



dorset
C O U N C I L

Ordinary Agenda

Council Meeting

Monday, 23 March 2026

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

it's in the making

General Manager's Certification

Qualified Persons Advice – Local Government Act 1993 – Section 65

Pursuant to Section 65 of the *Local Government Act 1993* I hereby certify, with respect to the advice, information and / or recommendation provided for the guidance of Council in this Agenda, that:

1. such advice, information and / or recommendation has been given by a person who has the qualifications or experience necessary to give such advice; and
2. where any advice is given by a person who does not have the required qualifications or experience, that person has obtained and taken into account the advice from an appropriately qualified or experienced person; and
3. a copy of that advice or, if the advice was given orally, a written transcript or summary of that advice has been provided to the council.



JOHN MARIK
General Manager

Notification of Council Meeting

NOTICE¹ is given that the next Ordinary Meeting of the Dorset Council will be held on **Monday, 23 March 2026** at the **Council Chambers, 3 Ellenor Street, Scottsdale** commencing at 6:00 pm.

Prior to the open session of the Ordinary Meeting, Council will be holding a Closed Session meeting, commencing at 5:00 pm.

Members of the public are invited to attend in person, however, if any member of the public is feeling unwell, **please do not attend**.

The recording (both visual and audio) of the Council Meeting, except for any part held in Closed Session, will be made available to the public as soon as practicable after the meeting via Council's website and social media.



JOHN MARIK
General Manager

¹ In accordance with the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025*

Ordinary Meeting of Council

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Council Meeting - Agenda

Monday, 23 March 2026

Scheduled Meeting Time: 5:00pm

Present:

Apologies:

CLOSED SESSION

Item 42/2026 'Closed Session': Council

Purpose

The General Manager advised that in his opinion, the agenda items listed below are prescribed items in accordance with Regulation 17(2) of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025* (e.g. confidential matters), and therefore Council may by absolute majority determine to close the meeting to the general public.

Recommendation

That Council resolve, by absolute majority, that the meeting be closed to the public to enable Council to consider agenda items 43 to 48 which are confidential matters as prescribed in Regulation 17 of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025*.

Time Meeting Closed:

Item	Purpose	Regulation Ref ²
43/2026 Declaration of Interests	Interests to be declared relating to items listed for discussion within Closed Session	-
44/2026 Confirmation of Closed Session Minutes – 16 February 2026	Confirm the minutes from the 16 February 2026 closed session Council Meeting	17(2)(h)
45/2026 Dorset Board of Inquiry: Submission on Costs	Consider a proposed submission to the Minister for Local Government on costs associated with the Dorset Board of Inquiry	17(2)(k)
46/2026 Contract 2025/26-08: Ferny Hill Road Realignment	Recommend the award of this contract to a preferred tendered based on the assessment of the Tender Assessment Committee	17(2)(e)
47/2026 Release of Public Information	Consider whether any discussion, decision, report or document relating to any Closed Session items should be released to the public	17((7) & (8)
48/2026 Completion of Closed Session	Move to Open Council and adjourn the Meeting	-

² Regulation 17:

Reg.	Confidential Reason
17(2)(a)	personnel matters, including complaints against an employee of the council
17(2)(b)	industrial relations matters
17(2)(c)	information that, if disclosed, is likely to confer a commercial advantage or impose a commercial disadvantage on a person with whom the council is conducting, or proposes to conduct, business
17(2)(d)	commercial information of a confidential nature that, if disclosed, is likely to (i) prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it; or (ii) confer a commercial advantage on a competitor of the council; or (iii) reveal a trade secret
17(2)(e)	contracts, and tenders, for the supply of goods and services and their terms, conditions, approval and renewal
17(2)(f)	the security of (i) the council, councillors and council staff; or (ii) the property of the council
17(2)(g)	proposals for the council to acquire land or an interest in land or for the disposal of land
17(2)(h)	information that is (i) of a personal and confidential nature; or (ii) provided to the council on the condition that it be kept confidential
17(2)(i)	requests by councillors for leave of absence
17(2)(j)	notifications by councillors of leave of absence for parental leave
17(2)(k)	matters relating to actual or possible litigation taken, or to be taken, by or involving the council or an employee of the council
17(2)(l)	the personal hardship of any person who is resident in, or is a ratepayer in, the relevant municipal area

RESUMPTION | OPEN SESSION

Scheduled Meeting Time: 6:00 pm

Meeting Opened:

Council Meetings Procedures

In accordance with Policy No. 41: Council Meeting Procedures, this Meeting is being recorded. By attending the Meeting in person, you are consenting to personal information being recorded and published. No unauthorised filming or recording of the Meeting is permitted.

Visitors are reminded that Council Meetings are a place of work for Council Officers and Councillors.

The Council is committed to meeting its responsibilities as an employer and as host of this important public forum, by ensuring that all present meet expectations of mutually respectful and orderly conduct. It is a condition of entry to the Council Chambers that you cooperate with any directions or requests from the Chairperson or Council Officers.

The Chairperson is responsible for maintaining order at Council Meetings. The General Manager is responsible for health, wellbeing and safety of all present. The Chairperson or General Manager may require a person to leave the Council's premises following any behaviour that falls short of these expectations.

Language and conduct at a Meeting that could be perceived as offensive, defamatory or threatening to a person in attendance or listening to the recording, is not acceptable. It is an offence to hinder or disrupt a Council Meeting.

Present:

Apologies:

Acknowledgement of Country

Dorset Council acknowledges the deep history and culture of the First People who were the traditional owners of the lands and waterways where we live and work. We acknowledge the clans-people who lived here for over a thousand generations on the Country where Scottsdale is built and throughout the area we know as the north east region.

Dorset Council acknowledge the present-day Aboriginal custodians and the inclusive contribution they make to the social, cultural and economic essence of the municipality.

PROCEDURAL ITEMS

Item 49/2026 Declaration of Interest

In accordance with Section 48 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, Regulation 10(8) of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025* and the Tasmanian Local Government Code of Conduct, Councillors are requested to indicate whether any have, or are likely to have, an interest in any item on the agenda.

INTEREST DECLARED

Item 50/2026 Confirmation of Ordinary Council Meeting Minutes – Monday, 16 February 2026

Ref: DOC/26/2152

The Chair reported that he had viewed the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Monday, 16 February 2026 finds them to be a true record and recommends that they be taken as read and signed as a correct record.

Recommendation

That the Minutes of Proceedings of the Dorset Council Ordinary Meeting held on Monday, 16 February 2026 having been circulated to Councillors, be confirmed as a true record.

Item 51/2026 Confirmation of Agenda

Recommendation

That Council confirm the Agenda and order of business for the Monday, 23 March 2026 Council Meeting.

Item 52/2026 Public Question Time

³Members of the Public can ask a maximum of two question(s) without notice during Public Question Time. The Chairperson reserves the right to consider questions above this limit will be accepted or treated as correspondence.

Any person asking a question is asked to stand (if able), clearly state their name and suburb they live.

Question(s) must be clear and concise, not be a statement and have minimal pre-amble. Any answer given is not to be debated.

Members of the public must provide any question(s) without notice in writing to the Executive Assistant either before the commencement of the Meeting or within 24 hours.

The following questions were **taken on notice** at the 16 February 2026 Meeting:

³ In accordance with Regulations 33, 36 & 37 and Council Policy No. 41: Council Meeting Procedures

Andrew Gall, Bridport and Launceston

Has, or will, Council consider the development of Specific Area Plans for Bridport's residential zones as part of Dorset's Local Provisions Schedule within the Tasmanian Planning Scheme, so that it is able to have increased local influence over Bridport's future development than what the current State-wide Planning Scheme allows, and to reduce the risk of deterioration or restriction to the comparatively unique coastal amenity that is able to be enjoyed by its residents?

It is noted that a range of Special Area Plans already exist that cover other areas of the town and municipality.

Response from Director – Community and Development Services:

A Specific Area Plan (SAP) is covered in the Tasmanian Planning Scheme (TPS) as part of the Local Provisions Schedules (LPS).

LPSs are prepared by Councils and assessed by the Tasmanian Planning Commission (the Commission).

The Dorset LPS became effective 18 January 2023, with only minor grammatical and formatting amendments undertaken on 9 July 2025.

Dorset Council has five (5) SAPs which are summarised below:

1. Port Hills SAP - To provide for [development](#) that is compatible with the residential area at Port Hills, Bridport
2. Barnbogle Dunes and Lost Farm SAP – To provide for tourist facilities and complementary uses that are appropriate for the location and to provide for [subdivision](#) of [land](#) that does not compromise the function of the surrounding area or primary industry operations.
3. Branxholm and Ledgerwood Industry SAP – To facilitate the establishment and continuation of manufacturing and processing that does not cause unreasonable loss of amenity to adjacent sensitive uses.
4. Town Centre Parking SAP – To maximise land use efficiency and reduce costs to business and developers by not requiring new or intensified use or development to provide on-site car parking spaces, bicycle spaces and motor car parking spaces on land within the town centres of Bridport, Scottsdale and Derby.
5. Bridport Main Street Centre SAP – To provide for development compatible with its existing build form, encouraging community services and commercial activities, residential and visitor accommodation use.

When assessing a draft amendment to a LPS that proposes a new SAP, the Commission must be satisfied that the draft amendment meets the LPS criteria as required under section 34 of the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993* (the Act). Of note within the criteria outlined in s34 of the Act, the amendment should be:

(e) as far as practicable, is consistent with the [regional land use strategy](#), if any, for the regional area in which is situated the land to which the relevant planning instrument relates

(f) has regard to the [strategic plan](#), prepared under [section 66 of the Local Government Act 1993](#), that applies in relation to the land to which the relevant planning instrument relates

Regarding the Regional Land Use Strategy, Dorset Council is currently undertaking a process in collaboration with other Northern Tasmanian Councils to deliver a Northern Tasmania Regional Land Use Strategy (NTRLUS). This is a strategic planning tool that guides how land is used, developed, and protected across the region. It will implement the Tasmanian Planning Policies at a regional level and shape planning decisions in each Northern council area. This project is due to be delivered mid-late 2026.

Regarding the Strategic Plan, Dorset Council's Strategic Imperative 7 is to deliver the Future Ready suite. This is a holistic planning project whereby Council will consult and engage with the community on a vision for each township. For Bridport, a Structure Plan has been identified as a strategic priority. In 2025, Council made an application to the Federal Government for funding to support the development of the Bridport Structure Plan and are yet to receive notice of the outcome of that application.

SAPs is a planning control that is used to modify or add to the underlying zone standards of the State Planning Provisions (SPPs) for a specific spatial area or site. They are implemented to deliver a unique planning outcome that is specific to the specific spatial area or site. Section 32(4) specifies that for an SAP to be adopted in relation to an area of land, it must be demonstrated that:

- a. *use or development to which the provision relates is of significant social, economic or environmental benefit to the State, a region or a municipal area; or*
- b. *the area of land has particular environmental, economic, social or spatial qualities that require provisions, that are unique to the area of land, to apply to the land in substitution for, or in addition to, or modification of, the provisions of the SPPs.*

Given the context outlined, it is recommended that Council completes the identified strategic documents before any further amendments are made to the Dorset LPS.

Helen Cafe, North Scottsdale

Can I please rent some of the empty buildings in Derby because there's nothing there to house support services such as the cleaning services I manage in Derby and surrounds?

Response from Director – Corporate Services:

Council owns four buildings in Derby being:

1. 80-82 Main Street: Derby Town Hall which remains accessible for community use.
2. 53 Main Street: Currently leased and operated as the Derby Schoolhouse Museum.
3. 57 Main Street: The former Department of Main Roads building which is currently partially used as a public amenities block and bike wash area. This building and associated land are also currently subject to a live decision of Council supporting it to be leased to the Blue Derby Foundation for the purpose of communal accommodation associated with Derby businesses or other initiatives related to the trails.
4. 31834 Tasman Highway: Currently leased by Council from Crown Land Services for the purposes of an operational works depot.

Ms Cafe is welcome to submit a proposal that would be considered on its merits, however on face value no Council owned buildings in Derby are currently vacant or fit for the proposed purpose. Council has no influence or authority over the use of any other buildings that Ms Cafe may be observing to be vacant in Derby, and she would need to progress any proposals to occupy those buildings with the relevant owners.

Tim Kemsley, Derby

The Blue Derby infrastructure has now existed for over 10 years since 2025. Can Council quantify the increase in Council's income due to the increase in rateable value of all properties in Derby and the immediate vicinity over the last 10 years and compare this increase in revenue with the expenditure directly related to the maintenance of the Blue Derby infrastructure?

Similarly, can Council quantify the increase in land tax that the State government has benefitted from over the same period and compare this with the expenditure directly related to the maintenance of the Blue Derby infrastructure.

Can Council please make these figures available to the public?

Response from Director – Corporate Services:

Council has not undertaken this type of analysis. While Council can identify historic and current rates revenue relating to Derby, isolating any increase attributable directly to the Blue Derby infrastructure would require detailed scoping and analysis and would involve a significant level of estimation.

In itself, this type of analysis would not provide a complete picture of the total cost of ownership of Derby. Any increase in rates revenue associated with growth in Derby must also be considered alongside the increased demand on Council's infrastructure and services, and the capital investment required to support Derby as a visitor destination. Council's expenditure in Derby extends beyond the Blue Derby mountain bike trail network and includes roads, stormwater infrastructure, waste services, public facilities and other town infrastructure.

Council has, however, recently commissioned an independent economic impact assessment, *The Value of Blue Derby to the Tasmanian Economy (August 2025)*, which provides a broader measure of the value generated by the Blue Derby trail network. The report found that Blue Derby generates approximately \$50.9 million in direct annual visitor expenditure, contributes \$26.6 million to Gross State Product, supports 274 full-time equivalent jobs, and attracts more than 45,000 mountain bike visitors each year. This work was undertaken to better understand and demonstrate the broader economic contribution of Blue Derby to the region and the State.

The concept of preparing a broader total cost of ownership analysis for Derby has been explored; however, developing a reliable model would require significant estimation and staff resources. This work has not been progressed at this time, noting the existing economic impact study, the complexity of a potential analysis and the need to consider whether a consistent approach would be applied across other townships.

Council is also not in a position to quantify land tax collected by the State Government from properties in the Derby area, as Council is not the custodian of this information.

The following questions have been **received on notice**:

Karl Willrath, Scottsdale | 7 March 2026

- 1. As the overall health and attitude towards health of our Councillors can have a profound impact on their constituents with the decisions they make and/or do not make. Can the Mayor write to the minister for Health, the Hon Bridget Archer, and seek assistance in formulating a foodstuff policy that is to be followed when making decisions on councillor dietary choices at workshops, meetings etc that are funded by the ratepayer? As the Mayor may be aware, in Australia we have an eminent professor in the emerging field of nutritional psychiatry, Felice Jacka OAM, that I am sure the*

minister and her department would take into consideration before offering any much-needed assistance to Dorset Council. <https://foodandmoodcentre.com.au/team/felice-jacka/>

Response from Mayor Beattie:

No.

2. *As Right to information requests have revealed, gaining access to how much Dorset Council spend on catering may be obtainable (which would include workshops, meetings etc) but an itemised list is not, apparently. As the Mayor is reluctant to alter his position on keeping itemised councillor foodstuff records, can the Mayor write to the minister of local govt, the Hon Kerry Vincent, so he can look into making it mandatory that all councils in Tasmania keep these records and make them freely available to the public. Then at least, the next time constituents hear a councillor spruiking ‘health health health’ for a given project, it may have a different context?*

Response from Mayor Beattie:

No.

The following questions were received **without notice** from members of the public:

Item 53/2026 Public Address of Meeting

⁴Members of the public can make a statement at a Council Meeting; it is not question or discussion time with Councillors. Prior to making a statement, the person is asked to stand (if able), clearly state their name and suburb they live.

Members of the public wishing to address Council at a Meeting shall indicate their intent and subject matter in writing by 10am on the Friday prior to the Meeting.

A person seeking to make a statement to may speak for a period up to 3 minutes but may be extended at the discretion of the Chairperson to a maximum of 5 minutes.

All proposed statements are to be provided in writing prior to the Meeting to allow for circulation and inclusion in the minutes of the Meeting.

Item 54/2026 Councillor Question Time

⁵Councillors can ask a maximum of two question(s) without notice during Councillor question time. The Chairperson reserves the right to consider questions above this limit will be accepted or treated as correspondence.

Question(s) must be clear and concise, not be a statement, have minimal pre-amble, not offer an argument or opinion, draw conclusions, or make any accusations. Any answer given is not to be debated.

Councillors must provide question(s) without notice in writing to the Executive Assistant either before the commencement of the Meeting or within 24 hours.

⁴ In accordance with Regulations 46 and Council Policy No. 41: Council Meeting Procedures

⁵ In accordance with Regulations 33, 34 & 35 and Council’s Policy No. 41: Council Meeting Procedures

The following Councillor questions were **taken on notice** at the 16 February 2026 Meeting:

Councillor Hughes:

There was a Dorset Digital Strategy Workshop on the 29 August 2024.

1. *What has been the outcome of this?*

Response from General Manager:

There were four projects that the key project partners, namely Council, NBN, Telstra and Northern Tasmanian Development Corporation devised from a working group with key stakeholders in late 2024. These were:

- a. Connectivity issues project
- b. Derby free Wi-Fi project
- c. Scottsdale Community Wi-Fi project
- d. Digital literacy project

There has been a huge amount of work conducted for all four projects by the project partners. The key partners are currently assimilating all of the work conducted to date and communications will be forthcoming in due course on what has occurred for all four projects.

2. *How has Council advocated for better connectivity for Dorset?*

Response from General Manager:

Council has advocated for better connectivity issues through project 1.a. as highlighted above.

Councillor Teichmann:

1. *Given the questions from the gallery this evening, could Derby as a MTB destination benefit from keeping some of its most popular trails, such as Air-Ya-Garn and Hazy Days, in better riding condition over the hot summers by installing a micro trail irrigation system, which would only need to be run a little bit at night, to keep the trails in optimum condition, thereby improving the ride quality and the visitor experience and safety, and hopefully reducing the risk of accidents and trail maintenance requirements and costs?*

Response from Director – Infrastructure:

While irrigation systems are used in major bike parks, the installation cost, lack of an accessible water source, maintenance and ongoing pumping or cartage requirements mean it is not considered viable for Blue Derby at this time.

2. *I'm just wondering in terms of the visitor experience in Derby more generally, and also the amenity for locals, what is Council planning to do with the Old Mine Office that's down at the trailhead, which is in a rather derelict condition with broken windows and so forth, and would it be possible for Council to use the Old Derby swimming pool as a temporary Dog Park until a more permanent solution can be found?*

Response from General Manager:

Council do not have plans for the Old Mine Office or the Old Derby swimming pool at this stage. Council will be commencing Derby Master Planning through the Derby - Future Ready project, on

receipt of promised election funding from the State Government. This is the ideal mechanism for the community to provide feedback as to the future direction of Derby and surrounds.

The following questions were received without notice from Councillors:

Item 55/2026 Requests for Leave of Absence

Nil

Item 56/2026 Notifications of Leave of Absence for Parental Leave

Nil

Item 57/2026 Councillor Motions with Notice

Item 57.1/2026 Councillor Wendy McLennan | Rail Trail Stage 3 Project
 Ref: DOC/26/3522 | NoM: DOC/26/3520

Purpose

The purpose of this agenda item is to consider a notice of motion proposed by Councillor Wendy McLennan.

Recommendation

MOVED: Councillor McLennan

That Dorset Council remove the North East Rail Trail stage 3 from the Strategic Plan as a priority project and, as a consequence, remove it from the Annual Plan and Operational Plan.

Background

The following notice of motion and background information was received from Councillor McLennan on 11 March 2026:

That Dorset Council remove the North East Rail Trail stage 3 from the Strategic Plan as a priority project and, as a consequence, remove it from the Annual Plan and Operational Plan.

Reasons:

1. The project was conceived in 2014 and has, for 12 years, been subject to ongoing revisions, reviews and unspent grants.
2. There remains ongoing uncertainty regarding the project's viability and net benefits to Dorset.

3. The project has been divisive within the community and does not have clear, broad community support.
4. Other priority projects have emerged, including the development of the Scottsdale Railway precinct, which was not included in the Stage 3 Project approvals.
5. Expenditure to date for Dorset ratepayers is over \$300,000 on legal fees, consultancies and other contingencies.
6. The current estimated project cost of \$6.54 million is difficult to justify in the context of the current national and state financial situation and ratepayer cost-of-living pressures.
7. The railway has not been maintained under the relevant agreement(s) of the *Strategic Infrastructure Corridors (Strategic and Recreational Use) Act 2016* and bringing it to a suitable standard would involve additional cost.
8. None of the milestones outlined in the June 2025 Ordinary Council Meeting have been achieved.

Given the risks, uncertainty, and competing priorities, the motion seeks to refocus Council effort and investment on projects with clearer deliverability and community benefit, and to act with fiscal responsibility in challenging financial conditions.

Background Information – General Manager

Extract from Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025

Regulation 22. Motions to overturn decision

1. *For the purposes of this regulation, a decision may be overturned, wholly or partly, by –*
 - (a) *a motion directly rescinding or otherwise overturning the decision or part of the decision; or*
 - (b) *a motion that conflicts with, or is contrary to, the decision or part of the decision.*
2. *A council or council committee may only overturn a decision passed at a previous meeting held since the last ordinary election –*
 - (a) *by an absolute majority, in the case of a council; or*
 - (b) *by a simple majority, in the case of a council committee.*
3. *Any report given by the general manager to a council in respect of a proposed motion to overturn a decision of the council, or that will result in the overturning of a decision of the council, wholly or partly, is to include –*
 - (a) *a statement that the proposed motion, if resolved in the affirmative, would overturn that previous decision or part of that previous decision; and*
 - (b) *the details of that previous decision, or the part of that previous decision, that would be overturned; and*
 - (c) *advice as to whether or not that previous decision, or that part of that previous decision, directed that certain action be taken; and*
 - (d) *if that previous decision, or that part of that previous decision, directed that certain action be taken, advice as to whether or not that action has been wholly or substantially carried out.*

At the 23 June 2025 Ordinary Council Meeting^{6 7}, Council resolved:

“That Council continue to support and seek further funding for the North East Rail Trail Stage 3 from Scottsdale to Lilydale Falls Reserve subject to City of Launceston partnership and contribution towards the Wyena to Lilydale Falls section.”

If this motion is resolved in the affirmative by an absolute majority, it would overturn the 23 June 2025 decision in relation to stage 3 of the North East Rail Trail from Scottsdale to Lilydale Falls reserve. For avoidance of doubt, discussions with Councillor McLennan and the General Manager, and as articulated in the reasons given by the Councillor to support the motion, maintenance and investment in stages 1 and 2 would remain unaltered, along with investment and development of the Scottsdale Railway precinct.

It should be noted that a Notice of Motion was presented and carried on 12 December 2024 by the City of Launceston Council resolving to:

- provides in-principal support of the North East Rail Trail Stage 3 being Lilydale Falls to Scottsdale in concept only;
- approves providing Dorset Council a letter of support outlining Council's in-principle support for the project; and
- be provided with a project report to better understand implications to Council, such as costs, ownership and technical challenges.

The North East Rail Trail project has been under consideration for more than a decade.

Key milestones in the project include:

- Initial feasibility investigations in 2014.
- Dorset Council adopting a Notice of Motion in 2018 to advance the project.
- Dorset Council being appointed Corridor Manager for the North East Corridor under the Strategic Infrastructure Corridors (Strategic and Recreational Use) Act 2016.
- Planning approvals obtained for the proposed trail between Scottsdale and Lilydale Falls.
- Full review of the project plan – including project development costings and revision of the project business case by third party consultant TRC Tourism.
- Community and stakeholder consultation regarding updated business case. Discussions with Launceston & North East Rail (L&NER) regarding potential project partnership opportunities.
- Recognition of the project as a Regional Priority Project by the Northern Tasmania Development Corporation.
- City of Launceston (CoL) supporting the project in-principle including detailed engineering assessments of key structures along the section of the rail corridor owned by CoL.
- CoL are exploring the design of a potential connection from Lilydale Falls into the Lilydale Town Centre supported by a \$150,000 grant from the Department of State Growth.

The proposed Stage 3 extension would add approximately 40 kilometres of trail, linking Scottsdale with Lilydale Falls and connecting to the existing trail network.

It is noted that Stages 1 and 2 of the North East Rail Trail are already operational, extending from Scottsdale to Billycock Hill (Tulendeena). These sections will continue to operate as recreational infrastructure

⁶ [Agenda and Attachments – 23 June 2025 Council Meeting](#)

⁷ [Minutes – 23 June 2025 Council Meeting](#)

regardless of Council's decision regarding Stage 3, which includes the redevelopment of the Scottsdale Railway area.

Planning, Environment and Statutory Requirements

Planning approvals for the proposed Stage 3 trail have already been obtained by both Dorset Council and the City of Launceston under the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993*.

Dorset Council has also been appointed Corridor Manager for the North East rail corridor under the *Strategic Infrastructure Corridors (Strategic and Recreational Use) Act 2016*.

Further ministerial approvals relating to removal of rail infrastructure and use of substantial fixed infrastructure would still be required prior to construction.

If Stage 3 does not proceed, the existing development approvals may lapse, and the rail corridor would remain without a defined recreational use.

Strategic and Annual Plan

The North East Rail Trail Stage 3 project is currently identified within Council's Priority Projects Plan as part of the Northern Trails Initiative.

The project aligns with Council's [Strategic Plan 2023–2032](#) objectives relating to:

- Community liveability
- Economic development
- Tourism and recreation infrastructure.

Removing the project from the Priority Projects Plan would represent a change to Council's previously endorsed strategic priorities, including strategic imperative 8.2 "Successfully deliver the Rail Trail to leverage leisure bike riding and increase visitation to the region."

Risk Management

Council's Risk Management Framework requires the identification and management of strategic, financial, operational and reputational risks associated with major projects.

If Stage 3 **proceeds**:

Potential benefits include:

- Integral part of Dorset: Future Ready and Northern Tasmania's Northern Trails Initiative project suite.
- Diversification of tourism and recreational infrastructure within the municipality.
- Opportunities for increased visitation and regional economic activity.

Potential risks include:

- Project delivery risks including funding uncertainty, cost escalation or delays.
- Continued community debate regarding the project.
- Long-term asset management obligations associated with the expanded trail network.

If Stage 3 **does not proceed**:

Potential benefits include:

- Avoidance of project delivery risks associated with Stage 3.
- Reduced financial and operational commitments.

Potential implications include:

- Reduced connectivity and scale of the overall Rail Trail experience. The business case for the Rail Trail was based on attaining scale from stages 1, 2, 3 for a multi-day ride.
- Potential reputational risk associated with discontinuing a long-standing strategic project, including the time and money expended by the City of Launceston, Northern Tasmanian Development Corporation, Council Officers, elected members, etc.
- Dorset Council have developed strong relationships with surrounding councils, agencies and State Government departments. If Dorset Council were to reset the strategic direction at short notice and only 8 months from the June 2025 decision by Council to pursue stage 3 Rail Trail funding, this poses a significant relationship risk as a result of wasted effort and resources. Dorset Council's Mayor and General Manager have been actively pursuing funding for stage 3 with State and Federal elected members and through grant funding streams.
- No consultation has been undertaken with key stakeholders in relation to ceasing stage 3 of the Rail Trail with a potential risk that the State Government may not allow Council to pick and choose which parts of the Rail Trail they may be the corridor manager for.
- This notice of motion has far reaching consequences that have not been workshopped or explored by Council. Rushing major strategic pivots without understanding all the implications may lead to a poor outcome.
- The need to ensure the existing operational trail sections remain maintained and promoted.

Financial and Asset Management Implications

Project costs incurred to date total \$319,756.26 less grant funding yet to be received of \$72,522.00, leaving a net cost to Council to date of \$247,234.26, largely associated with planning approvals, legal costs, consultant fees and business case preparation.

Stages 1 and 2 of the North East Rail Trail are currently operational and represent existing recreational assets managed by Dorset Council. Council, along with Rotary, retains responsibility for the ongoing maintenance and management of these trail sections.

The proposal currently under consideration relates to Stage 3 of the Rail Trail between Scottsdale and Lilydale Falls, which is identified in Council's Priority Projects Plan with an estimated project cost of approximately \$6.54 million.

The [revised business case](#) prepared for the project identifies that the development of Stage 3 would extend the trail network by approximately 40 kilometres, creating a total rail trail experience of approximately 66 kilometres when combined with the existing sections.

Economic modelling undertaken as part of the business case indicates the following projected outcomes:

- Year 1 visitation: approximately 21,469 trail users (including both local and tourist users)
- Year 10 visitation: approximately 39,500 trail users annually

- Regional visitor spending: projected to grow from approximately \$4.76 million in year one to \$8.27 million annually by year ten.

Over a ten-year period, the modelling estimates total economic benefits to the region of approximately \$44.3 million, including:

- Regional income generation
- Visitor expenditure in the local economy
- Health benefits associated with increased physical activity
- Productivity benefits linked to improved health outcomes.

The project demonstrates a strong Benefit Cost Ratio (BCR) under standard infrastructure assessment modelling:

- BCR of approximately 5.6 using a 7% discount rate
- BCR of approximately 4.8 using a 10% discount rate.

These ratios indicate that the estimated economic and social benefits significantly exceed the projected project costs.

Community Considerations

Community consultation undertaken in 2024 indicated mixed community views regarding the project, with both support and opposition expressed.

Consultation regarding the North East Rail Trail has also occurred over a number of years through feasibility studies, business cases and Council discussions.

Engagement has also occurred with regional tourism organisations and government stakeholders.

In relation to engagement on this Notice of Motion as the City of Launceston are actively reviewing the project and have supported the project in principle, the General Manager has spoken to City of Launceston's Chief Executive Officer notifying him that this Notice of Motion will be presented on 23 March 2026. No further consultation has taken place with City of Launceston on this Notice of Motion from Council Officers.

Officer's Comments (General Manager)

The decision before Council relates specifically to whether Stage 3 of the North East Rail Trail should remain within Council's Priority Projects Plan and Council's Strategic Plan. This Notice of Motion would reverse the 23 June 2025 decision by Council *"That Council continue to support and seek further funding for the North East Rail Trail Stage 3 from Scottsdale to Lilydale Falls Reserve subject to City of Launceston partnership and contribution towards the Wyena to Lilydale Falls section."*

While the proposal does not affect the existing operational sections of the Rail Trail (Stages 1 and 2), Council Officers have not engaged the State Government on their willingness for Council to pick and choose which part of the rail corridor they wish to manage. The intent of this motion is for stages 1 and 2 of the Rail Trail to operate as recreational infrastructure regardless of the outcome, including the Scottsdale Railway trail head precinct.

The North East Rail Trail project has been under development for more than ten years, with planning approvals obtained and business case work completed.

Councillors may wish to consider the following factors.

Potential benefits of continuing with Stage 3

- Opportunity to create a 66 km rail trail experience linking communities across the North East.
- Strong economic modelling indicating significant regional economic benefits.
- Alignment with Council's strategic objectives relating to liveability and economic development.
- Recognition of the project as a regional priority by economic development organisations.

Potential considerations if Stage 3 does not proceed

- Removal of the project from Council's Priority Projects Plan.
- Loss of the potential economic and tourism benefits identified in the business case.
- Existing planning approvals and project development work may not translate into realised outcomes.
- Reputational and relationship damage with key stakeholders including, but not limited to the State Government, Northern Tasmanian Development Corporation and City of Launceston Council.

Ultimately, the decision before Council is a strategic decision regarding Council's future project priorities and the pros and cons of such a decision must be considered by Councillors. The existing operational trail sections will continue to be maintained and available for community and visitor use on proviso that the State Government will allow Council to pick and choose which areas of the rail corridor Dorset Council will manage.

ITEMS FOR DECISION

Item 58/2026 **Blue Derby Foundation | Memorandum of Understanding Half-Yearly Update**
 Reporting Officer: General Manager, John Marik
 Ref: DOC/26/1722

Purpose

The purpose of this agenda item is to provide a half-yearly governance update on the operation of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Council and the Blue Derby Foundation (Foundation), in accordance with Activity 6 in Council's 2025/26 Annual Plan.

Recommendation

That Council receives and notes the half-yearly governance update relating to the Memorandum of Understanding between Council and the Blue Derby Foundation.

Background

The Blue Derby mountain bike trail network has developed into one of Tasmania's most significant tourism and economic assets.

In February 2021, the Blue Derby Foundation was established as an independent not-for-profit entity with the purpose of supporting the promotion, development and long-term sustainability of the Blue Derby brand and enhancing the township of Derby.

Prior to the establishment of the current partnership, Council managed all aspects of Blue Derby operations, including trail construction, trail maintenance, marketing, social media and website administration, sponsorship and brand commercialisation. With the exception of the dedicated trail maintenance crew, these activities were administered by Council officers as part of existing operational roles. As the Blue Derby destination continued to grow, this model was not considered sustainable in the longer term and was one of the catalysts for establishing a partnership arrangement through the MoU.

In March 2023, Council resolved to transfer responsibility for the marketing and commercialisation of the Blue Derby brand to the Foundation under an MoU and associated Deed of Assignment (DoA). Under this arrangement:

- Council remains the owner and asset manager of the trail network and associated public infrastructure; and
- The Foundation is responsible for brand promotion, partnerships, sponsorship and fundraising activities associated with Blue Derby.

The Blue Derby mountain bike trail network is widely recognised as a world-class recreational asset. The partnership arrangement between Council and the Foundation was established to support the long-term stewardship of the Blue Derby destination and brand and to ensure the benefits of the asset are sustained for future generations.

The MoU also established a Blue Derby Operations Committee to provide a structured forum for coordination between Council and the Foundation regarding operational matters affecting the trail network, community outcomes and the broader Blue Derby destination.

The MoU also includes provisions relating to reporting, financial accountability and governance oversight to ensure that Council can effectively monitor the operation of the agreement and the management of this significant asset.

Following the transfer of operations in 2023, Council received more detailed reporting during the initial implementation period to monitor the transition of responsibilities and the financial performance of Blue Derby. This included quarterly reporting on trail-related revenue and expenditure, together with updates provided by the Foundation.

As the governance arrangements have matured and the transition phase has concluded, Council's routine financial reporting on trail operations is now incorporated within the quarterly financial reports provided to Council. Consistent with Council's 2025/26 Annual Plan commitment to provide half-yearly reporting on the MoU, this report focuses on matters relevant to Council's governance and oversight of the agreement rather than operational reporting on the activities of the Foundation as an organisation.

The revised reporting approach is intended to ensure Council's public reporting focuses on governance oversight of the MoU while respecting the Foundation's role as an independent organisation for its own operational and financial reporting.

Planning, Environment and Statutory Requirements

- *Local Government Act 1993*, Part 8, Division 1
- The MoU and Deed of Assignment establish the roles, responsibilities, and accountability mechanisms between Council and the Blue Derby Foundation.

Strategic and Annual Plan

- Dorset Council Strategic Plan (2023 – 2032), Imperative 9.4
- Annual Plan (2025/26), Activity 6

Financial and Asset Management Implications

Council's adopted 2025/26 budget estimates include a \$93,000 contribution that was agreed with the Foundation in accordance with the MoU.

The Foundation has recently provided its 2025/26 budget which reflects a contribution amount that differs from the contribution included in Council's budget estimates.

Council is currently working with the Foundation to clarify these arrangements, including the approach to outstanding and future contributions. Council will continue to monitor the matter and assess any implications for Council's financial planning and asset management responsibilities as discussions progress. Council's budget estimates remain unchanged at this time.

Risk Management

The partnership arrangements established under the MoU involve a range of financial, operational and governance considerations typical of collaborative arrangements involving public assets.

The variance between Council's budget assumptions and the Foundation's current financial position presents a financial risk that is being actively managed through discussions between the parties.

Through the operation of the MoU and ongoing engagement with the Foundation, Council has identified several areas where governance and reporting arrangements may benefit from further clarification and strengthening to ensure appropriate transparency, financial accountability and operational clarity in relation to the MoU.

Council Officers are currently working with the Foundation to review aspects of the MoU and associated governance processes to address these matters and ensure the partnership continues to operate in the best interests of the community and that appropriate transparency, accountability and risk management arrangements are maintained.

Community Considerations

Blue Derby continues to deliver significant economic, recreational and community benefits for the Dorset municipality.

The ongoing success of the destination relies on effective collaboration between Council, the Foundation, local businesses and the broader community.

Council remains committed to ensuring that governance arrangements supporting the Blue Derby destination continue to protect the public interest while enabling the destination to grow and evolve.

Consultation

Council Officers have engaged with representatives of the Blue Derby Foundation regarding matters arising under the MoU and the ongoing operation of the partnership.

Councillors have also been briefed through workshop discussions regarding the relationship with the Foundation and potential governance improvements that may support the future operation of the partnership.

Further discussions with the Foundation are continuing.

Officer's Comments

Since assuming responsibility for the marketing and commercialisation of the Blue Derby brand, the Foundation has contributed positively to the promotion of the region and the development of sponsorship, marketing and event initiatives associated with Blue Derby.

Examples of activities undertaken by the Foundation include marketing and promotional initiatives, development of sponsorship arrangements and support for events associated with the Blue Derby trail network.

As the partnership arrangements have matured, several governance and financial considerations have emerged that require further clarification to ensure that the MoU continues to operate effectively and in the best interests of the community.

Council is currently working with the Foundation to clarify these matters, and it is anticipated that these discussions will inform a review of the MoU to ensure that the governance arrangements supporting the Blue Derby destination and brand continue to provide appropriate transparency, accountability and stewardship of this significant public asset.

Council will continue to keep the community informed as discussions with the Foundation progress and any changes to the governance or operating arrangements may be brought forward for Council's consideration.

Item 59/2026

Retrospective Reimbursement Request

Reporting Officer: Director – Infrastructure, Kerry Sacilotto

Ref: DOC/26/3341

Purpose

The purpose of this agenda item is to determine a request received from Dorset Renewable Industries Pty Ltd (DRI) in relation to retrospective reimbursement for works undertaken adjacent to the North East Rail Trail corridor at Ling Siding.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. declines the request from Dorset Renewable Industries Pty Ltd for reimbursement of invoices totalling \$29,058.98; and
2. notes that:
 - a. the works were undertaken without Council authorisation or procurement approval;
 - b. Council did not enter into any agreement or commitment to fund the works;
 - c. one invoice submitted does not relate to rail trail works; and
 - d. under Section 69 of the *Strategic Infrastructure Corridors (Strategic and Recreational Use) Act 2016*, responsibility for preventing drainage entering a corridor rest with the adjoining landowner unless consent has been granted by the corridor manager.

Background

In September 2024 Council received a complaint regarding stormwater discharge entering the North East Rail Trail corridor from adjoining land associated with the Dorset Renewable Industries site at Ling Siding.

Council Officers inspected the site and observed pipes extending from the DRI property into the corridor which appeared to be managing stormwater flows. Correspondence at that time referenced Section 69 of the *Strategic Infrastructure Corridors (Strategic and Recreational Use) Act 2016* (SIC Act), which prohibits adjoining landowners from directing drainage onto a corridor without consent and allows recovery of costs where works are required as a result of non-compliance.

An on-site meeting was held on 26 September 2024 between Council Officers and DRI representatives to discuss the matter. No agreement, approval or commitment for Council funding or works resulted from that meeting.

In November 2025 Council was contacted by DRI requesting reimbursement for works reportedly undertaken. Correspondence is included as Appendix A. In that correspondence, the applicant acknowledged that Council processes may not have been followed and requested consideration for reimbursement of contractor costs already paid.

A further meeting was held on 29 January 2026 with DRI representatives, the Mayor, Director Infrastructure and Project Development Officer. DRI outlined works undertaken and requested payment. Council Officers advised that the works had not been authorised, no budget existed, and any payment would require Council resolution.

Although this type of request would generally be considered an operational responsibility, the claimant requested consideration by elected members.

Planning, Environment and Statutory Requirements

Relevant legislation and policy includes:

- *Strategic Infrastructure Corridors (Strategic and Recreational Use) Act 2016* – Section 69
- *Local Government Act 1993*
- Dorset Council Code for Tenders and Contracts Policy No. 31

Strategic and Annual Plan

This matter aligns with Council objectives relating to responsible financial management, transparent governance, and protection of community assets.

Risk Management

If payment is approved consideration should be given regarding:

- potential precedent for retrospective claims
- reduced effectiveness of procurement control.
- governance and audit risk.

If payment is declined:

- potential dissatisfaction from claimant.
- possibility of further representations.

Financial and Asset Management Implications

Total amount requested: \$29,058.98

- not budgeted
- would require budget variation
- Includes costs not related to rail trail works

Community Considerations

The rail trail is a public asset requiring coordinated management and authorised works to ensure safety and Asset integrity. Under Section 69 of the SIC Act, the primary responsibility for preventing discharge or concentration of drainage into a corridor rests with the adjoining landowner unless written consent has been granted by the corridor manager.

Maintenance activities within the corridor may be undertaken either by Council as corridor manager or by maintenance partners acting with Council's knowledge or authority. Rotary currently undertakes maintenance of the section between Scottsdale and Billycock under an informal arrangement with Council.

Consultation

Consultation undertaken includes internal officer review, site inspection, meetings with DRI representatives, and review of submitted invoices. No formal agreement or funding commitment was made.

Officer's Comments

The reimbursement request relates to works undertaken independently by Dorset Renewable Industries without Council approval, procurement process, scope agreement or funding allocation.

Council procurement policy requires competitive quotation processes for works exceeding \$10,000. No such process occurred.

Two invoices were submitted:

- Invoice 00003243 – \$19,161.18 describes material supply, drain cleaning and works along the rail trail corridor.
- Invoice 00003249 – \$9,897.80 describes works including potholing materials, yard repairs and truck hire within the DRI site and does not reference rail trail works.

The inclusion of costs unrelated to the rail trail indicates that not all claimed costs relate to the matter raised with Council.

Available information indicates that drainage entered the corridor from infrastructure located on the adjoining property. Under Section 69 of the SIC Act, responsibility for preventing discharge into a corridor rest with the adjoining landowner unless written consent has been granted by the corridor manager.

Dorset Council, as corridor manager, is responsible for managing corridor safety and authorising works within the corridor. No evidence has been identified indicating Council authorised the works subject to this reimbursement request.

Approving payment would represent retrospective endorsement of unauthorised works. For these reasons, the Officer recommendation is that Council decline the reimbursement request.

Purpose

The purpose of this agenda item is to determine a request received by the General Manager to consider purchasing 75 Main Street, Derby, for use as a public and staff car park.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. notes the correspondence received regarding request to purchase land at 75 Main Street, Derby for car parking purposes;
2. does not undertake further investigation, negotiation or assessment in relation to this request at this time, and that any future consideration of additional land acquisition in Derby be addressed through an adopted Master Planning process or where identified as a priority within Council's Strategic Plan 2023–2032, Long-Term Financial Plan, Asset Management Plans or other formally adopted Council strategy.

Background

The General Manager received correspondence from a community member requesting Council consider purchasing land at 75 Main Street, Derby - see image 1 - to increase short-term parking availability near the commercial strip.



Image 1: Location of 75 Main Street, Derby

The request states that current short-stay parking supply is perceived as limited for non-mountain-bike visitors travelling through town; additional parking close to shops may support existing businesses and encourage new investment; and a dedicated car park could also accommodate staff parking, freeing central spaces for customers.

The property is 1191m² of residential land according to the advertisement on Real Estate.com and currently listed for sale at offers over \$549,000 at the time of writing this item, it is suggested that if the land is sold privately, future opportunities to provide centrally located parking may be limited.

The correspondent notes: *"If State or Commonwealth Government funding can't be accessed, I would personally support rate payer funds being used"*

The General Manager advised the correspondent that acquisition of land must be considered strategically relative to other funding priorities and that Council is currently seeking confirmation of State funding for the Derby Master Planning project. It was also noted that it may not be prudent to commence major planning or investment decisions until funding certainty is confirmed. The matter was to be presented to Councillors at workshop to gauge sentiment, with this discussion occurring at the 3 March 2026 Briefing Workshop.

Planning, Environment and Statutory Requirements

There is no statutory requirement for Council to acquire land for parking purposes.

Any future acquisition would be subject to the *Local Government Act 1993 (Tas)*, Council's procurement and acquisition policies, and relevant planning approval processes if developed including consultation with the Department of State Growth regarding access arrangements, including ingress and egress, to ensure compliance with relevant road authority requirements.

Strategic and Annual Plan

Relevant strategic considerations include supporting local economic development, ensuring sustainable financial management, delivering infrastructure aligned with demonstrated community need, and strategic planning for Derby township and tourism infrastructure.

Any land acquisition decision would need to align with broader planning outcomes, including the anticipated Derby Master Planning process.

Risk Management

Key risks include:

- **Financial risk** - upfront acquisition and development costs together with ongoing operational, maintenance and lifecycle obligations.
- **Strategic risk** - acquisition occurring prior to completion of broader township planning may result in infrastructure outcomes that are not optimally aligned with long-term needs.
- **Opportunity cost risk** - allocation of funds to this proposal may limit Council's capacity to respond to other strategic priorities.
- **Demand uncertainty** - parking demand and economic benefit have not yet been validated through formal assessment.
- **Framework risk** - progressing acquisition investigations outside endorsed planning or prioritisation frameworks may create precedent expectations for similar requests and reduce consistency in Council decision-making.

Financial and Asset Management Implications

If Council were to pursue acquisition, costs would likely include land purchase, due diligence expenses, site development works, and ongoing operational maintenance, renewal, parking enforcement / systems and renewal liabilities.

No budget allocation currently exists for this purpose.

Community Considerations

The request has been made by a private individual and supported in correspondence copied to several local business stakeholders. No formal community consultation has been undertaken.

At present, advocacy appears limited to specific stakeholders rather than representing a formally demonstrated broader community position.

Consultation

- Internal – General Manager.
- External – correspondence received from community / business stakeholders.

No technical or planning assessments have yet been undertaken.

Officer's Comments

The request raises a strategic question regarding parking supply within Derby's commercial area. However, there is currently no completed evidence-based assessment confirming a shortage of parking, and the forthcoming Derby Master Planning process is intended to examine township infrastructure holistically, including parking provision.

The request does not presently identify any direct financial return to Council. Acquisition would introduce ongoing operational and asset management obligations and could divert resources from higher priority infrastructure or service delivery needs. Undertaking acquisition prior to completion of strategic planning may also reduce Council's flexibility and result in decisions that are not optimally aligned with long-term township requirements.

Consideration of the request also raises broader governance considerations regarding how Council evaluates unsolicited land acquisition proposals. Maintaining consistency with adopted strategic planning and prioritisation frameworks is important to ensure equitable and transparent decision-making across all similar requests.

It is therefore appropriate for Council to first determine whether it wishes this request to be considered as part of the forthcoming Derby Master Planning process, through which township infrastructure needs, including parking, can be assessed holistically and determine whether it wishes to commit Officer resources to further investigation.

Item 61/2026

Purchase of Land Request | Bridport and Proposed 12 Month Moratorium on Land Acquisitions

Reporting Officer: Director – Infrastructure, Kerry Sacilotto

Ref: DOC/26/3342

Purpose

The purpose of this agenda item is to determine a request received by the General Manager to consider purchasing Crown land at Emma Street, Bridport (PID 6845522) and for Council to decide whether to adopt a 12-month moratorium on land acquisitions.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. does not pursue acquisition of the Crown Land parcel known as PID 6845522 Emma Street, Bridport; and
2. notes that this determination has been made following consideration of the financial, operational, strategic, risk and governance implications outlined within this report; and
3. adopts a 12-month moratorium on the investigation, negotiation or acquisition of land not identified within Council's adopted Strategic Plan, Asset Plans or endorsed master planning documents, unless otherwise resolved by Council.

Background

Dorset Council previously held a lease over Crown land identified as PID 6845522. This lease was relinquished by Council on 9 October 2014 as the land was no longer required.

On 30 October 2025, the Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania (NRE) advised Council of its intention to sell three parcels of Crown land within the municipality, including PID 6845522 (CT 188953/1), Emma Street, Bridport – see image 1.



Image 1: Aerial view of Emma Street parcel of Crown Land

On 28 January 2026, Council received correspondence from Bridport Innovations Inc advising that the group intends to oppose the sale and lobby Councillors to request Council acquisition of the land. The correspondence references a March 2012 ecological report commissioned by Council which identified the site as remnant white gum coastal woodland and recommended management actions.

The report was prepared during the period in which Council held a lease over the land and had responsibility for its care and maintenance. Upon relinquishment of that lease, Council's land management responsibilities ceased and responsibility for administration and management of the land rests with the Crown as the landowner, subject to that authority's discretion.

On 10 February 2026, Council received correspondence from Cecily Rosol MP, Member for Bass, writing on behalf of community members who have expressed concern regarding the proposed sale. The correspondence requests that Council consider negotiating with NRE Tasmania to acquire the land and implement the Emma Street Bushland Management Plan (2012) to rehabilitate the site for public use.

Available information indicates the site area is approximately 4,434 m², with a separate adjoining lot of approximately 302 m². TasWater pipeline infrastructure and TasNetworks assets are located within the site.

Planning, Environment and Statutory Requirements

The land is zoned Village, allowing a range of residential and commercial uses subject to planning approval.

Previous officer advice indicates the site is located near the Bridport township centre, a minimum subdivision size of 600 m² may be achievable where services are available, and part of the land lies within a Low Landslip Hazard Overlay requiring a landslip hazard report by a geotechnical practitioner for development.

NRE Tasmania has confirmed that disposal of the land does not affect any existing statutory protections where applicable. Any future development would be subject to assessment under the applicable planning scheme and statutory approval processes.

Strategic and Annual Plan

Acquisition of the land does not align with Council's adopted Strategic Plan priorities or current resourcing priorities.

Risk Management

If Council acquires the land: Ownership would introduce additional risk exposure to Council as landowner, including statutory, operational and reputational considerations. Ownership would reasonably be expected to generate ongoing operational obligations and create increased stakeholder expectations regarding access, maintenance or site improvements.

If Council does not acquire the land: Potential for stakeholder concern or advocacy.

Financial and Asset Management Implications

The property is currently listed for sale at offers over \$750,000 representing capital expenditure not currently provided for in adopted budgets.

Ownership of the land would reasonably be expected to generate ongoing operational expenditure associated with inspection, monitoring, risk mitigation and general site management requirements. No operational budget allocation or resourcing provision currently exists for these activities. Council is in the process of reviewing and updating its Long Term Financial Plan and assessing options to deliver an operational surplus in the future. Therefore, until a plan is developed of addressing Council's operational deficit, a 12-month moratorium on the investigation, negotiation or acquisition of land not identified within Council's adopted Strategic Plan, Asset Plans or endorsed master planning documents, unless otherwise resolved by Council.

Acquisition would therefore introduce an additional unfunded operational responsibility.

Community Considerations

Bridport Innovations Inc has made representations advocating for Council acquisition of the land. No other formal stakeholder representations have been received by Council at this time.

Council have recently secured a long-term licence over the Bridport Foreshore, hence protecting public access and amenity to natural environment into the future.

Consultation

Internal officer review has been undertaken to confirm land tenure history, planning controls, infrastructure presence and financial implications.

No external consultation has been undertaken by Council in relation to acquisition of the land.

Officer's Comments

Acquisition would provide Council with control over future land use outcomes if ownership were obtained; however, Council previously relinquished its lease over the land on the basis it was not required, and no subsequent strategic, operational or asset planning justification has been identified that would indicate a change in that position.

Site conditions are reasonably expected to increase maintenance complexity and present an elevated work health and safety risk profile for ongoing management activities. Acquisition may also create expectations that Council will purchase land where community advocacy occurs, irrespective of strategic alignment or adopted planning priorities.

Having regard to the proposed purchase cost, the likelihood of ongoing obligations, the absence of operational return, competing demands on limited Council resources, and consistency with Council's adopted Strategic Plan and asset planning framework, acquisition is not considered warranted at this time.

Purpose

The purpose of this item is to discuss the introduction of a new Council Policy relating to election caretaker periods prior to Local Government elections.

Recommendation

That Council adopt the attached new Policy No. 70 – Local Government Election Caretaker Period.

Background

In early 2022 the Minister for Local Government wrote to all Tasmanian councils regarding the approval of the *Local Government Amendment (Elections) Act 2002* by parliament. Within this correspondence it was recommended that councils consider adopting a caretaker period policy.

The correspondence stated that the Local Government sector expressed a desire to introduce a caretaker period in advance of the 2022 elections however legislative changes could not be accommodated for the 2022 election.

The correspondence also noted that there was an opportunity for councils to voluntarily adopt their own caretaker policies prior to the election period commencing and included a copy of Kingborough Council's "Election Caretaker Period Policy" for councils' consideration. The Minister stated that this policy provided a very sound approach to managing the election period and strongly encouraged councils to consider adopting such a policy.

The Council at this time discussed this correspondence and chose not to implement a policy for Dorset prior to the 2022 Local Government election.

The Local Government Priority Reform Program 2024-2026 notes in section 3 that a new Local Government Elections Act will be introduced to 'improve accessibility, participation and integrity of local government elections.' As part of the development of this new Bill, legislation is proposed to provide a clear caretaker framework for all councils.

Consultation on this draft Bill closed on 28 February 2026, with the following listed as key reforms relating to caretaker periods preceding Local Government elections:

PART 5C – Conduct of Council During Election Period

This Part introduces 'caretaker' provisions related to the conduct of councils during election periods. During an election period a council cannot make any decision defined as a 'prohibited decision'. This includes a decision:

- *That relates to the appointment, reappointment or the remuneration of a general manager, other than the appointment, reappointment or remuneration of an acting general manager*
- *That relates to the termination of a general manager*
- *To enter into a contract, arrangement of agreement, the total value of which exceeds whichever is the greater of –*
 - *\$100,000; or*

- *1% of the council's revenue from general and service rating and fees and charges in the preceding financial year*
- *That would enable the use of council resources in a way that is intended to influence, or is likely to influence, voting at a council election.*

A council may, if they determine is necessary and in the public interest for a prohibited decision to be made during an election period, make an application to the Minister for an exemption.

Prohibited decisions do not apply to decisions or actions required by councils under statutory timeframes.

This Part also prohibits the use of any council resources or publication of information promoting or advantaging a particular candidate or group of candidates.

It also prohibits councils from making resources available that advantage a candidate which are not equally available to all candidates.

Information in relation to an election can only be published if it has been published by the Electoral Commission.

The Policy was presented for decision at the 16 February 2026 Council Meeting but was deferred for further discussion at the 3 March Workshop to include reference to extraordinary circumstances and reporting requirements. Examples from mainland councils were used and incorporated into version 1.2 of the Policy.

Planning, Environment and Statutory Requirements

- *Local Government Act 1993 (Tas)*
- *Local Government (Code of Conduct) Order 2024*
- *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993*

Strategic and Annual Plan

- Dorset Council Strategic Plan (2023-2032), Imperatives 10.1, 13.1 and 13.2

Risk Management

The introduction of a formal Election Caretaker Period Policy significantly strengthens Council's governance and risk management framework. The Policy reduces the risk of actual or perceived misuse of Council decision-making authority, resources, or influence during an election period.

In the absence of a clear caretaker framework, Council is exposed to governance, reputational and compliance risks, particularly where decisions made close to an election may be perceived as advantaging current Councillors or influencing the electoral outcome.

The Policy provides clarity for Councillors and staff, supports consistent decision-making, and aligns Council practice with emerging legislative reform being progressed by the State Government. This proactive approach mitigates the risk of future non-compliance once caretaker provisions are legislated for the local government sector.

Financial and Asset Management Implications

There are no direct financial or asset management implications arising from the adoption of this Policy.

The Policy does not restrict the implementation of projects, contracts or capital works already approved through Council's annual budget and tender processes, nor does it impede the General Manager's delegated authority to manage Council operations during the caretaker period.

By clarifying decision-making thresholds and reinforcing existing controls around major financial commitments during an election period, the Policy supports prudent financial governance and continuity of service delivery.

Community Considerations

The Policy is intended to ensure fairness, transparency and integrity in the conduct of Council business during local government election periods.

By establishing clear and consistent rules that apply equally to all candidates—whether currently elected or prospective—the Policy supports public confidence in Council decision-making and the democratic process.

The adoption of a caretaker policy is consistent with sector best practice and reflects community expectations that Council resources and authority are not used, or perceived to be used, to influence election outcomes.

Consultation

Community consultation has not been undertaken and is not considered necessary for this Policy.

The Policy is an internal governance instrument intended for the conduct of Councillors and Council employees during local government election periods. It does not alter service delivery, community access to Council, or the rights or obligations of residents.

The Policy has been developed using a sector-endorsed template and clauses from councils around Australia and reflects established best practice within local government. Councillors were briefed on the draft Policy at the 3 February 2026 and 3 March 2026 Council Briefing Workshops.

Officer's Comments

The General Manager notes that the proposed Policy formalises well-established sector best practice for the conduct of councils during local government election periods and provides clear guidance for Councillors and staff on appropriate decision-making and use of Council resources.

While the State Government's local government reform program proposes the introduction of legislated caretaker provisions prior to the 2026 local government elections, there is no certainty that these reforms will be enacted or operational in time for the next election.

Accordingly, it is prudent for Dorset Council to proactively adopt its own caretaker policy to ensure strong governance, transparency and impartiality during the election period. The Policy provides a consistent framework that promotes fairness and a level playing field for all candidates, whether currently elected or intending to stand for office, and protects Council from reputational and governance risk.

The adoption of this Policy ensures Dorset Council is election-ready and operating in accordance with best practice governance, irrespective of the timing of State legislative reform.

Item 63/2026**Round 2 | 2025/26 Small Grants Application Assessments**

Reporting Officer: Director – Community & Development Services, Jayne Miller

Ref: DOC/26/3604

Purpose

The purpose of this agenda item is to present the recommendations of the Community Grants Selection Panel - Small Grants Fund 2025-2026 Round 2 for endorsement.

Recommendation

That the distribution of \$699 to the following community group via the Small Grants Fund for 2025/26 Round 2 is endorsed:

- \$699 - Bridport Community Men's Shed

Background

Round 2 of Council's Community Grant Program for 2025/26 closed on 11 February 2026.

A funding stream of the Community Grants Program, Council's 2025/26 budget for the Small Grant Fund is \$10,000. After Round 1, \$854 was available.

One application was received requesting a total of \$699 and the full allocation is recommended.

The Community Grants Selection Panel (the Panel) consisted of Cr Mervyn Chilcott, Cr Wendy McLennan, Cr Edwina Powell, with administration support from Elizabeth Hadley (Community & Development Administration Officer).

Councillors who would like to view the applications prior to the March 2026 Council Meeting are invited to contact the Director - Community and Development Services.

Congratulations are extended to all beneficiaries and applicants are wished all the best with implementing their projects.

Planning, Environment & Statutory Requirements

- Council Policy No. 47 – Community Grants

Risk Management

N/A

Strategic and Annual Plan

- Dorset Council Strategic Plan (2023 – 2032), Imperatives 13 and 13.2

Financial & Asset Management Implications

For 2025/26, \$10,000 has been allocated to the Small Grant Fund. Round 1 allocated \$9,146.

Community Considerations

Council's Community Grants Program was communicated through the Dorset Council website, Facebook and to community organisations.

Officer's Comments:

The following table outlines the applications:

2025/26 <u>Small</u> Grants - Round 2 Summary of Applications					
*Rounded up to the nearest dollar					
Organisation	Total Cost of Project* (Incl. GST)	Amount Requested from Council* (Excl. GST)	Group/In-kind Contribution/ Other Grants*	Grant Details	Community Grants Selection Panel Recommendation (all Excl. GST)
Bridport Community Men's Shed	\$769	\$699	\$0	Hand Pallet Truck Purchase - The Bridport Community Men's Shed currently has 8 active members and the addition of this piece of updated equipment will ensure safety of the members when moving heavy items.	Full Recommendation - \$699
Total Requested		\$699	Total Recommended		\$699

Item 64/2026**Round 2 | 2025/26 Matching Grants Application Assessments**

Reporting Officer: Director – Community & Development Services, Jayne Miller
 Ref: DOC/26/3603

Purpose

The purpose of this agenda item is to present the recommendations of the Community Grants Selection Panel - Matching Grants Fund 2025/26 Round 2 for endorsement.

Recommendation

That the distribution of \$13,700 to the following community group via the Matching Grants Fund for 2025/26 Round 2 is endorsed:

- \$13,700 - Ringarooma Golf Club

Background

Round 2 of Council's Community Grant Program for 2025/26 closed on 11 February 2026.

A funding stream of the Community Grants Program, Council's 2025/26 budget for the Matching Grant Fund is \$30,000. After Round 1, \$25,681 was available for Round 2.

One application was received requesting a total of \$13,700 and the full allocation is recommended.

The Community Grants Selection Panel (the Panel) consisted of Cr Mervyn Chilcott, Cr Wendy McLennan, Cr Edwina Powell, with administration support from Elizabeth Hadley (Community & Development Administration Officer).

Councillors who would like to view the applications prior to the March 2026 Council Meeting are invited to contact the Director Community and Development Services.

Congratulations are extended to all beneficiaries and applicants are wished all the best with implementing their projects.

Planning, Environment & Statutory Requirements

- Council Policy No. 47 – Community Grants

Risk Management

N/A

Strategic and Annual Plan

- Dorset Council Strategic Plan (2023 – 2032), Imperatives 13 and 13.2

Financial & Asset Management Implications

For 2025/26, \$30,000 has been allocated to the Matching Grant Fund. Round 1 (October 2025) - \$4,319 was allocated.

Community Considerations

Council's Community Grants Program was communicated through the Dorset Council website, Facebook and to community organisations.

Officer's Comments:

The following table outlines the applications:

2025/26 <u>Matching Funds</u> Grants - Round 2 Summary of Applications					
*Rounded up to the nearest dollar					
Organisation	Total Cost of Project* (Incl. GST)	Amount Requested from Council* (Excl. GST)	Group/In-kind Contribution/ Other Grants*	Grant Details	Community Grants Selection Panel Recommendation (all Excl. GST)
Ringarooma Golf Club	\$29,819	\$13,700	\$13,700	New Machinery Shed - The replacement of the old dilapidated unsafe shed with a new lockable shed is required to ensure the longevity of the mowers and equipment that the golf club own. They are a volunteer group who have worked hard to be able to match this grant with additional funds and volunteer labour.	Full Recommendation - \$13,700 - Conditional upon all Regulatory Approvals being obtained within a period of 6 months
Total Requested		\$13,700	Total Recommended		\$13,700

Item 65/2026**Review of Policy No. 50 – Gifts and Benefits**

Reporting Officer: Director – Corporate Services, Lauren Tolputt

Ref: DOC/26/3695 | Draft Policy: DOC/25/15272 | Guidelines: DOC/25/15273

Purpose

The purpose of this agenda item is to present the revised Council Policy - No. 50 Gifts and Benefits.

Recommendation

That Council adopts the attached revised Policy No. 50 – Gifts and Benefits.

Background

Council is required to regularly review its policies in accordance with the scheduled review cycle to ensure they remain current, compliant, and fit for purpose.

The existing Gifts and Benefits Policy (Version 3) was last reviewed in December 2022 and is available [here](#) for reference.

The attached revised policy has been reviewed having regard to relevant legislation, Local Government Association of Tasmania guidance material and benchmarking against neighbouring councils.

Planning, Environment & Statutory Requirements

- *Local Government Act 1993 (Tas)*
- *Local Government (General) Regulations 2025 – Part 3*
- *Local Government Code of Conduct Framework*

Strategic and Annual Plan

- Dorset Council Strategic Plan (2023 – 2032), Imperative 10.1
- Annual Plan (2025/26), Activity 21

Financial & Asset Management Implications

The adoption of the revised Gifts and Benefits Policy does not have any direct financial or asset management implications for Council.

Where gifts are retained by Council, they will be recorded and managed in accordance with Council's asset management practices.

Risk Management

The policy supports Council's risk management framework by mitigating risks associated with corruption, conflicts of interest and reputational harm. Clear rules regarding the acceptance, refusal and reporting of gifts and benefits provide transparency and accountability in Council decision-making.

Community Considerations

Clear expectations regarding gifts and benefits help reinforce that Council services are provided impartially and that community members are not required to offer gifts or incentives when interacting with Council.

Consultation

As this policy primarily relates to internal governance and conduct requirements for Council officials, consultation has been limited to relevant Council Officers during the review process.

The policy was discussed at the November 2025 Audit Panel meeting and the 3 February 2026 Briefing Workshop with relevant feedback incorporated into the revised document.

Officer's Comments

The policy has been reviewed and updated to improve clarity, structure and consistency with contemporary governance practices. The revised format clearly separates the purpose and scope of the policy, guiding principles, general rules, acceptance criteria and reporting obligations, making the policy easier for Council officials to interpret and apply.

Several wording changes have been made to remove duplication and clarify the obligations placed on Council officials. In particular, the general rules have been reframed to emphasise that gifts and benefits may only be accepted in accordance with the policy. This aligns the general rules with the detailed provisions governing the refusal, acceptance, reporting and disclosure of gifts and benefits.

The associated Gifts and Benefits Guidelines have also been reviewed and are provided for context. The Guidelines set out operational detail supporting the policy, including thresholds for nominal value and reporting requirements, and therefore do not require formal adoption by Council.

Item 66/2026

Selection of Audit Panel Members

Reporting Officer: Director – Corporate Services, Lauren Tolputt
Ref: DOC/26/3775

Purpose

The purpose of this agenda item is to appoint a Chairperson and Independent Member to Council's Audit Panel in accordance with section 5(4) of the Local Government (Audit Panels) Order 2014.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. appoints Ms Jan Lynch as Chairperson of the Audit Panel for a term of two years commencing 23 March 2026 and expiring on 22 March 2028; and
2. appoints Mr Ian Wright as Independent Member of the Audit Panel for a term of two years commencing 23 March 2026 and expiring on 22 March 2028.

Background

On 10 February 2014 the *Local Government (Audit Panels) Order 2014* (the Order) came into effect, specifying the requirements for the establishment and operation of Audit Panels for councils under section 85A of the *Local Government Act 1993* (the Act). The function of an Audit Panel is to review the Council's performance in relation to financial systems, financial governance, financial management and Council's plans to safeguard Council's long-term financial position.

In accordance with the Act and the Order, Dorset Council has established an Audit Panel to support Council in fulfilling its governance and oversight responsibilities. The role of the Audit Panel is advisory in nature and includes reviewing Council's financial governance arrangements, risk management frameworks, internal controls and compliance with legislative obligations.

Council has adopted an Audit Panel Charter (the Charter) to guide the operation of the Panel. The Charter sets out the panel's objectives, authority, composition, tenure, functions, reporting requirements and administrative arrangements and was most recently reviewed by Council in October 2025.

As part of that review, Council also adopted a Code of Conduct for members of the Audit Panel to clearly establish the behavioural standards expected of panel members, including requirements relating to conflicts of interest, confidentiality and the proper use of Council information.

In accordance with Activity 24 of Council's 2025/26 Annual Plan, Council committed to reviewing the tenure and composition of the Audit Panel, including consideration of whether the number of independent members should be increased from one to two. This concept was supported by both the existing Audit Panel and Councillors and has been reflected in the revised Charter.

The revised Charter provides a flexible composition for the Audit Panel, with a minimum of three and a maximum of five members appointed by Council. Where the Panel has four or more members, at least two members must be independent persons, and the Chairperson must be an independent member. This approach allows the Panel to benefit from additional independent expertise while maintaining sufficient flexibility to ensure the Panel can continue to operate effectively if an independent member resigns before the end of their term.

Under the Order, the Audit Panel must meet at least four times each financial year. The Panel has met twice during the current financial year, with a further two meetings to occur prior to 30 June 2026.

The current Chairperson's appointment concluded on 17 November 2025. This provided an appropriate opportunity for Council to recruit both a new independent Chairperson and an additional independent member in accordance with the revised Charter.

This report proposes the appointment of two independent members to the Audit Panel for the upcoming term, with one member to serve as Chairperson and the other to serve as an Independent Member.

Planning, Environment and Statutory Requirements

- *Local Government Act 1993*
- *Local Government (Audit Panels) Order 2014*

Strategic and Annual Plan

- Dorset Council Strategic Plan (2023 – 2032), Imperative 13.2
- Annual Plan (2025/26), Activity 24

Financial and Asset Management Implications

The Charter provides that remuneration for independent members is to be determined by Council, with sitting fees reviewed annually as part of the budget estimates process.

The 2025/26 budget includes an allocation of \$8,200 for Audit Panel remuneration. This provision allows for sitting fees associated with the proposed panel composition, comprising a Chairperson (\$1,150 per meeting) and a second independent member (\$900 per meeting), based on the requirement for the Panel to hold four meetings per financial year.

As the budget estimates already provide for these fees, the proposed appointments do not create any additional financial impact for Council.

Risk Management

The Panel plays an important governance role in reviewing and providing advice to Council in relation to its risk management frameworks, internal controls and financial governance arrangements. Through its oversight of these areas, the Panel supports Council in identifying and managing strategic, financial and operational risks and in maintaining sound governance practices.

The appointment of suitably qualified independent members to the Panel assists Council to maintain independent oversight of its risk management and assurance processes and supports compliance with the requirements of the Order.

Community Considerations

The appointment of Audit Panel members is an internal governance matter. While the report does not have direct impacts on the community, the Panel contributes to strong financial management,

transparency and accountability in Council decision-making, which ultimately supports the interests of the community.

Consultation

Consultation on the proposed composition of the Panel occurred as part of the recent review of the Audit Panel Charter. The concept of appointing a second independent member was discussed with the existing Audit Panel and Councillors and received general support.

Councillors were provided with an overview of each of the applicants at the 3 March 2026 Briefing Workshop.

Officer's Comments

The appointment of independent members to the Audit Panel ensures Council continues to meet its obligations under the Act and the Order. Independent members bring external expertise and an objective perspective to the review of Council's financial governance, risk management and internal control frameworks.

The expiry of the current Chairperson's term provided an appropriate opportunity for Council to appoint both a new independent Chairperson and an additional independent member in accordance with the recently reviewed Charter.

The appointment of a second independent member is expected to strengthen the capacity and independence of the Audit Panel while maintaining flexibility to ensure the Panel can continue to operate effectively if membership changes occur during the term.

The recommended applicants were identified through a recruitment process undertaken in accordance with the provisions of the Charter and Council's standard recruitment practices. Applications were assessed having regard to the skills and experience sought for independent members, including expertise in financial management, audit practices and governance. Following assessment of the applications received, the applicants recommended in this report are considered to possess the skills, experience and independence required to effectively contribute to the work of the Panel. A summary of their skills and experience is included below:

Jan Lynch

Ms Jan Lynch is a Fellow Certified Practising Accountant with extensive experience in public sector audit, governance and financial oversight. She previously held the role of Senior Manager with the Tasmanian Audit Office for more than five years, where she led regional audit teams and acted as Engagement Leader for a range of entities, regularly attending and presenting at Audit and Risk Committee meetings and ensuring compliance with auditing standards and legislative requirements.

Ms Lynch currently serves as a member of the Audit Panels for Burnie City Council, King Island Council and the Cradle Coast Authority and is Deputy Chair of the CPA Tasmania Public Sector Committee. Her career also includes senior financial management roles, including Chief Financial Officer at Artas Architects, together with extensive experience in accounting education at TasTAFE.

Her background provides strong expertise in financial reporting, internal controls, risk management frameworks and governance processes within public sector and local government environments. Ms Lynch's experience in audit oversight and governance is well suited to the role of Chairperson of Council's Audit Panel.

Ian Wright

Mr Ian Wright has served as Chairperson of Council's Audit Panel since 2019 and has indicated his willingness to continue as an independent member while stepping back from the Chairperson role. Mr Wright has more than 40 years' experience in public accountancy, auditing and senior executive management.

He is a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants and a Member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and previously held both Public Practicing Certificate and Registered Company Auditor status. Mr Wright spent almost two decades as a partner and principal of Garrott and Garrott (now WHK), where he established and led a statewide audit practice providing services to a wide range of Tasmanian organisations, including government entities. From 2010 to 2019 he served as Chief Executive Officer of St Giles Society Limited, overseeing significant organisational growth and the organisation's transition to the NDIS funding model.

Mr Wright has also held a range of professional and community governance roles, including Chair of the State Council of the Institute of Chartered Accountants and membership of its Public Practice Advisory and Audit Advisory Committees, as well as chair and finance-related roles with several community organisations.

His extensive experience in auditing, governance and financial oversight has supported the work of Council's Audit Panel over the past six years. Continuity of Mr Wright's experience on the Panel is beneficial in supporting the transition to the revised Panel composition.

ITEMS FOR NOTING

Item 67/2026 Council Workshops Held Since Last Council Meeting

3 March 2026 | Briefing Workshop

- Blue Derby Foundation Discussion
- Retrospective Reimbursement Request
- Consideration of Land Acquisition
 - Bridport
 - Derby
- Policy No. 70 – Election Caretaker Period
- Audit Panel Independent Member and Chairperson Recruitment Update
- Councillor Reports
- Briefing Reports

11 March 2026 | Councillor Community Meet and Greet Session @ Ringarooma

17 March 2026 | External Presentations Workshop

- Tomahawk Protection Society
- Better Health 4 Dorset
- nbn™ Local

Item 68/2026 Elected Member Communications

Mayor Calendar | 12 February to 18 March 2026

February 2026

- 12 Meeting with Tasmania Police new Northern Inspector with General Manager, Council Chambers
- 12 Online meeting with Department of Health Deputy Secretary with the General Manager, discussing the vacant James Scott Wing
- 12 Weekly meeting with the General Manager, Council Chambers
- 13 Councillor Planning Session | February Council Meeting with Councillors Powell, Hughes, Bicanic, Teichmann, Richards and Chilcott, Council Chambers
- 13 Councillor Session | Capital Budget Variation discussion, with Councillors Powell, Hughes, Bicanic, Teichmann, Richards and Chilcott, Council Chambers
- 15 Bridport Innovations Annual General Meeting, Bridport
- 16 Interview with ABC news
- 16 February Council Meeting, Council Chambers
- 17 Better Health 4 Dorset Health Hub Open Day with General Manager, Scottsdale
- 17 Meeting with Minister for Health, Hon. Bridget Archer MP with General Manager, Council Chambers

- 19 Weekly meeting with General Manager, Council Chambers
- 19 Meeting with Legislative Member for McIntyre, Hon. Tania Rattray MLC with General Manager, Scottsdale
- 19 Meeting with Blue Derby Foundation representatives with General Manager, Council Chambers
- 24 Dorset Wellbeing Network Meeting, Dorset Community House
- 26 Weekly meeting with General Manager, Council Chambers
- 26 Online meeting with Minister for Local Government, Hon. Kerry Vincent MLC with General Manager
- 26 Online meeting with Senator Tammy Tyrrell with General Manager
- 27 Citizenship Ceremony with Councillors Powell and Richards, Council Chambers

March 2026

- 2 Online State Grants Commission Hearing with General Manager and Director – Corporate Services
- 3 March Briefing Workshop, Council Chambers
- 5 Weekly meeting with General Manager, Council Chambers
- 5 Onsite tour of James Scott Wing with General Manager, NESM Hospital Scottsdale
- 11 Councillor Community Meet & Greet Session with Councillors Powell, McLennan, Hughes and Chilcott, Ringarooma Memorial Hall
- 11 Future Links Gladstone meeting, Gladstone Hall
- 17 Councillor External Presentations Session, Nugget Sellars Pavilion, Scottsdale
- 18 Rotary Club of Scottsdale meeting, Scottsdale

Item 69/2026 Management Team Briefing Report

Purpose

The purpose of this agenda item is to provide Councillors and the community with a briefing on matters of interest dealt with during the past month by Council's Management Team.

Recommendation

That Council

1. note the watching brief on the Iran conflict relating to fuel supply and cost implications; and
2. receive and note the remaining Management Team Briefing Report.

Watching Brief: Iran Conflict – Fuel Supply and Cost Implications

Purpose

To inform Council of emerging global risks associated with the escalating Iran conflict, particularly in relation to fuel supply disruptions and potential cost impacts on Council operations, the local economy and community.

Background

The ongoing conflict involving Iran, the United States and Israel has significantly disrupted global energy markets. Of particular concern is instability in the Strait of Hormuz, a critical global shipping route through which approximately 20% of the world's oil supply typically flows.

Recent military activity has included strikes on oil and gas infrastructure and shipping routes, resulting in reduced production, disrupted exports and heightened uncertainty across energy markets.

Current Situation

- Global oil prices have risen sharply, with Brent crude exceeding USD \$100 per barrel and increasing by up to 50% since the conflict began.
- In some markets, physical oil supply shortages have driven prices significantly higher, with certain crude grades exceeding USD \$150 per barrel.
- Disruptions to shipping routes and infrastructure have curtailed supply and increased freight costs, compounding price pressures.
- Fuel prices in Australia have already responded, with notable increases in petrol and diesel prices, particularly in regional areas where supply lag can exacerbate price spikes.

Implications for Local Government

Operational Impacts

- Increased fuel costs for Council fleet, plant and contractor services
- Potential escalation in construction and maintenance costs (roads, waste, infrastructure)
- Supply chain delays or cost increases for materials linked to petroleum products

Financial Impacts

- Upward pressure on Council operating budgets and capital works programs
- Potential need for budget adjustments or reprioritisation if sustained

Community and Economic Impacts

- Increased cost of living for residents and employees (fuel, food, goods and services)
- Flow-on impacts to local businesses, particularly transport, agriculture and tourism sectors
- Heightened economic uncertainty across the region

Risk Considerations

- Duration of the conflict remains uncertain; prolonged disruption could entrench higher fuel costs
- Global energy shocks historically contribute to inflationary pressure and reduced economic activity
- Regional areas such as Dorset may experience delayed supply and higher relative price impacts

Council Position / Monitoring Approach

At this stage, there is no immediate risk to fuel availability locally, however price volatility is expected. Council will continue to monitor developments, including:

- Fuel price trends and supplier advice

- Impacts on Council contracts and procurement
- Broader economic indicators affecting the Dorset community
- Business Continuity Planning to prioritise core service including waste collection

Next Steps

- Maintain a watching brief and provide updates to Council as required
- Consider incorporating fuel cost contingencies into budget planning if volatility persists
- Engage with suppliers and regional stakeholders to understand emerging impact

CUSTOMER SERVICE REQUESTS | February 2026

	Requests Received February 2026	Comparison Requests February 2025	Received 2026	Comparison 2025
Animal	7	3	12	4
Bike Trails	-	-	-	-
Bridges	-	-	-	-
Caravan Parks	-	-	2	1
Cemeteries	1	1	1	1
Community Awards	-	-	1	-
Community Development General	-	-	-	-
Corporate Services General	1	-	1	2
Council Elections	-	1	-	1
Customer Service	1	2	4	3
Emergency Services Enquiries	-	1	-	1
Environmental Management & Health	5	2	9	3
Footpath Enquiries	3	-	9	3
Government Relations	-	-	-	-
Licencing	-	-	-	-
Parks and Reserves	2	2	4	4
Planning & Building	1	-	1	-
Playground Maintenance	-	-	3	-
Public Health	-	-	-	1
Public Online Enquiries	-	-	-	-
Public Amenities	3	1	6	1
Public Halls Buildings	1	-	3	-
Recreation Grounds	3	1	10	1
Roads	18	16	47	41
Swimming Pools	-	-	-	5
Waste Management	2	1	2	1
Total Requests	48	31	115	70

See attachments for detailed request received in February 2026 and year to date.

APPROVED APPLICATIONS | February 2026

	Approved February	Approved 2026 YTD	Approved 2025 YTD
Planning	9	14	13
Building	7	11	7
Plumbing	2	3	4

See attachments for detailed information about applications approved in February 2026.

WASTE MANAGEMENT REQUESTS | February 2026

	Requests Received February 2026	Comparison February 2025	FYTD Received 2025/26	Comparison FYTD Received 2024/25
Feedback and Queries	-	-	3	4
Repair Bin	-	6	30	12
Replace Bin	7	9	41	24
Request a New Service	3	9	21	8
Remove Additional Bin	-	9	14	21
Request an Additional Bin	1	2	12	9
Request an Upsize/Downsize	5	-	27	-
Request to Opt Out (of Service)	-	-	3	-
Total Requests	16	35	151	78

2025/26 CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAM

Ref: DOC/25/9165

	Complete 2025/26
	Completed in February 2026
	Carried Forward Projects – 2026/27
	Projects Withdrawn

PROJECT	STATUS
BRIDGES	
Bridge 1508 Garibaldi Road, Pioneer – repairs to piers (addition allocation, storm recovery)	Commenced
Bridge 1604 Panama Forest Road, Golconda – timber deck renewal	Completed
Bridge 1589 Sledge Track, West Scottsdale – timber superstructure renewal (beams & deck)	Completed
Bridge 1556 New River Road, Ringarooma – timber deck renewal	Completed
Bridge 1594 Greeta Road, Nabowla – timber superstructure renewal (beams and deck)	Timber ordered
Bridge 1508 Garibaldi Road, Pioneer – slab repairs	
Bridge 1569 Jensens Road, North Scottsdale – upgrade superstructure (timber to concrete)	Tender issued
Bridge 1572 Haas Road, Legerwood – upgrade superstructure (timber to concrete, additional allocation)	Tender issued
STORMWATER	
61 King Street, Scottsdale – upgrade stormwater pits	
3 Murphy Place, Scottsdale – undertake network survey and hydrology assessment	Investigation
Main Road, Pioneer – pipe open drain	Completed
9 Willow Court, Winnaleah – design and install new network	Quotes received
21 Thomas Street, Scottsdale – design and install new network	Completed
52 Scott Street, Branxholm – design and install new network	Quotes received
3 Thomas Street, Scottsdale – design and install new network	Quotes received
ROADS – RESHEETING	
Old Waterhouse Road, Waterhouse	Completed
Cape Portland Road, Gladstone	Completed
Bridport Back Road, Nabowla	Completed
Nourses Road, Bridport	Completed
Unwins Road, Springfield	Completed
McDonalds Avenue, Ringarooma	Completed
Dead Horse Hill Road, Ringarooma	Completed
Pera Flats Road, Ringarooma	Completed
Swanee Road, Winnaleah	Completed
Ferny Hill Road, Bridport	Completed
Bridport – urban resheeting (various locations)	Completed

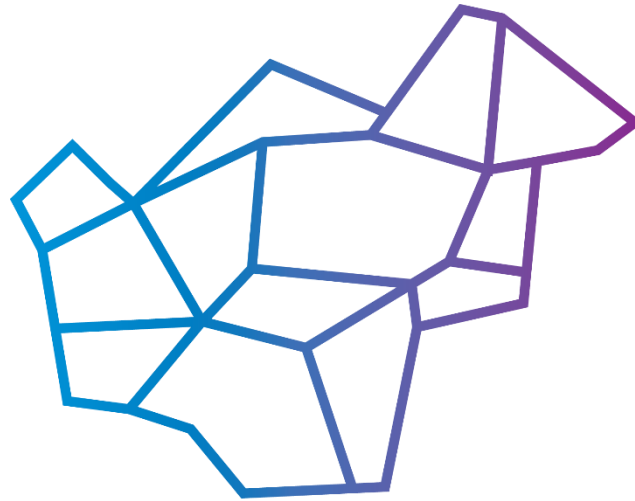
PROJECT	STATUS
ROADS – RESEALS	
George Street, Scottsdale – highway access	Prep work completed
Maurice Street, Legerwood	Prep work completed
Spotswood Drive, Scottsdale	Prep work completed
Beattie Street, Scottsdale	Prep work completed
Ringarooma Road, Scottsdale – highway access	Prep work completed
Christopher Street, Scottsdale	Prep work completed
Mary Street, Scottsdale	Prep work completed
Alice Street, Scottsdale	Prep work completed
East Maurice Road, Ringarooma	Completed
Oakdene Road, Jetsonville	Prep work completed
Barnbogle Road, Bridport	Prep work completed
Barnett Road, Ringarooma	Completed
Ruby Flats Road, Branxholm	Completed
Derby Back Road, Derby	Completed
Sykes Road, Springfield	Completed
Arnold Place, Scottsdale	Completed
Charles Street, Pioneer – additional reseal	Completed
ROADS – OTHER PROJECTS	
Willis Road, Lietinna – hotmix overlay intersection with Golconda Road	Completed
Koomeela Road, West Scottsdale – culvert repairs	Completed
Banca Road, Winnaleah – pavement repair and hotmix surface	Completed
Golconda Road, Nabowla – 3.4km safety upgrades and pavement renewal	Commenced
Ferny Hill Road, Bridport – landslip repair (storm damage)	Tenders received
Golconda Road, Golconda – pavement design	Design
Bentley Street, Bridport – footpath renewal	
Ellenor Street, Scottsdale – design pavement renewal	Design
Austins Road and Tasman Highway, Scottsdale – junction upgrade	Commenced
Northeast Lane, Scottsdale – design	Completed
Union Street, Scottsdale – kerb and stormwater upgrade (stage 1)	Completed
Pioneer township – footpath	Completed
Golconda Road, Golconda – freight and safety improvement strategy	Commenced
Buckney's Road, Scottsdale – road survey	Commenced

PROJECT	STATUS
BUILDINGS	
Bridport Seaside Caravan Park – camp kitchen renewal (replace beams)	Completed
Bridport Seaside Caravan Park – electrical switchboard renewal and underground cables (stage 1)	Scheduled – April
Northeast Park, Scottsdale – electrical upgrades and shower payment machine upgrades	Completed
Winnaleah Old Scout Hall – replace old louvre windows	Completed
Derby, Branxholm, Ringarooma, Winnaleah & Legerwood – switchboard upgrades	Commenced
Pioneer Hall – toilet renewal	Planning
Northeast Park, Scottsdale – BBQ replacement	Completed
Scottsdale – switchboard upgrades (various sites)	Planning
Scottsdale Aquatic Centre – toilet and shower renewal	Completed
Branxholm Hall – kitchen renewal (Pines Committee donation)	Commenced
Bridport Seaside Caravan Park – amenities upgrade (shower cubicle storage / shelving)	
Bridport Seaside Caravan Park – cabin upgrades / outdoor area improvements	
Scottsdale Waste Transfer Station – Reuse Centre shop extension	Planning
Scottsdale Waste Transfer Station – heat pump	Completed
Derby Depot – alarm system and cameras	Planning
Scottsdale Depot – relocation of storage sheds (additional allocation)	Completed
Nugget Sellars Pavilion (Scottsdale Recreation Ground) – heat pump	Completed
Scottsdale Aquatic Centre – remote access through Council network	Scheduled - April
LAND IMPROVEMENTS	
Blue Derby – network signage	Commenced
Bridport Seaside Caravan Park and Bridport Foreshore – BBQ replacement	Completed
Scottsdale Aquatic Centre – flow meter and motor protection on leisure pool pumps	Planning
Scottsdale Aquatic Centre – chlorinator pump critical spare parts	Commenced
Scottsdale Aquatic Centre – balance tank temporary shut off valve	Ordered
Scottsdale Aquatic Centre – leisure pool filter sand replacement	Planning
Scottsdale Aquatic Centre – replace umbrella covers	Completed
Derby Park – Ringarooma Road erosion repairs	Completed
Pine Plantation, Ringarooma Road, Scottsdale – replanting (additional allocation)	Completed
Blue Derby – Black Stump car turning area redevelopment	Planning
Blue Derby – Top Creek drop off area completion	Planning
Netball court upgrades – Scottsdale, Bridport and Derby (Stage 1)	Planning
Scottsdale Railway Station precinct redevelopment	Commenced
Blue Derby – memorial lookout	Planning
Ellesmere Cemetery, Scottsdale – new memorial wall	Planning
Scottsdale sports precinct – master planning	
Scottsdale Aquatic Centre – covered pool feasibility study	

PROJECT	STATUS
CARRY FORWARD PROJECTS	
<u>Bridges</u>	
Bridge 1508 Garibaldi Road, Pioneer – scour protection piers (storm recovery)	Tender Awarded
Bridge 1572 Haas Road / Frenches Creek, Legerwood – upgrade to concrete	Funding received
<u>Roads</u>	
South Street, Bridport – replace kerb	
King Street, Scottsdale – pedestrian crossing	Withdrawn
George Street, Scottsdale – pedestrian crossing	Withdrawn
Coplestone Street, Scottsdale – new footpath	
<u>Buildings</u>	
Building Renovations (Blue Derby Foundation) - 57 Main Street, Derby	
Scottsdale Railway Station Building – restoration	
Derby Depot – new trail crew storage shed	Planning
Bridport Seaside Caravan Park – planning for new camp kitchen at Goftons Beach	Planning
Branxholm Waste Transfer Station – Oil Bunded Shed	Planning
Branxholm Waste Transfer Station – Recycling Shed	Planning
Gladstone Waste Transfer Station – Oil Bunded Shed	Planning
Gladstone Waste Transfer Station – Recycling Shed	Planning
Scottsdale Waste Transfer Station – Oil Bunded Shed	Planning
<u>Land Improvements</u>	
Croquet Lawn Beach, Bridport – access improvements	Investigations
Blue Derby Mountain Bike Trails – Tunnel stairs	
Bridport Lions Club Adventure Playground upgrade (election grant)	Planning
Scottsdale Childrens Reserve Playground upgrade (election grant)	Planning
Scottsdale community bike track	
Gladstone community park	
Waste Transfer Station signage	Commenced
CWA Carpark, Bridport – solar light	Completed

CLOSURE OF MEETING

Time Meeting Closed:



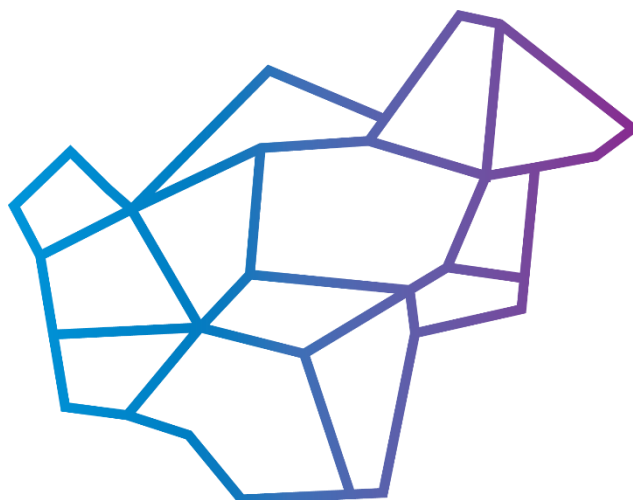
dorset
C O U N C I L

Ordinary Council Meeting

Agenda Attachments

Monday, 23 March 2026

it's in the making



dorset
C O U N C I L

Minutes

Council Meeting

Monday, 16 February 2026

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

it's in the making

Ordinary Meeting of Council

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UNCONFIRMED



Council Meeting - Minutes

Monday, 16 February 2026

Scheduled Meeting Time: 5:00 pm

Meeting Opened: 5:03 pm

Present: Councillors Rhys Beattie (Mayor), Edwina Powell (Deputy Mayor), Wendy McLennan, Nick Bicanic, Jan Hughes, Mervyn Chilcott, Vincent Teichmann, Anthony Richards

General Manager: John Marik

Apologies: Councillor Kahlia Simmons

CLOSED SESSION

Item 18/2026 'Closed Session': Council

Purpose

The General Manager advised that in his opinion, the agenda items listed below are prescribed items in accordance with Regulation 17(2) of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025* (e.g. confidential matters), and therefore Council may by absolute majority determine to close the meeting to the general public.

DECISION

MOVED: Cr Hughes | **SECONDED:** Cr Teichmann

That Council resolve, by absolute majority, that the meeting be closed to the public to enable Council to consider agenda items 19 to 21 which are confidential matters as prescribed in Regulation 17 of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025*.

Time Meeting Closed: 5:03 pm

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Item	Purpose	Regulation Ref ¹
19/2026 Declaration of Interests	Interests to be declared relating to items listed for discussion within Closed Session	-
20/2026 2025 General Manager's Annual Performance Review	For Council to formalise the General Manager's annual performance and remuneration package review.	17(2)(a)
21/2026 Release of Public Information	Consider whether any discussion, decision, report or document relating to any Closed Session item should be released to the public	17((7) & (8)
22/2026 Completion of Closed Session	Move to Open Council and adjourn the Meeting	-

¹ Regulation 17:

Reg.	Confidential Reason
17(2)(a)	personnel matters, including complaints against an employee of the council
17(2)(b)	industrial relations matters
17(2)(c)	information that, if disclosed, is likely to confer a commercial advantage or impose a commercial disadvantage on a person with whom the council is conducting, or proposes to conduct, business
17(2)(d)	commercial information of a confidential nature that, if disclosed, is likely to (i) prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it; or (ii) confer a commercial advantage on a competitor of the council; or (iii) reveal a trade secret
17(2)(e)	contracts, and tenders, for the supply of goods and services and their terms, conditions, approval and renewal
17(2)(f)	the security of (i) the council, councillors and council staff; or (ii) the property of the council
17(2)(g)	proposals for the council to acquire land or an interest in land or for the disposal of land
17(2)(h)	information that is (i) of a personal and confidential nature; or (ii) provided to the council on the condition that it be kept confidential
17(2)(i)	requests by councillors for leave of absence
17(2)(j)	notifications by councillors of leave of absence for parental leave
17(2)(k)	matters relating to actual or possible litigation taken, or to be taken, by or involving the council or an employee of the council
17(2)(l)	the personal hardship of any person who is resident in, or is a ratepayer in, the relevant municipal area

RESUMPTION | OPEN SESSION

Scheduled Meeting Time: 6:00 pm

Meeting Opened: 6:01 pm

The Mayor acknowledged the passing of former Councillor and Council employee, Jay Wilson, who passed away recently.

Council Meetings Procedures

In accordance with Policy No. 41: Council Meeting Procedures, this Meeting is being recorded. By attending the Meeting in person, you are consenting to personal information being recorded and published. No unauthorised filming or recording of the Meeting is permitted.

Visitors are reminded that Council Meetings are a place of work for Council Officers and Councillors.

The Council is committed to meeting its responsibilities as an employer and as host of this important public forum, by ensuring that all present meet expectations of mutually respectful and orderly conduct. It is a condition of entry to the Council Chambers that you cooperate with any directions or requests from the Chairperson or Council Officers.

The Chairperson is responsible for maintaining order at Council Meetings. The General Manager is responsible for health, wellbeing and safety of all present. The Chairperson or General Manager may require a person to leave the Council's premises following any behaviour that falls short of these expectations.

Language and conduct at a Meeting that could be perceived as offensive, defamatory or threatening to a person in attendance or listening to the recording, is not acceptable. It is an offence to hinder or disrupt a Council Meeting.

Present: Councillors Rhys Beattie (Mayor), Edwina Powell (Deputy Mayor), Wendy McLennan, Nick Bicanic, Jan Hughes, Mervyn Chilcott, Vincent Teichmann, Anthony Richards

General Manager: John Marik, Director – Corporate Services: Lauren Tolputt, Director – Infrastructure: Kerry Sacilotto, Director – Community & Development Services: Jayne Miller, Consultant Town Planner: George Walker, Town Planner: Kamala Roberts, Finance Manager: Allison Saunders, Executive Assistant: Sarah Forsyth

Apologies: Councillor Kahlia Simmons

Acknowledgement of Country

Dorset Council acknowledges the deep history and culture of the First People who were the traditional owners of the lands and waterways where we live and work. We acknowledge the clans-people who lived here for over a thousand generations on the Country where Scottsdale is built and throughout the area we know as the north east region.

Dorset Council acknowledge the present-day Aboriginal custodians and the inclusive contribution they make to the social, cultural and economic essence of the municipality.

PROCEDURAL ITEMS

Item 23/2026 Declaration of Interest

In accordance with Section 48 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, Regulation 10(8) of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025* and the Tasmanian Local Government Code of Conduct, Councillors are requested to indicate whether any have, or are likely to have, an interest in any item on the agenda.

INTEREST DECLARED

Cr Hughes Item 38 – Non-Pecuniary Interest

Item 24/2026 Confirmation of Ordinary Council Meeting Minutes – 19 January 2026

Ref: DOC/26/456

The Chair reported that he had viewed the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Monday, 19 January 2026 finds them to be a true record and recommends that they be taken as read and signed as a correct record.

DECISION

MOVED: Cr Chilcott | SECONDED: Cr Bicanic

That the Minutes of Proceedings of the Dorset Council Ordinary Meeting held on Monday, 19 January 2026 having been circulated to Councillors, be confirmed as a true record.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Item 25/2026 Confirmation of Agenda

DECISION

MOVED: Cr Hughes | SECONDED: Cr Powell

That Council confirm the Agenda and order of business for the 16 February 2026 Council Meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Item 26/2026 Public Question Time

²Members of the Public can ask a maximum of two question(s) without notice during Public Question Time. The Chairperson reserves the right to consider questions above this limit will be accepted or treated as correspondence.

Any person asking a question is asked to stand (if able), clearly state their name and suburb they live.

Question(s) must be clear and concise, not be a statement and have minimal pre-amble. Any answer given is not to be debated.

Members of the public must provide any question(s) without notice in writing to the Executive Assistant either before the commencement of the Meeting or within 24 hours.

² In accordance with Regulations 33, 36 & 37 and Council Policy No. 41: Council Meeting Procedures

The following questions were **taken on notice** at the 19 January Council Meeting:

Dianne Montefiore, Scottsdale

(questions relate to Item 10 – Planning Application – 3 lot subdivision at 18 Union Street, Scottsdale)

1. *Why choose an access road next to my property?*
2. *Was it just cost efficient to do so?*

Response from Director – Community & Development Services:

The location of the approved crossover, Right of Way, and access road was chosen because:

- a. there is clear ownership and therefore clear legal pathways for access from the future Lots 1 and 2 to Union Street,
- b. it makes sense of the topography of the site,
- c. there is an existing easement along the location of the future Right of Way, which restricts development along the top of future Lot 2, and
- d. it provides a buffer between the boundaries of established properties and a future dwelling on Lot 2 that is equal to the Rural Living Zones acceptable setback of 10m.

The cost of road access is not a consideration of the Tasmanian Planning Scheme. For 18 Union Street, Right of Way, and associated road access has been considered both in regard to the shortest distance and most practical location for the site.

The following questions have been **received on notice**:

Karl Willrath, Scottsdale | 8 February 2026

1. *I recently applied under Right to Information (RTI) for the amount of foodstuffs including wastage consumed by Councillors and Commissioner Wardlaw over the past five years at workshops and meetings. I was informed that this data is not kept. In the interest of good governance and the overall health of the community, can this highly valuable information be kept?*

Response from Mayor Rhys Beattie

No.

2. *As foodstuffs have to be purchased for Councillors that is being consumed at workshops / meetings etc could the Mayor suggest a broader RTI that may give an indication on what is being consumed by Councillors and the financial cost over the past five years?*

Response from Mayor Rhys Beattie

Catering is a budgeted item; you are welcome to submit an RTI.

Ross Coad, Scottsdale | 8 February 2026

Noting Defence's intention to close down its Scottsdale site, and that Dorset Council was fully supportive of the site upgrade and redevelopment that occurred a few years ago, how will Council respond to the current proposal to close down the site?

Response from Mayor Rhys Beattie

Dorset Council were not provided with any forewarning of the proposed facility closure, finding out when the Australia Government 'Delivering the Future Estate – Defence Estate Audit Report' was released. Council are having constructive discussions with the State Government on collaborative advocacy to the Australian Government. This matter will be discussed at the next available Council Briefing Workshop to determine potential further action by Council.

The following questions were received **without notice** from members of the public:

Andrew Gall, Bridport and Launceston

Has, or will, Council consider the development of Specific Area Plans for Bridport's residential zones as part of Dorset's Local Provisions Schedule within the Tasmanian Planning Scheme, so that it is able to have increased local influence over Bridport's future development than what the current State-wide Planning Scheme allows, and to reduce the risk of deterioration or restriction to the comparatively unique coastal amenity that is able to be enjoyed by its residents?

It is noted that a range of Special Area Plans already exist that cover other areas of the town and municipality.

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

Jason Hayden, Branxholm

I have a business in Derby, paying almost exclusively local staff around a quarter of a million dollars per year. What is the Council planning to do to protect their incomes through protecting and building the Blue Derby and supporting the Blue Derby Foundation?

Response from Mayor Rhys Beattie:

Council are very excited about the future of that region and the effect that the mountain bikes has had on it. It's a prime example of why the funding that's promised from the State Government for the Derby Master Plan can hopefully come to us quickly. We can the start our master planning through our Future Ready suite to understand both from the public, and as a Council, where we want to head in the direction of Derby and that greater region up there.

Caleb Buster, Derby

Since moving to Derby, I know of 30 adults with 14 children who have moved to Dorset, with Blue Derby Trails being a key driver for their move. These 30 new residents all work in businesses unrelated to mountain biking. There are: 7 new businesses, 2 Teachers, 2 Ambulance officers, 1 Police officer, 1 nurse, the rest are working in the community or remotely. Sixteen have also bought property in Dorset and are now rate-paying members of the community.

Given that two of Council's key pillars are to improve liveability and stimulate economic growth, and that Blue Derby is one of, if not the largest, driver for new residents to Dorset, how does Council intend to future-proof this asset to ensure it continues to attract new long-term residents of the community?

Response from Mayor Rhys Beattie:

That's where the Derby Master Plan will have that consultation of where we go. It's very important because we don't necessarily completely understand the mountain biking game as a collective. So

that's where community consultation is going to be the key through the Derby Master Plan. The Future Ready Suite is going to be the catalyst for what's next and where we go.

So that you've mentioned the Derby Master Plan twice now. I know a little bit about that. Do you have some hard timelines?

Response from Mayor Rhys Beattie:

We've got no hard start date as we're still waiting on the funding that was promised from the State Government. On your other point of how valuable it is, we tabled the recent study done by the mountain bike network, so we're very aware of the economic benefits that Derby has right now.

Helen Cafe, North Scottsdale

1. *Will there be local community people involved with the Derby Master plan, contributing and being asked questions by the consultant?*

Response from General Manager:

Absolutely, that's mandatory.

2. *I'm assuming it's a professional consultant who's used to doing these thing – can you confirm and the timeframe around it?*

Response from General Manager:

We haven't determined how we would resource the project and it it's all dependent on whether we get funding. So, we've had funding promised and when funding is promised, whether it's through direct election commitments or through grant funding, you do not start a project until you have confirmation of that funding. So that's why we're waiting and that's why we can't give you a hard and fast timeline.

3. *Can I please rent some of the empty buildings in Derby because there's nothing there to house support services such as the cleaning services I manage in Derby and surrounds?*

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

Nick Daking, Launceston and Derby

I know this is a new Council and a lot of the Councillors might not ride bikes and might not have had the chance to come out to explore what Derby has to offer. So, an open invitation to everyone and to the executive, that our businesses are open, our properties are open, we'd love to show you what is a fantastic asset. Would you like to come and experience it?

Response from Mayor Rhys Beattie:

I'm sure some would definitely like to take up that offer.

Tim Kemsley, Derby

The Blue Derby infrastructure has now existed for over 10 years since 2025. Can Council quantify the increase in Council's income due to the increase in rateable value of all properties in Derby and the immediate vicinity over the last 10 years and compare this increase in revenue with the expenditure directly related to the maintenance of the Blue Derby infrastructure?

Similarly, can Council quantify the increase in land tax that the State government has benefitted from over the same period and compare this with the expenditure directly related to the maintenance of the Blue Derby infrastructure.

Can Council please make these figures available to the public?

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

Ben Jones, Derby

As Dorset Council has applied and potentially been successful in obtaining funding to commission the Derby and Blue Derby master plan through the state government. What is the scope of outcomes the Council wishes to achieve to provide to the community on completion, e.g. trail network master plan for expansion and new infrastructure, town infrastructure detail such as sewerage systems etc. and how does the Council plan to use the master plan to then deliver on these outcomes?

Response from General Manager:

We've been clear in our communications that it is a full master plan and a full community plan. So, mountain bike precinct for the town and potentially surrounds. Infrastructure review - what do we need to do with infrastructure knowing that we want to do those things sensitively, so we don't stuff up what makes Derby special. We were even talking about some potential tourism and marketing and there could be avenues with land supply, with a Derby Structure Plan already completed, but how does that all then interrelate with that plan. So, we are looking at a holistic plan which encompasses everything that you're talking about. If there's anything else that I suppose comes out of the consultation, then we would need to decide whether there's redefining of scope.

Caleb Buster, Derby

Just a follow up question about the statement before Mayor about how in the media you're trying to lobby state government to contribute financially towards Derby. How can we, as a local community and not just the Foundation, support you and Council to further lobby the state government?

Response from Mayor Rhys Beattie:

I think that it's a great avenue for the Foundation and from my brief experience with dealing with other levers of government, it's all about a consistent messaging. So, if you guys have got a consistent message with us, then I think that's a real key in lobbying.

Further Response from General Manager:

One element that I didn't mention as part of the master planning, but it's connected here is the endpoint was supposed to be an economic impact study. So, whatever comes out of that master planning, I can guarantee that it's outside the scope of funds that Council have. So, the endpoint of the economic impact study was then to show value to then try and attain funding for whatever comes out of that plan. So, I thought I'd add that in because it is connected.

Ben Jones, Derby

Given the State Government election promise to Dorset Council to commission a Derby and Blue Derby master plan, should the State Government fall short of the promise and not deliver the funds will Dorset Council commit to funding the master plan through its own means?

Response from General Manager:

I certainly don't have delegation to do that as far as allocate funds; that's a decision to Council. The reason we've asked for so much funding is so we can utilise consultants and to undertake independent consultation. We've looked at other master plans around Australia, including Warburton and Mogo and in these other areas where they spent six figures just on the consultation phase. With the question being what if we don't get funding – we can do a lot of it in house. This is not ideal because we'd rather have an independent person doing it and working with the stakeholders. Council may also have to think about reducing the scope slightly if to self-fund it.

Item 27/2026 Public Address of Meeting

³Members of the public can make a statement at a Council Meeting; it is not question or discussion time with Councillors. Prior to making a statement, the person is asked to stand (if able), clearly state their name and suburb they live.

Members of the public wishing to address Council at a Meeting shall indicate their intent and subject matter in writing by 10am on the Friday prior to the Meeting.

A person seeking to make a statement to may speak for a period up to 3 minutes but may be extended at the discretion of the Chairperson to a maximum of 5 minutes.

All proposed statements are to be provided in writing prior to the Meeting to allow for circulation and inclusion in the minutes of the Meeting.

Mr Andrew Gall – relating to Item 32 | Planning Application – 91 Bentley Street, Bridport (DOC/26/2222) Neighbour to the property proposed to be developed and representor against the development.

Item 28/2026 Councillor Question Time

⁴Councillors can ask a maximum of two question(s) without notice during Councillor question time. The Chairperson reserves the right to consider questions above this limit will be accepted or treated as correspondence.

Question(s) must be clear and concise, not be a statement, have minimal pre-ambles, not offer an argument or opinion, draw conclusions, or make any accusations. Any answer given is not to be debated.

Councillors must provide question(s) without notice in writing to the Executive Assistant either before the commencement of the Meeting or within 24 hours.

The following Councillor questions were **taken on notice** at the 19 January Council Meeting:

Councillor Mervyn Chilott:

I have approached the Parks and Wildlife personnel regarding the increased number of rabbits in the area and was informed in the town boundary it is the responsibility of the local council. Can our staff investigate whether we can get calicivirus introduced into the district to control the rabbit population?

Response from Director – Community & Development Services:

Advice on controlling the rabbit population is undertaken by Biosecurity Tasmania.

A rabbit infestation can be reported through the biosecurity portal, and through this portal a landowner can also register interest for calicivirus release.

³ In accordance with Regulations 46 and Council Policy No. 41: Council Meeting Procedures

⁴ In accordance with Regulations 33, 34 & 35 and Council's Policy No. 41: Council Meeting Procedures

It is a landowner's responsibility to manage wild European rabbits on their land as part of routine pest management. Biosecurity Tasmania provides advice to landowners and managers on how to best manage rabbits on their property.

Further information on European rabbits as an invasive species can be found here:

[European Rabbits | Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania](#)

Councillor Vincent Teichmann:

1. *Following rate-payer enquiries, who manages the public reserve along the southern (town) shore of the Ringarooma River in Derby, and why have parts of the river bank been allowed to become over-grown, weed-infested and inaccessible (for e.g. swimming), given that the river bank used to be none of these things in the recent past less than 10 years ago?*

Response from Director – Infrastructure

In the past 10–15 years, parts of the southern (town) shore of the Ringarooma River were maintained through informal arrangements, including upkeep by some adjoining private landowners and voluntary labour provided by the Derby Community Development Association (DCDA), which is no longer active. Council currently maintains specific areas, including land behind the bike wash, which is slashed annually, and the Derby Park, which is mowed regularly. A more specific response can be provided if the exact section of riverbank being referred to is identified.

2. *What would the total current standard residential rates, etc. be for a home and property in Derby worth about \$600,000 in total?*

Response from Director – Corporate Services:

Rates and charges vary significantly depending on the valuation, use and whether the property is subject to rate capping. For an average property worth \$600,000 used for residential purposes that is not subject to rate capping, the general rate would be approximately \$1,270. If any ratepayer requires assistance interpreting their rates notice, they are encouraged to contact Council's customer service team to discuss.

The following questions were received **without notice** from Councillors:

Councillor Hughes:

There was a Dorset Digital Strategy Workshop on the 29 August 2024.

1. *What has been the outcome of this?*
2. *How has Council advocated for better connectivity for Dorset?*

Response from General Manager:

There are four projects that we've been working on with NBN and Telstra. I won't go through what they are, I will **take it on notice**. We have been talking to Telstra and NBN to close the loop because we did have Workshops with stakeholders and there has been some concerted efforts from both parties. So, we will do a collective update, from NBN, Telstra, Council and other stakeholders.

Councillor Chilcott:

A motion was passed at the annual meeting to review the unmade streets in Bridport. When will this discussion be brought to a workshop?

Response from Director – Infrastructure:

Currently, we're looking at the scope, and we're only in planning phases. This is a big piece of work that we are actively working on.

Councillor Teichmann:

- Given the questions from the gallery this evening, could Derby as a MTB destination benefit from keeping some of its most popular trails, such as Air-Ya-Garn and Hazy Days, in better riding condition over the hot summers by installing a micro trail irrigation system, which would only need to be run a little bit at night, to keep the trails in optimum condition, thereby improving the ride quality and the visitor experience and safety, and hopefully reducing the risk of accidents and trail maintenance requirements and costs?*

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

- I'm just wondering in terms of the visitor experience in Derby more generally, and also the amenity for locals, what is Council planning to do with the Old Mine Office that's down at the trailhead, which is in a rather derelict condition with broken windows and so forth, and would it be possible for Council to use the Old Derby swimming pool as a temporary Dog Park until a more permanent solution can be found?*

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

Councillor Chilcott:

With the probable introduction of the new Ferries in October what are we doing in Dorset to accommodate an increase of 20-40% of visitor?

Response from General Manager:

We're working on the North East Marketing Strategy which is in draft stage now and has been presented to Council. There are a lot of action items that came out of that review and we're still trying to put that into a form to prioritise. The action items will then need to go back to the regional working group.

At a Council level we have been talking about master planning for towns. Part of that master planning would include things like RV camping and whether we can increase those things.

Item 29/2026 Requests for Leave of Absence

Nil

Item 30/2026 Notifications of Leave of Absence for Parental Leave

Nil

Item 31/2026 Councillor Motions with Notice

Nil

PLANNING AUTHORITY MATTERS FOR DECISION

The Chair announced that Council intends to act as a Planning Authority under the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993* (LUPA Act) when considering Item 32.

The following item is to be dealt with at the meeting of Council in its capacity as a Planning Authority.

Item 32/2026 **Planning Application – Demolition, New Dwelling | 91 Bentley Street BRIDPORT**
 Reporting Officer: Consultant Town Planner, George Walker
 Ref: DOC/26/2007 | Assessment Report: DOC/26/2005 | PLA/2025/106

Purpose

The purpose of this report is for Council to assess and determine an application for the demolition of a single dwelling and outbuilding to facilitate the construction of a new single dwelling at 91 Bentley Street, Bridport.

DECISION

MOVED: Cr Powell | SECONDED: Cr Chilcott

That, in accordance with sections 51 and 57 of the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993* and clause 6.8.1 of the *Tasmanian Planning Scheme - Dorset*, it is recommended that that the demolition, new dwelling be approved subject to the following conditions:

1. Basis of Approval

The use and development for demolition, new dwelling is approved and must be undertaken generally in accordance with the following endorsed plans prepared by Design to Live:

- a) Cover Page Drawing No. BNTL91-1 Rev R1 29/10/2025;
- b) Site Plan Drawing No. BNTL91-2 Rev R1 29/10/2025;
- c) Ground Floor Plan Drawing No. BNTL91-3 Rev R1 29/10/2025;
- d) First Floor Plan Drawing No. BNTL91-4 Rev R1 29/10/2025;
- e) External Services Drawing No. BNTL91-5 Rev R1 29/10/2025;
- f) Elevations NTH-STH Drawing No. BNTL91-6 Rev R1 29/10/2025;
- g) Elevations EST-WST Drawing No. BNTL91-7 Rev R1 29/10/2025;
- h) Shed Details Drawing No. BNTL91-8 Rev R1 29/10/2025;
- i) Perspectives Drawing No. BNTL91-9 Rev R1 29/10/2025.

2. Outbuilding Not Approved

The outbuilding (shed) as detailed in the endorsed plans listed in Condition 1 is not approved by this permit.

3. Demolition

All demolition works must ensure the protection of property and services which are to either remain on or adjacent to the site from interference or damage.

All rubbish and debris must be removed from the site and disposed of at a licensed refuse disposal site.

4. Construction Management (Minor<250m²)

Soil, water and dust must be managed on the site during construction to:

- a) prevent the escape of soil and sediments beyond site boundaries; and
- b) direct water runoff to a lawful point of discharge without causing nuisance for neighbours.

5. Commenced Development Stop

Where development has commenced on site and then stops for two weeks or more, interim stormwater, erosion and dust control measures must be installed and maintained on site until work re-commences. The measures must include weekly inspections and reporting to Council as well as before and after every rain event to the satisfaction of the Director of Infrastructure or their delegate.

6. Crossovers

Any modification to the existing crossover must be constructed in accordance with relevant Municipal Tasmania Standard Drawings. Any new access points along Charles Street are to be constructed in accordance with relevant Municipal Tasmania Standard Drawings. Works in the Council Road Reserve must not commence until a request for a permit for works in a road reserve has been submitted to Council and approved by the Road Authority.

Any services within the road reserve that require relocation must be approved by the relevant service authority and any such relocation is made at the developer's cost.

7. Stormwater connection

Stormwater discharged from the impervious areas (including paved areas, building, vehicle access and parking) of the development must be drained and directed to the Council's stormwater network to the satisfaction of the Council's Town Planner.

NOTE: For the purpose of this permit "**the person responsible**", depending on the context, means:

- a) The person who has and takes the benefit of this permit for the undertaking of the use or development authorised pursuant to it;
- b) The person or persons who undertake development or use pursuant to this permit; and
- c) Servants, agents and contractors, in each case of such persons.

ADVISORY NOTES

(i) *Permission in Writing*

Any reference to the need for Council approval of a matter or thing prescribed under the conditions pertinent to this permit requires such approval to be given in writing.

(ii) *Objections to Proposal*

This permit has no effect until the expiry of the period for the lodgement of an appeal against the granting of the permit or, if an appeal is lodged, until ten days after the appeal has been determined by the Resource and Planning Stream of the Tasmanian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (TASCAT).

(iii) *Appeal Provisions*

Attention is directed to sections 61 and 62 of the Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993 (as amended) which relate to appeals. These provisions should be consulted directly, but the following provides a guide as to their content:

- A planning appeal may be instituted by lodging a notice of appeal with the Resource and Planning Stream of the Tasmanian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (TASCAT).*
- A planning appeal may be instituted within 14 days of the date the planning authority serves notice of the decision on the applicant.*

(iv) *Permit Commencement*

This permit takes effect 14 days after the date of Council’s notice of determination or at such time as any appeal to the Resource and Planning Stream of the Tasmanian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (TASCAT) is abandoned or determined. If an applicant is the only person with a right of appeal pursuant to section 61 of the Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993 and wishes to commence the use or development for which the permit has been granted within that 14 day period, the Council must be so notified in writing.

(v) *Period of Approval*

Pursuant to Section 53(5) the Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993, this approval will lapse after a period of two (2) years from:

- a. the date on which the permit is granted; or*
- b. if an appeal has been instituted against the planning authority’s decision to grant the permit, the date of the determination or abandonment of the appeal,*

if the use or development is not substantially commenced within that period.

(vi) *TasNetworks advised on 17/11/25:*

“Based on the information provided, the development is not likely to adversely affect TasNetworks’ operations.

It is recommended that the customer or their electrician contact TasNetworks on 1300 137008 if they have any questions regarding an upgrade they may require to their electricity supply due to this development.”

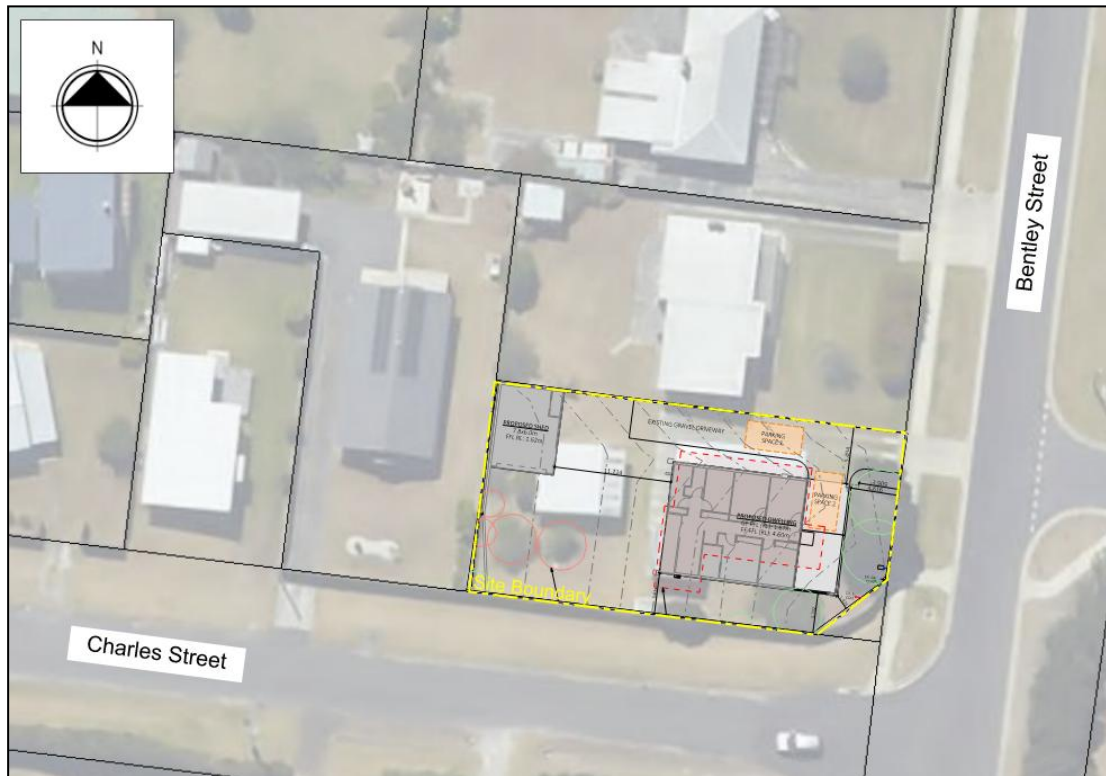
(vii) *Other Approvals*

This permit does not imply that any other approval required under any other by-law or legislation has been granted. At least the following additional approvals may be required before construction commences:

- a. Building approval*
- b. Plumbing approval*
- c. Permit for Works in a Council road reserve*

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Beattie Councillor Powell Councillor McLennan Councillor Hughes Councillor Chilcott Councillor Bicanic Councillor Richards	Councillor Teichmann (abstained)

CARRIED



ITEMS FOR DECISION

Item 33/2026 **Quarterly Financial Report | Period Ended 31 December 2025**
 Reporting Officer: Finance Manager, Allison Saunders
 Ref: DOC/26/1927

Purpose

The purpose of this agenda item is to present the quarterly financial report for the period ended 31 December 2025.

DECISION

MOVED: Cr Teichmann | SECONDED: Cr Hughes

That Council receive and note the quarterly financial report for the period ended 31 December 2025.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Item 34/2026

2025/26 Capital Budget Variation and Adjustment – West Maurice Road Bridge

Reporting Officer: Director – Infrastructure, Kerry Sacilotto

Ref: DOC/26/2134

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval to amend the 2025/26 Capital Works Budget for bridge renewal and upgrade works to enable the planned upgrade of Bridge 1541 (West Maurice Road) to be brought forward to the 2025/26 financial year, from its original 2026/27 schedule under Council's Bridge Asset Management Plan.

REVISED BUDGET

Project	Council Funding	External Funding	Overhead Wages allocation	Total Budget
Bridge 1572 Haas Road	\$77,600	\$310,400	\$47,000	\$435,000
Bridge 1589 Sledge Track	\$165,000	-	\$16,000	\$181,000
Bridge 1541 West Maurice Road	\$130,000	-	TBD	\$130,000
TOTAL	\$372,600	\$310,400	\$63,000	\$746,000

DECISION

MOVED: Cr McLennan | SECONDED: Cr Powell

That Council, by absolute majority:

1. approve a variation to the 2025/26 Budget Estimates to include \$310,400 in external funding for the upgrade of Bridge 1572 (Haas Road).
2. approve the partial reallocation of the 2025/26 Capital Works Budget for the upgrade of Bridge 1572 (Haas Road) to enable the planned upgrade of Bridge 1541 (West Maurice Road) to be brought forward to 2025/26, from its original 2026/27 schedule under Council's Bridge Asset Management Plan.
3. exempt the procurement of a contractor for the upgrade of Bridge 1541 (West Maurice Road), valued at \$130,000, from Council's standard quotation process under the Code for Tenders and Contracts Policy.
4. resolve that a satisfactory result would not be achieved by inviting quotations in accordance with Council's Code for Tenders and Contracts Policy due to extenuating circumstances, being:
 - a. the bridge has recently been identified as having significantly reduced load-bearing capacity and requires upgrading no later than April 2026 to avoid substantial operational and financial impacts on local agricultural operations currently reliant on the bridge; and
 - b. delivery within this timeframe can only be achieved through the immediate engagement of an experienced contractor with the capacity to mobilise without delay.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Item 35/2026 Council Policy Reviews | No. 17 – Council Credit Cards and No. 52 – Related Party Disclosure
 Reporting Officer: Finance Manager, Allison Saunders
 Ref: DOC/26/1929 | Draft Policies: DOC/25/12712 & DOC/14847 | Other Attachments: DOC/26/445 & DOC/26/446

Purpose

The purpose of this agenda item is to present the revised Council Policies - No. 17 Council Credit Cards and No. 52 Related Party Disclosure.

DECISION

MOVED: Cr Teichmann | SECONDED: Cr Powell

That Council adopts the attached revised:

- Policy No. 17 - Council Credit Cards; and
- Policy No. 52 - Related Party Disclosure.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Item 36/2026 Endorsement of Council Submission | 20-Year Preventive Health Strategy
 Reporting Officer: General Manager, John Marik
 Ref: DOC/26/1721 | Draft Submission: DOC/26/1195

Purpose

The purpose of this item is to endorse Dorset Council's submission to the State Government's exposure draft "The Health Revolution – Tasmania's 20-Year Preventive Health Strategy", prior to the consultation deadline of 27 February 2026

DECISION

MOVED: Cr Hughes | SECONDED: Cr Powell

That Council endorse the attached submission on the 20-Year Preventive Health Strategy and submit to the Minister for Health, Mental Health and Wellbeing by 27 February 2026.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Item 37/2026 New Policy No. 70 – Local Government Election Caretaker Period
 Reporting Officer: General Manager, John Marik
 Ref: DOC/26/1717 | Draft Policy: DOC/26/1707

Purpose

The purpose of this item is to discuss the introduction of a new Council Policy relating to election caretaker periods prior to Local Government elections.

Original Recommendation

MOVED: Cr Chilcott | SECONDED: Cr Hughes

That Council adopt the attached new Policy No. 70 – Local Government Election Caretaker Period.

Procedural Motion

MOVED: Cr Teichmann | SECONDED: Cr Bicanic

That the item be deferred to the next Workshop.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Councillor Hughes declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 38, but did not leave the Meeting.

Item 38/2026

Scottsdale Pedestrian Crossings

Reporting Officer: Director – Infrastructure, Kerry Sacilotto
Ref: DOC/26/1740

Purpose

The purpose of this item is to brief Councillors on the outcomes of recent investigations and new information regarding the options available for pedestrian crossing treatments on King Street and George Street, Scottsdale, including implications for existing grant funding.

DECISION

MOVED: Cr Chilcott | SECONDED: Cr Bicanic

That Council:

1. resolve not to progress additional pedestrian crossing treatments on King Street and / or George Street at this time, based on the available evidence.
2. agree to acquit and return any unspent grant funds that cannot be delivered within program conditions / timeframes, following final confirmation of eligible expenditure and balances.
3. commit to review further if data changes, including speed, major land use changes.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ITEMS FOR NOTING

Item 39/2026 Council Workshops Held Since Last Council Meeting

23 January | Community Meet and Greet - Tomahawk

3 February | Briefing Workshop

Item 40/2026 Elected Member Communications

Mayor Calendar | 15 January – 11 February 2026

January 2026

- 15 Weekly meeting with General Manager, Council Chambers
- 19 January Council Meeting, Council Chambers
- 22 Weekly meeting with General Manager, Council Chambers
- 22 Meet and Greet – Dorset Australia Day Ambassador with Councillors and Management Team, Scottsdale
- 22 2026 Dorset Australia Day Awards with Councillors and Management Team, Scottsdale
- 23 Community Meet and Greet Session with Councillors and Management Team, Tomahawk
- 26 Australia Day Pool Party, Scottsdale Aquatic Centre
- 29 Meeting with local business representative and Director – Infrastructure, Scottsdale
- 29 Weekly meeting with General Manager, Council Chambers

February 2026

- 3 February Council Briefing Workshop, Scottsdale Library
- 5 Weekly meeting with General Manager, Council Chambers
- 5 ABC Radio interview regarding potential sale of Scottsdale Defence building
- 6 General Manager's Performance Evaluation Committee Meeting with Crs Powell, Hughes and the General Manager, Council Chambers
- 9 Advertiser interview regarding potential sale of Scottsdale Defence building with Michael Ferguson
- 9 Meeting with Michael Ferguson with General Manager, Council Chambers
- 11 TasWater half yearly briefing to shareholders, online
- ~~11 Gladstone Future Links meeting, Gladstone Hall⁵~~

⁵ The Mayor advised the Meeting that he did not make this meeting as planned due to unforeseen circumstances.

Item 41/2026 Management Team Briefing Report

Purpose

The purpose of this agenda item is to provide Councillors and the community with a briefing on matters of interest dealt with during the past month by Council's Management Team.

DECISION

MOVED: Cr McLennan | **SECONDED:** Cr Chilcott

That Council

1. receive and note the Northern Tasmania Development Corporation Quarterly Report, for period 1 October to 31 December 2025; and
2. receive and note the remaining Management Team Briefing Report.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

NORTHERN TASMANIA DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION | Quarterly Report

WASTE MANAGEMENT REQUESTS | January 2026

	Requests Received January 2026	Comparison January 2025	FYTD Received 2025/26	Comparison FYTD Received 2024/25
Feedback and Queries	1	-	3	4
Repair Bin	11	6	30	18
Replace Bin	6	9	34	33
Request a New Service	3	9	18	17
Remove Additional Bin	-	9	14	30
Request an Additional Bin	-	2	11	11
Request an Upsize/Downsize	8	-	22	-
Request to Opt Out (of Service)	-	-	3	-
Total Requests	29	35	135	113

CUSTOMER SERVICE REQUESTS | January 2026

	Requests Received January 2026	Comparison Requests January 2025	Received 2026	Comparison 2025
Animal	5	1	5	1
Bike Trails	-	-	-	-
Bridges	-	-	-	-
Caravan Parks	2	1	2	1
Cemeteries	-	-	-	-
Community Awards	1	-	1	-
Community Development General	-	-	-	-
Corporate Services General	-	2	-	2
Council Elections	-	-	-	-
Customer Service	3	1	3	1
Emergency Services Enquiries	-	-	-	-
Environmental Management & Health	4	1	4	1
Footpath Enquiries	6	-	6	-
Government Relations	-	-	-	-
Licencing	-	-	-	-
Parks and Reserves	2	2	2	2
Planning & Building	-	-	-	-
Playground Maintenance	3	-	3	-
Public Health	-	1	-	1
Public Online Enquiries	-	-	-	-
Public Amenities	3	-	3	-
Public Halls Buildings	2	-	2	-
Recreation Grounds	7	-	7	-
Roads	29	25	29	25
Swimming Pools	-	5	-	5
Waste Management	-	-	-	-
Total Requests	67	39	67	39

APPROVED APPLICATIONS | January 2026

	Approved January	Approved 2026 YTD	Approved 2025 YTD
Planning	8	8	5
Building	2	2	12
Plumbing	1	1	4

2025/26 CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAM

Ref: DOC/25/9165

	Complete 2025/26
	Completed in January 2026
	Carried Forward Projects – 2026/27

PROJECT	STATUS
BRIDGES	
Bridge 1508 Garibaldi Road, Pioneer – repairs to piers (addition allocation, storm recovery)	Tender Awarded
Bridge 1604 Panama Forest Road, Golconda – timber deck renewal	Completed
Bridge 1589 Sledge Track, West Scottsdale – timber superstructure renewal (beams & deck)	Procured beams
Bridge 1556 New River Road, Ringarooma – timber deck renewal	Completed
Bridge 1594 Greeta Road, Nabowla – timber superstructure renewal (beams and deck)	Timber ordered
Bridge 1508 Garibaldi Road, Pioneer – slab repairs	
Bridge 1569 Jensens Road, North Scottsdale – upgrade superstructure (timber to concrete)	Funding Application submitted
Bridge 1572 Haas Road, Legerwood – upgrade superstructure (timber to concrete, additional allocation)	Funding received
STORMWATER	
61 King Street, Scottsdale – upgrade stormwater pits	
3 Murphy Place, Scottsdale – undertake network survey and hydrology assessment	Investigation
Main Road, Pioneer – pipe open drain	Commenced
9 Willow Court, Winnaleah – design and install new network	Design
21 Thomas Street, Scottsdale – design and install new network	Commenced
52 Scott Street, Branxholm – design and install new network	Design
3 Thomas Street, Scottsdale – design and install new network	Design
ROADS – RESHEETING	
Old Waterhouse Road, Waterhouse	Completed
Cape Portland Road, Gladstone	Completed
Bridport Back Road, Nabowla	Completed
Nourses Road, Bridport	Completed
Unwins Road, Springfield	Completed
McDonalds Avenue, Ringarooma	Completed
Dead Horse Hill Road, Ringarooma	Completed
Pera Flats Road, Ringarooma	Completed
Swanee Road, Winnaleah	Completed
Ferny Hill Road, Bridport	Completed
Bridport – urban resheeting (various locations)	Completed

PROJECT	STATUS
ROADS – RESEALS	
George Street, Scottsdale – highway access	Prep work completed
Maurice Street, Legerwood	Prep work completed
Spotswood Drive, Scottsdale	Prep work completed
Beattie Street, Scottsdale	Prep work completed
Ringarooma Road, Scottsdale – highway access	Prep work completed
Christopher Street, Scottsdale	Prep work completed
Mary Street, Scottsdale	Prep work completed
Alice Street, Scottsdale	Prep work completed
East Maurice Road, Ringarooma	Prep work completed
Oakdene Road, Jetsonville	Prep work completed
Barnbogle Road, Bridport	Prep work completed
Barnett Road, Ringarooma	Prep work completed
Ruby Flats Road, Branxholm	Prep work completed
Derby Back Road, Derby	Prep work completed
Sykes Road, Springfield	Completed
Arnold Place, Scottsdale	Completed
Charles Street, Pioneer – additional reseal	Completed
ROADS – OTHER PROJECTS	
Willis Road, Lietinna – hotmix overlay intersection with Golconda Road	Completed
Koomeela Road, West Scottsdale – culvert repairs	Completed
Banca Road, Winnaleah – pavement repair and hotmix surface	Completed
Golconda Road, Nabowla – 3.4km safety upgrades and pavement renewal	Commenced
Ferny Hill Road, Bridport – landslip repair (storm damage)	Design
Golconda Road, Golconda – pavement design	Design
Bentley Street, Bridport – footpath renewal	
Ellenor Street, Scottsdale – design pavement renewal	Design
Austins Road and Tasman Highway, Scottsdale – junction upgrade	Commenced
Northeast Lane, Scottsdale – design	Completed
Union Street, Scottsdale – kerb and stormwater upgrade (stage 1)	Commenced
Pioneer township – footpath	Quote Awarded
Golconda Road, Golconda – freight and safety improvement strategy	
Buckney's Road, Scottsdale – road survey	Commenced

PROJECT	STATUS
BUILDINGS	
Bridport Seaside Caravan Park – camp kitchen renewal (replace beams)	Completed
Bridport Seaside Caravan Park – electrical switchboard renewal and underground cables (stage 1)	Scheduled – April
Northeast Park, Scottsdale – electrical upgrades and shower payment machine upgrades	Completed
Winnaleah Old Scout Hall – replace old louvre windows	Completed
Derby, Branxholm, Ringarooma, Winnaleah & Legerwood – switchboard upgrades	Commenced
Pioneer Hall – toilet renewal	Planning
Northeast Park, Scottsdale – BBQ replacement	Completed
Scottsdale – switchboard upgrades (various sites)	Planning
Scottsdale Aquatic Centre – toilet and shower renewal	Completed
Branxholm Hall – kitchen renewal (Pines Committee donation)	Planning
Bridport Seaside Caravan Park – amenities upgrade (shower cubicle storage / shelving)	
Bridport Seaside Caravan Park – cabin upgrades / outdoor area improvements	
Scottsdale Waste Transfer Station – Reuse Centre shop extension	Planning
Scottsdale Waste Transfer Station – heat pump	Completed
Derby Depot – alarm system and cameras	Planning
Scottsdale Depot – relocation of storage sheds (additional allocation)	Completed
Nugget Sellars Pavilion (Scottsdale Recreation Ground) – heat pump	Completed
Scottsdale Aquatic Centre – remote access through Council network	Scheduled - April
LAND IMPROVEMENTS	
Blue Derby – network signage	Commenced
Bridport Seaside Caravan Park and Bridport Foreshore – BBQ replacement	Completed
Scottsdale Aquatic Centre – flow meter and motor protection on leisure pool pumps	Planning
Scottsdale Aquatic Centre – chlorinator pump critical spare parts	Commenced
Scottsdale Aquatic Centre – balance tank temporary shut off valve	Ordered
Scottsdale Aquatic Centre – leisure pool filter sand replacement	Planning
Scottsdale Aquatic Centre – replace umbrella covers	Completed
Derby Park – Ringarooma Road erosion repairs	Completed
Pine Plantation, Ringarooma Road, Scottsdale – replanting (additional allocation)	Completed
Blue Derby – Black Stump car turning area redevelopment	Planning
Blue Derby – Top Creek drop off area completion	Planning
Netball court upgrades – Scottsdale, Bridport and Derby (Stage 1)	Planning
Scottsdale Railway Station precinct redevelopment	Commenced
Blue Derby – memorial lookout	Planning
Ellesmere Cemetery, Scottsdale – new memorial wall	Planning
Scottsdale sports precinct – master planning	
Scottsdale Aquatic Centre – covered pool feasibility study	

PROJECT	STATUS
CARRY FORWARD PROJECTS	
<u>Bridges</u>	
Bridge 1508 Garibaldi Road, Pioneer – scour protection piers (storm recovery)	Tender Awarded
Bridge 1572 Haas Road / Frenches Creek, Legerwood – upgrade to concrete	Funding received
<u>Roads</u>	
South Street, Bridport – replace kerb	
King Street, Scottsdale – pedestrian crossing	Planning
George Street, Scottsdale – pedestrian crossing	Planning
Coplestone Street, Scottsdale – new footpath	
<u>Buildings</u>	
Building Renovations (Blue Derby Foundation) - 57 Main Street, Derby	
Scottsdale Railway Station Building – restoration	
Derby Depot – new trail crew storage shed	Planning
Bridport Seaside Caravan Park – planning for new camp kitchen at Goftons Beach	Planning
Branxholm Waste Transfer Station – Oil Bunded Shed	Planning
Branxholm Waste Transfer Station – Recycling Shed	Planning
Gladstone Waste Transfer Station – Oil Bunded Shed	Planning
Gladstone Waste Transfer Station – Recycling Shed	Planning
Scottsdale Waste Transfer Station – Oil Bunded Shed	Planning
<u>Land Improvements</u>	
Croquet Lawn Beach, Bridport – access improvements	Investigations
Blue Derby Mountain Bike Trails – Tunnel stairs	
Bridport Lions Club Adventure Playground upgrade (election grant)	
Scottsdale Childrens Reserve Playground upgrade (election grant)	Planning
Scottsdale community bike track	
Gladstone community park	
Waste Transfer Station signage	Commenced
CWA Carpark, Bridport – solar light	Completed

CLOSURE OF MEETING

Time Meeting Closed: 8:13 pm

Minutes Confirmed: 23 March 2026

Minute No:

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Mayor



DRAFT Policy No. 70 – Local Government Election Caretaker Period

CM Ref: DOC/26/1707

Adopted:

Version: 1.2

Reviewed Date:

Author Executive Assistant

Responsible Officer General Manager

OBJECTIVE

The purpose of this Policy is to ensure that:

- Major policy decisions are not made by Council in the leadup to an election that would prove binding for an incoming Council.
- Council resources are not used for the advantage of a candidate in a local government general election.
- The requirement to act impartially in relation to all candidates standing for election is clearly understood.

SCOPE

This Policy applies to elected members and employees of the Dorset Council for duration of the caretaker period for a local government general election.

This Policy does not apply to local government by-elections.

DEFINITIONS

The definitions of terms used in this Policy are set out below.

Term	Definition
By-Election	is an election to replace a councillor after the councillor's office becomes vacant.
Candidate	is a person standing for election.
Council	means the Dorset Council
Caretaker Period	is the period from the publication of the notice of election through until the close of the polls of the relevant local government general election.
Electoral Material	means any advertisement, handbill, pamphlet, notice, flyer, letter or article that is intended or calculated to affect the result of an election.
Election Campaign	refers to the activities of candidates to win voter support in the period preceding an election and includes activities such as door knocking, bulk emails, production of signs and flyers, telephone canvassing, social media campaigns and advertising.
Extraordinary Circumstances	means a situation that requires a major policy decision of the Council because:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. in the General Manager’s opinion, the urgency of the issue is such that it cannot wait until after the election; b. of the possibility of legal and / or financial repercussions if a decision is deferred; or c. in the General Manager’s opinion, it is in the best interests of the Council for the decision to be made as soon as possible.
General Election	means a general election of councillors held every four years pursuant to Part 15 of the <i>Local Government Act 1993</i> .
Local Government Act	means the Tasmanian <i>Local Government Act 1993</i> .
Major Policy Decision	<p>refers to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. the appointment, remuneration or termination of the General Manager b. approval of contracts greater than 1% of Council’s net revenue c. adoption or renewal of policies d. making, amending or repealing planning schemes e. establishment of By-Laws <p>Major Policy Decisions do not include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. decisions that relate to the carrying out of works in response to an emergency or disaster b. the signing of an agreement where the majority of the negotiations were undertaken or resolved by Council prior to the caretaker period commencing

POLICY

This Policy establishes clear guidelines for the conduct of Councillors and staff in the lead up to a local government general election involving the Dorset Council and ensures that the ordinary business of Council continues in a responsible, transparent and legally compliant manner in the period leading up to an election.

CARETAKER PERIOD PROVISIONS

During the Caretaker Period the following provisions shall apply:

1. Tenure of General Manager – Council shall not appoint, dismiss or renew the contract of a General Manager during the Caretaker Period. An Acting General Manager may be appointed in accordance with Section 61B of the Local Government Act, if required.
2. Planning Instruments – Council will not make, amend or repeal a local planning instrument under the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993* (i.e. a planning scheme, a temporary local planning instrument or a planning scheme policy).
3. By-Laws – Council will not make a new By-Law during the Caretaker Period.
4. Policies – Council will not approve or renew any Council policies during the Caretaker Period.
5. Distribution of Electoral Material – no electoral material shall be permitted to be displayed or distributed on any Council owned or managed property.
6. Use of Council Equipment and Stationery – Council supplied equipment and Council branded material shall not be used by Councillors or staff in any manner that supports a candidate’s election campaign. Councillors may continue to use Council equipment and branded material throughout the course of the Caretaker Period to carry out their regular functions as described in Section 28 of the Local Government Act.
7. Media - Councillors will not use their position as an elected representative, or their access to employees or resources, to gain media attention in support of their, or any other candidate's election campaign.

8. Council Committees and Groups – a Councillor shall not use their membership of a Council Advisory Committee or appointment as a member of an external group to disseminate information or promote their, or any other candidate's election campaign.

GUIDELINES

1. Nothing in this Policy prevents the Mayor, Councillors and staff from carrying on the business of the Council during the caretaker period.
2. Council Meetings shall continue to be held during the Caretaker Period and will consider Agenda items that relate to the ordinary business of Council other than those matters identified in the above provisions of this Policy.
3. The General Manager may still exercise all delegations provided by Council during the Caretaker Period, including the appointment of staff.
4. Projects as approved by Council as part of the annual budget process and subsequently approved by the awarding of a tender, can proceed during the Caretaker Period, regardless of their scale.
5. The Mayor and Councillors will continue to accept invitations to attend community functions and may continue to correspond with constituents on matters related to Council business during the Caretaker Period.
6. The Mayor shall be the spokesperson for Council in accordance with Section 27 of the Local Government Act and shall carry out the civic and ceremonial functions of the mayoral office during the Caretaker Period.
7. Individual Councillors may continue to represent the community and facilitate communication between Council and the community for the duration of the Caretaker Period. In fulfilling these duties during this period, Councillors may claim allowances and expenses as provided under Council Policy No. 2 – Councillor Expenses.
8. Council employees shall maintain the normal business activities of Council during the Caretaker Period. Employees shall undertake their duties in an appropriate way and take all steps to avoid any real or perceived support for a candidate in order to protect the organisation's ability to impartially serve any incoming Council following an election.

EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES

1. The determination as to whether or not any decision is 'extraordinary' will be made by the General Manager, after consultation with the Mayor or Chairperson (as relevant). The General Manager must keep a record of all such determinations made by the General Manager including by previous General Managers and make the list available to candidates upon request.
2. Where the General Manager has determined that a decision is 'extraordinary', but circumstances arise that require the decision to be made during the election period, the General Manager will report this to the Council.
3. The General Manager's report to Council will address the following issues (where relevant):
 - i. why the matter is considered 'extraordinary';
 - ii. why the matter is considered urgent;
 - iii. what are the financial and other consequences of postponing the matter until after the election, both on the current Council and the incoming Council;
 - iv. whether deciding the matter will significantly limit options for the incoming Council;
 - v. whether the matter requires the expenditure of unbudgeted funds;
 - vi. whether the matter is the completion of an activity already commenced and previously endorsed by Council;
 - vii. whether the matter requires community engagement;
 - viii. any relevant statutory obligations or timeframes; and
 - ix. whether dealing with the matter in the election period is in the best interests of the Council area and community.

4. Council will consider the General Manager’s report and recommendation at either the next available Ordinary Meeting of Council, or in the case of urgent extraordinary circumstances, a Special Meeting of Council may be convened.

LEGISLATION

- *Local Government Act 1993 (Tas)*
- *Local Government (Code of Conduct) Order 2024*
- *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993*

RELATED COUNCIL DOCUMENTS

- Local Government – Councillor Code of Conduct

IMPLEMENTATION AND REVIEW

This Policy will be made available to all staff, Councillors, customers, members of the public and shall be provided free of charge at the Council Chambers and on Council’s website www.dorset.tas.gov.au

This Policy will be reviewed prior to every Local Government election or more frequently, if required.

DOCUMENT INFORMATION

Version	Doc Ref	Date Reviewed	Author	Comments
1.1	DOC/26/1707	4 February 2026	Executive Assistant	Implementation using sector suggested template – Kingborough Council.
1.2		24 February 2026		Updated to include clauses relating to extraordinary circumstances and definitions, using examples from Central Desert Regional Council and Wattle Range Council Policies.

Policy 50 – Gifts and Benefits



	Ref: DOC/22/13989
	Adopted: 19 December 2016 Minute 250/16
	Version: 4
	Reviewed Date: XX January 2026
	Council Minute No: /26
Statutory Authority:	Local Government Act 1993 – Part 5A Local Government (General) Regulations 2025 – Part 3 Dorset Council Internal Operational Policies Dorset Council Code for Tenders and Contracts (Policy 31) Local Government Code of Conduct Framework
Related Documents:	Gifts & Benefits Guidelines – DOC/25/15273 Department of Premier and Cabinet Gifts and Donations Guideline – August 2019

OBJECTIVE

To define the obligations of Council officials in relation to offers of gifts or benefits. Council officials include the Mayor, Councillors, Council staff (including agency staff), committee members, volunteers and contractors.

POLICY

1. Purpose and Scope

The purpose of this policy is to ensure Council officials act with integrity, impartiality and transparency when dealing with offers of gifts and benefits.

This policy applies to all gifts and benefits offered to or received by Council officials in connection with their role at Council.

For the purposes of this policy, Council officials include the Mayor, Councillors, Council staff (including agency staff), committee members, volunteers and contractors.

2. Guiding Principles

Council officials must at all times:

- Act fairly, impartially, and in the public interest;
- Avoid actual or perceived conflicts of interest; and
- Maintain public confidence in the integrity and independence of Council decision-making.

People dealing with Council should understand that gifts or benefits are not required to receive fair, professional or high-quality service.

3. General Rules

Council officials:

- Must only accept gifts and benefits in accordance with this policy;
- Must not solicit gifts or benefits;
- Must not use their position to gain a personal benefit or advantage;
- Must not accept money in any form, regardless of the amount;
- Must not accept any gift or benefit that could influence, or be perceived to influence, the performance of their official duties;
- Must not accept gifts or benefits for family members, close associates or related businesses where this could be perceived as an attempt to gain favourable treatment; and
- Must comply with all reporting and disclosure requirements set out in Council's Gift and Benefits Guidelines.

4. Accepting or Declining Gifts and Benefits

Gifts and benefits should generally be declined. Token gifts of nominal value may be accepted where permitted by the Gifts and Benefits Guidelines.

A gift or benefit **must not** be accepted if:

- It is more than the nominal value;
- It creates a sense of obligation; or
- It could reasonably be seen as influencing a Council decision or action.

In limited circumstances, refusing a gift or benefit may cause offence or harm a professional relationship. In such cases, a Council official may accept a gift or benefit of limited value **only if**:

- Acceptance does not compromise, or appear to compromise, their integrity;
- Council's reputation is not put at risk; **and**
- All reporting and disclosure requirements are met.

5. Reporting and Disclosure

All gifts and benefits accepted, or declined where required, must be reported in accordance with Council's Gifts and Benefits Guidelines.

The current threshold for nominal value and reporting requirements are set out in those Guidelines.

6. Responsibilities and Compliance

All Council officials are responsible for complying with this policy.

Breaches of this policy may result in action being taken, including counselling, censure, disciplinary action (up to and including termination of employment), and/or legal or civil actions, depending on the circumstances.

Any person may report an alleged breach of this policy to the General Manager or Mayor as appropriate. All reports will be assessed and investigated as required.

7. Review

This policy will be reviewed at least every four (4) years, following Local Government elections or earlier if there are significant changes to legislation, standards, or related Council policies or procedures.



GIFTS AND BENEFITS GUIDELINES

OBJECTIVE

These guidelines support Council's Gifts and Benefits Policy by helping Council officials make sound and consistent decisions when offered gifts or benefits.

They are intended to prevent situations where Council officials may be influenced, or perceived to be influenced, and to maintain public confidence in the fairness, impartiality, and integrity of Council.

SCOPE

These guidelines apply to all gifts and benefits offered to or received by all Council officials in connection with their official role at Council.

DEFINITIONS

Council official:	Mayors, Councillors, Council staff (including staff engaged through an employment agency), Council Committee members, volunteers, and contractors.
Gift:	A tangible item provided at no cost, including (but are not limited to) cash, property (real or otherwise), goods, services at discounted rates, alcohol, clothing, invitations and tickets to sporting, cultural or entertainment events.
Benefit:	A non-tangible advantage of value, such as preferential treatment, access to confidential information, or hospitality.
Bribe:	A gift or benefit given offered to influence the decision or behaviour of a Council official for personal or organisational gain.
Cash:	Money or vouchers which are readily convertible to money.
Gift of influence:	A gift that is intended to create goodwill or obligation for favourable treatment now or in the future.
Nominal value:	The monetary threshold below which a gift or benefit is considered to have no significant or lasting value (refer to section 1.4).
Significant value:	Any gift or benefit with a value above the nominal value threshold.
Token gift or benefit:	A low value, mass produced item commonly provided in business settings (i.e. pens, calendars, promotional items).
Non token gift or benefit:	An individual or high value gift or benefit, including travel, accommodation, corporate hospitality or event tickets.
Gifts and Benefits Declaration Form:	The form used to declare reportable gifts or benefits (Attachment 1).
Gifts and Benefits Register:	The register maintained by Council of all declared gifts and benefits (Attachment 2).

GUIDELINES

1.1 General Principles

Council officials may occasionally be offered gifts or benefits. Most gifts and benefits should be declined.

When considering an offer, Council officials must consider:

- The value of the gift or benefit;
- The intent behind the offer;
- Whether the giver has, or may seek to have, dealings with Council; and
- Whether acceptance could influence, or appear to influence, official duties.

Council officials must avoid situations where gifts and benefits could reasonably be seen as an attempt to gain favourable treatment.

1.2 Acceptable Gifts and Benefits

Token gifts or benefits at or below nominal value may generally be accepted and do not need to be declared, provided they are infrequent and not likely to create a conflict of interest.

If multiple token gifts are received from the same person or organisation within a twelve-month period, and their cumulative value may be significant, they must be declared.

If there is any uncertainty about whether a gift or benefit is token or of nominal value, advice should be sought from a supervisor, the General Manager or the Mayor.

1.3 Examples of Token Gifts and Benefits

- Promotional items such as pens, diaries, ties, scarves or calendars;
- Flowers, chocolates, or small gift items;
- Books provided at official functions or public events;
- A single bottle of reasonably priced alcohol given on a formal occasion;
- Modest meals or refreshments provided infrequently in connection with official business;
- Modest meals or refreshments provided when formally representing Council at training, workshops, or conferences.
- Invitations to approved community or Council-related events.

1.4 Nominal value and frequency

The nominal value limit is \$50.00.

Council officials who receive more than one token gift or benefit from the same person or organisation within a twelve-month period must declare the gifts in the Gifts and Benefits Register.

1.5 Unacceptable gifts and benefits

The following gifts and benefits must not be accepted:

- Cash;
- Gifts or benefits of significant value;
- Non-token gifts or benefits that could influence or be perceived to influence a Council decision.

If a non-token or above-nominal gift or benefit is offered and cannot reasonably be refused (for example, where refusal would cause significant offence or embarrassment), it must be declared using the Gifts and Benefits Declaration Form and recorded in the Register.

Where a gift or benefit is refused because it appears to be an attempt to gain special treatment, the matter must be reported to a supervisor, the General Manager, or the Mayor.

1.6 Examples of Non-token Gifts and Benefits

- Free or discounted travel or accommodation;
- Use of holiday homes;
- Tickets to major sporting or entertainment events;
- Corporate hospitality at venues or events;
- Free training or excursions;
- Access to confidential information;
- Discounted goods or services for personal use
- Goods and services provided via a determination in a Will.

Gifts exchanged between public authorities for protocol purposes may be accepted where they are intended for the organisation rather than an individual and create no obligation.

1.7 Significant value

A gift or benefit is of significant value if it exceeds the nominal value threshold of \$50.00.

1.8 Gifts of Influence

A gift or benefit must not be accepted if a reasonable person could conclude that it may influence, or appear to influence, the actions or decisions of a Council official.

If a gift or benefit is suspected to be offered for the purpose of influence, it must be declined and reported immediately to a supervisor, the General Manager or the Mayor.

1.9 Bribes

Council officials must not offer, solicit, or accept bribes.

Any bribe offered must be refused and reported immediately to a supervisor, the General Manager or the Mayor (for Councillors). Council will report the matter to the Police.

Receiving a bribe is an offence under both the common law and Tasmanian Legislation.

1.10 Family Members

Council officials must take reasonable steps to ensure that immediate family members (parents, spouses, children and siblings) do not receive non-token or above-nominal gifts or benefits that could be connected to the official's role.

1.11 Records and Registers

Gifts and benefits that meet reporting requirements must be declared using the Gifts and Benefits Declaration Form and recorded in the Gifts and Benefits Register.

The Register is maintained and monitored regularly by the General Manager.

1.12 Disposal of Gifts

Where a non-token or significant gift is accepted because it could not reasonably be refused, a supervisor, the General Manager or the Mayor will determine appropriate disposal.

Options may include:

- Retention by Council;
- Shared used within Council, where appropriate;
- Donation to a suitable charity.

Examples where disposal may be required include:

- Protocol gifts
- Anonymous gifts
- Gifts received in public forums
- Gifts received through a Will, where the relationship was primarily Council-related.

Adopted by Council: 19 December 2016

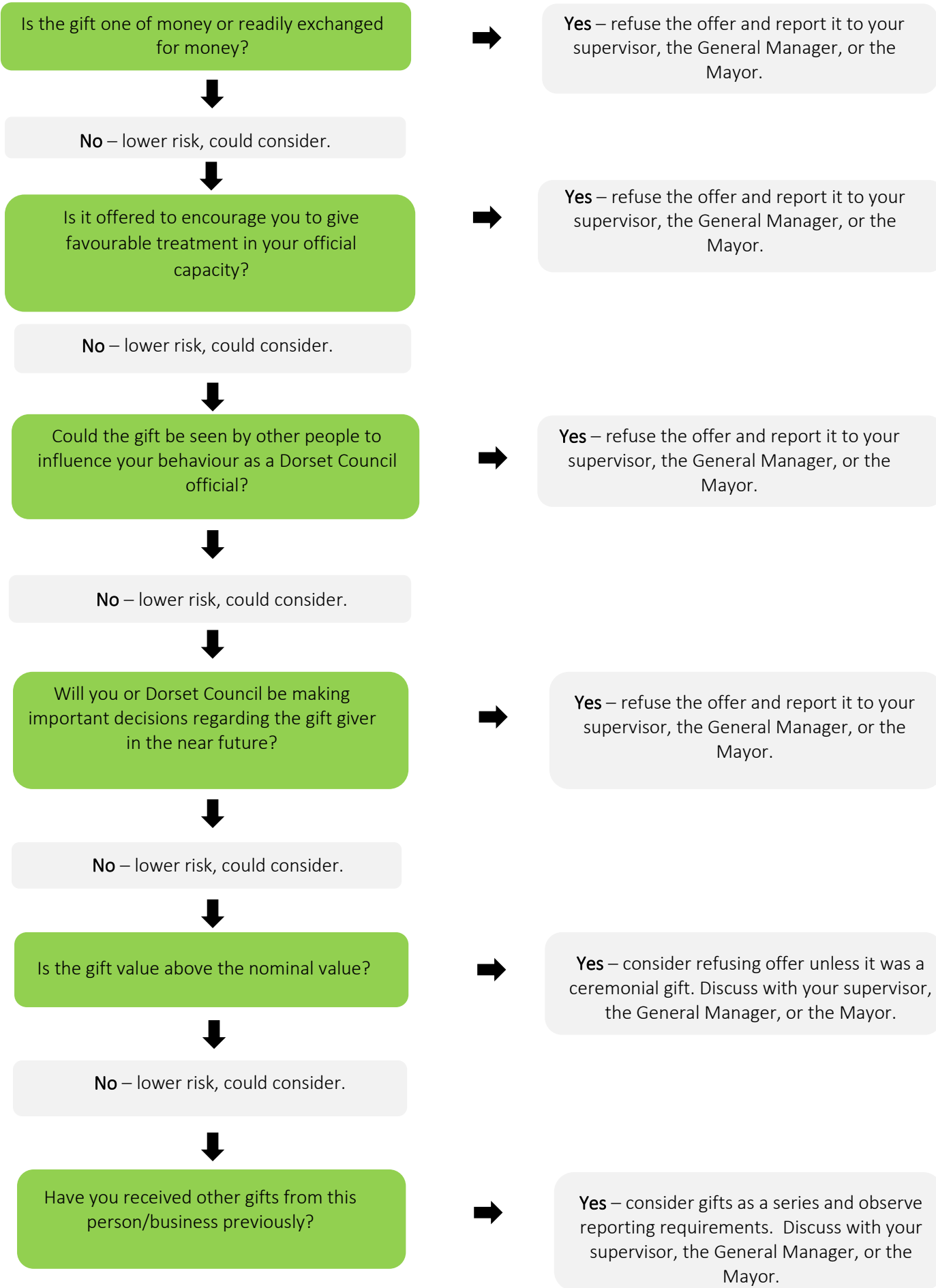
Reviewed: January 2026

Reviewer: Finance Manager

Ref: DOC/25/15273

Useful Decision-Making Guide

This guide is only an example of how a Council official may consider whether a gift or benefit should be accepted. Specific circumstances should be discussed with a Supervisor, Director, General Manager or Mayor.



Attachment 1:

Dorset Council Gifts and Benefits Declaration Form

Name	
Department	
Date gift offered	
What is the gift?	
What is the dollar value (approximate) of the gift?	
Who is the gift from?	
Individual (provide name)	
Organisation (provide name)	
Where was the gift offered? (i.e. at a function, over the counter, through the mail, at a meeting....)?	
Recipients relationship to the donor	
Should the gift or benefit accepted or declined	
If the gift was accepted, should it be retained by the employee or organisation?	
If the gift was retained by the organisation should it be disposed?	
Council Official's signature	
Date	
Responsible Officer (Supervisor, General Manager, Mayor) comments	
Responsible Officer's name and signature	
Office Use	
Date details recorded on Gifts and Benefits Register	
Responsible Officer's name and signature	

Attachment 2:**Dorset Council Gifts and Benefits Register**

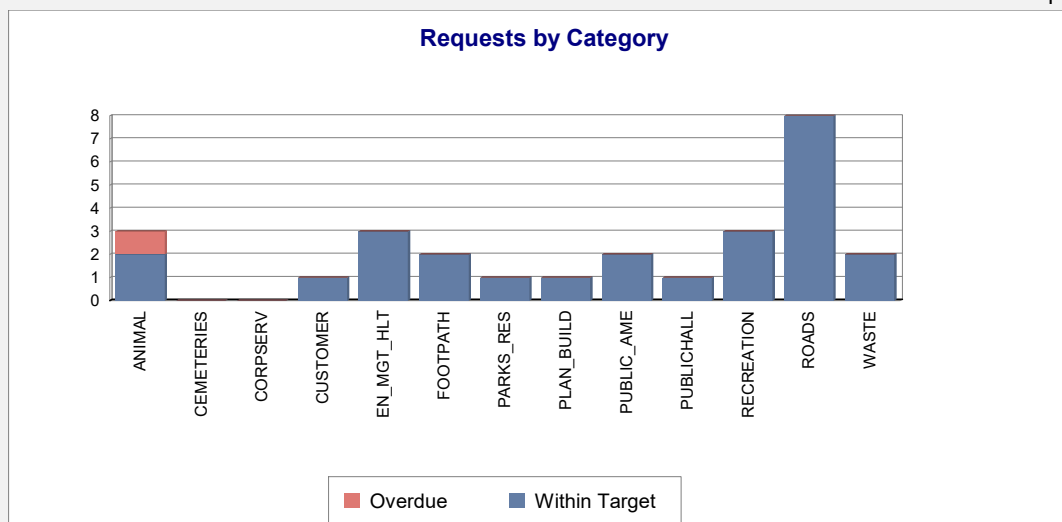
This register shows reportable gifts and benefits that have been offered to and received by Council Officials for the financial year <insert year>.

The register includes instances where Council Officials have received more than the specified number of token gifts of a nominal value from the same person or organisation, in a specified period.

Date Gift Received	Description of Gift or Benefit	Value (\$)	Name of Donor and Organisation	Name of Recipient	Reasons for Accepting the Gift	Disposal (Yes/No)	Name and Signature of Accountable Officer

Register Reviewed: Date:

General Manager:



Customer Request Summary by Category

For period 01/02/2026 to 28/02/2026

Double click onto the Minor Category to access Request detail

Dorset A7 *live*

Report Created: 11/03/2026 10:27:50AM

Major / Minor Category	New Requests Received	Total requests closed this period	Closed Within Target	%	Closed, but Over Target	%	Open Within Target	Open, but Over Target
Animals	7	3	2	67%	1	33%	1	1
Animal Enquiry	1	1	0	0%	1	100%	0	0
Barking Dog	5	1	1	100%	0	0%	1	1
Dog Enquiry	1	1	1	100%	0	0%	0	0
Cemeteries	1	0	0	0%	0	0%	0	0
Ellesmere Cemetery Maintenance	1	0	0	0%	0	0%	0	0
Corporate Services General	1	0	0	0%	0	0%	0	0
Rates Enquiries	1	0	0	0%	0	0%	0	0
Customer Service	1	1	1	100%	0	0%	0	0
Customer Service General Enquiries	1	1	1	100%	0	0%	0	0
Environmental Management and Health	5	3	3	100%	0	0%	2	2
Fire Hazards	4	3	3	100%	0	0%	1	1
Noise Pollution	1	0	0	0%	0	0%	1	1
Footpath Enquiries	3	2	2	100%	0	0%	1	0
Scottsdale Footpath Maintenance	1	0	0	0%	0	0%	1	0
Urban Footpath Maintenance	2	2	2	100%	0	0%	0	0
Parks & Reserves	2	1	1	100%	0	0%	1	0
Bridport Parks and Reserves Maintenance	1	1	1	100%	0	0%	0	0
Urban Parks and Reserves Maintenance	1	0	0	0%	0	0%	1	0

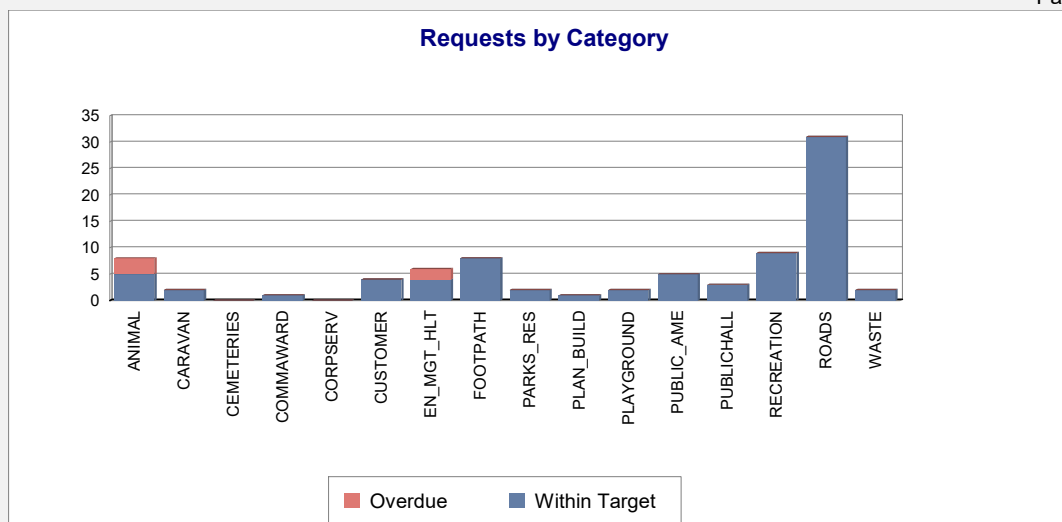
For period 01/02/2026 to 28/02/2026

Double click onto the Minor Category to access Request detail

Dorset A7 *live*

Report Created: 11/03/2026 10:27:50AM

Major / Minor Category	New Requests Received	Total requests closed this period	Closed Within Target	%	Closed, but Over Target	%	Open Within Target	Open, but Over Target
Planning & Building Services	1	1	1	100%	0	0%	0	0
Planning Enquiries	1	1	1	100%	0	0%	0	0
Public Amenities	3	2	2	100%	0	0%	0	0
Bridport Public Amenities Maintenance	1	1	1	100%	0	0%	0	0
Scottsdale Public Amenities Maintenance	2	1	1	100%	0	0%	0	0
Public Halls Buildings	1	1	1	100%	0	0%	0	0
Council Office Maintenance	1	1	1	100%	0	0%	0	0
Recreation Grounds	3	3	3	100%	0	0%	0	0
Bridport Recreation Ground Maintenance	1	1	1	100%	0	0%	0	0
Urban Recreation Ground Maintenance	2	2	2	100%	0	0%	0	0
Roads	18	8	8	100%	0	0%	5	0
Bridport Roads - Tree and Vegetation Maintenance	2	2	2	100%	0	0%	0	0
Rural Roads - Maintenance	9	5	5	100%	0	0%	1	0
Rural Roads - Signage & Guide Post Maintenance	1	0	0	0%	0	0%	1	0
Rural Roads - Tree and Vegetation Maintenance	2	0	0	0%	0	0%	2	0
Rural Roads - Mowing and Slashing	2	0	0	0%	0	0%	0	0
Scottsdale Roads - Maintenance	1	1	1	100%	0	0%	0	0
Urban Roads - Speed Limit Enquiries	1	0	0	0%	0	0%	1	0
Waste Management	2	2	2	100%	0	0%	0	0
Waste Collection Issues	1	1	1	100%	0	0%	0	0
Waste Management Enquiries	1	1	1	100%	0	0%	0	0
GRAND TOTAL	48	27	26	96%	1	4%	10	3



Customer Request Summary by Category

For period 01/01/2026 to 28/02/2026

Double click onto the Minor Category to access Request detail

Dorset A7 *live*

Report Created: 11/03/2026 10:27:55AM

Major / Minor Category	New Requests Received	Total requests closed this period	Closed Within Target	%	Closed, but Over Target	%	Open Within Target	Open, but Over Target
Animals	12	8	5	63%	3	38%	1	1
Animal Enquiry	2	2	1	50%	1	50%	0	0
Dog Attack	1	1	0	0%	1	100%	0	0
Barking Dog	7	3	3	100%	0	0%	1	1
Dog Enquiry	2	2	1	50%	1	50%	0	0
Caravan Parks	2	2	2	100%	0	0%	0	0
Bridport Caravan Park Maintenance	1	1	1	100%	0	0%	0	0
Northeast Caravan Park Maintenance	1	1	1	100%	0	0%	0	0
Cemeteries	1	0	0	0%	0	0%	0	0
Ellesmere Cemetery Maintenance	1	0	0	0%	0	0%	0	0
Community Awards	1	1	1	100%	0	0%	0	0
Communtiy Awards - Enquiries	1	1	1	100%	0	0%	0	0
Corporate Services General	1	0	0	0%	0	0%	0	0
Rates Enquiries	1	0	0	0%	0	0%	0	0
Customer Service	4	4	4	100%	0	0%	0	0
Customer Service General Enquiries	4	4	4	100%	0	0%	0	0
Environmental Management and Health	9	6	4	67%	2	33%	3	3
Fire Hazards	6	4	3	75%	1	25%	2	2
Environmental Management & Health General Enquiries	1	1	0	0%	1	100%	0	0

For period 01/01/2026 to 28/02/2026

Double click onto the Minor Category to access Request detail

Dorset A7 *live*

Report Created: 11/03/2026 10:27:55AM

Major / Minor Category	New Requests Received	Total requests closed this period	Closed Within Target	%	Closed, but Over Target	%	Open Within Target	Open, but Over Target
Environmental Management and Health	9	6	4	67%	2	33%	3	3
Noise Pollution	2	1	1	100%	0	0%	1	1
Footpath Enquiries	9	8	8	100%	0	0%	1	0
Bridport Footpath Maintenance	1	1	1	100%	0	0%	0	0
Scottsdale Footpath Maintenance	4	3	3	100%	0	0%	1	0
Urban Footpath Maintenance	4	4	4	100%	0	0%	0	0
Parks & Reserves	4	2	2	100%	0	0%	2	0
Bridport Parks and Reserves Maintenance	1	1	1	100%	0	0%	0	0
Scottsdale Parks and Reserves Maintenance	1	0	0	0%	0	0%	1	0
Urban Parks and Reserves Maintenance	2	1	1	100%	0	0%	1	0
Planning & Building Services	1	1	1	100%	0	0%	0	0
Planning Enquiries	1	1	1	100%	0	0%	0	0
Playground Maintenance	3	2	2	100%	0	0%	0	0
Bridport Playground Maintenance	1	0	0	0%	0	0%	0	0
Scottsdale Playground Maintenance	2	2	2	100%	0	0%	0	0
Public Amenities	6	5	5	100%	0	0%	0	0
Bridport Public Amenities Maintenance	2	2	2	100%	0	0%	0	0
Scottsdale Public Amenities Maintenance	4	3	3	100%	0	0%	0	0
Public Halls Buildings	3	3	3	100%	0	0%	0	0
Council Office Maintenance	3	3	3	100%	0	0%	0	0
Recreation Grounds	10	9	9	100%	0	0%	1	0
Bridport Recreation Ground Maintenance	4	4	4	100%	0	0%	0	0
Scottsdale Recreation Ground Maintenance	4	3	3	100%	0	0%	1	0
Urban Recreation Ground Maintenance	2	2	2	100%	0	0%	0	0
Roads	47	31	31	100%	0	0%	11	0
Bridport Roads - Maintenance	2	1	1	100%	0	0%	1	0
Bridport Roads - Spray and Pest Control	1	1	1	100%	0	0%	0	0
Bridport Roads - Stormwater Maintenance	1	0	0	0%	0	0%	1	0
Bridport Roads - Tree and Vegetation Maintenance	3	3	3	100%	0	0%	0	0
Rural Roads - Maintenance	15	9	9	100%	0	0%	3	0
Rural Roads - Signage & Guide Post Maintenance	1	0	0	0%	0	0%	1	0
Rural Roads - Spraying and Pest Control	1	0	0	0%	0	0%	1	0
Rural Roads - Tree and Vegetation Maintenance	3	1	1	100%	0	0%	2	0

For period 01/01/2026 to 28/02/2026

Double click onto the Minor Category to access Request detail

Dorset A7 *live*

Report Created: 11/03/2026 10:27:55AM

Major / Minor Category	New Requests Received	Total requests closed this period	Closed Within Target	%	Closed, but Over Target	%	Open Within Target	Open, but Over Target
Roads	47	31	31	100%	0	0%	11	0
Rural Roads - Mowing and Slashing	10	8	8	100%	0	0%	0	0
Scottsdale Roads - Mowing and Slashing	1	1	1	100%	0	0%	0	0
Scottsdale Roads - Maintenance	2	2	2	100%	0	0%	0	0
Scottsdale Roads - Tree and Vegetation Maintenance	3	3	3	100%	0	0%	0	0
Urban Roads - Maintenance	2	1	1	100%	0	0%	1	0
Urban Roads - Speed Limit Enquiries	1	0	0	0%	0	0%	1	0
Urban Roads - Tree and Vegetation Maintenance	1	1	1	100%	0	0%	0	0
Waste Management	2	2	2	100%	0	0%	0	0
Waste Collection Issues	1	1	1	100%	0	0%	0	0
Waste Management Enquiries	1	1	1	100%	0	0%	0	0
GRAND TOTAL	115	84	79	94%	5	6%	19	4

DORSET COUNCIL – Planning Approvals

February 2026

DEV-2025/68	MDC Design and Drafting 238 Boddingtons RD BRIDPORT	Lodged 29/07/2025 Value of Works - \$1,000,000	Rural retreat accommodation units and facilities Determined APPD on 10/02/2026
DEV-2025/102	Mr A J Bissett 74 West Minstone RD SCOTTSDALE	Lodged 04/11/2025 Value of Works - \$500,000	Construction of single dwelling required as part of an agricultural use Determined APPD on 05/02/2026
DEV-2025/104	Mr J A Gillespie 1 Therese ST BRIDPORT	Lodged 05/11/2025 Value of Works - \$300,000	Construction of multiple dwellings (2) Determined APPD on 19/02/2026
DEV-2025/115	Ms S E Harris 59 Westwood ST BRIDPORT	Lodged 03/12/2025	Change of Use (Visitor Accommodation) Determined APPD on 16/02/2026
DEV-2025/126	Ms S M Rainbow 34 King ST SCOTTSDALE	Lodged 23/12/2025 Value of Works - \$20,000	Sports and Recreation - partial change of use to 24/7 Pilates Studio Determined APPD on 19/02/2026
DEV-2026/4	Mr J Alexander 215 Bridport RD SCOTTSDALE	Lodged 12/01/2026 Value of Works - \$20,000	Secondary Residence Determined APPD on 18/02/2026
DEV-2026/14	Mr C M Jago 30A Main ST BRIDPORT	Lodged 09/02/2026 Value of Works - \$340,000	New Dwelling Determined APPD on 09/02/2026

DEV-2026/17	Bison Constructions 189 Toronna RD WINNALEAH	Lodged 20/02/2026 Value of Works - \$194,000	New hay storage shed Determined APPD on 20/02/2026
DEV-2026/18	Mr Z B George 311 East Minstone RD SCOTTSDALE	Lodged 20/02/2026 Value of Works - \$40,000	Garage Determined APPD on 20/02/2026

DORSET COUNCIL – Building Approvals

February 2026

BLD-2026/8	Mr B J Rogers 78 Main ST DERBY	Lodged 04/02/2026 Value of Works - \$10,000	Demolition of Dwelling (Retrospective) Determined APPR on 04/02/2026
OTH-2026/6	Design to Live 8 Thomas ST SCOTTSDALE	Lodged 05/02/2026 Value of Works - \$750,000	New Dwelling Determined APPR on 05/02/2026
OTH-2026/10	Mode Electrical 237 Alberton RD ALBERTON	Lodged 17/02/2026 Value of Works - \$4,000	Solar Panel Installation Determined APPR on 17/02/2026
OTH-2026/11	Mode Electrical 113 Kamona Valley RD KAMONA	Lodged 17/02/2026 Value of Works - \$4,000	Solar Panel Installation Determined APPR on 17/02/2026
OTH-2026/13	DB Electrical Tasmania 55 George ST SCOTTSDALE	Lodged 20/02/2026 Value of Works - \$17,675	Solar Panel Installation Determined APPR on 20/02/2026
OTH-2026/14	Design to Live 17 Marilyn DR BRIDPORT	Lodged 24/02/2026 Value of Works - \$52,000	New Shed & Retaining Wall (Stage 1) Determined APPR on 24/02/2026
OTH-2026/15	Mr Z B George 311 East Minstone RD SCOTTSDALE	Lodged 26/02/2026 Value of Works - \$40,000	New Garage Determined APPR on 26/02/2026

DORSET COUNCIL – Plumbing Approvals**February 2026**

SP-2026/4	Ms D M Bennett	Lodged 05/02/2026	New OSWM System & Absorption Drains
	11 Main ST LEGERWOOD	Value of Works - \$19,000	Determined APPR on 05/02/2026
OTH-2026/6	Design to Live	Lodged 05/02/2026	New Dwelling
	8 Thomas ST SCOTTSDALE	Value of Works - \$750,000	Determined APPR on 05/02/2026