

Purpose: To present and discuss:

- Young People, Public Space and Anti-Social Behaviour

Date: Monday, 10 June 2025

Purpose: To present and discuss:

- WHS Officer Due Diligence training

Date: Monday, 19 May 2025

Purpose: To present and discuss at an OPEN workshop:

- 2025/26 Draft Budget

The Council meeting was live streamed on Council's website, Facebook page and YouTube channel. The peak number of viewers watching the live stream was 34 viewers and 2 members of the public attended in person.

The Chair opened the meeting at 3.30pm.

The Chair acknowledged and paid respect to the Tasmanian Aboriginal Community as the original and traditional owners and continuing custodians of the land and their elders, past and present.

We acknowledge the muwinina people as the traditional owners of this land. We recognise the Tasmanian Aboriginal people as the original owners and continuing custodians of the land, sky and country and waters of this island, lutruwita. We pay our respect to Aboriginal Elders, past and present. We commit to working in a way that welcomes and respects all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

The Chair read a statement noting that the meeting would be recorded and live streamed to members of the public, and about work health and safety at the Council meeting.

1. APOLOGIES

None.

2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Resolution:

MARKS/RIDLER

That the minutes of the Council meeting held on Monday, 26 May 2025 be confirmed.

The motion was put.

FOR: Aldermen Alderton, Cockshutt, Hickey, King, Marks, Ridler, Slade, Stringer, Yaxley and Councillor Kendall

AGAINST:

The motion was CARRIED.

RIDLER/ALDERTON

That the minutes of the Council meeting held on Monday, 23 June 2025 be confirmed.

The motion was put.

FOR: Aldermen Alderton, Cockshutt, Hickey, King, Marks, Ridler, Slade, Stringer, Yaxley and Councillor Kendall

AGAINST:

The motion was CARRIED.

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE CHAIR

The Pool

Repair and reopen

- Now that the contract to repair the pool has been signed, Hutchinson Builders will commence works in early to mid-August and are due to be finished by mid-2026.
- Information on the scope of work can be found on our website.
- We will provide regular updates on the repair works as they happen so keep an eye out on our Facebook page and website.

Redevelopment

- Advocacy for funding the redevelopment of the pool continues.
- We have a plan to reach out to past and present Tasmanian elite swimmers and ask for their endorsement for funding the new pool.
- We continue to work to keep the pool at top of mind for politicians and candidates in future State and Federal elections.

Election funding

- Last week a funding letter signed by all Elected Members was sent to Clark candidates in the upcoming election highlighting Council's priority projects, which include the Pool redevelopment, Tolosa Park Stage B, Humphries Rivulet path and a youth hub.
- The letter specifically included a breakdown of both the Tolosa Park and youth hub priority projects to provide the State Government with phased options for funding.
- These projects include a multicultural playground, pump track and boardwalk at Tolosa Park, and the development of a dedicated youth engagement space on the front lawns of Chambers.

Youth Engagement

- Council is continuing to work on making a youth hub happen and I am confident that we will deliver on this important project.
- Aside from the recent commitment of \$500 000 from the State Government to run youth programs, we have recently received an invitation from the Tasmania Community Fund to submit a grant application for funding to operate a youth hub.
- However, a youth hub is only part of the solution to engaging with young people in Glenorchy.
- Only last week I opened the new Windermere Skate Park and Pump Track which provides young people with another place to gather and be active.
- This centrally located facility is easy for young people to get to and is next to an existing recreation area that features a playground, BBQ facilities, picnic tables, bench seats and toilets for families to watch their children play.
- The Windermere facility will take pressure of the very popular Montrose Bay Skate Park, and also compliments the multi-use games arena situated at Giblin's Reserve, both of which are very popular and well used.
- We have also developed a full program of events to keep young people occupied during the upcoming school holidays.

- This includes daily basketball competitions, games and snacks on the front lawns of Chambers, and a full program of creative workshops and live events at the Moonah Arts Centre, details of which can be found on their website.

Taskforce Respect update

- Tas Police report that Taskforce Respect is averaging about 7 hours of high visibility foot patrol each day when rostered on.
- Police are getting great feedback from pedestrians and shopkeepers in relation to seeing officers on the beat, and are not seeing so many troublesome people in and around the CBD.
- In addition our Council security are seeing a reduction in anti-social activity instances.

Blackspot funding

- Tomorrow, I will joint Carol Brown at Sunmont Street in Derwent Park to announce \$50 000 funding for anti-skid surfacing.
- This is part of the \$185 000 Blackspot funding from the Australian Government, to which Council is contributing \$15 000.
- As part of an ongoing effort to deter inappropriate driver behaviour such as burnouts in Sunmont Street, in early next year we will install a new surface treatment that may be better suited to the area, particularly in the cul-de-sac where most of the burnouts occur.
- The new anti-hooning surface, made from calcite bauxite and laid in strips, works by shredding tyres during burnouts.
- A similar treatment was successfully installed by Moreton Bay Council in Queensland, where it significantly reduced hooning in an industrial area.
- As far as we are aware, we will be the first Council in Tasmania to install this road treatment.

Farewell to our CEO

- After 28 years of dedicated service, today marks our outgoing CEO Tony McMullen's last day with Council and final Council Meeting.
- Tony has had a long and successful career at GCC and has made an enormous impact on, and contribution to Council and the broader Glenorchy community.
- Tony's legacy will be the positive state in which he leaves Council, almost debt free, and a positive workplace culture as evidenced by a Change Champion award and Council being named as an Employee of Choice in 2024.
- Tony will be remembered for not only his deep understanding of local government, his thoughtful and collaborative leadership style and his unwavering dedication to serving the people of Glenorchy, but for being a strong leader for whom kindness is at the core of everything he does.
- With Tony's departure, we welcome Emilio Reale as the new CEO.
- The appointment of Emilio, from a strong field of 68 applicants, not only allows for the continuation of work to reinforce Council's positive culture, but also provide for a seamless transition in policy and program implementation.

- Emilio has over 25 years of experience in local government, has a strong knowledge of local issues, a passion for the Glenorchy community and an outstanding commitment to service delivery.
- Emilio was born and raised in Glenorchy and over a number of years has worked for this Council for a total of 18 years, most recently as Deputy CEO.
- I wish Tony well as he transitions to the next phase of his life, and I am looking forward to working with Emilio to build on Tony's work to take Glenorchy forward.
- I would now like to hand over to Tony to say a few parting words.

4. PECUNIARY INTEREST NOTIFICATION

The Chairperson asked if any Aldermen had or were likely to have a pecuniary interest in any items on the Agenda.

Alderman Tim Marks declared a pecuniary interest in item 15.

5. RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS PUBLIC QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE

Question without notice – Manfred Gutmann, West Moonah

Q1: Will Council retract the false medical and scientific claims CEO Tony McMullen used on 24 February 2025 in his attempt to clear Council from responsibility and liability over the continuation of COVID vaccines in our community since I provided ample evidence to the contrary?

A1: [Mayor] This question was taken on notice.

Response: No false medical or scientific claims were made by Council at the 24 February 2025 Council meeting. As the minutes of that meeting record, it was simply stated that Glenorchy City Council did not and does not administer the COVID-19 Vaccination Program. This was administered by the State Government and that any questions about it are best addressed to the State Government.

Q2: Will Council in light of the TGA FOI 25-0058 showing TGA internal communication and their knowledge of contamination and integration risks, ask for additional independent testing of the COVID vaccines to ensure the safety of the constituents?

A2: [Mayor] This question was taken on notice.

Response: No.

Council, as a local government authority, follows the public health advice of State and Federal health authorities as the best way of fulfilling our health and safety duty.

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) is aware of misinformation in recent media and online reports that claim the COVID-19 mRNA vaccines are contaminated with excessive levels of DNA. This is not the case.

These reports are based on studies conducted by a small number of laboratories that have attempted to investigate the amount of DNA in COVID-19 vaccines.

While the TGA welcomes and constantly reviews the latest scientific evidence about the safety of vaccines and other biotechnology products, these recent studies fail to apply the required scientific rigor expected in pharmaceutical testing. As such, the results are not robust or reliable, and are creating confusion and concern regarding the safety of vaccines.

The TGA reassures the public that all COVID-19 vaccines approved in Australia have been rigorously assessed and meet our high standards for safety, quality, and efficacy.

Vaccination against COVID-19 is one of the most effective ways to reduce the risk of death and severe illness from infection. The protective benefits of vaccination far outweigh the potential risks.

This statement from medicine regulators around the world provides more information on the good safety profile of COVID-19 vaccines:

Key messages

- COVID-19 vaccines significantly reduce the risk of severe disease, hospitalisation and death from infection with SARS-CoV-2.
- SARS-CoV-2 keeps changing and revaccination may be needed to maintain protection against new variants and continue saving millions of lives worldwide.
- Evidence from the more than 13 billion of vaccine doses given worldwide shows that COVID-19 vaccines have a very good safety profile in all age groups. The benefits of the approved vaccines far outweigh the possible risks.
- The vast majority of side effects are mild and temporary. However, safety monitoring (pharmacovigilance) systems have identified some very rare (occurring in less than 1 in 10,000 people) but serious side effects. Medicines regulators around the world have put in place measures to reduce the risk of harm from these side effects.
- As for all medicines, reports of medical events after COVID-19 vaccination (suspected side effects) are collected and continuously evaluated by the authorities. These evaluations show that in most cases the medical events were not caused by the vaccine.
- False and misleading information about the safety of COVID-19 vaccines on social media often exaggerates the frequency and severity of side effects. Misinformation also wrongly attributes unrelated medical events to the vaccines. Vaccine misinformation leading individuals to decline vaccination has very likely led to many more deaths than adverse effects of the vaccines.

- There is no evidence that COVID-19 vaccines have contributed to excess mortality during the pandemic. Excess mortality largely coincides with peaks of SARS-CoV-2 infections, particularly during the first waves when vaccines were not available. In fact, there is strong evidence that COVID-19 vaccines save lives and prevent the serious harm associated with SARS-CoV-2 infection.
- Emerging evidence also suggests that long COVID is less likely to develop in people who have been vaccinated.

Q3: Will Council seek a full financial audit into contracts that involved CEO McMullen in light of the grotesque oversights to ensure the community has not been defrauded by third parties?

A3: [Mayor] This question was taken on notice.

Response: In order for Council to assess the appropriate degree of investigation, if any, required by the apparent allegations, please specify:

1. the types of contracts about which you allege impropriety,
2. the nature of the “grotesque oversights” that you allege; and
3. the way or ways in which you think the community might have been defrauded by third parties.

6. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (15 MINUTES)

Question without notice – Mala Crew, Glenorchy

Q1: Will Council be open to considering all rate-payers adopting Brighton City Council's model? We ought to pay standard rates.

A1: [CEO] What I understand of Brighton is that if you are living on acreage or living in a more modest house, you all pay the same rates. It is a model that may lead to some revenue challenges for the Glenorchy Council. It isn't a fair system with the lower valued homes paying the same amount as higher value homes, resulting in owners of lower value homes subsidising homes of higher value.

Q2: My understanding is that rates go towards facilities that are provided?

A2: [CEO] The basis of our tax system is a progressive tax system. That is how income tax works and how we deal with rates.

Q3: With regards to the recent incident of the International press getting involved in the local youth violence. I think this has been instigated by politicians due to an election. Is it possible to protect us as property owners? Is it possible for Council to write a strict letter to those people that publicised this? It is gross negligence.

A3: [Mayor] I do not think it was political. It isn't a well-respected media outlet and it was predatory for them to be out there trying to photograph children in a bad image, suggesting youth crime. I take on board what you say.

Q4: I have been contacted about and have personally witnessed a rat infestation in the local area, I dare say that is because of the waterways. What can Council do about this?

A4: [Deputy CEO] We do have some control measures around Council properties, particularly buildings. When we know or are informed of infestations, we will treat those on Council property. It is property owner's responsibility to treat vermin on their properties.

7. PETITIONS/DEPUTATIONS

None.

COMMUNITY

Community Goal – Making Lives Better

8. ACTIVITIES OF THE MAYOR

File Reference: Mayoral Announcements

Reporting Brief:

To receive an update on the recent activities of the Mayor.

Resolution:

COCKSHUTT/MARKS

That Council:

1. RECEIVE the report about the activities of Mayor Hickey and Deputy Mayor Russell Yaxley during the period from Monday, 19 May 2025 to Sunday, 22 June 2025.

The motion was put.

FOR: Aldermen Alderton, Cockshutt, Hickey, King, Marks, Ridler, Slade, Stringer, Yaxley and Councillor Kendall

AGAINST:

The motion was CARRIED.

The Chair noted that the meeting with Mary McParland and Cr. Posselt regarding Tas Rail and Greater Hobart Cycling plan on 20 June 2025 in the report was postponed at the last minute, and therefore did not occur on the date listed.

The Chair noted that the Deputy Mayor attended the events listed in the report in his capacity as Deputy Mayor, not Acting Mayor.

ENVIRONMENT

Community Goal – Valuing our Environment

9. POTENTIAL FUNDING - NORTHERN SUBURBS TRANSIT CORRIDOR URBAN RENEWAL PROJECT - PHASE 1

File Reference: Northern Suburbs Transit Corridor

Reporting Brief:

To seek Council's in-principle agreement to accept funding from the Department of State Growth to enable Glenorchy City Council to lead the Northern Suburbs Transit Corridor Urban Renewal Project Phase 1, in conjunction with the City of Hobart, and to authorise the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate any scope changes and sign the funding agreement on behalf of Council, if those negotiated scope changes are practicable.

Resolution:

YAXLEY/KING

That Council:

1. GIVE its in-principle agreement to accept \$500,000 in funding from the Department of State Growth to enable Glenorchy City Council to lead the Northern Suburbs Transit Corridor Urban Renewal Project Phase 1, in conjunction with the City of Hobart.
2. AUTHORISE the Chief Executive Officer to agree any necessary changes to project scope to accommodate the Hobart City Council part of the study area.
3. AUTHORISE the Chief Executive Officer to sign the funding agreement on behalf of Council, if the changes to project scope are, in his opinion, practicable.

The motion was put.

FOR: Aldermen Alderton, Cockshutt, Hickey, King, Marks, Ridler, Slade, Stringer, Yaxley and Councillor Kendall

AGAINST:

The motion was CARRIED.

10. GLENORCHY CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN 2025-2030

File Reference: Glenorchy Cycling Infrastructure Plan

Reporting Brief:

To present the Glenorchy Cycling Infrastructure Plan 2025-2030 to Council and seek formal endorsement of the Plan. The Plan identifies a future cycling network and action plan for the municipality, developed in alignment with State government guidance and informed by community consultation.

Resolution:

KENDALL/MARKS

That Council:

1. ENDORSE the Glenorchy Cycling Infrastructure Plan 2025-2030 set out in **Attachment 1**.
2. NOTE that the Plan will inform Council's future capital works program, external funding applications and collaboration with the Tasmanian Government.

RIDLER/ALDERTON

Alternative motion:

1. APPROVE the Glenorchy Cycling Infrastructure Plan 2025-2030 set out in **Attachment 1**.
2. NOTE that the Plan will inform Council's future capital works program, external funding applications and collaboration with the Tasmanian Government.

The alternative motion was put.

FOR: Aldermen Alderton and Ridler

AGAINST: Aldermen Cockshutt, Hickey, King, Marks, Slade, Stringer, Yaxley and Councillor Kendall

The motion was LOST.

The original motion was put.

FOR: Aldermen Cockshutt, Hickey, King, Marks, Ridler, Slade, Stringer,
and Councillor Kendall

AGAINST: Aldermen Alderton and Yaxley

The motion was CARRIED.

GOVERNANCE

Community Goal – Leading our Community

11. FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE REPORT TO 31 MAY 2025

File Reference: Corporate and Financial Reporting

Reporting Brief:

To provide Council with the monthly Financial Performance Report for the period ending 31 May 2025.

Recommendation:

That Council:

1. RECEIVE and NOTE the Financial Performance Report for the year-to-date ending 31 May 2025 as set out in **Attachment 1**.

Resolution:

MARKS/YAXLEY

That Council:

1. RECEIVE and NOTE the Financial Performance Report for the year-to-date ending 31 May 2025 as set out in **Attachment 1**.

The motion was put.

FOR: Aldermen Alderton, Cockshutt, Hickey, King, Marks, Ridler, Slade, Stringer, Yaxley and Councillor Kendall

AGAINST:

The motion was CARRIED.

12. NOTICES OF MOTIONS – QUESTIONS ON NOTICE / WITHOUT NOTICE

None.

Alderman King left the meeting at 5:01pm.

Alderman King returned to the meeting at 5:04pm.

Resolution:

SLADE/RIDLER

That the meeting be closed to the public to allow discussion of matters that are described in Regulation 15 of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015*.

The motion was put.

FOR: Aldermen Alderton, Cockshutt, Hickey, King, Marks, Ridler, Slade, Stringer, Yaxley and Councillor Kendall

AGAINST:

The motion was CARRIED.

The meeting was closed to members of the public and the live stream was terminated at 5:05pm.

CLOSED TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Closed session commenced at 5:05pm

13. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES (CLOSED MEETING)

Resolution:

SLADE/ALDERTON

That the minutes of the Council meeting (closed meeting) held on Monday, 26 May 2025 be confirmed.

The motion was put.

FOR: Aldermen Alderton, Cockshutt, Hickey, King, Marks, Ridler, Slade, Stringer, Yaxley and Councillor Kendall

AGAINST:

The motion was CARRIED.

14. APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

None.

Alderman Tim Marks left the meeting at 5:07pm in accordance with his declared pecuniary interest in item 15 and did not return to the meeting.

GOVERNANCE

Community Goal – Leading our Community

15. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF TASMANIA (LGAT) 2025 ELECTIONS

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)(g) (Information of a personal and confidential nature or information provided to the Council on the condition it is kept confidential).

16. NOTICES OF MOTIONS – QUESTIONS ON NOTICE / WITHOUT NOTICE (CLOSED)

None.

Resolution:

YAXLEY/COCKSHUTT

That the meeting be moved back into open Council.

The motion was put.

FOR: Aldermen Alderton, Cockshutt, Hickey, King, Ridler, Slade,
Stringer, Yaxley and Councillor Kendall

AGAINST:

The motion was CARRIED.

The Chair closed the meeting at 5:53pm.

Confirmed,

CHAIR