

**MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF THE SOUTHERN MIDLANDS  
COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> MAY AT THE MUNICIPAL  
OFFICES, 85 MAIN STREET KEMPTON COMMENCING AT 10:00 A.M.**

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## ENCLOSED

### Council Meeting Minutes & Special Committees of Council Minutes General Information Bulletin Enclosures

Item 17.1.1 Presentation on the Proposed Work Health & Safety Act 2011

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COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> MAY AT THE MUNICIPAL OFFICE  
85 MAIN STREET KEMPTON COMMENCING AT 10:00 A.M.**

**OPEN COUNCIL MINUTES**

**1. PRAYERS**

Councillors recited the Lords Prayer

**2. ATTENDANCE**

Mayor A E Bisdee OAM, Deputy Mayor M Jones OAM, Clr A R Bantick, Clr C J Beven, Clr B Campbell, Clr M Connors, Clr D F Fish, Clr A O Green and Clr J L Jones OAM.

**In Attendance:** Mr T Kirkwood (General Manager), Mr A Benson (Manager – Community and Corporate Development) and Mrs K Brazendale (Executive Assistant).

**3. APOLOGIES**

Nil

**4. APPLICATION FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

Nil.

**5. MINUTES****5.1 ORDINARY COUNCIL MINUTES**

The Minutes of the previous meeting of Council held on the 24<sup>th</sup> April 2012, as circulated, are submitted for confirmation.

**C/12/05/005/19027 DECISION**

Moved by Clr C J Beven, seconded by Clr B Campbell

THAT The Minutes of the previous meeting of Council held on the 24<sup>th</sup> April 2012, as circulated, be confirmed.

**CARRIED.**

Vote For	Councillor	Vote Against
√	Mayor A E Bisdee OAM	
√	Dep. Mayor M Jones OAM	
√	Clr A R Bantick	
√	Clr C J Beven	
√	Clr B Campbell	
√	Clr M Connors	
√	Clr D F Fish	
√	Clr A O Green	
√	Clr J L Jones OAM	

**5.2 SPECIAL COUNCIL MINUTES**

Nil.

### 5.3 SPECIAL COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL MINUTES

#### 5.3.1 Special Committees of Council - Receipt of Minutes

The Minutes of the following Special Committees of Council, as circulated, are submitted for receipt:

- **Community Men’s Shed Oatlands** - meeting held 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2012
- **Lake Dulverton & Callington Park Management Committee** - meeting held 1<sup>st</sup> May 2012
- **Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary Management Committee** - meeting held 12<sup>th</sup> April 2012
- **Community Men’s Shed Oatlands** - meeting held 15<sup>th</sup> February 2012
- **Community Men’s Shed Oatlands** - meeting held 30<sup>th</sup> August 2011

#### RECOMMENDATION

**THAT the minutes of the above Special Committees of Council be received.**

#### **C/12/05/006/19028 DECISION**

Moved by Clr J L Jones OAM, seconded by Clr D F Fish

THAT the minutes of the above Special Committees of Council be received.

**CARRIED.**

Vote For	Councillor	Vote Against
√	Mayor A E Bisdee OAM	
√	Dep. Mayor M Jones OAM	
√	Clr A R Bantick	
√	Clr C J Beven	
√	Clr B Campbell	
√	Clr M Connors	
√	Clr D F Fish	
√	Clr A O Green	
√	Clr J L Jones OAM	

### 5.3.2 Special Committees of Council - Endorsement of Recommendations

The recommendations contained within the minutes of the following Special Committees of Council are submitted for endorsement.

- **Community Men’s Shed Otlands** - meeting held 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2012
- **Lake Dulverton & Callington Park Management Committee** - meeting held 1<sup>st</sup> May 2012
- **Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary Management Committee** - meeting held 12<sup>th</sup> April 2012
- **Community Men’s Shed Otlands** - meeting held 15<sup>th</sup> February 2012
- **Community Men’s Shed Otlands** - meeting held 30<sup>th</sup> August 2011

### RECOMMENDATION

**THAT the recommendations contained within the minutes of the above Special Committees of Council be endorsed.**

### C/12/05/007/19029 DECISION

Moved by Clr D F Fish, seconded by Clr C J Beven

THAT the recommendations contained within the minutes of the above Special Committees of Council be endorsed.

**CARRIED.**

Vote For	Councillor	Vote Against
√	Mayor A E Bisdee OAM	
√	Dep. Mayor M Jones OAM	
√	Clr A R Bantick	
√	Clr C J Beven	
√	Clr B Campbell	
√	Clr M Connors	
√	Clr D F Fish	
√	Clr A O Green	
√	Clr J L Jones OAM	

#### 5.4 JOINT AUTHORITIES (ESTABLISHED UNDER DIVISION 4 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1993)

##### 5.4.1 Joint Authorities - Receipt of Minutes

The Minutes of the following Joint Authority Meeting, as circulated, are submitted for receipt:

- **Southern Tasmanian Councils Authority** – Minutes of the Meeting held 19<sup>th</sup> April 2012
- **Southern Waste Strategy Authority** - Nil

*Note: Issues which require further consideration and decision by Council will be included as a separate Agenda Item, noting that Council's representative on the Joint Authority may provide additional comment in relation to any issue, or respond to any question.*

#### RECOMMENDATION

**THAT the minutes of the above Joint Authority meeting be received.**

#### C/12/05/008/19030 DECISION

Moved by Clr B Campbell, seconded by Clr J L Jones OAM

THAT the minutes of the above Joint Authority meeting be received

**CARRIED.**

Vote For	Councillor	Vote Against
√	Mayor A E Bisdee OAM	
√	Dep. Mayor M Jones OAM	
√	Clr A R Bantick	
√	Clr C J Beven	
√	Clr B Campbell	
√	Clr M Connors	
√	Clr D F Fish	
√	Clr A O Green	
√	Clr J L Jones OAM	



#### **5.4.2 Joint Authorities - Receipt of Reports (Annual and Quarterly)**

Section 36A of the Local Government Act 1993 provides the following;

##### ***36A. Annual reports of authorities***

*(1) A single authority or joint authority must submit an annual report to the single authority council or participating councils.*

*(2) The annual report of a single authority or joint authority is to include –*

*(a) a statement of its activities during the preceding financial year; and*

*(b) a statement of its performance in relation to the goals and objectives set for the preceding financial year; and*

*(c) the financial statements for the preceding financial year; and*

*(d) a copy of the audit opinion for the preceding financial year; and*

*(e) any other information it considers appropriate or necessary to inform the single authority council or participating councils of its performance and progress during the financial year.*

Section 36B of the Local Government Act 1993 provides the following;

##### ***36B. Quarterly reports of authorities***

*(1) A single authority or joint authority must submit to the single authority council or participating councils a report as soon as practicable after the end of March, June, September and December in each year.*

*(2) The quarterly report of the single authority or joint authority is to include –*

*(a) a statement of its general performance; and*

*(b) a statement of its financial performance.*

Reports prepared by the following Joint Authority, as circulated, are submitted for receipt:

- **Southern Tasmanian Councils Authority** – Quarterly Report March 2012
- **Southern Waste Strategy Authority** – Nil

## RECOMMENDATION

**THAT the report from the Joint Authority be received.**

### C/12/05/010/19031 DECISION

Moved by Clr B Campbell, seconded by Clr J L Jones OAM

THAT the report from the Joint Authority be received.

**CARRIED.**

Vote For	Councillor	Vote Against
√	Mayor A E Bisdee OAM	
√	Dep. Mayor M Jones OAM	
√	Clr A R Bantick	
√	Clr C J Beven	
√	Clr B Campbell	
√	Clr M Connors	
√	Clr D F Fish	
√	Clr A O Green	
√	Clr J L Jones OAM	

### **Noted:**

*Clr A O Green expressed specific concerns in relation to the STCA's position regarding the Independent Review Panel Report (and the lack of response and actions to date).*

*Clr J L Jones OAM raised concern regarding Item 5 in the Quarterly Report. It is headed "Support for the Development of Bio-Diversity Offset Guidelines for Local Government". The STCA's support extends to the investigation of same, without necessary support of the outcomes.*

## 6. NOTIFICATION OF COUNCIL WORKSHOPS

In accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2005*, the Agenda is to include details of any Council workshop held since the last meeting.

A workshop was held at the Council Chambers, Oatlands on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2012, commencing at 10.00 a.m.

Attendance: Deputy Mayor M J Jones OAM, Clrs A R Bantick, C J Beven, B Campbell, M J Connors, D F Fish, and J L Jones OAM.

Apologies: Mayor A E Bisdee OAM and Clr A O Green

Also in Attendance: General Manager (T F Kirkwood), Manager – Development & Environmental Services (A Benson), Manager – Corporate Services (B Porter) and Manager – Works & Technical Services (J Lyall).

The purpose of the Workshop was to:

- a) complete the review of the Strategic Plan;
- b) present the updated Financial Management Strategy; and
- c) identify potential projects for inclusion in the 2012/13 Capital Works Program (to be considered at a later workshop) .

Further workshops are scheduled for 30<sup>th</sup> May 2012 and 13<sup>th</sup> June 2012 where Council will review the draft 2012/13 Budget and rating proposals.

The aim is to adopt the 2012/13 Budget and Rates Resolution at the Council Meeting scheduled for 27<sup>th</sup> June 2012.

### RECOMMENDATION

**THAT the information be received.**

### C/12/05/011/19032 DECISION

Moved by Deputy Mayor M Jones OAM, seconded by Clr J L Jones OAM

THAT the information be received.

**CARRIED.**

Vote For	Councillor	Vote Against
√	Mayor A E Bisdee OAM	
√	Dep. Mayor M Jones OAM	
√	Clr A R Bantick	
√	Clr C J Beven	
√	Clr B Campbell	
√	Clr M Connors	
√	Clr D F Fish	
√	Clr A O Green	
√	Clr J L Jones OAM	

**7. CONSIDERATION OF SUPPLEMENTARY ITEMS TO THE AGENDA**

In accordance with the requirements of Part 2 Regulation 8 (6) of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2005*, the Council, by absolute majority may decide at an ordinary meeting to deal with a matter that is not on the agenda if the general manager has reported –

- (a) the reason it was not possible to include the matter on the agenda; and
- (b) that the matter is urgent; and
- (c) that advice has been provided under section 65 of the Act.

**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT the Council resolve by absolute majority to deal with any supplementary items not appearing on the agenda, as reported by the General Manager in accordance with the provisions of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2005*.**

The General Manager reported that the following items need to be included on the Agenda. The matters are urgent, and the necessary advice is provided (if applicable):-

- Local Government Association of Tasmanian (LGAT) – Introduction of a Waste Levy – Item 20.1
- Biodiversity Offset Guidelines for Local Government – Meeting with Minister for Planning – Item 20.2
- Native Vegetation Clearing (State Government Budget 2012-2013) – Item 20.3
- Statewide Directions Paper – Review of Council Recreational Vehicle Overnight Camping Services – Item 20.4

**C/12/05/012/19033 DECISION**

Moved by Clr D F Fish, seconded by Deputy Mayor M Jones OAM

THAT the Council resolve by absolute majority to deal with the above listed supplementary item not appearing on the agenda, as reported by the General Manager in accordance with the provisions of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2005*.

**CARRIED.**

Vote For	Councillor	Vote Against
√	Mayor A E Bisdee OAM	
√	Dep. Mayor M Jones OAM	
√	Clr A R Bantick	
√	Clr C J Beven	
√	Clr B Campbell	
√	Clr M Connors	
√	Clr D F Fish	
√	Clr A O Green	
√	Clr J L Jones OAM	

**8. DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST**

In accordance with the requirements of Part 2 Regulation 8 of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2005*, the chairman of a meeting is to request Councillors to indicate whether they have, or are likely to have, a pecuniary interest in any item on the Agenda.

Accordingly, Councillors are requested to advise of a pecuniary interest they may have in respect to any matter on the agenda, or any supplementary item to the agenda, which Council has resolved to deal with, in accordance with Part 2 Regulation 8 (6) of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2005*.

***The following Pecuniary Interests were declared:***

*Clr D F Fish - Item 21.2 'In-Committee'*

**9. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (SCHEDULED FOR 12.30 PM)**

In accordance with the requirements of Part 2 Regulation 8 of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2005*, the agenda is to make provision for public question time.

In particular, Regulation 31 of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2005* states:

- (1) *Members of the public may give written notice to the General Manager 7 days before an ordinary meeting of Council of a question to be asked at the meeting.*
- (2) *The chairperson may –*
  - (a) *address questions on notice submitted by members of the public; and*
  - (b) *invite any member of the public present at an ordinary meeting to ask questions relating to the activities of the Council.*
- (3) *The chairperson at an ordinary meeting of a council must ensure that, if required, at least 15 minutes of that meeting is made available for questions by members of the public.*
- (4) *A question by any member of the public under this regulation and an answer to that question are not to be debated.*
- (5) *The chairperson may –*
  - (a) *refuse to accept a question; or*
  - (b) *require a question to be put on notice and in writing to be answered at a later meeting.*
- (6) *If the chairperson refuses to accept a question, the chairperson is to give reasons for doing so.*

***Councillors are advised that, at the time of issuing the Agenda, no Questions on Notice had been received from members of the Public.***

***Deputy Mayor M Jones OAM advised the meeting that no formal questions on notice had been received for the meeting.***

***No questions were raised by members of the public.***

**9.1 PERMISSION TO ADDRESS COUNCIL**

Permission has been granted for the following person(s) to address Council:

Nil.

**10. MOTIONS OF WHICH NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN UNDER REGULATION 16 (5) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MEETING PROCEDURES) REGULATIONS 2005**

Nil.

**11. COUNCIL ACTING AS A PLANNING AUTHORITY PURSUANT TO THE LAND USE PLANNING AND APPROVALS ACT 1993 AND COUNCIL'S STATUTORY LAND USE PLANNING SCHEME**

*Session of Council sitting as a Planning Authority pursuant to the Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993 and Council's statutory land use planning schemes.*

**11.1 DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS**

Nil.

**11.2 SUBDIVISIONS**

Nil.

**11.3 MUNICIPAL SEAL (PLANNING AUTHORITY)**

**11.3.1 COUNCILLOR INFORMATION:- MUNICIPAL SEAL APPLIED UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY TO SUBDIVISION FINAL PLANS & RELATED DOCUMENTS**

*File Ref: (Refer PID numbers in table below)*

Nil report.

**11.4 PLANNING (OTHER)**

Nil.



**12. OPERATIONAL MATTERS ARISING (STRATEGIC THEME – INFRASTRUCTURE)**

**12.1 ROADS**

**Strategic Plan Reference – Page 13**

1.1.1 Maintenance and improvement of the standard and safety of roads in the municipal area.

Nil.

**12.2 BRIDGES**

**Strategic Plan Reference – Page 14**

1.2.1 Maintenance and improvement of the standard and safety of bridges in the municipality.

Nil.

**12.3 WALKWAYS**

**Strategic Plan Reference – Page 14**

1.3.1 Maintenance and improvement of the standard and safety of walkways and pedestrian areas.

Nil.

**12.4 LIGHTING**

**Strategic Plan Reference – Page 14**

1.4.1 Improve lighting for pedestrians.

Nil.

## **12.5 SEWERS**

### **Strategic Plan Reference – Page 14**

- |       |                                                                                             |
|-------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1.5.1 | Increase the number of properties that have access to reticulated sewerage services.        |
| 1.5.2 | Ensure that sewerage treatment that meets the required environmental performance standards. |

### **12.5.1 Water and Sewerage Corporation – Governance Arrangements**

*File Ref:*

AUTHOR                      GENERAL MANAGER  
DATE                              17<sup>th</sup> MAY 2012

ATTACHMENT:      Working Group - Table of Recommendations

#### **ISSUE**

Council to consider the proposed governance arrangements for a single water and sewerage corporation.

#### **BACKGROUND**

At a Special Meeting of the Local Government Association of Tasmania held in March 2012, the following resolution was passed:

*“That the owner Councils of the Tasmanian Water and Sewerage Corporations support in principle the move to a single corporation but will only recommend such a move to the State Government when Councils have agreed to the governance arrangements;*

*That a working group be formed to develop a governance model and present it to a future meeting of the twenty nine Councils by the end of May 2012;*

*That only when a governance model is approved by owner Councils will LGAT advise the State Government that owner Councils are ready to move to a single corporation; and*

*That legislative protection against the future potential privatisation of a Tasmanian Water and Sewerage is obtained, via the requirement that a state referendum be required with a 75% affirmative vote, for any such privatisation to occur.”*

**The Motion was Carried 19/9.**

**The nine North-West Councils voted against this motion.**

The Working Group comprised the following representatives:

- Mayor Tony Foster – Brighton Council
- Mayor Graham Bury – Kingborough Council
- Alderman Peter Sexton – Hobart City Council
- Councillor Peter Kearney – West Tamar Council
- Mayor Craig Perkins – Meander Valley Council
- Mayor Steve Kons – Burnie City Council
- Mayor Mike Gaffney – Latrobe Council
- Mr Miles Hampton – Chair of Water and Sewerage Corporations (ex-officio)
- Mr Allan Garcia – CEO, LGAT (ex-officio)
- Ms Carolyn Pillans – Corporate Secretary, Water and Sewerage Corporations (Executive Support)

## **DETAIL**

The Working Group has developed a series of recommendations which are to be considered by individual Councils and a decision will be made at a further meeting of the Local Government Association of Tasmania scheduled for 5<sup>th</sup> June 2012.

In reference to Appendix 1 (attached), there are 10 recommendations which address the following. They are primarily consistent with Council's previous position in respect to these issues:

- **Principles of Governance**
- **Parliamentary/Treasury Oversight**
- **Shareholders Meetings Statewide**
- **Shareholders Meetings Regional**
- **Voting at Shareholder Meetings** – the proposal is consistent with a Corporations Law model which provides voting entitlement in line with shareholding i.e. the greater the proportion of shares, the greater the voting entitlement. On this basis, the recommendation should be endorsed.
- **Owners Representatives** – the appointment of 29 representatives ensures that each Council will have direct access to the corporations via the formal meeting processes proposed.
- **Board Structure** – Council has not previously determined the exact number of Directors, however the Working Group was of the strong view that seven was an appropriate number
- **Director Selection** – in my view it would be impractical for all 29 Councils to vote on the appointment of the Board Chairman and each Director. This should be the task of the Selection Committee who would be in the best position to determine the right skills mix etc.

- **Distribution Entitlements** – endorse recommendation recognizing that this provides Council with 0.76% equity share of the statewide corporation (compared to 0.74% under the ‘Contributed Net Assets per Treasurer’s Allocation’ model.
- **Priority Distributions** – The Working Group is of the firm view that priority dividends be maintained and applied until the legislated end date of November 2013.

**Human Resources & Financial Implications** – Under the proposed merger, the projected dividend distributions for the Southern Midlands Council would increase to \$2.824 million (total for the 8 year period end 2020/21) compared to \$2.503 million standalone.

**Community Consultation & Public Relations Implications** – N/A.

**Policy Implications** – Policy position.

**Priority - Implementation Time Frame** – Immediate.

## RECOMMENDATION

**THAT Council endorse the Governance Arrangements as proposed by the LGAT Working Group.**

### C/12/05/020/19034 DECISION

Moved by Clr A O Green, seconded by Deputy Mayor M Jones OAM

THAT Council endorse the Governance Arrangements as proposed by the LGAT Working Group, noting that Option 2 is the preferred option for the selection of Directors (i.e. being the task of the Selection Committee).

**CARRIED.**

Vote For	Councillor	Vote Against
√	Mayor A E Bisdee OAM	
√	Dep. Mayor M Jones OAM	
√	Clr A R Bantick	
√	Clr C J Beven	
√	Clr B Campbell	
√	Clr M Connors	
√	Clr D F Fish	
√	Clr A O Green	
√	Clr J L Jones OAM	

Appendix 1

The Working Group proposes the following governance arrangements.

Issue	Options Considered	Recommendation
1 Principles of Governance	Corporations Law & ASX principles	Corporations Law should provide the basis on which the Corporations are formed. The Shareholders Letter of Expectation (SLE) should specify that governance guidance should come from the ASX Corporate Governance Principles.
2 Parliamentary/Treasury Oversight	Remove to maximum extent possible	Remove legislative requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to submit Corporate Plan and SLE to Parliament;</li> <li>• for prescribed membership of directors' Selection Committee.</li> <li>• for Treasurer to review amendments to SLE or Corporate Plan.</li> <li>• for GBE Scrutiny Committee appearances.</li> </ul>
3 Shareholder Meetings Statewide	Held annually or twice yearly	The Constitution should provide for twice yearly full meetings to consider/approve: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Corporate Plan</li> <li>• Dividend as recommended by Board</li> <li>• Receive the Annual Report</li> <li>• (and SLE if changes are proposed).</li> </ul>
4 Shareholder Meetings Regional	Chair & CEO to provide quarterly briefings in each region	The SLE should require the Chair & CEO to provide quarterly briefings in each region, however regions can elect for less frequent briefings.
5 Voting at Shareholder Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One Vote per Council</li> <li>• Voting Based on Distribution Entitlement (Equity)</li> <li>• Voting based on Asset Contributions</li> </ul>	One vote per Council unless a poll is requested in accordance with Constitution.  Where a poll is requested, voting be based on Asset Contributions (see Q&A Appendix A Column 1).  Further, if there are certain protections needed for smaller shareholders that cannot be fully addressed in the Constitution, then it may be appropriate for there to be a Shareholders Agreement.

Governance Arrangements Working Group Recommendations

		Appendix 1	
Issue	Options Considered	Recommendation	
6	<p><b>Owners Representatives</b></p> <p>Each owner council will appoint one Representative to act on its behalf in matters concerning the water and sewerage corporation.</p>	<p>The current Owners Representatives arrangements (3 per region) should be replaced by 29 Representatives.</p> <p>Owner councils must have the ability to appoint deputy Representatives/ proxies when necessary to ensure their right to representation is retained at all times.</p> <p>The role of the Owners Representatives should be agreed between owner councils and the current legislation amended accordingly.</p>	
7	<p><b>Board Structure</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7 independent directors</li> <li>• Skills based</li> <li>• Regional</li> </ul>	<p>The Board should comprise 7 directors, including the Chairman.</p> <p>A quorum will be 4 directors. The Chair has a single vote.</p> <p>All directors, including the Chairman, must be independent (as defined in the ASX Corporate Governance Principles).</p> <p>Applying the ASX Principles definition of 'independence', an elected member, an officer or employee of a council cannot also be a director.</p>	
8	<p><b>Director Selection</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Selection Committee of 4 (2S,1N,1NW) recommend to 29 Owner representatives</li> <li><b>OR</b></li> <li>• Selection Committee of 8 (4S,2N,2NW) appoints the directors</li> <li>• Chairman becomes a member of the Selection Committee once appointed</li> </ul>	<p>29 councils vote on the appointment of the Board Chairman and each director following a recommendation from the Selection Committee</p> <p><b>OR</b></p> <p>The directors selection committee should comprise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 representatives from local government in the North-West</li> <li>• 2 representatives from local government in the North</li> <li>• 4 representatives from local government in the South</li> <li>• the Board Chairman (once appointed)</li> </ul> <p>The Selection Committee appoints the Board directly without reference to the 29 Representatives.</p> <p>The Board Chairman will not be a selection committee member when the position of Chairman is being selected and appointed.</p>	

Governance Arrangements Working Group Recommendations

Appendix 1

Issue	Options Considered	Recommendation
<p><b>9</b> Distribution Entitlements</p>	<p>Chairman's Proposal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Southern Councils 50.50%</li> <li>• Northern Councils 26.25%</li> <li>• North West Councils 23.25%</li> </ul>	<p>Distribution entitlements should follow the Chairman's Proposal (see Q&amp;A Appendix A Column 5).</p> <p>In summary, these will result in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Southern Councils 50.50%</li> <li>• Northern Councils 26.25%</li> <li>• North West Councils 23.25%</li> </ul>
<p><b>10</b> Priority Distributions</p>	<p>Continue to apply through to legislated end date</p>	<p>Priority Dividends should continue to apply through to the current legislated end date</p>



Attachment 2

19 April 2012

Dear Owner Councils

The Working Group has asked that I forward to you a Q&A in respect of the key issues that have been raised by Councils as they have been considering the possible move to a single corporation.

**1. *How confident can Councils be that the projected level of savings will be realised?***

Deloitte reviewed the savings plan and concluded the level of savings identified that can be directly attributable to the merger was conservative.

The savings plan projected annual savings of \$5.8m pa but we have only included savings of \$5m pa in our analysis.

Nothing has arisen since the preparation of the savings plan that would cause us to reduce the estimated level of savings.

The above savings do not include the \$2.3m pa savings separately identified in the reorganization of Onstream activities that occurred in late 2011.

**2. *Can any assurance be given that the capital expenditure programs in any region will not be materially changed/deferred/re-directed as a result of a move to a single corporation?***

The respective capital expenditure plans of each of the three corporations for FY13-FY15 have been detailed in their Price and Service Plans lodged with the Economic Regulator.

Work undertaken by the three corporations suggests that the capital expenditure to bring current infrastructure up to date and to maintain thereafter is roughly proportional to the assets in each region.

If a single corporation is established it is possible that beyond the period of the Price & Service Plan, the Health and Environment Regulators may set priorities on a statewide basis.



In the process some works in a region could potentially be delayed in order that more pressing issues in another region may be addressed.

However it is submitted that such adjustments would be at the margin and in any event be issues of timing rather than permanent deferral. It is extremely unlikely that capital projects which have been identified and agreed with Health and Environmental Regulators in Regional Compliance Improvement Plans and in the Price and Service Plans approved by the Economic Regulator would be permanently deferred.

**3. *Is there any reason to expect that the level and scope of service provided to any municipal area would be diminished?***

The savings that have been identified are in administrative roles. They do not relate to service delivery activities.

As such a move to a single corporation will not cause any reduction in the level and scope of service.

It would not be unrealistic to expect that the enhanced scale will enable a merged corporation to identify optimal solutions that may not be identified on a standalone basis and that as a consequence both the level and scope of service may in fact be improved.

**4. *Is it possible that the Economic Regulator will require that the savings be passed on to customers by way of reduced charges and as a consequence not be available to Councils by way of additional distributions?***

This matter has not been raised with the Economic Regulator.

However the current revenue of each of the corporations is substantially below the maximum level that would be approved by the legislation, regulations and the Economic Regulator.

This will still be the case in 10 years' time, albeit the gap will be diminished.

There is no reason therefore why the Economic Regulator would not allow the improved returns (from merger savings) to in effect flow through to the owner Councils in the form of higher tax payments and dividends rather than seek to reduce price increases.

**5. *Will all Councils be better off?***

We have previously provided reports detailing the financial impact on individual Councils that demonstrate that all Councils will be better off.

For ease of reference a copy of that information is attached as Appendix B.

Obviously underpinning the statement that all Councils will be better off are a number of key assumptions.

It needs to be recognised that there are factors outside the control of a merged corporation (or indeed three separate regional corporations) that could impact on the actual outcomes.

Changes in the requirements of the economic, health and environmental Regulators could cause the outcomes for individual Councils to be otherwise than as projected.

Equally the need for significant unforeseen capital works could also cause outcomes to be otherwise than as projected.

However whilst we can give no guarantees about actual outcomes, what we are very confident to say is that whatever the outcome would have been under the existing structure, the outcome will be better under a single corporation.

**6. *What would be the effect of abandoning Onstream whilst keeping the three regional corporations?***

We have moved to change the activities of Onstream such that it is now only undertaking core shared services functions.

If the abolition of the entity Onstream meant that shared services were provided individually by each regional corporation, the costs of individual corporations would increase significantly.

**7. *Is it possible that the State Government may reduce its special payments to CMW of \$1.9M in each of FY12, FY13 and FY14?***

There has been no such indication from the government.

It would not be unreasonable for Councils to make their endorsement of a single corporation conditional on the government honouring its commitment in this area.

**8. *What is the justification for moving away from asset contributions in determining distribution entitlements?***

If asset contributions were the sole determinant of equity individual Council entitlement in a merged corporation, Council entitlements would be as shown in Column 1 of Appendix A.

If this basis of allocation was to be utilised northern Councils would receive a 16% uplift in distributions whilst Southern Councils would only receive a 2% uplift. (see Option A, Appendix C)

Clearly this is not equitable.

As an alternative the equity entitlements shown in Option D, Appendix C are based on distribution entitlements on a standalone basis in FY21, when the corporations are all at steady state.

This is the most equitable outcome and as a consequence we have proposed that equity entitlements be as shown in Option E, Appendix C and Column 5, Appendix C.

On this basis all Councils will benefit by an uplift in distributions between 6.25%-7.18%.(Appendix C)

Deloitte has reviewed the proposed basis and concluded that it is reasonable.

**9. *Can relative regional employment levels be protected?***

The overall employment loss across the state is initially expected to be 30 positions.

It is contemplated that this loss will occur across the regions on a pro rata basis to existing employment levels.

As regards seeking to ensure that over time no individual region experiences a greater employment loss than other regions, in proportional terms, there is no reason that the SLE could not require that relative regional employment be maintained.

Just as billing is currently located in Launceston, it could well be that for example finance were located in Hobart and that the operations control were based on the north west coast.

- 10. *The North West Councils do not necessarily oppose a merger but believe it best left for two years when the corporations are more settled.***

This may make sense if the corporations will substantially be at steady state in two years' time.

However as our price and service plans demonstrate, steady state will take 7-10 years.

- 11. *Will a move to a single corporation cause reduced flexibility in policies and procedures?***

On the surface this would appear a logical conclusion, however it is probably inevitable regardless of whether there be one or three corporations.

The economic, health and environment regulators are increasingly making it clear that they expect the policy approaches in the different regions to be identical.

The auditor general has also made it clear that his preference is for a common approach on all financial matters.

It is also interesting to note that community groups (for example some not for profit organisations), have been asking why our policies in one region are so different from our policies in another region.

- 12. *Do the directors continue to support a single corporation?***

The majority of directors continue to hold to the view that all Tasmanian Councils will be better off than they would be if the corporations were to continue on a standalone basis.

Further given the inexorable requirement for consistent policies and procedures, the majority of directors believe there is no justification for the continuation of three separate regional corporations.

Miles Hampton  
Chairman

APPENDIX A						
TWSC PROPOSED MERGER						
EQUITY SHARE COMPARATIVES						
	Column 1		Column 2	Column 2	Column 4	Column 5
	Contributed Net Assets Per Treasurers Allocation		10 Year Average Equity Share	10 Year Average Equity Share excl Price Cap Compensation	Year 10 Equity Share	Proposed Equity Shares
Break O day	56,108	2.10%	1.86%	1.88%	1.94%	1.94%
Dorset	28,314	1.06%	0.93%	0.94%	0.97%	0.97%
Flinders	5,509	0.21%	0.18%	0.18%	0.18%	0.18%
George Tn	32,964	1.23%	1.08%	1.09%	1.13%	1.13%
Launceston	395,535	14.80%	13.06%	13.17%	13.62%	13.62%
Meander	80,747	3.02%	2.67%	2.69%	2.78%	2.78%
Northern Midlands	67,449	2.52%	2.24%	2.26%	2.34%	2.34%
West tamar	94,810	3.55%	3.15%	3.17%	3.28%	3.28%
<b>Total BLW</b>	<b>761,436</b>	<b>28.49%</b>	<b>25.17%</b>	<b>25.38%</b>	<b>26.25%</b>	<b>26.25%</b>
Burnie	110,104	4.12%	4.33%	4.22%	4.13%	4.14%
Central Coast	126,458	4.73%	4.99%	4.86%	4.75%	4.77%
Circular Hd	42,132	1.58%	1.66%	1.61%	1.58%	1.58%
Devonport	145,278	5.44%	5.72%	5.57%	5.45%	5.46%
kentish	11,618	0.43%	0.46%	0.45%	0.44%	0.44%
King Island	8,325	0.31%	0.34%	0.33%	0.32%	0.33%
Latrobe	50,850	1.90%	2.00%	1.94%	1.90%	1.91%
Waratah Wynyard	75,020	2.81%	2.95%	2.87%	2.81%	2.81%
West Coast	47,996	1.80%	1.90%	1.85%	1.81%	1.81%
<b>Total CMW</b>	<b>617,781</b>	<b>22.12%</b>	<b>24.35%</b>	<b>23.71%</b>	<b>23.19%</b>	<b>23.25%</b>
Brighton	78,311	2.93%	3.08%	3.11%	3.08%	3.08%
Central Highlands	13,316	0.50%	0.50%	0.51%	0.51%	0.51%
Clarence	282,719	10.58%	11.06%	11.15%	11.07%	11.05%
Derwent Valley	34,699	1.30%	1.36%	1.37%	1.37%	1.36%
G58	53,266	1.99%	2.07%	2.09%	2.07%	2.07%
Glenorchy	278,105	10.41%	10.85%	10.95%	10.87%	10.86%
Hobart	277,718	10.39%	10.85%	10.95%	10.87%	10.86%
Huon Valley	54,545	2.04%	2.12%	2.14%	2.12%	2.12%
Kingborough	157,831	5.91%	6.16%	6.21%	6.17%	6.16%
Sorell	41,584	1.56%	1.62%	1.63%	1.62%	1.62%
Southern Midlands	19,852	0.74%	0.76%	0.76%	0.76%	0.76%
Tasman	1,290	0.05%	0.05%	0.05%	0.05%	0.05%
<b>Total SW</b>	<b>1,293,236</b>	<b>48.39%</b>	<b>50.48%</b>	<b>50.91%</b>	<b>50.56%</b>	<b>50.50%</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>2,672,453</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

**12.6 WATER**

**Strategic Plan Reference – Page 15**

- 1.6.1 Increase the number of properties that have access to reticulated water.
- 1.6.2 Continue to provide domestic drinking water that meets the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines.

Nil.

**12.7 IRRIGATION**

**Strategic Plan Reference – Page 15**

- 1.7.1 Increase access to irrigation water within the municipality.

Nil.

**12.8 DRAINAGE**

**Strategic Plan Reference – Page 15**

- 1.8.1 Maintenance and improvement of the town storm-water drainage systems.

Nil.

**12.9 WASTE**

**Strategic Plan Reference – Page 16**

- 1.9.1 Maintenance and improvement of the provision of waste management services to the Community.

Nil.

**12.10 INFORMATION, COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY**

**Strategic Plan Reference – Page 16**

- 1.10.1 Improve access to modern communications infrastructure.

Nil.

**12.11 SIGNAGE**

**Strategic Plan Reference – Page 16**

- 1.11.1 Signage that is distinctive, informative, easy to see and easy to understand.

Nil.

**12.12 PUBLIC AMENITIES**

**Strategic Plan Reference – Page**

- 1.12.1 Develop a policy framework along with design guidelines for public amenities

Nil.

**12.13 OFFICER REPORTS – WORKS & TECHNICAL SERVICES (ENGINEERING)**

**12.13.1 Manager - Works & Technical Services Report**

*File Ref:* 3/075

AUTHOR MANAGER – WORKS & SERVICES

DATE 17<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2012

**ROADS PROGRAM**

Re-sheeting being undertaken at KHEME Road, Eastwood Road, York Plains and Inglewood areas.

Road stabilisation works on Stonor Road and Woodsdale Road have been completed and a primer seal has been laid.

Works are continuing on Inglewood Road stabilisation, some difficulties are being dealt with at time of print.

Site bench has been completed on Inglewood Road, property of ‘Lillies Leaf’ from Capital Projects.

Maintenance Grading - Interlaken, Lower Marshes, Inglewood and Stonehouse areas to be completed within the next fortnight.

**BRIDGE PROGRAM**

Elderslie Road – Site meeting being undertaken 17<sup>th</sup> May 2012, with an expected outcome of contractors having completed work by 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2012.

**WASTE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**

Oatlands Waste Transfer Station has had some remedial works done over the last week to enable EPN to be released at the end of the financial year, thus allowing the site to remain as a class 1 site then under Council control. Some other works still to be completed

**TOWN FACILITIES PROGRAM**

No current issues

**The following Works and Technical Services issues were raised for discussion:**

Roads Program – Hall Lane, Bagdad – works have been scoped and to be completed this financial year.

Campania – “Lee Street” – sign to be replaced to exclude the “s”. (i.e. Lee Street, not Lees Street).

**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT the information be received.**

**C/12/05/032/19035 DECISION**

Moved by Clr A O Green, seconded by Clr J L Jones OAM

THAT the information be received.

**CARRIED.**

<b>Vote For</b>	<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Vote Against</b>
√	Mayor A E Bisdee OAM	
√	Dep. Mayor M Jones OAM	
√	Clr A R Bantick	
√	Clr C J Beven	
√	Clr B Campbell	
√	Clr M Connors	
√	Clr D F Fish	
√	Clr A O Green	
√	Clr J L Jones OAM	



**13. OPERATIONAL MATTERS ARISING (STRATEGIC THEME – GROWTH)**

**13.1 RESIDENTIAL**

**Strategic Plan Reference – Page 17**

2.1.1 Increase the resident, rate-paying population in the municipality.

Nil.

**13.2 TOURISM**

**Strategic Plan Reference – Page 17**

2.2.1 Increase the number of tourists visiting and spending money in the municipality.

Nil.

**13.3 BUSINESS**

**Strategic Plan Reference – Page 18**

2.3.1a Increase the number and diversity of businesses in the Southern Midlands.

2.3.1b Increase employment within the municipality.

Nil.

**13.4 INDUSTRY**

**Strategic Plan Reference – Page 19**

2.4.1 Retain and enhance the development of the rural sector as a key economic driver in the Southern Midlands.

Nil.

**13.5 INTEGRATION**

**Strategic Plan Reference – Page 19**

2.5.1 The integrated development of towns and villages in the Southern Midlands.

Nil.

## 14 OPERATIONAL MATTERS ARISING (STRATEGIC THEME – LANDSCAPES)

### 14.1 HERITAGE

<b>Strategic Plan Reference – Page 20</b>
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3.1.1	Maintenance and restoration of significant heritage structures.
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3.1.2	Retain and enhance the heritage values of towns within the municipality.
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#### 14.1.1 Heritage Project Officer's Report

*File Ref:* 3/097

AUTHOR MANAGER HERITAGE PROJECTS (B WILLIAMS)

DATE 17<sup>th</sup> MAY 2012

#### ISSUE

Southern Midlands Heritage Projects – report from Manager Heritage Projects

#### DETAIL

During the past month, Southern Midlands Council heritage projects have included:

- Continuation of the implementation of the Oatlands Gaoler interpretation project. Gabion walls are complete, and installations are being fabricated.
- SMC has taken possession of the Oatlands Commissariat. Manager Heritage Projects is to undertake a conservation management plan ASAP to guide conservation and usage of the building. An urgent and essential maintenance plan is also to be developed ASAP.
- SMC (in conjunction with the Centre for Heritage) hosted a Blue Shield Australia (heritage place/collection disaster management agency) workshop.
- Work is continuing to document and conserve the Picton Road Station site, in collaboration with the site owner.
- MHP has provided input in to the SMC Strategic Plan review, and commenced a review of the Southern Midlands Historic Heritage Strategy.

- An exhibition on wind power was developed by intern Jennifer Hull and is on display at the Callington Mill Granary as part of the National Trust Heritage Festival.

**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT the information be received.**

**C/12/05/035/19036 DECISION**

Moved by Clr J L Jones OAM, seconded by Clr C J Beven

THAT the information be received.

**CARRIED.**

<b>Vote For</b>	<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Vote Against</b>
√	Mayor A E Bisdee OAM	
√	Dep. Mayor M Jones OAM	
√	Clr A R Bantick	
√	Clr C J Beven	
√	Clr B Campbell	
√	Clr M Connors	
√	Clr D F Fish	
√	Clr A O Green	
√	Clr J L Jones OAM	

**14.2 NATURAL****Strategic Plan Reference – Page 20**

3.2.1 Identify and protect areas that are of high conservation value

3.2.2 Encourage the adoption of best practice land care practices.

**14.2.1 Landcare Unit – General Report***File Ref: 03/082*

AUTHORS NRM PROGRAMS MANAGER – M WEEDING

DATE 8<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2012**ISSUE**

Southern Midlands Landcare Unit &amp; Climate Change Report.

**DETAIL**

- Graham presented an overview of Southern Midlands Climate Change Adaptation Plan at the last Council meeting. Since then Graham has developed a full report for consideration by Council (refer to separate Council agenda item).
- Graham worked with Damian on the new planning scheme for the Southern Midlands. The work focused on mapping the significant agricultural land zone.
- Maria and Helen continue to work on Lake Dulverton & Callington Park matters. Maria has also spent time working on the Midlands Water Scheme and the Wealth from Water Program. Under the Wealth from Water program a number of workshops are being held for potential irrigators.
- The contractors for the construction of the Midlands Water Scheme have been engaged by Tasmanian Irrigation. Potentially there could be significant economic benefits for Oatlands if used as a base town site for the roll out of the works. The first works should begin early in the new financial year.
- The Council's NRM Unit, together with Natural Resource Planning and NRM South have been successful in applying for funding under the Australian Government's Biodiversity Fund – Round 1. Of the 14 successful projects announced with a total of \$7.1 million, we will receive \$766,400 for further protection of the Tasmanian Midlands & Derwent Valley lowland grazing districts.

**THAT the Landcare Unit Report be received and the information noted.**

**C/12/05/037/19037 DECISION**

Moved by Clr C J Beven, seconded by Clr B Campbell

THAT the Landcare Unit Report be received and the information noted.

**CARRIED.**

Vote For	Councillor	Vote Against
√	Mayor A E Bisdee OAM	
√	Dep. Mayor M Jones OAM	
√	Clr A R Bantick	
√	Clr C J Beven	
√	Clr B Campbell	
√	Clr M Connors	
√	Clr D F Fish	
√	Clr A O Green	
√	Clr J L Jones OAM	

*Note: Additional information in relation to the Biodiversity Fund project to be provided next meeting.*

**14.3 CULTURAL****Strategic Plan Reference – Page 21**

3.3.1 Increase the retention, documentation and accessibility of the aboriginal convict, rural and contemporary culture of the Southern Midlands.

**14.3.1 Development of the Southern Midlands Arts Strategy**

**AUTHOR** MANAGER COMMUNITY & CORPORATE DEVELOPMENT  
(A BENSON)

**DATE** 12<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2012

**ATTACHMENTS:** Minutes of the Inaugural Meeting

**BACKGROUND**

Council advertised in the Council Newsletter for interested parties to nominate for the Working Group to develop an Arts Strategy for the Southern Midlands. A number of persons nominated and the first meeting was held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2012.

**CURRENT**

The attached minutes are a record of the inaugural meeting. The meeting was both energetic and creative in its ideas and depth of discussion. This will be a very productive Working Group that will tap into a group of people within the Southern Midlands local government area that may not, have ever been accessed by Council in the past. There is considerable scope for a number of enterprises to emerge from this important initiative by Council.

**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT Council received and note the information**

**C/12/05/038/19038 DECISION**

Moved by Clr B Campbell, seconded by Clr J L Jones OAM

THAT Council received and note the information.

**CARRIED.**

Vote For	Councillor	Vote Against
√	Mayor A E Bisdee OAM	
√	Dep. Mayor M Jones OAM	
√	Clr A R Bantick	
√	Clr C J Beven	
√	Clr B Campbell	
√	Clr M Connors	
√	Clr D F Fish	
√	Clr A O Green	
√	Clr J L Jones OAM	

## **INAUGURAL ARTS STRATEGY WORKING GROUP**

**MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> MAY 2012**

**AT THE KEMPTON COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

**COMMENCED AT 10.05AM**

### **1. Welcome**

Tim Kirkwood welcomed the group and acknowledged that the process has taken some time to pull together, Tim also apologised to the group about the delay in the acknowledgement of the working group expressions of interest. He stated that Council is committed to the development of an Arts Strategy for the Southern Midlands and he wished the group well with their deliberations.

### **2. Attendance**

Dot Evans

Mike Evans

Chris Harman (joined the meeting at 10.56am)

Malcolm Hamilton

Anna Reussien

Lisa Rudd

Carolyn Bassett

Kylie Eastley

Andrew Benson – SMC Manager Community & Corporate Development

Tim Kirkwood - SMC General Manager (left the meeting at 10.54am)

Katrina Brazendale - SMC Executive Assistant

### **3. Apologies**

Natasha Fogel

Kay Harman

Edwin Batt

### **4. Personal Introductions**

The group introduced themselves, shared their backgrounds and their reason for their respective participation in the Working Group

### **5. The Working Group – Operational Framework**

#### **a. Working Group Terms of Reference**

Andrew tabled a document titled Terms of Reference for the Working Groups consideration at the next meeting

**b. Resource Manual Partnership / Agreement Concepts**

Andrew tabled a document titled Resource Manual Partnerships / Concepts, for reference as a document that the Working Group could draw upon as it travels the journey.

In referring to the Manual, Andrew suggested the relevance of the document, in that a “partnering approach” is intended to capitalise on each partner’s (member of the Working Group) unique strengths in working to achieve shared or related goals that could not be achieved as well by working alone.

He further advised the group that there are two discrete sets of tasks in the establishment of a partnership or Working Group that must not be confused:

- tasks related to the development of the partnership or Working Group itself, and
- tasks related to managing the objectives or project for which the partnership/Working Group was originally conceived.

Andrew commended to document to the group.

**c. Agreeing a Charter of Values & Behaviours**

In further reference to the Resource Manual he identified as an important component of the groups working relationship is an understanding and an agreement in respect to the chapter titled “Charter of Values & Behaviours”. Andrew asked that each member of the Working Group read and commit to a Charter of Values & Behaviours

[Extract]

*In any Partnership or Working Group there is a requirement for a core set of values and behaviours that should be agreed, articulated and practiced as the basis of a positive relationship.*

*From the selection below, the Partnership / Working Group should select, modify, or create new statements, that they will be prepared to use in their relationship for this project, during meetings and when articulating their individual or collective view to other parties.*

**It was resolved** that the Working Group would review the Charter of Values & behaviours in the Manual, come back with any proposed amendments and then be prepared to sign-off on a Charter for the Working Group

**6. The Working Group – Project Framework****a. Artistic Introductions**

Andrew reminded the Working Group that the invitation that they received for this meeting asked that they bring along a “piece of favourite art”, no matter how eclectic, and for them to share with the rest of the Working Group why it is important to them and what feelings it invokes.



This is a part of the meeting where the group gets to hear the of personal engagement and a love of what is important in the arts to the individual group member, therefore setting the scene through a short presentation, and exploring a greater understanding of colleagues passions around the table.

Andrew started the session with a poem titled *The Bridge Builder* by Will Allen Dromgoole. He shared with the group some personal and professional examples of where the poem had provided a powerful symbolism to him in articulating a vision and a message of support and encouragement.

Carolyn presented a pastel drawing of a stained glass window from a Church and shared her story;

Dot presented a Flora of Tasmania artwork from Kew Gardens and shared her story;

Malcolm presented a painting that he had created and shared his story;

Anna presented her lace knitting that she creates and shared her story;

Kylie presented her jewellery that she was wearing and shared her story;

Mike presented a coral, pounding implement and shared his story;

Lisa presented her rope basket and shared her story;

Tim painted a vivid mind picture of his model making and shared his story; and

Katrina shared a family experience in her story

**b. Defining the Term Arts**

Is it Arts and Culture or just Arts?

There was considerable discussion in relation to this statement and in conclusion the group felt that Culture is an extremely broad ranging term and at this point in time would be a gigantic task to reach, explore and do it justice, however bearing that in mind, the title should be Arts & Culture

Mike referred to the South Gloucestershire Council Arts Strategy

[Extract]

The following is taken from the National Arts and Media Strategy (NAMS) 1994.

*The term “the arts” includes but is not limited to music (instrumental and vocal), dance, drama, folk art, creative writing, architecture and allied fields, painting, sculpture, photography, graphic and craft arts, industrial design, costume and fashion design, motion pictures, television, radio, tape and sound*

*recording, the arts related to the presentation, performance, execution and exhibition of such major art forms, and the study and application of the arts to the human environment.*

Carolyn suggested that the Playford Council (South Australia) definition was meaningful

[Extract]

*“Councils’ commitment to arts and cultural development empowers people and engenders a sense of pride in their identity and community and plays an important role in creating social, educational and economic opportunities.”*

Andrew suggested that there are significant health and well being outcomes associated with being involved in arts and culture activities

**c. The Task at Hand**

The group exhibited exuberant enthusiasm with wanting to get things happening *on the ground* and not just producing a glossy document that gathers dust on a shelf

Discussion focused on the following.

Who is out there, in an Arts & Culture Community, in the Southern Midlands?

What are they doing?

How do we support them?

How do we create connections?

How do we engage with them?

**d. Kylie Eastley – Tas Regional Arts**

Kylie covered the following points

- What is Tas Regional Arts and what do we do?
- Other Groups on this same journey
- How Tas Regional can assist the Working Group

and stated that she is really excited to hear the commitment and good ideas around the table

**e. Working Group Comments from the Documents Provided**

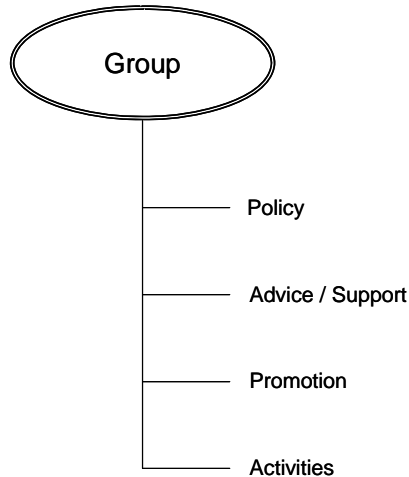
The following documents were provided with the agenda as examples for the Working Group of local, interstate and UK to draw upon in discussions of the SM Strategy.

- Hobart City Council Arts & Culture Strategy
- South Gloucestershire Council Arts Strategy

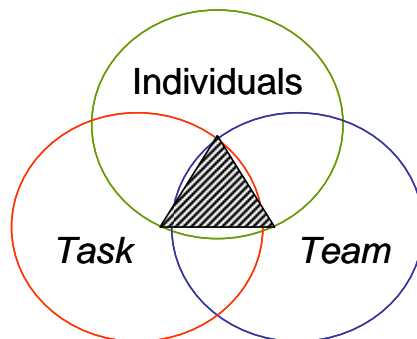
- Kingborough Arts & Culture Strategy
- City of Playford Cultural Strategy
- Brighton & Hove City - Cultural Strategy

**f. The Way Forward with Our Project**

Kylie offered a way forward and sketched the diagram below on the whiteboard with a story as to how a social enterprise working group that she is part of operates – the team liked the ideas put forward by Kylie



Lisa suggested that strategy and policy is challenge to develop in a void and provided the diagram below as a way of approaching the strategy development, acknowledging that most people are “task” focused



The Working Group agreed to adopt an approach that draws on the aforementioned concepts along with subsequent discussion around the table and agreed the following

- Identify the Working Group’s mantra/title as *Creative Community*
- Acknowledge that the existing group requires a broader based penetration into the arts & culture Community in the SM if a meaningful and sustainable strategy is to be developed.

- The Working Group organise a broad based arts and culture forum in October in Oatlands, where each member of the Working Group shall identify five other people from the arts and culture Community in the Southern Midlands to attend the forum and together deliver a facilitated and structured way forward.
- That Kylie Eastley facilitate the *October Forum*
- That funding be sought for the *October Forum*
- That the details and arrangements be developed over the next few months by the Working Group

## **7. Grants and Funding**

### **a. Discussion - Lisa Rudd's Community Terracotta Artwork of Callington Mill**

Andrew briefed the Working Group on the Community art project that Lisa pulled together (project details tabled).

It was felt that the Community should be engaged in respect of the location, even though the location suggested in the Council report was felt to be appropriate.

Funding of the installation be sought through a Community Arts grant.

For further discussion and resolution at the next meeting

## **8. Next Meeting**

The next meeting to be 10.00am 16<sup>th</sup> May 2012 at the Kempton Council Chambers

## **9. Close**

The meeting closed at 1245hrs

Andrew Benson  
*Convener*

**14.4 REGULATORY (OTHER THAN PLANNING AUTHORITY AGENDA ITEMS)**

**Strategic Plan Reference – Page 21**

3.4.1 A regulatory environment that is supportive of and enables appropriate development.  
Identify and protect areas that are of high conservation value

Nil.

## 14.5 CLIMATE CHANGE

**Strategic Plan Reference – Page 21**

3.5.1 Develop strategies to address issues of climate change in the Southern Midlands.

### 14.5.1 Climate Change Adaptation Plan Endorsement

**AUTHOR:** CLIMATE CHANGE & GIS PROJECT MANAGER- (G GREEN)

**DATE:** 14<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2012

#### ISSUE

Southern Midlands Council now has a Climate Change Adaptation Plan which was produced by the Regional Climate Change Adaptation Project through the STCA. Key points from the Plan were presented to Council at the April Council meeting in Bagdad. The Climate Change & GIS Project Manager now seeks endorsement of the Adaptation Plan. Following endorsement an internal Council working group will discuss the implementation approach for the Plan.

#### BACKGROUND

Southern Midlands Council's Climate Change Adaptation Plan was produced through the Regional Councils Climate Adaptation Project (RCCAP) a project aimed at improving the capability and resilience of Tasmanian councils to manage the risks of climate change. The RCCAP was funded by the Australian Government's Local Government Reform Fund and delivered by the Southern Tasmanian Councils Authority (STCA). Climate change adaptation plans were prepared for all 12 councils of the Southern Region together with a Regional Climate Change Strategy. A foundation of the RCCAP was detailed modelling conducted by scientists from the Climate Futures for Tasmania Project (CFT). Municipal-scale climate change profiles covering, temperature, rainfall, sea level rise and extreme events (out to 2100), were prepared specifically by CFT and provided a key basis for the risk management approach used in Council's adaptation plans.

Preparation of the Southern Midlands Council Plan involved the input of council staff through a 'risk management' workshop, and 'adaptation options' workshop' and through review of draft material.

**DETAIL**

The SMC Climate Change Adaptation Plan incorporates:

- modelled climate change conditions for the municipality to 2100;
- identified risks to Council business posed by the modelled conditions;
- rating of identified risks in a manner consistent with the International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO) 31000:2009 Standard for Risk Management;
- identification of adaptation options for each of Council's business areas to treat 'priority' rated risks;
- advice on the legal implications of managing risks associated with climate change;
- a prioritisation schedule for implementation of actions; and
- a stakeholder section identifying potential collaborative opportunities in managing climate change impacts.

Key identified climate change risks for Southern Midlands municipality (by 2100) include the following:

- The temperature of very hot days to increase by up to 3°C.
- The number of days over 25°C expected to increase by 150%.
- Frost risk days are likely to decline by up to 30 days/year.
- Extended heat waves and extreme temperatures to potentially enhance the occurrence of bushfire.
- Rainfall to trend towards heavier events interspersed by longer dry periods.
- Rainfall volume in all 'average recurrence interval' (ARI) events to increase by up to 25%.
- Rainfall runoff to have faster response times, greater erosion potential.
- Annual flows in the Jordan and Coal Rivers to increase with flood peaks to be higher than previously experienced.

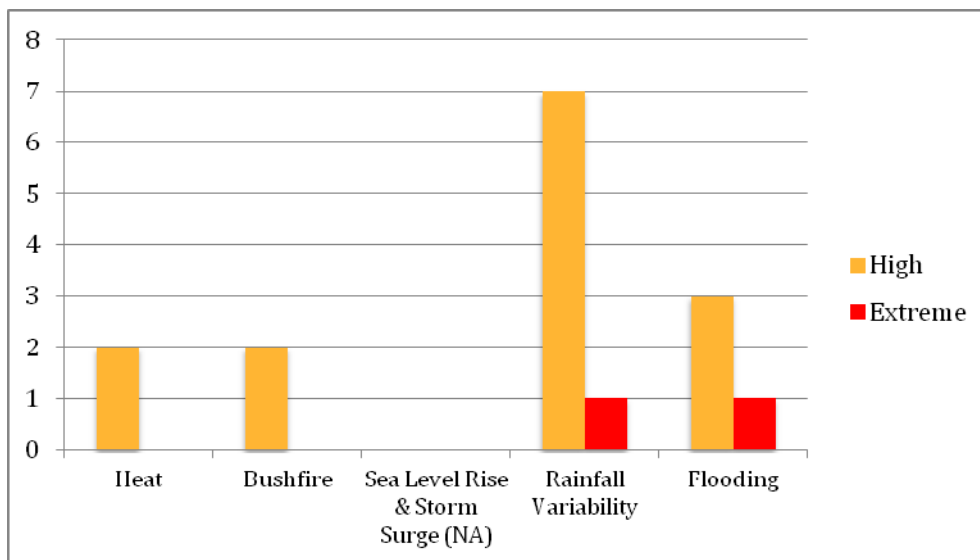
Key vulnerabilities for Southern Midlands Council in relation to the climate change risks include the following:

- Increased damage to roads, culverts, stormwater infrastructure and timber bridges from flooding.
- Lack of flood modelling (and potentially wildfire modelling) in relation to guidance of planning decisions.
- Possible public health issues in relation to over-loading of on-site wastewater treatment systems in extreme rainfall.
- Potential impact on the regional economy (and hence indirect effect on Council) due to stresses on the agricultural sector including: soil erosion; reduced chill hours for cold-reliant crops such as cherries and apples; heat stress affecting grape yield; humidity leading to crop spoiling; and advantageous conditions for weeds & pathogens causing crop losses.

- Bushfire impacts on rural property, infrastructure and people.
- Impact on local vegetation communities and species due to heat stress, changes in seasonal rainfall and impact from weeds & pathogens.

Sixteen ‘high’ and ‘extreme’ rated risks were identified with rainfall variability and flooding the impacts of most relevance to Council (Figure 1).

Figure 1: The number of priority risks in relation to climate change impacts



### ***Legal liability***

A key overarching consideration managing climate change risks is the potential liability exposure in relation to an adopted action, or inaction in particular circumstances. Advice to the Regional Climate Change Adaptation Project (RCCAP) is that councils will not be liable for existing use or development, nor will liability be incurred for ‘no action’ in response to climate impacts. Should Council take action there could be liability if that action causes harm or damage. Council may also be found liable for operational advice such as in the assessment of planning applications and new developments. A full report providing details and recommendations regarding the legal issues was commissioned under the RCCAP and has been made available to relevant staff for consideration.

### ***Infrastructure & Assets***

The vulnerability of Council infrastructure and community assets in relation to flood and bushfire was recognised, together with the need to review design standards to determine the adequacy of infrastructure to cope with extreme events.

### ***Planning & Development***

In relation to Planning and Development, the need for flood modelling was recognised in order to define high-risk areas for flood impact.



***Economic & Community Development***

In terms of economic and community development, action in relation to building community resilience in the face of drought was seen as important, together with encouraging innovation and diversification in the agricultural sector.

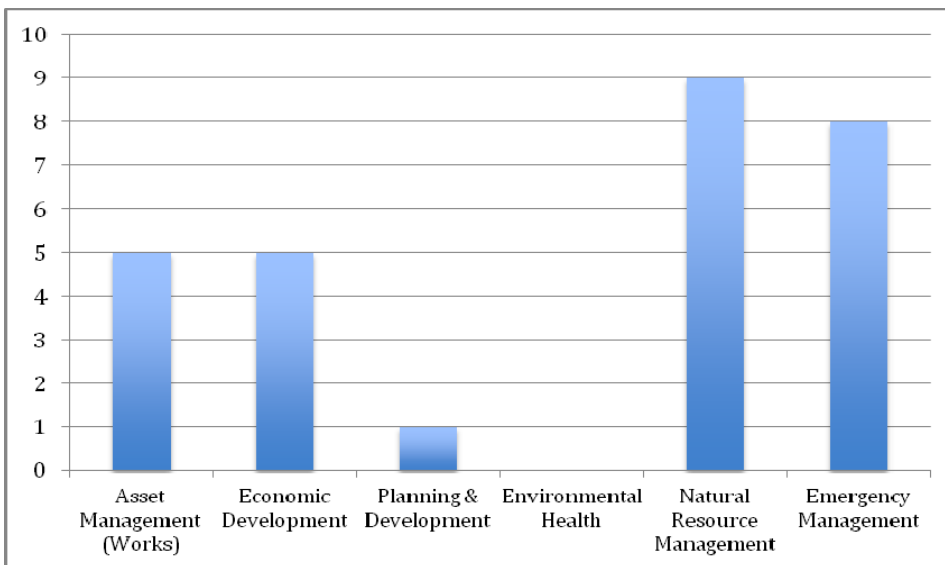
***Natural Resource Management***

A strong adaptation theme for Southern Midlands was in the area of natural resource management where there is potential for significant impact of the agricultural sector and natural values from rising temperature, frost, flooding rain, drought and introduced species. Nonetheless, it was recognised that there is still opportunity to build resilience in the environment through fencing of important vegetation remnants, trialling of pasture species that are resilient to drought and identification (and protection) of riparian areas vulnerable to flood erosion.

***Emergency Management***

The area of emergency management was also viewed as an important area for Council to review and potentially build capacity in terms of water storage and fire fighting.

Figure 2: The number of adaptation actions in the Plan in relation to Council business areas



Aside from proposing actions to minimise the impact of climate change on Council business, the Adaptation Plan also recognises the significant body of work currently being undertaken by Council’s ‘stakeholders’. The Plan identifies stakeholder linkages to assist in identifying collaborative opportunities, resource sharing and to avoid duplication of efforts wherever possible.

**Human Resources & Financial Implications**

***Human resources***

Implementation of the Climate Change Adaptation Plan will be coordinated by the Project Manager under existing duties. Involvement of other staff is envisaged in planning to determine priority actions, timeframes and implementation approaches.

***Financial implications***

It is perceived that implementation of the Climate Change Adaptation Plan will have minimal financial implications as many of the actions can be implemented by modification or review of current procedures e.g. update of emergency management plan or update of Council's risk register. Higher cost actions such as catchment modelling in relation to projected flood volumes or review and upgrade of vulnerable assets have the potential to be funded through grants – particularly as the issues have been flagged and documented through as rigorous risk assessment process.

In summary it is perceived that the Adaptation Plan has no implications in the immediate budget cycle but there could be implications in the future once an implementation framework has been established.

**Community Consultation & Public Relations Implications*****Community consultation***

Community consultation in regard to the Adaptation Plan is not envisaged as necessary as it is a Council corporate document. Specific actions may warrant an element of community consultation, particularly in relation to asset upgrade or replacement in areas highly vulnerable to flooding or in relation to modelling of bushfire likelihood. Such consultation, if necessary, may be viewed as an opportunity to inform the community of initiatives Council are pursuing to build resilience and improve public safety in the face of threats posed by climate change.

***Public relations***

There are potential positive public relations outcomes as actions in the Adaptation Plan may ultimately lead to: enhanced public safety, more robust infrastructure, bushfire and flood modelling data to inform risk, improved emergency response capability, and improved environmental resilience through NRM projects to manage threats (e.g. weeds) as they emerge.

**Web site implications**

There is potential for the Adaptation Plan and actions arising from it to be publicised on Council's existing climate change web page. This will require a minimal amount of work.

### Policy Implications

Climate change adaptation is essentially a risk management process. Council's Adaptation Plan has been developed in accordance with the (ISO) 31000:2009 Standard for Risk Management. Hence it is pertinent to review Council's Risk Management Policy to ensure the defined risks are acknowledged. Review of Council's Risk Management Policy is in fact an action flagged for implementation in the Adaptation Plan.

### Priority – Implementation Timeframe

Actions presented in the Adaptation Plan have been subjected to an initial multi-criteria analysis to determine which actions are likely to be the most easily implemented according to a range of criteria including cost, expected timeframe and community acceptance. The schedule of prioritised actions, including those which may be implemented in the short term will need to be discussed by an internal staff working group.

### RECOMMENDATION

**THAT Council receive and endorse the SMC Climate Change Adaptation Plan.**

### C/12/05/051/19039 DECISION

Moved by Clr A O Green, seconded by Clr C J Beven

THAT endorsement of the SMC Climate Change Adaptation Plan be deferred pending review of the legal advice referred to in the section of report headed "Legal liability". Further report to be provided next meeting.

**CARRIED.**

Vote For	Councillor	Vote Against
√	Mayor A E Bisdee OAM	
√	Dep. Mayor M Jones OAM	
√	Clr A R Bantick	
√	Clr C J Beven	
√	Clr B Campbell	
√	Clr M Connors	
√	Clr D F Fish	
√	Clr A O Green	
√	Clr J L Jones OAM	

**14.5.1 Sustainability and Climate Change Learning Centre – Request for Contribution**

*File Ref:*

AUTHOR GENERAL MANAGER  
DATE 16<sup>th</sup> MAY 2012

ATTACHMENT: Southern Tasmanian Councils Authority – Letter dated 16<sup>th</sup> May 2012

**ISSUE**

Council to consider making a financial contribution towards the establishment of an Educational Interpretive Display within the Sustainability and Climate Change Learning Centre.

**BACKGROUND**

Nil.

**DETAIL**

Refer detail contained within the letter dated 16<sup>th</sup> May 2012 received from the Southern Tasmanian Council's Authority.

**Human Resources & Financial Implications** – An allocation for such a financial contribution has not been made in the current financial year. Recognising the timing of the project, it would be feasible to budget for an amount in the forthcoming period (i.e. 2012/13), however due to competing priorities it is suggested that any sizeable contribution would be extremely difficult to accommodate.

**Community Consultation & Public Relations Implications** – Whilst it is recognised that there may be educational benefits to the entire region, it is difficult to justify and quantify a value.

**Policy Implications** – N/A.

**Priority - Implementation Time Frame** – Refer comment above.

**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT Council decline the request for a financial contribution towards the establishment of an Educational Interpretive Display within the Sustainability and Climate Change Learning Centre.**

**C/12/05/053/19040 DECISION**

Moved by Deputy Mayor M Jones OAM, seconded by Clr A O Green

THAT Council decline the request for a financial contribution towards the establishment of an Educational Interpretive Display within the Sustainability and Climate Change Learning Centre.

**CARRIED.**

<b>Vote For</b>	<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Vote Against</b>
√	Mayor A E Bisdee OAM	
√	Dep. Mayor M Jones OAM	
√	Clr A R Bantick	
√	Clr C J Beven	
√	Clr B Campbell	
√	Clr M Connors	
√	Clr D F Fish	
√	Clr A O Green	
√	Clr J L Jones OAM	



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[www.stca.tas.gov.au](http://www.stca.tas.gov.au)

16 May 2012

Mr Tim Kirkwood  
General Manager  
Southern Midlands Council

Dear Tim

**SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE LEARNING CENTRE -  
REQUEST FOR CONTRIBUTION**

Greening Australia, in collaboration with the Australian and Tasmanian Governments, the CSIRO and the Catholic and Independent Education Associations, is constructing a \$3.5m 'Sustainability and Climate Change Learning Centre' in the grounds of Hobart College, Mount Nelson. It is proposed to be opened during Science Week in August 2012.

Hobart City Council has been approached by Greening Australia and asked to consider sponsoring part or all of the Educational Interpretive Display for the Centre. The total cost of the Display is approximately \$75,000.

At its meeting of 30 April 2012, Hobart City Council agreed in principle to providing a portion of the funding, and suggested that the other Councils in the region could also be invited to be involved - given that the Centre will be of benefit to the whole region. Greening Australia is supportive of this suggestion and it was considered appropriate that the request be relayed to the other Councils through the STCA.

The Centre will be a state-of-the-art showcase for sustainable design - rated as a 6-Star Green Building. The interactive and hands on function of the Educational Interpretive Display will directly engage schools, students and visitors in how the Learning Centre uses energy and water and its associated greenhouse gas emissions across its buildings. This is considered to be a worthy project with wide ranging benefits for Southern Tasmania communities and schools, and will attract Australia-wide attention.

Interest in funding contributions from Councils is requested by 01 June 2012 to enable development of the Display for the Centre's opening. If you require any further information please contact Hobart City Council's Environment and Climate Change Officer, Katrina Graham on 6238 2741.

Kind regards

Damian Mackey  
Acting CEO STCA

**15 OPERATIONAL MATTERS ARISING LIFESTYLE**

**15.1 YOUTH**

**Strategic Plan Reference – Page 22**

4.1.1 Increase the retention of young people in the municipality.

Nil.

**15.2 AGED**

**Strategic Plan Reference – Page 22**

4.2.1 Improve the ability of the aged to stay in their communities.

Nil.

**15.3 CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**

**Strategic Plan Reference – Page 22**

4.3.1 Ensure that appropriate childcare services as well as other family related services are facilitated within the Community.

Nil.

**15.4 VOLUNTEERS**

**Strategic Plan Reference – Page 22**

4.4.1 Encourage community members to volunteer.

Nil.

**15.5 ACCESS**

**Strategic Plan Reference – Page 22**

4.5.1 Continue to meet the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act.

Nil.

**15.6 PUBLIC HEALTH**

**Strategic Plan Reference – Page 23**

4.6.1 Monitor and maintain a safe and healthy public environment.

Nil.

**15.7 RECREATION**

**Strategic Plan Reference – Page 23**

4.7.1 Provide a range of recreational activities and services that meet the reasonable needs of the Community.

**15.7.1 Tunbridge Park (Main Road, Tunbridge) – Ownership**

*File Ref:*

**AUTHOR** EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT (K BRAZENDALE)

**DATE** 17<sup>th</sup> MAY 2012

**ATTACHMENTS:** Property Report ID 5847040  
Titles 115460 / 3 & 132363 / 1

**ISSUE**

**To brief Council in relation to the ownership of Tunbridge Park, and determine a means of addressing the issue(s).**

**BACKGROUND**

It has been identified that the Tunbridge Park is formally owned by the Tunbridge Youth Club Inc., with the Tunbridge Community Club Inc. being recorded as the ratepayer.

Ownership of the land has been questioned as a result of Southern Water issuing consumption accounts for the property. This follows the recent installation of Meters on Council and public owned properties.

**DETAIL**

Based on research, it appears that the land may have been originally donated to the Tunbridge Youth Club Inc., and in recent weeks Mrs L Hazelwood has informed Council that following the demise of the Tunbridge Youth Club, arrangements were made to nominate the Tunbridge Community Club as the organisation responsible for the management and operation of the property. The Titles are still in the name of the Tunbridge Youth Club Inc.

In light of this information, the following issues need to be addressed:

- responsibility for payment of the annual water service charge (and consumption charges);
- maintenance and upkeep;
- public liability insurance etc.



Preliminary discussions would suggest that the best means of addressing this issue is to negotiate and enter into a ‘peppercorn’ lease which would transfer these responsibilities to Council. The alternatives are to:

- a) seek ownership of the property; or
- b) recognise that it is not owned by Council and withdraw.

**Human Resources & Financial Implications** – A peppercorn lease would add no additional costs over and above what is presently incurred. The Water account which has been issued to the Tunbridge Community Club will be paid by the Club pending resolution of this matter.

**Community Consultation & Public Relations Implications** – Preliminary discussions would suggest that the most appropriate way to consult with the relevant stakeholders is to discuss this matter at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting of the Tunbridge Community Club Inc. scheduled for August 2012.

**Policy Implications** – Policy position.

**Priority - Implementation Time Frame** – refer comment above.

**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT:**

- a) the information be received; and
- b) Council seek to negotiate and enter into a peppercorn lease of the property, of which the detail would be provided in a further report.

**C/12/05/057/19041 DECISION**

Moved by Clr J L Jones OAM, seconded by Deputy Mayor M Jones OAM

**THAT:**

- a) the information be received; and
- b) Council seek to negotiate and enter into a peppercorn lease of the property, of which the detail would be provided in a further report.

**CARRIED.**

Vote For	Councillor	Vote Against
√	Mayor A E Bisdee OAM	
√	Dep. Mayor M Jones OAM	
√	Clr A R Bantick	
√	Clr C J Beven	
√	Clr B Campbell	
√	Clr M Connors	
√	Clr D F Fish	
√	Clr A O Green	
√	Clr J L Jones OAM	



## PROPERTY INFORMATION SHEET

VALUER GENERAL, TASMANIA

Issued pursuant to the Valuation of Land Act 2001



**Property ID:** 5847040 **Municipality:** SOUTHERN MIDLANDS

**Property Address:** TUNBRIDGE PLAYGROUND  
MAIN RD  
TUNBRIDGE TAS 7120

**Property Name:** TUNBRIDGE PLAYGROUND

**Rate Payers:** TUNBRIDGE COMMUNITY CLUB  
**Postal Address:** TUNBRIDGE COMMUNITY CLUB  
41 MAIN RD  
TUNBRIDGE TAS 7120

**Title Owners:** 115460/3 : TUNBRIDGE YOUTH CLUB INC.  
132363/1 : TUNBRIDGE YOUTH CLUB INC.

**Improvements:** PLAYGROUND  
**Construction Year of Main Building:**  
**Land Area:** 0.8094 hectares  
**Building Size:**

**Bedrooms:**  
**Roof Material:**  
**Wall Material:**  
**LPI References:** FAN46  
FAN45

### Last Sales

Contract Date	Sale Price
---------------	------------

### Last Valuations

Inspection Date	Levels At	Land	Capital	A.A.V.	Reason
23/01/2009	01/10/2008	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$800	REVALUATION
30/01/2007	01/01/2002	\$5,000	\$5,500	\$220	LUC AMENDED FOR ADJUSTMENT FACTOR PROJECT

This data is derived from the Valuation List prepared by the Valuer General under the provisions of the Valuation of Land Act 2001. These values relate to the level of values prevailing at the dates of valuation shown.

While all reasonable care has been taken in collecting and recording the information shown above, this Department assumes no liability resulting from any errors or omissions in this information or from its use in any way.

No information obtained from the LIST may be used for direct marketing purposes

SEARCH DATE: 09/05/2012 SEARCH TIME: 01:54 PM

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**RESULT OF SEARCH**

RECORDER OF TITLES

*Issued Pursuant to the Land Titles Act 1980*



SEARCH OF TORRENS TITLE

VOLUME 115460	FOLIO 3
EDITION 1	DATE OF ISSUE 02-Mar-1995

SEARCH DATE : 17-May-2012  
SEARCH TIME : 11.04 AM

DESCRIPTION OF LAND

Town of TUNBRIDGE  
Lot 3 on Plan 115460  
Derivation : Whole of 1-0-35 Granted to H. Valentine  
Derived from W2196

SCHEDULE 1

TUNBRIDGE YOUTH CLUB INC.

SCHEDULE 2

Reservations and conditions in the Crown Grant if any

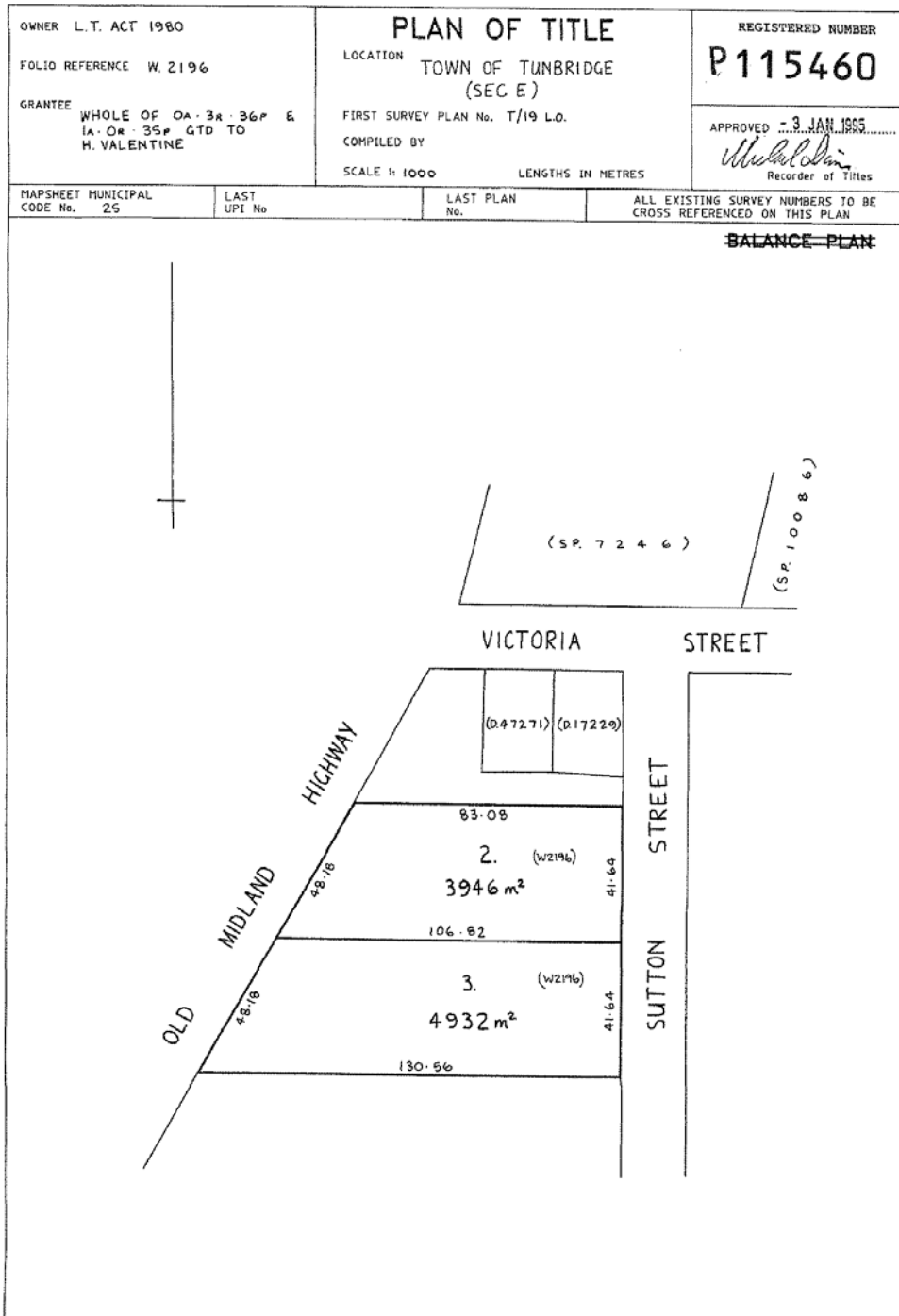
UNREGISTERED DEALINGS AND NOTATIONS

No unregistered dealings or other notations



**FOLIO PLAN**  
RECORDER OF TITLES

Issued Pursuant to the Land Titles Act 1980



DJB A-13



RESULT OF SEARCH  
RECORDER OF TITLES  
Issued Pursuant to the Land Titles Act 1980



## SEARCH OF TORRENS TITLE

VOLUME 132363	FOLIO 1
EDITION 1	DATE OF ISSUE 11-Nov-1999

SEARCH DATE : 09-May-2012  
SEARCH TIME : 01.55 PM

DESCRIPTION OF LAND

Town of TUNBRIDGE  
Lot 1 on Plan 132363  
Derivation : Part of 0-3-36 Granted to H. Valentine  
Derived from W2196  
Prior CT 115460/2

SCHEDULE 1

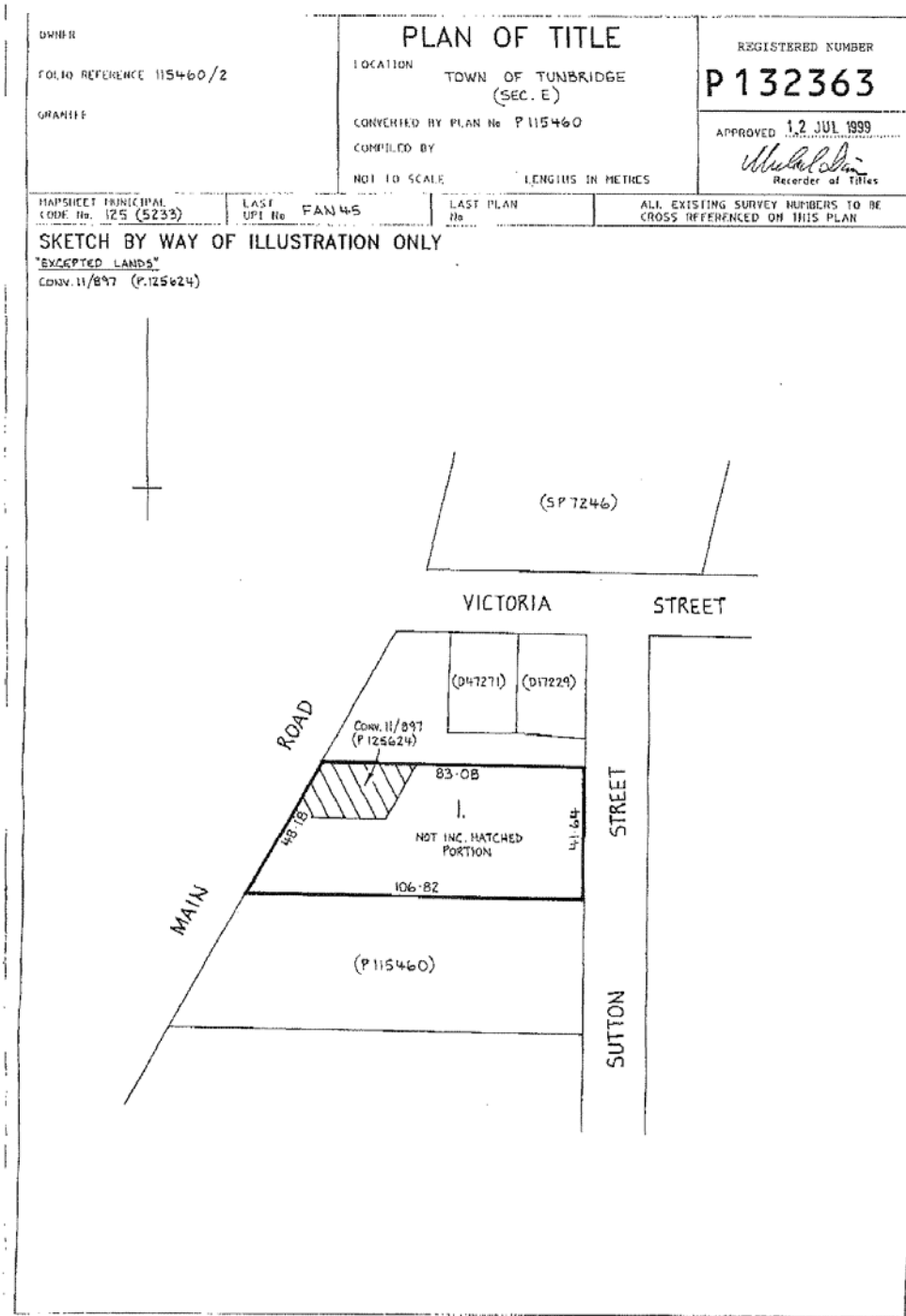
TUNBRIDGE YOUTH CLUB INC.

SCHEDULE 2

Reservations and conditions in the Crown Grant if any

UNREGISTERED DEALINGS AND NOTATIONS

No unregistered dealings or other notations



**15.8 ANIMALS**

**Strategic Plan Reference – Page 23**  
 4.8.1 Create an Environment where animals are treated with respect and do not create a nuisance for the community.

**15.8.1 Animal Control Officer’s Report**

*File Ref:* 3/027

**AUTHOR** ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER (G DENNE)

**DATE** 17<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2012

**ISSUE**

**Consideration of Animal Control Officer’s monthly report.**

**DETAIL**

Refer Monthly Statement on Animal Control for period ending 30<sup>th</sup> April 2012.

Reclaims: 2 – Owners were identified immediately as a result of being micro chipped.

Dog Attacks: Owner of sheep from Green Valley Road, Bagdad did not want Council to attend his property. He is going to take care of it his way. He does not require assistance from Council.

**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT the Animal Control Officer’s Monthly report be received.**

**C/12/05/063/19042 DECISION**

Moved by Clr M Connors, seconded by Clr D F Fish

**THAT the Animal Control Officer’s Monthly report be received.**

**CARRIED.**

Vote For	Councillor	Vote Against
√	Mayor A E Bisdee OAM	
√	Dep. Mayor M Jones OAM	
√	Clr A R Bantick	
√	Clr C J Beven	
√	Clr B Campbell	
√	Clr M Connors	
√	Clr D F Fish	
√	Clr A O Green	
√	Clr J L Jones OAM	

**SOUTHERN MIDLANDS COUNCIL  
MONTHLY STATEMENT ON ANIMAL CONTROL  
FOR PERIOD ENDING 30/4/2012**

**Total of Dogs Impounded:** 3  
**Dogs still in the Pound:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Breakdown Being:**

ADOPTED	RECLAIMED	LETHALISED	ESCAPED
1	2	-	-

**MONEY RECEIVED**

**Being For:**

<b>Pound</b>	_____
<b>Reclaims</b>	_____
	<b>\$36.36</b>
<b>Dog Registrations</b>	_____
<b>Kennel Licence Fee</b>	_____
	<b>\$130.00</b>
<b>Infringement Notices</b>	_____
<b>Complaint Lodgement Fee</b>	_____
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>\$166.36</u></b>

**COMPLAINTS RECEIVED FOR PERIOD ENDING 30/4/2012**

**Dog at Large:** 5  
**Dog Attacks:** 1  
**Request Pick-ups:** 3  
**After Hours Calls:** 4  
**TOTAL** 13

**Number of Formal Complaints Received:** -  
**Number of Infringement Notices Issued:** 1

**Animal Control Officer:** **Garth Denne**



*The meeting was suspended for a short break at 11.20 a.m. and resumed at 11.32 a.m.*

**15.8.2 2012/2013 Animal Management Fees (incl. Dog Registrations)**

*File Ref: 2/002*

AUTHOR ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER  
DATE 8<sup>th</sup> MAY 2012

**ISSUE**

Adoption of the 2012-13 Animal Management Fees.

**BACKGROUND**

Dog Registration fees are to be adopted in accordance with Council's Dog Management Policy and the *Dog Control Act 2000*.

**DETAIL**

For information, the Animal Control operation provides for the following arrangements:

- Contractor engaged for 17 hours per week during normal Council office hours.
- In addition to this, the Contractor will respond to:
  1. Call-outs and special events as required by the General Manager or his delegate.
  2. Call-outs of an emergency nature, which shall include:
    - a) dog attacks on persons or stock;
    - b) animals impounded or detained by the public and the person(s) concerned are not prepared to house the animal(s) until the next working day; and
    - c) animals straying in areas that are likely to cause danger to the public (e.g. highways).

A mobile telephone is carried at all times for which a standby allowance of \$8 per day is paid. (Cost per annum \$2,920).

*The following budget details have been submitted to indicate percentage cost recovery (51%) if the fees remain at the same level. For information, the actual percentage cost recovery budgeted for 2010-11 was 53.0% (down from 61.5% in 2009/10).*

### **Budget Details**

#### **Expenditure**

<b>Refer Budget Working Paper attached – total expenditure of</b>	<b>\$ 69,690</b>
<b>Income</b>	
<b>- Present level of Fees (estimated)</b>	<b>\$(34,000)</b>
<b>- Infringements</b>	<b>\$( 1,300)</b>

*Note: Income to date for the Animal Control Program is \$28,672 however a large number of dogs are registered prior to June 30 which is recognised as income this financial year.*

**Net Cost / Deficit** **\$34,390**

There are currently 1,953 registered Dogs. Following Council's decision to introduce a standard fee, it is not possible to provide a breakdown by classification (i.e. Dogs (irrespective of sex) - Not sterilised, Spayed females and Neutered Males, Working Dogs etc).

**Note: Based on the recommended increase in registration fees for 2012/13, this would provide an additional \$3,000 in income (not included in estimated income above), which would then increase the percentage cost recovery to 53.5%.**

**Human Resources & Financial Implications**

The following fees and charges were adopted for the 2011-12 financial year:

	<u>Paid by the 31/7/10</u>	<u>Paid after 31/7/10</u>
Pensioners (first dog only)	\$10.00	\$35.00
All other Dog Categories	\$20.00	\$35.00
Guide Dogs	no charge.	

- Kennel Licence Application Fee - \$120
- Kennel Licence Renewal Fee - \$50
- Impounding Reclaim Fees - \$20 for the first impounding, \$30 for subsequent impoundings and \$10 per day maintenance
- Formal Notice of Complaint Fee - \$10
- Replacement of Registration Tag - \$5

In reference to Council's Dog Management Policy, refund of registration fees will only be provided for dogs that have died in the current year of registration. Refunds are only available on completion of the appropriate form lodged with Council by the owner of the dog subject of the claim. Any refund provided is on a pro-rata basis as at the time of application.

The Southern Midlands Council will transfer dog registrations from other Tasmanian Councils at no cost to the dog owner, provided the registration is for the same registration period.

**Community Consultation & Public Relations Implications – Nil**

*Southern Midlands Council Web Site - The adopted Fees will be displayed on the Web Site.*

**Policy Implications** - Policy position.

**Priority - Implementation Time Frame** – It is normal practice for reminder Notices to be issued in late May of each year. Registration fees are due on 1<sup>st</sup> July.

**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT Council adopt the following fees and charges for the 2012-13 period:**

	<u>Paid by the 31/7/12</u>	<u>Paid after 31/7/12</u>
<b>Pensioners (first dog only)</b>	<b>\$ 12.00</b>	<b>\$35.00</b>
<b>All other Dog Categories</b>	<b>\$ 24.00</b>	<b>\$40.00</b>
<b>Guide Dogs</b>	<b>no charge.</b>	

- **Kennel Licence Application Fee - \$120.00**
- **Kennel Licence Renewal Fee - \$50.00**
- **Impounding Reclaim Fees - \$20 for the first impounding, \$40 for subsequent impoundings and \$10 per day maintenance**
- **Formal Notice of Complaint Fee - \$50.00**
- **Replacement of Registration Tag - \$5.00**

**C/12/05/068/19043 DECISION**

Moved by Clr A O Green, seconded by Deputy Mayor M Jones OAM

THAT Council adopt the following fees and charges for the 2012-13 period:

	<u>Paid by the 31/7/12</u>	<u>Paid after 31/7/12</u>
Pensioners (first dog only)	\$ 12.00	\$35.00
All other Dog Categories	\$ 24.00	\$40.00
Guide Dogs	no charge.	

- Kennel Licence Application Fee - \$120.00
- Kennel Licence Renewal Fee - \$50.00
- Impounding Reclaim Fees - \$20 for the first impounding, \$40 for subsequent impoundings and \$10 per day maintenance
- Formal Notice of Complaint Fee - \$50.00
- Replacement of Registration Tag - \$5.00

**CARRIED.**

Vote For	Councillor	Vote Against
√	Mayor A E Bisdee OAM	
√	Dep. Mayor M Jones OAM	
√	Clr A R Bantick	
√	Clr C J Beven	
	Clr B Campbell	√
√	Clr M Connors	
√	Clr D F Fish	
√	Clr A O Green	
	Clr J L Jones OAM	√

**15.9 EDUCATION**

**Strategic Plan Reference – Page 23**

4.9.1 Increase the educational and employment opportunities available in the Southern Midlands.

Nil.

**16 OPERATIONAL MATTERS ARISING (STRATEGIC THEME – COMMUNITY)**

**16.1 RETENTION**

**Strategic Plan Reference – Page 24**

5.1.1 Maintain and strengthen communities in the Southern Midlands.

Nil.

**16.2 CAPACITY**

**Strategic Plan Reference – Page 24**

5.2.1 Build the capacity of the Community to help itself.

Nil.

**16.3 SAFETY**

**Strategic Plan Reference – Page 24**

5.3.1 Increase the level of safety of the community and those visiting or passing through the municipality.

Nil.

**16.4 CONSULTATION**

**Strategic Plan Reference – Page 24**

5.4.1 Improve the effectiveness of consultation with the Community.

Nil.

**16.5 COMMUNICATION**

**Strategic Plan Reference – Page 25**

5.5.1 Improve the effectiveness of communication with the Community.

Nil.

**17. OPERATIONAL MATTERS ARISING (STRATEGIC THEME – ORGANISATION)**

**17.1 IMPROVEMENT**

<b>Strategic Plan Reference – Page 26</b>	
6.1.1	Improve the level of responsiveness to Community needs.
6.1.2	Improve communication within Council.
6.1.3	Improve the accuracy, comprehensiveness and user friendliness of the Council asset management system.
6.1.4	Increase the effectiveness, efficiency and use-ability of Council IT systems.
6.1.5	Improve the Council records management system and processes.
6.1.6	Develop an overall Continuous Improvement Strategy and framework.

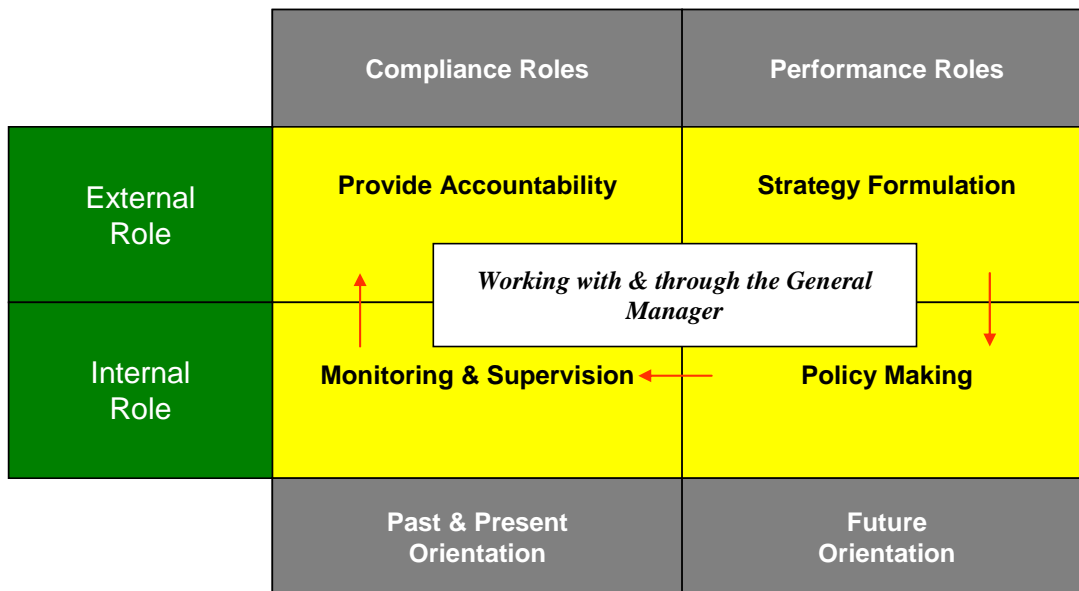
**17.1.1 New Occupational Health & Safety Legislation A Briefing for Councillors in their Governance Role**

**AUTHOR** MANAGER COMMUNITY & CORPRATE DEVELOPMENT  
(A BENSON)  
**DATE** 15<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2012

**ENCLOSURE:** Presentation on the Proposed Work Health & Safety Act 2011

**BACKGROUND**

Council is aware, through recent presentations, such as the review of the Strategic Plan 2010 – 2015, and also the review of the SMC Risk Management Strategy, of the Framework for Analysing Council’s Governance Function. This framework has been drawn from Professor Robert Tricker’s work on International Governance, where he developed the model in the figure below which clarifies the twin responsibilities of conformance and performance Tricker, R., *International Corporate Governance: Text Readings and Cases*, New York: Prentice Hall, 1994, p.149.



As part of this framework it is important for Council to be aware of and monitor all relevant legislation as it comes into law, because of its possible implications on the budget, skills, training, exposure to liability and related matters of governance.

Council will note that there are considerable penalties, eg.

[Extract]

*Described in \$ amounts, rather than penalty units*

**Category One (Reckless Conduct)**

- *Person has a Health and Safety Duty; and*
- *Without reasonable excuse engages in conduct that exposes another person to death or serious injury / illness; and*
- *The person is reckless as to the risk to another person of death or serious injury / illness*

**Corporation, as a PCBU:** \$3,000,000

**Individual, as a PCBU / Officer:** \$ 600,000 / 5 years jail\*

**Individual e.g. Worker :** \$ 300,000 / 5 years jail\*

*The prosecution bears the burden of proof, i.e. conduct was engaged in without reasonable cause*

*\* Custodial sentence is new to Tasmania*

Note: PCBU means – Person Conducting a Business or Undertaking

The Manager Community & Corporate Development (Andrew Benson) undertook a presentation the Council's field work in relation to the proposed Work Health Act 2011. As Councillors would be aware this new OH&S legislation should have been in place in January 2012, but the State Government has delayed its implementation until January 2013.

The presentation is attached and it is commended to Councillors as a must read document.

## RECOMMENDATION

**THAT Council received and note the information;**

### **C/12/05/071/19044 DECISION**

Moved by Deputy Mayor M Jones OAM, seconded by Clr M Connors

THAT Council receive and note the information.

**CARRIED.**

Vote For	Councillor	Vote Against
√	Mayor A E Bisdee OAM	
√	Dep. Mayor M Jones OAM	
√	Clr A R Bantick	
√	Clr C J Beven	
√	Clr B Campbell	
√	Clr M Connors	
√	Clr D F Fish	
√	Clr A O Green	
√	Clr J L Jones OAM	

## **17.2 SUSTAINABILITY**

### **Strategic Plan Reference – Page 27**

6.2.1	Retain corporate and operational knowledge within Council.
6.2.2	Provide a safe and healthy working environment.
6.2.3	Ensure that staff and elected members have the training and skills they need to undertake their roles.
6.2.4	Increase the cost effectiveness of Council operations through resource sharing with other organisations.
6.2.5	Continue to manage and improve the level of statutory compliance of Council operations.
6.2.6	Ensure that suitably qualified and sufficient staff are available to meet the Communities needs.
6.2.7	Work co-operatively with State and Regional organisations.
6.2.8	Minimise Councils exposure to risk.

### **17.2.1 Local Government Association of Tasmania – 2012 Local Government Conference**

*File Ref:*

**AUTHOR** EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT (K BRAZENDALE)  
**DATE** 7<sup>th</sup> MAY 2012

**ENCLOSURE:** Conference Program and Registration Form

#### **ISSUE**

**To confirm attendance at the Local Government Association of Tasmania 2012 Local Government Conference to be held at Wrest Point from 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> July 2012.**

#### **DETAIL**

The Conference Program and Registration Form is included as an enclosure with this Agenda.

The full registration fee for the Conference is \$725.00 This fee does not include accommodation or travel.

**Human Resources & Financial Implications** – Registration fees will be funded from the 2011/12 Budget and other conference costs will be incurred in 2012/13 (e.g. accommodation).

**Community Consultation & Public Relations Implications** – attendance at the conference assists Council in being proactive and having input into the planning and direction of local government for the future.



**Policy Implications** – N/A

**Priority - Implementation Time Frame** – Delegates registration must be lodged prior to the 20<sup>th</sup> June 2012.

### RECOMMENDATION

**THAT Council confirm those attending the LGAT 2012 Local Government Conference.**

### C/12/05/073/19045 DECISION

Moved by Clr D F Fish, seconded by Clr C J Beven

THAT Mayor A E Bisdee OAM, Deputy Mayor M Jones OAM, Clr A O Green, Clr B Campbell, Clr J L Jones OAM and Mr Tim Kirkwood attend the LGAT 2012 Local Government Conference.

**CARRIED.**

Vote For	Councillor	Vote Against
√	Mayor A E Bisdee OAM	
√	Dep. Mayor M Jones OAM	
√	Clr A R Bantick	
√	Clr C J Beven	
√	Clr B Campbell	
√	Clr M Connors	
√	Clr D F Fish	
√	Clr A O Green	
√	Clr J L Jones OAM	

**17.2.2 Review of Action List***File Ref:* 3/006

AUTHOR EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT (K BRAZENDALE)  
 DATE 1<sup>ST</sup> MAY 2012

**ISSUE**

Council to review the Action List

**DETAIL**

Council, at its meeting held 24<sup>th</sup> April 2012, requested that the Action List be included on the Agenda for review.

Please refer to the Information Bulletin dated 18<sup>th</sup> May 2012 for a copy of the Action List.

**RECOMMENDATION**

**Submitted for Council's consideration.**

**C/12/05/074/19046 DECISION**

Moved by Clr A O Green, seconded by Deputy Mayor M Jones OAM

THAT the information be received.

**CARRIED.**

Vote For	Councillor	Vote Against
√	Mayor A E Bisdee OAM	
√	Dep. Mayor M Jones OAM	
√	Clr A R Bantick	
√	Clr C J Beven	
√	Clr B Campbell	
√	Clr M Connors	
√	Clr D F Fish	
√	Clr A O Green	
√	Clr J L Jones OAM	

**17.2.3 Local Government Association of Tasmania – General Management Committee Elections 2012**

File Ref: 6/002

**AUTHOR** EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT (K BRAZENDALE)**DATE** 7<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2012**ISSUE**

To inform Council of the nominations received for the position of General Management Committee of the Association.

**BACKGROUND**

The Tasmanian Electoral Commission has advised that the following Candidates have been nominated as Committee Members on the General Management Committee.

*Note: The General Management Committee includes a representative from each of the following Electoral Districts. The Southern Midlands Council falls within the Southern Electoral District, with a population under 20,000.*

**President**

Barry EASTHER

Richard JAMES

West Tamar Council

Clarence City Council

**Ballot Required****Committee Members****North West & West, population < 20,000**

Sandra FRENCH

Daryl QUILLIAM

Burnie City Council

Circular Head Council

**Ballot Required****North West & West, population > 20,000**

Jan BONDE

Central Coast Council

**Elected Unopposed****Northern population < 20,000**

Barry JARVIS

Dorset Council

**Elected Unopposed****Northern population > 20,000**

Albert ZETTEN

Launceston City Council

**Elected Unopposed****South, population < 20,000**

Deirdre FLINT

James GRAHAM

Central Highlands Council

Derwent Valley Council

**Ballot Required**

**South, population > 20,000****Elected Unopposed**

Graham BURY

Kingborough Council

**DETAIL**

Ballot Papers have now been issued by the Tasmanian Electoral Commission. The Southern Midlands Council needs to confirm its preferred candidate for the position of the South population < 20,000.

**Human Resources & Financial Implications** – Nil.

**Community Consultation & Public Relations Implications** – N/A.

*Southern Midlands Council Web Site* – N/A.

**Policy Implications** – N/A.

**Priority - Implementation Time Frame** – Ballot Papers were issued on 26<sup>th</sup> April 2012. They must be returned to the Tasmanian Electoral Commission by 10.00 am on 20<sup>h</sup> June 2012.

**RECOMMENDATION****THAT:**

- a) the information be received; and
- b) Council determine its preferred candidate for the position on the General Management Committee representing the South population < 20,000.

**C/12/05/076/19047 DECISION**

Moved by Clr J L Jones OAM, seconded by Clr A O Green

**THAT:**

- a) the information be received;
- b) Council's preferred candidate be Barry EASTHER for the position of president on the General Management Committee; and
- c) Council's preferred candidate be Deirdre FLINT for the General Management Committee representing the South population < 20,000

**CARRIED.**

Vote For	Councillor	Vote Against
√	Mayor A E Bisdee OAM	
√	Dep. Mayor M Jones OAM	
√	Clr A R Bantick	
√	Clr C J Beven	
√	Clr B Campbell	
√	Clr M Connors	
√	Clr D F Fish	
√	Clr A O Green	
√	Clr J L Jones OAM	

**17.2.4 Review of Council’s Strategic Plan 2010 – 2015 and the Creation of the 2012 – 2017 Strategic Plan**

*File Ref:* 16-2.2

**AUTHOR** MANAGER COMMUNITY & CORPORATE DEVELOPMENT  
(A BENSON)

**DATE** 12<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2012

**ENCLOSURE** Draft Strategic Plan 2012 – 2017 including the proposed amendments from Councillor / Senior staff workshop

**ATTACHMENTS** Community Submissions (three)

Council’s Strategic Plan in its current format was adopted prior to the commencement of the 2006/07 financial year and it is acknowledged that a review of the Plan every two years is necessary in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993

Council at its meeting in January 2012 endorsed the review of the 2010 – 2015 Strategic Plan along with the proposed consultation process. The attached draft Strategic Plan 2012 – 2017 is the outcome of two Councillor and senior Manager workshops.

There were three Community consultation sessions facilitated by the Mayor and the Manager Community & Corporate Development, they were at Oatlands, Bagdad and Campania. The attached submissions are included in their entirety and Councillors are asked to form a view as to the inclusion of items that have been suggested within the Strategic Plan. In general terms the feedback from the Community sessions was very positive.

It should be noted that the Australian Bureau of Statistic will not be releasing their census data until after June, therefore it is not included at this stage in the document, be it will be when the data is available, however due consideration from other sources have informed the plan, but they would be too cumbersome to included in what is already a substantial document.

Following this Council meeting, the amended draft Strategic Plan will be advertised for sixty days and then tabled at the July Council meeting for further consideration of submissions and final endorsement by Council.

**RECOMMENDATION****THAT Council:**

1. received the information;
2. adopt the proposed changes developed as part of the Councillor/Senior Management workshops and included in the draft attached to these agenda papers;
3. following due consideration, adopt the agreed changes put forward in the public submissions;
4. adopt the draft Strategic Plan 2012 - 2017, as amended during the meeting and proceed to advertise the document for further public comment with final consideration in the July 2012 Council meeting; and
5. endorse the process of the review of the Strategic Plan to date

**C/12/05/078/19048 DECISION**

Moved by Clr J L Jones OAM, seconded by Clr B Campbell

**THAT Council:**

1. received the information;
2. adopt the proposed changes developed as part of the Councillor/Senior Management workshops and included in the draft attached to these agenda papers;
3. following due consideration, adopt the agreed changes put forward in the public submissions;
4. adopt the draft Strategic Plan 2012 - 2017, as amended during the meeting and proceed to advertise the document for further public comment with final consideration in the July 2012 Council meeting; and
5. endorse the process of the review of the Strategic Plan to date

**CARRIED.**

Vote For	Councillor	Vote Against
√	Mayor A E Bisdee OAM	
√	Dep. Mayor M Jones OAM	
√	Clr A R Bantick	
√	Clr C J Beven	
√	Clr B Campbell	
√	Clr M Connors	
√	Clr D F Fish	
√	Clr A O Green	
√	Clr J L Jones OAM	

**Subject:** Strategic Plan 2010 - 2015  
SMC Strategic Plan

1. The Strategic Plan covers the period 2011 - 2015 and is updated every 2 years (pg 3 of 33). This means that the Strategic horizon is decreasing and after the 2014 review will only run for one year. This is hardly strategic. The plan should address issues into at least 5 years into the future and population data should be extrapolated from the previous census and development information available. I have never seen a strategic plan based on only very old historical data and with no attempt to project the data forward into the future. That is why business spends so much on research and surveys. Without this forward data the strategic plan provides no focus and can become outdated extremely quickly. From memory, Telstra for example has a strategic planning horizon of 8 years and bases decisions of statistical projections of 20 years and this is in a very rapidly changing regulatory and technological environment.

2. The main population centres exclude Campania (pg 5 of 33) which again is a reflection on using a poor planning technique. More current population data would suggest that Campania, Kempton and Bagdad are the major population growth centres in SM and this shift should be a core strategic issue.

3. Agriculture, forestry and fishing is the biggest employer (20.1%) and the most likely to be impacted upon by future climate change and investment decisions. It should be a core strategic issue. Tourism (accommodation, cafes, restaurants) is just 3.2% yet seems to have more resources directed to it than it would otherwise justify.

5. The strategic themes (pg 10) need a re-think as effort is being diverted into issues that have minimal impact. For example take 'Growth'. The strategic issue is identified (2.1) but operationally no mention is made of increasing rural residential subdivision (ie 5 ac blocks). This would be a great source of population growth and very cheap for ratepayers, but it is not mentioned. Take Tourism (2.2) for example. Tourist employment is just 3.2% yet there are 8 operational strategies and actions, yet Agriculture is blended in with business in general. Accommodation for seasonal workers is duplicated (2.3.1.3 and 2.4.1.5) and the responsibility for this issue is different in each case. The ties between Agriculture and Climate Change, Agriculture and Education, Agriculture and Telecommunications, Agriculture and Landuse, Agriculture and Transport etc, etc are not made or apparent in the Plan but I would think are strategically important.

I have heaps more comments but time is pressing.

Hope this is helpful.

The plan covers the majority of issues of concern. My main criticism is of the methodology and balance of the Plan.

## **Southern Midlands Council Response to the Strategic Plan 2012**

### **Introduction**

As a resident of Campania for the last six years I welcome the opportunity to respond to the call for community responses regarding the Southern Midlands Council's Strategic Plan.

I have been a latecomer to a Council region which has a strong core of long term, indeed multigenerational members of the community. Rural communities of this kind are sometimes suspicious of newcomers, especially those who continue to work outside of the area and in fact continue their allegiances and commitments in their place of employment.

I have had the opposite experience of being welcomed into my community not just by the excellent information pack I received from the Council soon after I arrived but also from the local residents of the town especially the remarkable Jean Howlett. I have been pleased to be an active member of the Halls Committee ever since.

### **The process**

I attended the consultation in Campania on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> March in the hope of expressing some favourable points as well as suggestions but I was disappointed with the process. I have many years experience in community development and consultation and I have occasionally served different Councils by assisting with their work in this area, though my background is largely in the community not for profit sector.

I understand how difficult it is to gain feedback on complex organisations with competing needs and stakeholders. I am also aware that community expectations are unrealistic in the light of the revenue available to small rural councils with a wide spread and disparate community base.

It is a requirement, as mentioned in the meeting, to consult and it is important that this is more than lip service. Any public meeting process has its drawbacks because this approach tends to attract those who already have a voice in the community, who are articulate, literate and empowered. Other methods of gauging public interest are often helpful to gain a broader view.

However if a public forum is to be held it is best to engage an independent facilitator who will ensure everyone has a voice. The extra expense is certainly justified but it is not always necessary as there are often people with those skills in the community. It is also important to have a process for capturing the comments which allows those contributing to check their input is being recording as intended. Neither of these was available at the consultation. The Council representatives chose to use much of the valuable and limited time to answer the comments, in this case for much of the time from only one contributor, rather than listen and perhaps appropriately sum up with a response at the end. I mean no disrespect to that contributor or to the two Council representatives, but I was very disappointed.

I have been in a similar position many times when I have asked for input from the general community on my work. I understand the temptation to explain and justify why things are done in a certain way or why resources don't allow for those suggestions to proceed. However with only an hour, the priority is to listen.



It might have been useful to provide a link to the Annual Report to those attending since the Strategic Plan has been implemented since 2010 and understanding the progress and relevance of the Plan so far would have been helpful and enlightening. Having said this I have now been able to read the Annual Report against the plan and this has been enlightening.

### **Expectations of Council**

Different citizens will expect different things from their Council and many will have special requirements according to perceived gaps in services or their own personal interest. For my part I recognise that by moving into a small rural Council I cannot expect the level of service I might enjoy in Hobart or Launceston. Additionally my rates reflect the lack of services such as sewerage, lighting, water and postal services which I knew about when I bought my home. However I think the size of my home should not reduce the worth of my opinion compared to other ratepayers.

For me priorities include

- Good governance
- Accountability to ratepayers and other stakeholders
- Legislative and Statutory requirements are met
- Fiduciary responsibilities are met and financial decisions and reporting are transparent

### **Strategic plan**

#### **General themes**

My general comments on the plan are favourable, the Council has provided a well written and easy to understand set of priorities which appear to be realistic and specific and presumably measurable – the operational plan has not been distributed but it is clear that most items can be tracked and reported against.

The Strategic themes are logical and although Council is considering some rewording of these, they are broad categories which are generally self explanatory. It is always difficult to ‘batch’ aspects of a Strategic Plan as in all good organisations there are links between all of the work which are mutually beneficial. For example the Arts Strategy is rightly mentioned in the Landscapes section, but equally, given the evidence of the Mona Development in Glenorchy for instance, the arts can be a significant contributor to Tourism and Economic development as well as community development. If that interrelationship is recognised I see no reason to substantially alter the themes or their contents.

Not included in documents provided for consultation but very much part of the Strategic Plan is any statement of values and I was pleased to read the Vision, Mission and Guiding Principles in the Annual Report. These like the body of the Strategic Plan are aspirational and no organisation meets all of these every year but it is good to see the level of respect and the aim for equity encapsulated in these statements.

I would recommend that the Vision, Mission and Guiding principles be published and distributed with the Strategic Plan as an integral part of the document and that these principles be revisited in any deliberations to upgrade or update the plans and operations of Council.

**Specific comments****Themes****Infrastructure**

Infrastructure has always been a core element of Local government responsibility and it has to be undertaken in partnership with other levels of government. It appears to me that this Council has an effective voice in those circles and has successfully maximised the support through partnerships with other councils and authorities as well as through diligent lobbying and by exploring support for commercial development.

Even in my short time living in the district I have seen an increase in traffic on the Mud Walls road. This link between the Highway and Richmond has brought both tourists and commercial heavy vehicles to Campania and local residents are concerned about the speed and frequency which poses a danger to residents especially the young and the elderly in our community. Support from Council in discussions with Police and DIER will be much appreciated. Those of us involved in the Coal River Farmers Market believe warning signs or a crossing would alleviate some of these issues.

It is noted that Council has undertaken a number of small scale improvements in Campania's roads and the Brown Mountain bridge and transfer station access in recent times.

It is also noted that Council has demonstrated its commitment to recycling and the identification of suitable markets for recycled products is to be encouraged.

Public amenities have been demonstrated to be a valuable means of encouraging tourists to stop on major tourist routes and this can lead to longer stays and expenditure in local towns. This has certainly proved to be the case with Flour Mill Park in Campania.

**Growth**

There is no doubt there is capacity for growth in the municipality and that an increase in the rate base would be beneficial. Retaining a sizable population will also assist in keeping services such as the schools and the health centre. While many new residents have chosen the region for the quiet and peaceful countryside, measured growth can add to the amenity without losing the quality of life in the rural setting.

Investigating the possibilities and offering pathways for the young to learning and employment are valid roles for Council to consider. It is also inevitable that young people will move away at least for a time but many Tasmanians return to their home regions if there are business, housing and employment opportunities.

The more southern parts for the Council area also offer commutable distances for those who wish to train and work in the larger towns and maintaining dialogue around transport may offer different solutions.

Food security is becoming increasingly important. Irrigation has certainly assisted the district in this regard. New products and value-adding as well as local branding can be achieved. It is important for Southern Midlands to continue to honour and enhance its rural industries.

I am interested in the notion of the integrated development of towns and villages and would like to hear more on this topic.

**Landscapes**

There was much talk at the Campania consultation about the investment in particular towns and whether this was fair and equitable. I have not studied the expenditure of various investments. It is clear that some work has been prioritised on the basis of grants and their availability due partly to external priorities and perceptions. This is to be expected. The development at Oatlands is impressive and has certainly made that town a more attractive destination for tourists and its proximity to the highway has facilitated the visitation.

Council may be now interested in assisting local residents to further the potential for the smaller towns to consider their own heritage and its potential for tourism.

The stories of the district are fascinating and I think there is enormous potential to build upon the work being done around social history. I note there is mention of Aboriginal culture and heritage. (- note the respectful convention is to designate a capital A in recognition of the Aboriginal community). Sadly the history of our district with regard to Tasmanian Aboriginal people is not a proud one but increasingly respectful recognition has been positive in terms of community development and has provided another aspect of tourism and economic development for Aboriginal Tasmanians.

An Arts and Cultural Plan will provide benefits in Lifestyle, Landscape and Community sections of the Plan and is as vital as a Tourism or Economic Plan and should be integral to all Council operations.

**Lifestyle**

Quite rightly Southern Midlands Council is taking Climate Change seriously by offering support for residents towards sustainable practices. I am impressed that a small council has been so proactive in this area and I hope they can continue to work in this way. I will be interested to see how this policy affects planning and education programs in the region.

As mentioned above the retention of young people is important but assistance towards better education and training, new opportunities to travel and experience new ideas and to bring them back to our communities is also vital.

Those who undertake the “tree change” to our area are also bringing different ideas and experiences and the dialogue between the newcomers and those who carry the local knowledge has enormous potential for generating new solutions.

My experience in Campania is that the elderly and older members of the community are the backbone and ‘glue’ that holds the social fabric together. I cannot imagine that my generation or the ones that come after will have the vigour and commitment that some of these men and especially the women offer. I hope we can maintain this community capacity at a local level while planning for care for the ageing population in dignity and respect.

For children and families living in the country can be a wonderful family experience. However rural families have often had to suffer from a lack of facilities and support. Although highly self sufficient, the life of rural families can be isolating especially for women and children.

Continuing partnerships such as the Communities for Children program will assist by bringing new resources into the area. The Council may have a valuable role in attracting additionally services such female Doctors and Nurse Practitioners through lobbying and incentives such as practice spaces. Current Health Reform may offer innovative solutions and new resources.

In terms of safety family violence and abuse is sadly part of all communities and isolation exacerbates the effects. Council may want to consider its role in health promotion and prevention partnerships on the issue. Equally farm safety is still an important topic and too many rural workers continue to ignore safe practices.

Integrated transport is a common topic is every community in Tasmania and it will continue to be a priority for rural areas.

Council has a good record in the delivery of a number of recreational facilities especially in partnership with community groups. I would like Council to consider its investment with a gendered lens. It would appear that there is a gender bias in both the provision and use of facilities and I am concerned that like Campania other towns cater for male sport and recreation more fully than for women. This may not mean additional infrastructure investment but a different approach to usage and promotion of facilities or adaption of spaces for child minding on site for instance.

I welcome the acknowledgement of the value of treating animals with respect whether they are pets or for livestock. It may also be possible to include the conservation of diverse wildlife within the framework of this section.

Education is the key to all areas of progress and I support Southern Midlands Council's strategies for improvements in this area.

### **Community**

The community is thankfully a very strong asset to this region and ones of the most attractive and valuable elements of living here. The policy of supporting the community to help itself is the only sustainable solution. Respect for community development principles including consultation and working together are the answer. I have certainly witnessed this kind of mutual support and this is why I was so disappointed with the community consultation process recently.

In Campania there are many groups and individuals working to improve their community on many levels. Although I have concentrated my efforts on the Halls committee and the Market I am impressed with the Imagine Campania group and the Youth group as well as the obvious commitment of others to sports development, the Red Cross and other such entities.

Real partnership with Council is the best and most cost effective community development. There are many good strategies in this section and I look forward to a more defined relationship between the community groups and their Council.

Any society or individual can be judged by the way it, and they, treat those who are most vulnerable. In other correspondence and at the recent meeting I raised the issue again about the accessibility in Council buildings and those spaces used for public events. This is a particular concern to me.

This need not be a significant expenditure item and it need not interfere with the integrity of Heritage buildings. I urge the Council to review its policies and implement what appears to be an existing plan to offer access, and dignity to the disabled and aged - as well as parents with prams and those making deliveries and moving supplies and equipment - throughout the Council area. This is not just a human rights issue but also a legal obligation.

Equally the implementation of safety obligations has been neglected and the form 56 and accompanying inspections have not been undertaken in our Halls.

### **Organisation**

For a small Council I think the general courtesy, work and support of its staff is commendable. I think the council appears to meet most of its obligations but obviously most residents are not in a position to comment on the details. The Annual Report is thorough and helpful. Financial responsibility appears to be a strong point.

Changing demographics and priorities are always a difficult area to measure, monitor and plan for and this is a changing world.

I am grateful for this opportunity to comment and I hope you take some of my points on board. We are especially fortunate in our local Councillors in Campania and I hope they can continue to serve us well.

Please accept my best wishes for your continued work on behalf of the Southern Midlands region.

**Subject:** Strategic Plan Review Feedback  
Hi Andrew,

Following is my personal feedback on the council's strategic plan. I have broken my response down into two areas of liveability and growth that covers the council's six focus areas.

**Liveability – Infrastructure, Lifestyle, Landscapes & Community**

“For example, inefficient urban transport networks see much of our day swallowed up by commuting, leaving us less time for friends and family. It is simpler for people to get together to play sport if training grounds are available nearby, and it is easier to organise a picnic if you can walk to a local park. Streets can prioritise cars or pedestrians. Being able to move easily by car is convenient, but heavy traffic in residential areas diminishes contact between neighbours. We tend to hurry past a building that presents a blank wall to the street, whereas an open facade can create inviting spaces to stop and talk.” Grattan Institute Report No. 2012-4, March 2012

Mainly for the southern settlements, but as appropriate for all areas, continued investment in installing footpaths, shelters for bus stops, installation of additional public seating and street lighting. Such investment should be made with a focus on directing foot traffic to existing community facilities and business hubs. For example in Campania, used only because I know the specifics for this locality, the installation of a sheltered bus stop with appropriate safe pedestrian access would be improve community amenity and support the public transport link provided by Tassielink. Continuous footpaths along Climie and Reeve Streets from the village limits to the intersection of these streets would allow improved pedestrian access to the transport link, business hub and the community recreation facilities. Installation of seating at approximately 500-600m intervals would improve amenity for mobility impaired persons as this would allow the opportunity to rest.

For the more northern settlements, whilst considering the previous points, the council should focus on ensuring the settlements receive maximum access to the NBN rollout. This major national infrastructure project will allow new business opportunities and telecommuting, making these towns more attractive to ‘tree changers’ and enhancing liveability for existing residents.

**Growth – Tourism, Landscapes, Community**

The council focus on developing tourism within the municipality has been worthwhile. Council should continue to work with tourism providers to promote tourism within the municipality, but the council should not compete with private industry. Council should limit investment in ‘free parking’ for motorhomes and campers and instead look at assisting private operators establish such facilities, or look at ‘user-pays’ for any additional investment.

Additional opportunities now exist to assist and promote business investment and growth in areas of agriculture, resulting from forestry peace deal, irrigation investment, and technology, from the NBN rollout. The council should investigate co-operative programs with RDA and DED to actively promote Kempton and Oatlands as places to establish or grow business. The council should provide an active conduit to assist business establish and grow within the municipality. Council should do this through linkages to established programs from state and federal governments, and actively lobbying as required on behalf of or for business, as it currently does.

Regards,

### **17.3 FINANCES**

**Strategic Plan Reference – Page 28**

- 6.3.1 Maintain current levels of community equity.
- 6.3.2 Major borrowings for infrastructure will reflect the inter-generational nature of the assets created.
- 6.3.3 Council will retain a minimum cash balance to cater for extra-ordinary circumstances.
- 6.3.4 Operating expenditure will be maintained in real terms and expansion of services will be funded by re-allocation of service priorities or an increase in rates.
- 6.4.4 Sufficient revenue will be raised to sustain the current level of community and infrastructure services.

#### **17.3.1 Monthly Financial Statement (April 2012)**

*File Ref: 3/024*

AUTHOR FINANCE OFFICER  
DATE 16<sup>th</sup> MAY 2012

Refer enclosed Report incorporating the following: -

- a) Current Expenditure Estimates
- b) Capital Expenditure Estimates

*Note: Refer to enclosed report detailing the individual capital projects.*

- c) Rates & Charges Summary – 14<sup>th</sup> May 2012
- d) Cash Flow Statement – July to April 2012.

*Note: Expenditure figures provided are for the period 1<sup>st</sup> July to 30<sup>th</sup> April 2012 approximately 83% of the period.*



**Comments**

**A. Current Expenditure Estimates (Operating Budget)**

**Strategic Theme – Infrastructure**

- **Sub-Program –Roads** - expenditure to date (\$1,217,246 – 103.38%). Every endeavour is being made to limit the amount of over expenditure within this Program, acknowledging that the overall Operating Budget is within the yearly percentage to date.

**Strategic Theme – Growth**

- **Sub-Program – Business** - expenditure to date (\$88,516 – 171.05%). This Program is Private Works undertaken on a recharge basis.

**Strategic Theme – Landscape**

- **Sub-Program – Heritage** - expenditure to date (\$161,422 – 96.48%). Expenditure will be monitored to limit the amount over budget.

**Strategic Theme – Lifestyle**

- **Sub-Program – Recreation** - expenditure to date (\$329,652 – 98.60%) Expenditure for the remainder of the financial year will be minimal. The Swimming Pool Season has been completed and all costs paid to date.
- **Sub-Program – Sustainability** - expenditure to date (\$691,092 – 52.47%) Various annual ‘one-off’ costs (e.g. insurance premiums) have been paid.

**Strategic Theme – Community**

- **Sub-Program – Consultation** - expenditure to date (\$25,743 – 507.75%) Unbudgeted expenditure which relates to Council’s involvement with the Southern Midland Schools Working Group – and the preparation of submissions in response to the State Government’s reform agenda.
- **Sub-Program – Sustainability** - expenditure to date (\$691,092 – 52.47%) Various annual ‘one-off’ costs (e.g. insurance premiums) have been paid.

**B. Capital Expenditure Estimates (Capital Budget)**

Nil.

**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT the information be received.**

**C/12/05/090/19049 DECISION**

Moved by Clr C J Beven, seconded by Clr A O Green

THAT the information be received.

**CARRIED.**

<b>Vote For</b>	<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Vote Against</b>
√	Mayor A E Bisdee OAM	
√	Dep. Mayor M Jones OAM	
√	Clr A R Bantick	
√	Clr C J Beven	
√	Clr B Campbell	
√	Clr M Connors	
√	Clr D F Fish	
√	Clr A O Green	
√	Clr J L Jones OAM	

SOUTHERN MIDLANDS COUNCIL : CURRENT EXPENDITURE 2011/12  
SUMMARY SHEET

PROGRAM	TOTAL	REVISED BUDGET (GRANTS & OTHER REIMBURSEMENTS)	ACTUAL AS AT 30 APRIL 2012 83%	VARIANCE (+/-)	% BASED ON REVISED BUDGET 100%
<b>INFRASTRUCTURE</b>					
Roads	1177492	1177492	1217246	-39754	103.38%
Bridges	103225	103225	48363	54862	46.85%
Walkways	164055	164055	141335	22721	86.15%
Lighting	77792	77792	62502	15290	80.35%
Irrigation	2450	2450	0	2450	0.00%
Drainage	32090	32090	12037	20053	37.51%
Waste	472642	472642	320545	152098	67.82%
Public Toilets	49710	49710	41722	7988	83.93%
Communications	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Signage	12300	12300	8912	3388	72.46%
<b>INFRASTRUCTURE TOTAL:</b>	<b>2091756</b>	<b>2091756</b>	<b>1852661</b>	<b>239095</b>	<b>88.57%</b>
<b>GROWTH</b>					
Residential	2900	2900	25	2875	0.85%
Mill Operations	910348	910348	629160	281188	69.11%
Tourism	33610	33610	12391	21219	36.87%
Business	51750	51750	88516	-36766	171.05%
Agriculture	11548	11548	1055	10493	9.13%
Integration	11548	11548	0	11548	0.00%
<b>GROWTH TOTAL:</b>	<b>1021704</b>	<b>1021704</b>	<b>731147</b>	<b>290557</b>	<b>71.56%</b>
<b>LANDSCAPES</b>					
Heritage	167308	167308	161422	5886	96.48%
Natural	101107	119657	105217	14440	87.93%
Cultural	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Regulatory	696156	696156	563687	132469	80.97%
Climate Change	35754	56687	31873	24814	56.23%
<b>LANDSCAPES TOTAL:</b>	<b>1000324</b>	<b>1039807</b>	<b>862199</b>	<b>177608</b>	<b>82.92%</b>
<b>LIFESTYLE</b>					
Youth	176541	176541	82606	93935	46.79%
Aged	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Childcare	16535	16535	5237	11298	31.67%
Volunteers	41757	47945	25426	22519	53.03%
Access	1405	1405	0	1405	0.00%
Public Health	7258	7258	3404	3853	46.91%
Recreation	334317	334317	329652	4664	98.60%
Animals	66375	66375	42806	23569	64.49%
Education	0	0	106	-106	0.00%
<b>LIFESTYLE TOTAL:</b>	<b>644188</b>	<b>650376</b>	<b>489237</b>	<b>161138</b>	<b>75.22%</b>
<b>COMMUNITY</b>					
Retention	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Capacity	27025	27025	16425	10600	60.78%
Safety	51400	51400	38511	14889	71.03%
Consultation	5070	5070	25743	-20673	507.75%
Communication	21125	21125	8340	12785	39.48%
<b>COMMUNITY TOTAL:</b>	<b>104620</b>	<b>104620</b>	<b>87019</b>	<b>17601</b>	<b>83.18%</b>
<b>ORGANISATION</b>					
Improvement	5850	5850	352	5498	6.02%
Sustainability	1317109	1317109	1063067	254041	80.71%
Finances	227529	227529	167098	60431	73.44%
<b>ORGANISATION TOTAL:</b>	<b>1550488</b>	<b>1550488</b>	<b>1230518</b>	<b>319970</b>	<b>79.36%</b>
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>6413080</b>	<b>6458751</b>	<b>5252782</b>	<b>1205969</b>	<b>81.33%</b>

SOUTHERN MIDLANDS COUNCIL  
CAPITAL EXPENDITURE PROGRAM 2011-12  
AS AT 30 APRIL 2012

INFRASTRUCTURE	BUDGET	EXPENDITURE	VARIANCE	COMMENTS
<b>ROAD ASSETS</b>				
Resteering Program	\$ 860,000	\$ 429,766	\$ 230,234	
Reseal Program	\$ 274,960	-	\$ 274,960	
Reconstruct & Seal	\$ 45,000	\$ 31,103	\$ 13,897	
	\$ 50,000	\$ 75,591	\$ 25,591	
	\$ 147,500	\$ 147,204	\$ 296	
	\$ 45,000	\$ 1,108	\$ 43,892	
	\$ 45,000	\$ -	\$ 45,000	
	\$ 110,000	\$ 5,212	\$ 104,788	
	\$ 55,000	\$ 45,468	\$ 9,532	
Minor Seals (New)	\$ 15,000	\$ -	\$ 15,000	
	\$ 10,000	\$ -	\$ 10,000	
	\$ 10,000	\$ -	\$ 10,000	
Unsealed - Road Widening	\$ 20,000	\$ 12,814	\$ 7,186	
	\$ 20,000	\$ -	\$ 20,000	
	\$ 15,000	\$ -	\$ 15,000	
	\$ 15,000	\$ -	\$ 15,000	
	\$ 80,000	\$ 53,363	\$ 26,637	Includes \$40K Budget 2010/11
Other:				
Elton Road - Slip Repairs (incl. Guard Rail)	\$ 35,000	\$ -	\$ 35,000	
Inglewood Road - Sight Improvements	\$ 8,000	\$ -	\$ 8,000	
Woodside Rd & Stonehenge Road (Junction)	\$ 10,000	\$ 360	\$ 9,700	
Woodside Road - Landscaping Areas - Engineering Assessment	\$ 10,000	\$ -	\$ 10,000	
White Kangaroo Rd - White Kang Rivulet (B 204)	\$ 20,000	\$ -	\$ 20,000	
	\$ 1,860,460	\$ 801,937	\$ 1,058,523	
<b>BRIDGE ASSETS</b>				
Darvels Road - Marshalls Crk	\$ 26,440	\$ -	\$ 26,440	
Eddington Road - Bagdad Rivulet (Bridge 2087)	\$ 84,764	\$ 84,764	\$ -	
Elderslie Road - Jordan Rv (Bridge 486)	\$ 535,396	\$ 268,804	\$ 266,592	
Eldon Road - Burns Creek (Bridge 436)	\$ 5,293	\$ 105,927	\$ 100,634	
Mosquito Valley Road (Bridge 5300)	\$ 111,220	\$ 19,110	\$ 92,110	
Inglewood Rd - Little Swampport River (B 3277)	\$ 58,430	\$ 10,651	\$ 47,779	
Inglewood Rd - Little Swampport River (B 3278)	\$ 73,830	\$ 7,253	\$ 66,577	
Lewardside Back Road - Prosser River (B 1300)	\$ -	\$ 56,929	\$ 56,929	
White Kangaroo Rd - White Kang Rivulet (B 204)	\$ 91,840	\$ 41,075	\$ 50,765	
	\$ 125,480	\$ -	\$ 125,480	
Carried Forward:				
York Plains Road - Tin Dish Rvt	\$ -	\$ 6,515	\$ 6,515	Capitalised 30/6/11
Wilsons Road - Bagdad Rvt	\$ -	\$ 6,243	\$ 6,243	Capitalised 30/6/11
Swanston Road (Little Swampport River - 1716)	\$ -	\$ 15,474	\$ (15,474)	WIP - Carry Forward 2008/10
Fields Road (No. 1851)	\$ -	\$ 1,469	\$ 1,469	WIP - Carry Forward 2010/11
Robinwood Road Bridge (No. 1137)	\$ -	\$ 1,653	\$ 1,653	WIP - Carry Forward 2010/11
Elderslie Road (Grahams Creek Bridge)	\$ -	\$ 1,231	\$ 1,231	WIP - Carry Forward 2010/11
	\$ 1,292,400	\$ 793,016	\$ 499,384	

SOUTHERN MIDLANDS COUNCIL  
CAPITAL EXPENDITURE PROGRAM 2011-12  
AS AT 30 APRIL 2012

	BUDGET	EXPENDITURE	VARIANCE	COMMENTS
<b>WALKWAYS</b>				
Footpaths - General (Program to be confirmed)	\$ 130,000	\$ -	\$ 130,000	
Bagdad Township	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
- School Rd Bagdad	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Campagna Township	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
- Nil	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Colebrook Township	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
- Nil	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Kempston Township	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
- Nil	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Oatlands Township	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
- Nil	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Tunbridge Township	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
- Nil	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Tunnack Township	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
- Nil	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
<b>Carried Forward:</b>				
Bagdad Township	\$ 25,000	\$ -	\$ 25,000	
- Swan Street	\$ 10,000	\$ -	\$ 10,000	
- Reeve Street (Vicinity of Store)	\$ 5,000	\$ -	\$ 5,000	
- Review Management Plan (Site Plan) / Walking Tracks (Bush Reserve)	\$ 7,000	\$ -	\$ 7,000	
Oatlands Township	\$ 7,000	\$ -	\$ 7,000	
- High Street (Tree Planting)	\$ 7,000	\$ -	\$ 7,000	
Tunnack Township	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
<b>\$ 184,000</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 184,000</b>		
<b>LIGHTING</b>				
Nil Projects	\$ 270,000	\$ 336,503	\$ (66,503)	\$270K Grant Funded Final Costs
<b>\$ 270,000</b>	<b>\$ 336,503</b>	<b>\$ (66,503)</b>		
<b>DRAINAGE</b>				
Bagdad	\$ 18,000	\$ -	\$ 18,000	
- Hall Lane (Junction with Midland Highway) - Pipe Open Drain	\$ 25,000	\$ -	\$ 25,000	
- Swan Street - Kerb & Gutter	\$ 12,000	\$ -	\$ 12,000	
- Winstead Road - SW Drainage Imps	\$ 26,000	\$ 3,750	\$ 24,250	
Campagna	\$ 7,000	\$ 5,480	\$ 1,540	
- Reeve Street (Open Drain - north of Telephone Box)	\$ -	\$ 10,598	\$ (10,598)	
- Jones Subdivision - check with AB (requirements?)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Colebrook	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
- Franklin Street- Stormwater	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Kempston	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
- Nil	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Oatlands	\$ 6,140	\$ -	\$ 6,140	
- Stanley St LHS - between Albert Terraces & Nelson St - Pipe Open Drain	\$ 5,000	\$ -	\$ 5,000	
- High St/Wellington Street Junction	\$ 10,140	\$ 19,809	\$ 81,331	
<b>\$ 7,500</b>	<b>\$ 2,030</b>	<b>\$ 5,470</b>		
Oatlands WTS - Capital Improvements	\$ 7,500	\$ 2,030	\$ 5,470	Carried Forward:
<b>\$ 7,500</b>	<b>\$ 2,030</b>	<b>\$ 5,470</b>		
<b>PUBLIC TOILETS</b>				
Colebrook - Power Connection & Lighting	\$ 5,000	\$ -	\$ 5,000	
<b>\$ 5,000</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 5,000</b>		

SOUTHERN MIDLANDS COUNCIL  
CAPITAL EXPENDITURE PROGRAM 2011-12  
AS AT 30 APRIL 2012

SIGNAGE		BUDGET	EXPENDITURE	VARIANCE	COMMENTS
		\$ 25,000	\$ -	\$ 25,000	
	Oaileands Signage	\$ 25,000	\$ -	\$ 25,000	
<b>GROWTH</b>					
	<b>RESIDENTIAL</b>				
	Kandara Court - Stage 1	\$ -	\$ 34,444	\$ (34,444)	
	Kandara Court - Stage 2	\$ -	\$ 3,942	\$ (3,942)	Prelim Survey & Engineering Design
		\$ -	\$ 38,386	\$ (38,386)	
	<b>TOURISM</b>				
	Avenues of Honour	\$ 4,000	\$ -	\$ 4,000	
	History of Southern Midlands	\$ -	\$ 38,237	\$ (38,237)	Grant Funded
		\$ 4,000	\$ 38,237	\$ (34,237)	
	<b>HERITAGE</b>				
	Court House (Restoration - Toilet & Kitchenette Fac's)	\$ 22,767	\$ 1,330	\$ 21,437	
	Court House (Landscaping)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
	Kempton Watch House (Fitout)	\$ 45,000	\$ 49,291	\$ 5,709	Includes \$30K Budget 2010/11)
	Callington Mill (Master Precinct Plan)	\$ 10,000	\$ 11,116	\$ (1,116)	
	Gaol (Interps & Landscaping) - commitment to TCF application	\$ 25,000	\$ 70,651	\$ (45,651)	Balance Grant Funded
	Gaol (Furnishings & Fitout)	\$ 8,000	\$ 3,607	\$ 4,393	
	Collections Management - Equip / Supplies / Labour Component	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
	Parattah Railway Station	\$ -	\$ 831	\$ (831)	
	Building Purchase - 79 High Street	\$ -	\$ 120,061	\$ (120,061)	
		\$ 110,767	\$ 246,877	\$ (136,110)	
<b>LANDSCAPES</b>					
	<b>NATURAL</b>				
	Jericho Trees	\$ 4,000	\$ -	\$ 4,000	
		\$ 4,000	\$ -	\$ 4,000	
	<b>REGULATORY</b>				
	Kempton Council Chambers - Building & Office Improvements	\$ 10,000	\$ -	\$ 10,000	
	Kempton Council Chambers - Office Equipment	\$ 2,000	\$ -	\$ 2,000	
		\$ 12,000	\$ -	\$ 12,000	

SOUTHERN MIDLANDS COUNCIL  
CAPITAL EXPENDITURE PROGRAM 2011-12  
AS AT 30 APRIL 2012

	BUDGET	EXPENDITURE	VARIANCE	COMMENTS
<b>LIFESTYLE</b>				
<b>RECREATION</b>				
Recreation Committee	\$ 35,000	\$ 4,510	\$ 30,490	
Playground Equipment	-	-	-	
Kempston Memorial Hall	10,000	-	10,000	
Campania - Dirt Track	5,000	39,210	(34,210)	Balance Grant Funded
Colebrook Recreation Ground (Amenities)	16,367	-	16,367	
	<b>\$ 66,367</b>	<b>\$ 43,720</b>	<b>\$ 22,647</b>	
<b>RLCIP Projects</b>				
Community Library Extension	\$ 280,000	\$ 279,145	\$ 855	Includes \$46K RLCIP2 Funds & \$96K Grant
Melton Mowbray Roadside Park	-	750	-750	RLCIP Round 3
Bagdad Walking & Riding Path	-	691	-691	
Station Park Kempston	-	244	-244	
Fleur Mill Park Redevelopment	-	146	-146	
Tunbridge Coach Restoration	-	10,000	-10,000	
Dulveiton Corridor Walkway	-	43,185	-43,185	
	<b>\$ 280,000</b>	<b>\$ 334,161</b>	<b>\$ (44,161)</b>	
<b>COMMUNITY</b>				
Road Accident Rescue Unit	\$ 3,000	\$ 1,451	\$ 1,549	
	<b>\$ 3,000</b>	<b>\$ 1,451</b>	<b>\$ 1,549</b>	
<b>ORGANISATION</b>				
<b>SUSTAINABILITY ADMINISTRATION</b>				
Computer System (Hardware / Software)	\$ 20,000	\$ 23,152	\$ (3,152)	
Town Hall (External Windows - Repair)	5,000	-	5,000	
Town Hall (Chairs)	5,000	-	5,000	
Town Hall (General)	10,000	1,714	8,286	
Town Hall (Upstairs) - Rewiring	5,000	-	5,000	
Asset Management - Computer Software	25,000	27,289	(2,289)	
	\$ 4,550	\$ -	\$ 4,550	
Depot - Church Street - paling fence - South Parade boundary	6,500	6,211	289	
Minor Plant Purchases	2,000	-	2,000	
Radio System	5,000	-	5,000	
Security Key System	3,000	-	3,000	
Depot - Glenieg Street (Security Fencing)	734,152	602,829	131,323	
Land Acquisition (General disposal / storage area)	180,000	192,808	(12,808)	
Refer separate Schedule (Net Changeover)	60,000	-	60,000	
Light Vehicles	-	-	-	
Excavator (Approx. 2.70 tonne)	-	-	-	
Water Tank Replacement (Truck)	-	-	-	
	<b>\$ 1,065,202</b>	<b>\$ 853,823</b>	<b>\$ 212,379</b>	
<b>GRAND TOTALS</b>	<b>\$ 5,121,836</b>	<b>\$ 3,509,969</b>	<b>\$ 1,611,867</b>	

**SUMMARY OF RATES AND CHARGES LEVIED, REMITTED AND COLLECTED**

	14/05/2012	14/05/2011
Arrears Brought Forward	\$212,537.06	\$244,859.30
ADD Current Rates and Charges Levied	\$3,747,728.05	\$3,533,004.77
ADD Current Interest	\$58,403.80	\$59,480.00
<b>TOTAL Rates and Charges Demanded</b>	<b>\$4,018,668.91</b>	<b>\$3,837,344.07</b>
LESS Rates and Charges Collected	\$3,464,394.00	\$3,308,879.37
LESS Pensioner Remissions	\$185,871.41	\$172,491.30
LESS Other Remissions	-\$9,636.81	-\$10,227.11
LESS Discounts	\$13,009.28	\$11,517.15
<b>TOTAL Rates and Charges Collected and Remitted</b>	<b>\$3,653,637.88</b>	<b>\$3,482,660.71</b>
<b>UNPAID RATES AND CHARGES</b>	<b>\$365,031.03</b>	<b>\$354,683.36</b>
	9.08%	9.24%
	86.21%	86.23%
	4.63%	4.50%
	-0.24%	-0.27%
	0.32%	0.30%
	90.92%	90.76%



	INFLOWS (OUTFLOWS) (July 2011)	INFLOWS (OUTFLOWS) (August 2011)	INFLOWS (OUTFLOWS) (Sept 2011)	INFLOWS (OUTFLOWS) (Oct 2011)	INFLOWS (OUTFLOWS) (Nov 2011)	INFLOWS (OUTFLOWS) (Dec 2011)	INFLOWS (OUTFLOWS) (Jan 2012)	INFLOWS (OUTFLOWS) (Feb 2012)	INFLOWS (OUTFLOWS) (March 2012)	INFLOWS (OUTFLOWS) (April 2012)	INFLOWS (OUTFLOWS) (Year to Date)
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>											
Payments											
Employee costs	361,843.26	242,430.63	239,666.71	235,416.16	240,288.52	264,770.30	269,445.83	250,685.09	226,933.44	295,147.65	2,536,607.61
Materials and contracts	422,272.33	406,661.77	261,552.09	320,240.90	261,426.83	315,856.31	196,945.43	395,680.41	132,657.54	245,966.00	2,959,259.61
Interest	1,134.37	-	-	-	10,451.74	18,312.57	-	-	-	-	29,898.68
Other	9,030.87	16,860.94	70,256.75	16,757.49	19,139.30	56,321.94	34,800.53	17,676.48	62,684.12	9,784.91	313,413.33
Receipts	794,280.83	666,053.34	571,473.55	572,414.55	531,306.39	655,261.12	501,191.81	664,041.98	422,275.10	460,898.56	5,839,199.23
Rates											
User charges	42,056.70	385,831.55	1,341,089.15	148,102.79	383,455.78	178,030.51	368,289.25	174,551.47	392,298.94	148,973.22	3,562,679.36
Interest received	124,241.49	48,334.99	79,680.21	71,292.83	43,554.43	43,554.43	72,194.90	82,830.46	61,353.12	38,131.15	679,176.48
Subsidies	25,369.29	42,111.25	28,758.03	34,709.61	35,699.50	22,268.21	22,120.20	16,775.30	23,895.80	17,599.53	269,306.72
Other revenue grants	3,198.00	540,880.72	4,500.00	6,636.36	552,245.70	-	-	19,699.00	-	-	19,699.00
GST Refunds from ATO	-	-	-	-	-	-	9,374.25	543,671.45	2,300.00	4,200.00	1,648,257.98
Other	63,206.37	92,601.90	37,253.54	27,156.20	45,986.05	4,294.52	13,562.97	108,107.22	18,158.99	123,431.66	167,998.06
Net cash from operating activities	258,071.85	1,109,760.41	1,491,280.93	287,897.79	982,977.83	248,147.67	439,867.13	945,634.90	498,006.85	85,472.24	6,347,117.60
	536,208.98	443,707.07	919,805.38	284,516.76	451,671.44	407,113.45	61,324.68	281,592.92	75,731.75	375,426.32	507,918.37
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>											
Payments for property, plant & equipment	61,243.40	160,457.10	23,981.10	149,223.56	162,179.09	319,285.10	373,836.34	411,048.43	293,331.94	580,085.61	2,536,674.67
Proceeds from sale of property, plant & equipment	-	-	-	25,642.00	343.48	-	177,977.73	94,744.35	-	31,811.82	344,794.83
Proceeds from Capital grants	-	41,006.25	-	47,100.00	-	-	-	-	317,325.00	-	405,431.25
Proceeds from Investments	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Payment for Investments	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net cash used in investing activities	61,243.40	105,175.40	23,981.10	123,581.56	114,735.61	319,285.10	195,858.61	316,304.08	23,993.06	548,276.79	1,786,448.59
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>											
Repayment of borrowings	4,197.41	-	-	-	8,973.19	41,214.71	-	-	-	-	54,385.31
Proceeds from borrowings	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net cash from (used in) financing activities	4,197.41	-	-	-	8,973.19	41,214.71	-	-	-	-	54,385.31
Net increase(decrease) in cash held	601,649.79	338,531.67	893,824.28	408,098.32	327,962.64	767,613.26	257,183.29	34,711.16	99,724.81	923,703.11	1,352,915.53
Cash at beginning of reporting year	8,152,371.61	7,550,721.82	7,889,253.49	8,783,077.77	8,374,979.45	8,702,942.09	7,935,328.83	7,678,145.54	7,643,434.38	7,743,159.19	8,152,371.61
Cash at end of reporting year	7,550,721.82	7,889,253.49	8,783,077.77	8,374,979.45	8,702,942.09	7,935,328.83	7,678,145.54	7,643,434.38	7,743,159.19	6,819,456.08	6,819,456.08

**17.3.2 Mr A Musa – Victoria Street, Tunbridge (Request to remit Collection Costs)**

*File Ref:*

**AUTHOR** GENERAL MANAGER (T KIRKWOOD)  
**DATE** 16<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2012

**ISSUE**

**Council to consider a request from Mr Musa to remit collection costs associated with recovery of outstanding rates and charges.**

**BACKGROUND**

Nil.

**DETAIL**

Mr Musa owns the property at 2 Victoria Street, Tunbridge, although he resides in Callington, South Australia.

In June 2011, the outstanding rates and charges for 2010/11 (amounting to \$665.94) were lodged with the Tasmanian Collection Service. Whilst formal recovery action was commenced in August 2011, it is assumed that they were unable to locate Mr Musa.

In March 2012, Mr Musa contacted the Council office to advise that he had been doing a review of his documentation and realised that he had not received a rates notice for the past two years. He further indicated that he had notified his change of address (by Email) in February 2011 however there is no record of this being received.

Whilst Mr Musa has paid all outstanding rates and charges, including interest and penalty, under the circumstances he has requested that Council write off the Tas Collection Service costs of \$233.00.

Mr Musa has provided a copy of a ‘screen print’ from his computer which shows a notification of change of address note (dated 4<sup>th</sup> February 2011), however this does not confirm email sent.

**Human Resources & Financial Implications** – Council initially pays the collection costs to TCS and it is then recovered from the debtor.

**Community Consultation & Public Relations Implications – N/A.**

*Council Web Site Implications: N/A*

**Policy Implications – N/A.**

**Priority - Implementation Time Frame – Immediate.**

**RECOMMENDATION**

**Submitted for decision.**

**C/12/05/099/19050 DECISION**

Moved by Clr A O Green, seconded by Clr J L Jones OAM

THAT Council write off the Collection costs for Mr Musa to the amount of \$233  
**CARRIED.**

<b>Vote For</b>	<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Vote Against</b>
√	Mayor A E Bisdee OAM	
√	Dep. Mayor M Jones OAM	
√	Clr A R Bantick	
√	Clr C J Beven	
√	Clr B Campbell	
√	Clr M Connors	
√	Clr D F Fish	
√	Clr A O Green	
√	Clr J L Jones OAM	

**18. INFORMATION BULLETINS**

Refer enclosed Bulletin dated 18<sup>th</sup> May 2012.

Information Bulletin dated 4<sup>th</sup> May 2012 has been circulated since previous meeting.

**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT the Information Bulletins dated 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> May 2012 be received and the contents noted.**

**C/12/05/100/19051 DECISION**

Moved by Clr M Connors, seconded by Deputy Mayor M Jones OAM

THAT the Information Bulletins dated 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> May 2012 be received and the contents noted.

**CARRIED.**

<b>Vote For</b>	<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Vote Against</b>
√	Mayor A E Bisdee OAM	
√	Dep. Mayor M Jones OAM	
√	Clr A R Bantick	
√	Clr C J Beven	
√	Clr B Campbell	
√	Clr M Connors	
√	Clr D F Fish	
√	Clr A O Green	
√	Clr J L Jones OAM	

**18.1 QUESTION TIME (COUNCILLORS)**

An opportunity is provided for Councillors to ask questions relating to Council business, previous Agenda items or issues of a general nature.

Comments / Update will be provided in relation to the following:

1. Integrity Commission – proposed conduct of a training / information session (for the Southern Midlands Council or combine with other Councils in the sub-region e.g. Central Highlands) – session to be arranged with an invitation extended to Brighton/ Derwent Valley/ Central Highlands.
2. Radio Station – 5 Marlborough Street, Oatlands
3. Swimming Pool relocation – reconsider the option of the Oatlands Recreation Ground – progressed beyond review stage
4. Lake Dulverton – Midlands Water Scheme – quantity of water to be taken from scheme will be influenced by available budget, weather forecasts etc.
5. Local Government Board Review Report – Development of Access Plan – final Plan to be progressed as a matter of priority. Workshop to be conducted to identify issues and determine priorities.
6. Maher’s Point Cottage – long term use not confirmed – to be considered by Lake Dulverton & Callington Park Management Committee
7. Tasmanian Association of Police & Community Youth Clubs (PCYC Tasmania) – Request for Sponsorship - 2012 Child Safety Handbook - \$275.00

**C/12/05/101/19052 DECISION**

Moved by Clr D F Fish, seconded by Clr A O Green

THAT Council provide sponsorship for an amount of \$275.00 to the Tasmanian Association of Police and Community Youth Clubs to advertise in the 2012 edition of the Child Safety Handbook which will support printing and distribution.

**CARRIED.**

Vote For	Councillor	Vote Against
√	Mayor A E Bisdee OAM	
√	Dep. Mayor M Jones OAM	
√	Clr A R Bantick	
√	Clr C J Beven	
√	Clr B Campbell	
√	Clr M Connors	
√	Clr D F Fish	
√	Clr A O Green	
√	Clr J L Jones OAM	

- 8.** LGAT Workshop – Strategic Asset Management and Long Term Financial Planning – an information session to be held at the Brighton Civic Centre on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2012 (3.30 p.m. to 8.00 p.m.).

Councillors to notify office by Friday 25<sup>th</sup> May if attending. Mayor A E Bisdee OAM, Clrs A O Green and J L Jones OAM to attend.

- 9.** Volunteer Recognition Day – Kempton Recreation Ground – Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2012.

It was noted that approximately fifty (50) people attended the event. Volunteers from throughout the Southern Midlands Council area were in attendance, and represented a range of organisations and services.

*The meeting was suspended for lunch at 12.45 p.m. and resumed at 1.14 p.m.*

## **19. MUNICIPAL SEAL**

Nil.

## **20. CONSIDERATION OF SUPPLEMENTARY ITEMS TO THE AGENDA**

*Council to address urgent business items previously accepted onto the agenda.*

### **20.1 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF TASMANIAN (LGAT) – INTRODUCTION OF A WASTE LEVY**

*File Ref:*

AUTHOR EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT (K BRAZENDALE)

DATE 21<sup>ST</sup> MAY 2012

#### **ISSUE**

**To inform Council of the proposal to introduce a Statutory Waste Levy.**

#### **BACKGROUND / DETAIL**

The introduction of a waste levy was previously presented to a General Meeting where it was agreed that the Association would liaise with regional waste representatives prior to meeting with the State Government to seek an agreed position on the arrangements and coverage of a statutory waste levy.

There has subsequently been a series of meetings and exchanges with waste and State Government representatives culminating in the attached paper and recommendations. The document outlines all the issues in some detail and proposes four recommendations for consideration by Council.

The four recommendations are as follows:

- 1. Council endorse the proposal to introduce a statutory waste levy of \$10 per tonne to be collected via public and private landfills;**
- 2. the funding be allocated on the basis of 20% to regional waste bodies; 10% to the EPA and 70% to the Waste to Resources Funding Pool;**
- 3. these arrangements be on the basis that the funding is directly hypothecated to activities that reduce the volume of waste going to landfill and is not absorbed into the State Government Consolidated Fund; and**

*Comments: In principle, if a waste levy is to be collected, then the funds should be quarantined for waste related activities, as opposed to being a general source of revenue for State Government. It is assumed that legislation will reflect this requirement to received support from local government.*

**4. THAT the WAC be formally acknowledged within the legislation as having an integral role in the disbursement of funds from the EPA Board in accordance with relative priorities in the Waste to Resources Strategy.**

Clr A O Green (Chair of the Southern Waste Strategy Authority) has been directly involved in the debate and discussion associated with the proposed introduction of a waste levy, may wish to provide specific comments in relation to each recommendation.

**Human Resources & Financial Implications** – Whilst Council does not operate a landfill disposal site, the levy will be paid as part of the disposal fees at either the Copping or Glenorchy Landfill(s).

It is estimated that Council deposits approximately 1,300 tonne to landfill each year. Hence, \$13,000 would be payable through the gate charges at either of the disposal sites. Council's current contribution to the SWSA is based on \$2.00 per tonne (i.e. \$2600), therefore an additional \$10,400 would be payable.

At some stage, Council will need to consider whether the costs associated with a waste levy will be recovered as part of the overall annual Waste Management Charge (i.e. standard charge imposed on all rateable properties), or whether a disposal fee is to be collected at the individual waste transfer stations.

**Community Consultation & Public Relations Implications** – refer comment provided.

**Policy Implications** – Policy position. Council has previously been informed of the debate around the introduction of a waste levy. It is suggested that a levy introduced under local government's terms and conditions is preferable to a State Government imposed model.

**Priority - Implementation Time Frame** – Comments need to be received by LGAT no later than the 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2012. This then enables a report to be tabled at the LGAT General Meeting scheduled for July 2012.



**RECOMMENDATION****THAT the following recommendations be endorsed:**

- 1. Council endorse the proposal to introduce a statutory waste levy of \$10 per tonne to be collected via public and private landfills;**
- 2. the funding be allocated on the basis of 20% to regional waste bodies; 10% to the EPA and 70% to the Waste to Resources Funding Pool;**
- 3. These arrangements be on the basis that the funding is directly hypothecated to activities that reduce the volume of waste going to landfill and is not absorbed into the State Government Consolidated Fund; and**
- 4. the WAC be formally acknowledged within the legislation as having an integral role in the disbursement of funds from the EPA Board in accordance with relative priorities in the Waste to Resources Strategy.**

**C/12/05/105/19053 DECISION**

Moved by Clr C J Beven, seconded by Deputy Mayor M Jones OAM

THAT the following recommendations be endorsed:

1. Council endorse the proposal to introduce a statutory waste levy of \$10 per tonne to be collected via public and private landfills;
2. the funding be allocated on the basis of 20% to regional waste bodies; 10% to the EPA and 70% to the Waste to Resources Funding Pool;
3. These arrangements be on the basis that the funding is directly hypothecated to activities that reduce the volume of waste going to landfill and is not absorbed into the State Government Consolidated Fund; and
4. the WAC be formally acknowledged within the legislation as having an integral role in the disbursement of funds from the EPA Board in accordance with relative priorities in the Waste to Resources Strategy.

**CARRIED.**

<b>Vote For</b>	<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Vote Against</b>
√	Mayor A E Bisdee OAM	
√	Dep. Mayor M Jones OAM	
√	Clr A R Bantick	
√	Clr C J Beven	
√	Clr B Campbell	
√	Clr M Connors	
√	Clr D F Fish	
√	Clr A O Green	
√	Clr J L Jones OAM	

## **The Proposal to Introduce a Statutory Waste Levy**

### **Background**

Arrangements for funding, governance and strategic planning for waste management in Tasmania have been the subject of discussion and disagreement between State and Local Government for many years. Local Government has been reluctant to embrace the concept of a waste levy fearing that it would lead to revenue substitution by the State Government and have councils collect taxation on behalf of the State Government.

In more recent times, other jurisdictions have introduced waste levy arrangements as a means to fund innovation in the waste stream and meet the cost of the backlog of infrastructure requirements to adequately address the waste task.

There are compelling reasons for the introduction of a waste levy which have been proven by other Australian jurisdictions as detailed below.

A 100% hypothecated waste to landfill levy will:

- Establish a price signal to help promote separation and waste minimization;
- Create a financial incentive to separate at source;
- Encourage the reduction of the volume of waste to landfill thus expanding the life of existing landfill sites;
- Provide a source of funding for existing and new waste management programs and environmental initiatives;
- Help fund cost effective solutions for stakeholders for improved waste management across the state;
- Stimulate growth in the waste and resource recovery sectors;
- Make the State Waste Strategy significantly more effective through its impact on the pricing structure of the waste and resource recovery sectors, incentivising further gains in waste reduction, re-use and recycling;
- Encourage proper separation of waste and have a mechanism to return money back to stakeholders to improve on existing waste management practices.

The regional waste bodies in Tasmania have commissioned a number of reports in recent years and have determined that a significant injection of funding is necessary to address the emerging and existing waste issues in Tasmania, particularly as they relate to waste minimization and diversion.

The most recent report commissioned was prepared by Blue Environment and explored the future roles and functions of waste groups in Tasmania and the activities which additional funding could support both within the Environment Protection Authority and the broader waste sector. A copy of the report is attached for reference.

The preparation of the document followed previous discussions with the Minister for the Environment and senior State Government officials about the plausibility of introducing a statutory waste levy. The State Government is supportive of the introduction of a levy as it considers, like Local Government, that there is significant need to address critical areas of waste management.

The proposal around the levy is to set a figure of \$10 per tonne which would generate in the order of \$5 million per annum. The levy is substantially less than that which is in place in other jurisdictions. This levy would apply to municipal and private landfills. The distribution of the funding would be along the lines of 20% of funding collected being provided to the regional waste groups, 10% being provided to the EPA for additional enforcement and compliance activities with the remainder to be distributed by the Board of the EPA on the recommendation of the Waste Advisory Committee (of which the regional waste groups are members) for strategic waste initiatives. The 20% distributed to the 3 regional groups will be based on population and roughly equals the current level of funding raised by the \$2 per tonne voluntary levy.

These arrangements do not mirror those outlined in the Blue Environment report but arise out of further discussions with State Government representatives. It was considered that the assumptions of the consultant in relation to the effort required by the EPA was understated and that rather than the 7% allocation for enforcement and levy administration activities, a 10% allocation would be more appropriate. This was a reduction from the 20% originally mooted by the State. This has been discussed with regional waste representatives and there is agreement that on the basis of the additional explanation of activities, this arrangement would be satisfactory.

The system of distribution would provide for maximum flexibility as waste recovery priorities change over time but would largely be driven by the statewide waste management strategy. The functions and responsibilities detailed in the consultant's report have been agreed by the regional waste representatives, with an acknowledgement that rather than formalizing the structure or governance, the existing arrangements remain in place. If regional bodies seek to move to a more formal arrangement that will be their decision.

**Issues*****Governance of Waste to Resources Fund***

The fund will be raised from a legislated mandatory fee and such a fee cannot be reasonably imposed unless the Parliament can be satisfied that the fund is appropriately managed by an accountable entity and that entity reports transparently to the Parliament on the management of the fund. This requires an accountable entity which is constituted and has the necessary legal authorities to serve that purpose.

It was originally envisaged that the WAC could fulfill this function, however, the WAC is an informally constituted group of representatives of a range of waste stakeholders and is not capable of holding public funds. This could be remedied by establishing the WAC as a statutory authority but this involves considerable additional cost and may reasonably require a transition to an expert based group rather than a representative group.

The EPA, on the other hand, is an independent expert based board established in legislation and is already accountable for the administration of public funds and has established reporting lines to the Parliament.

The possibility that presents itself is for the WAC to be maintained in its current form and to charge it with the responsibility of advising the EPA board regarding the Waste to Resources Strategy and the priority of disbursement of funds to deliver upon the strategy. The EPA Board could be required by law to establish a separate fund for the landfill levy revenue, disburse those funds in accordance with the agreed model (eg split between regional waste bodies, EPA Division and project fund) and disburse funds from the project fund. The EPA Board would be required by law to disburse those project funds only in accordance with furthering the strategy (as approved by the Minister from time to time), to take recommendations from the WAC on the proposed disbursement of funds, and provide advice to the WAC if it were not to disburse funds in accordance with the advice of the WAC.

This governance model would allow the representatives of the WAC to participate more effectively in the WAC's deliberations regarding project priorities even if one or more of the members were associated with the project proposals being considered for funding.

In accepting this model there would need to be significant assurances and safeguards in place to ensure that the WAC deliberations and recommendations would largely be accepted. In general terms, the WAC would be required to consider funding applications having regard to the statewide waste strategy so it not envisaged that there would be any significant divide between its recommendations and the decisions of the EPA Board.

Discussions with State Government officials indicate support for a statutory recognition of the WAC, likely being established as a formal advisory committee providing recommendations to the EPA Board on pool funding, with membership, functions and duties set out in the enabling legislation.

#### ***Funding for the EPA Division***

Although there was a view by some in LG, that no funds should be made available to the EPA from the levy, this seemed in the main to derive from the understanding that all landfills in Tasmania are run by Councils. An analysis of the EPA figures indicated that there are several large landfills in the State not run by Councils and which do not contribute to the voluntary levies presently collected by the 3 Regional Waste Groups. In addition there are waste stockpiles in private hands throughout the state which will be disposed of when an appropriate disposal method is available. These disposal systems may also not be provided by Councils. This significantly weakens Local Government 's claim to sole ownership of the levy while at the same time means that householders are effectively contributing almost all of the currently collected voluntary waste levies and industry is escaping relatively unscathed..

However, the Minister is responsible for carriage of the legislation and has indicated that while he is not supportive of coveting all the funds from a levy in the way that other jurisdictions do, he is keen to access a portion of funds to progress the broader waste management agenda for Tasmania.

THE EPA Division is part of DPIPW and supports the EPA Board in its responsibilities and also undertakes a range of policy, administrative and regulatory functions on behalf of the Director. This includes enforcement of waste management and litter laws.

Imposition of a landfill levy will make it even more important to ensure that waste is not unlawfully diverted. The engagement of additional compliance officers is proposed to assist in providing a meaningful deterrent to unlawful diversion. These officers would supplement the existing compliance team.

Other funding for the EPA would be required to administratively support the levy scheme to ensure effective and equitable management. In addition, the WAC will require considerable support in the preparation of its advice to the EPA Board in terms of routine project assessment, project reporting, budget development, stakeholder engagement and meeting preparation. A full time resource will be dedicated to this function.

It is also considered that there will be a significant communication and consultation task in the early years of the implementation of the levy and funding would be provided to the EPA for this task.

In summary, an amount of \$520,000 would be required by the EPA for the first two years and approximately \$420,000 per annum thereafter. This represents approximately 10% of levy revenues if the levy is set at \$10 per tonne.

**Recommendations**

1. That councils endorse the proposal to introduce a statutory waste levy of \$10 per tonne to be collected via public and private landfills;
2. That the funding be allocated on the basis of 20% to regional waste bodies; 10% to the EPA and 70% to the Waste to Resources Funding Pool;
3. That these arrangements be on the basis that the funding is directly hypothecated to activities that reduce the volume of waste going to landfill and is not absorbed into the State Government Consolidated Fund;
4. That the WAC be formally acknowledged within the legislation as having an integral role in the disbursement of funds from the Waste to Resources Funding Pool, providing recommendations to the EPA Board in accordance with relative priorities in the Waste to Resources Strategy

## 20.2 BIODIVERSITY OFFSET GUIDELINES FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT – MEETING WITH MINISTER FOR PLANNING

### C/12/05/111/19054 DECISION

Moved by Clr J L Jones OAM, seconded by Deputy Mayor M Jones OAM

THAT, in response to the issues raised through the STCA's Biodiversity Offsets Guidelines Project, Council seek to arrange a meeting with the Minister for Planning for the purpose of encouraging the State Government to develop a State Policy to clarify:

- The scope and degree to which it expects Local Government to manage and protect native vegetation through its planning schemes generally, (where such native vegetation is not already managed and protected through various State or Federal legislation);
- The scope and degree to which it requires Local Government to manage and protect native vegetation that is not specifically controlled by the State following the 2009 changes to Section 4 of the Forestry Regulations in 2007, noting that:
- These changes provided that a certified Forest Practices Plan is not required for clearing vegetation for certain forms of development granted a planning permit by a Council under the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993*. These are: mining activities, the construction of a building or the carrying out of associated development for the construction of a building; and
- The State has not provided any indication that it expects Local Government to control such clearing to the same degree that the State previously did through the forestry system or whether it considers such clearing to be relatively minor in extent (compared to forestry operations) and that it is consequentially not considered necessary to control;
- Whether Section 4 of the Forestry Regulations 2007 refers to 'subdivision' when it uses the phrase 'the carrying out of associated development for the construction of a dwelling', as has been claimed by State Public Servants advising Local Government.

**CARRIED.**

Vote For	Councillor	Vote Against
√	Mayor A E Bisdee OAM	
√	Dep. Mayor M Jones OAM	
√	Clr A R Bantick	
√	Clr C J Beven	
√	Clr B Campbell	
√	Clr M Connors	
√	Clr D F Fish	
√	Clr A O Green	
√	Clr J L Jones OAM	

**20.3 NATIVE VEGETATION CLEARING (STATE GOVERNMENT BUDGET 2012-13)**

Clr A O Green informed Council of the restrictions that are to be imposed regarding the ban on clearing of land for agriculture after 2015.

**C/12/05/112/19055 DECISION**

Moved by Clr A O Green, seconded by Clr J L Jones OAM

THAT Council write to the relevant Minister conveying its extreme concerns regarding this ban, particularly given the implementation of the Midlands Water Scheme.

**CARRIED.**

Vote For	Councillor	Vote Against
√	Mayor A E Bisdee OAM	
√	Dep. Mayor M Jones OAM	
√	Clr A R Bantick	
√	Clr C J Beven	
√	Clr B Campbell	
√	Clr M Connors	
√	Clr D F Fish	
√	Clr A O Green	
√	Clr J L Jones OAM	

**20.4 STATEWIDE DIRECTIONS PAPER – REVIEW OF COUNCIL RECREATIONAL VEHICLE OVERNIGHT CAMPING SERVICES**

Council to consider implications arising from the Paper.

**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT Council move into “Closed Session” and the meeting be closed to the public.**

**C/12/05/112/19056 DECISION**

Moved by Clr J L Jones OAM, seconded by Clr B Campbell

THAT Council move into “Closed Session” and the meeting be closed to the public.

**CARRIED.**

Vote For	Councillor	Vote Against
√	Mayor A E Bisdee OAM	
√	Dep. Mayor M Jones OAM	
√	Clr A R Bantick	
√	Clr C J Beven	
√	Clr B Campbell	
√	Clr M Connors	
√	Clr D F Fish	
√	Clr A O Green	
√	Clr J L Jones OAM	



## **CLOSED COUNCIL MINUTES**

### **21. BUSINESS IN “CLOSED SESSION “**

**EXCLUDED FROM THE MINUTES PURSUANT TO SECTION 15 (2) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MEETING PROCEDURES) REGULATIONS 2005.**

**T F KIRKWOOD  
GENERAL MANAGER**

**EXCLUDED FROM THE MINUTES PURSUANT TO SECTION 15 (2) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MEETING PROCEDURES) REGULATIONS 2005.**

**T F KIRKWOOD  
GENERAL MANAGER**

**EXCLUDED FROM THE MINUTES PURSUANT TO SECTION 15 (2) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MEETING PROCEDURES) REGULATIONS 2005.**

**T F KIRKWOOD  
GENERAL MANAGER**

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GENERAL MANAGER**

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GENERAL MANAGER**

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**T F KIRKWOOD  
GENERAL MANAGER**

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**T F KIRKWOOD  
GENERAL MANAGER**

**EXCLUDED FROM THE MINUTES PURSUANT TO SECTION 15 (2) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MEETING PROCEDURES) REGULATIONS 2005.**

**T F KIRKWOOD  
GENERAL MANAGER**



**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT Council move out of “Closed Session”.**

**C/12/05/121/19059 DECISION**

Moved by Clr A O Green, seconded by Deputy Mayor M Jones OAM

THAT Council move out of “Closed Session”.

**CARRIED.**

Vote For	Councillor	Vote Against
√	Mayor A E Bisdee OAM	
√	Dep. Mayor M Jones OAM	
√	Clr A R Bantick	
√	Clr C J Beven	
√	Clr B Campbell	
√	Clr M Connors	
√	Clr A O Green	
√	Clr J L Jones OAM	

**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT Council endorse the decisions made in “Closed Session”.**

**C/12/05/121/19060 DECISION**

Moved by Clr A O Green, seconded by Clr B Campbell

THAT Council endorse the decisions made in “Closed Session”.

**CARRIED.**

Vote For	Councillor	Vote Against
√	Mayor A E Bisdee OAM	
√	Dep. Mayor M Jones OAM	
√	Clr A R Bantick	
√	Clr C J Beven	
√	Clr B Campbell	
√	Clr M Connors	
√	Clr A O Green	
√	Clr J L Jones OAM	

**22. CLOSURE 2.30 P.M**