

JULY 2022

# Sorell Community News

community coast country

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



## Business and Employment Southeast Tasmania (BEST)

**The South East Employment Hub (SEEHub) and SERDA have joined forces to create Business and Employment Southeast Tasmania (BEST).**

After working together for the past three years, the SERDA and SEEHub teams are officially combining. It will be the same great people and services that you know and trust, just with a new name.

In addition, SERDA and Council successfully lobbied the Federal Government for \$1.5 million in funding to expand the successful South East Employment Hub and program.

Four years ago, the South East Regional Development Association (SERDA), made up of Clarence City Council, Tasman Council, Glamorgan Spring Bay Council and Sorell Council, began a workforce development program to strengthen the south east region and make it more sustainable. SERDA began working with employers, training providers and job seekers to create local jobs for local people, to keep local money in our local economies.

The South East Employment Hub, Workforce Development Officer, Business Advisor, Training Coordinator and the Trade Training Centre have been collaborating, preparing locals of all ages to meet industry sector needs now and into the future. Many of the employment barriers that people in the south east face have been removed by keeping training and support programs local and finding local based solutions.

Once constructed, BEST will move into the purpose-built facility on Dubs and Co Drive in Sorell, adjacent to the child care centre and the park and ride facility. This Hub is desperately required to meet the huge growth and demand for mature aged training and upskilling. This facility will complement the existing Trade Training Centre (SETTC) and will allow SERDA to continue to grow and assist more people and businesses in the south-east region.

## Australia Day Awards

**The Australia Day Awards for 2022 were presented in an intimate ceremony at the Council Chambers in January.**

The Australia Day Awards recognise those individuals and groups in our community who make a significant contribution or achieve something special.

**The recipients for 2022 were:**

**Citizen of the Year** Diane Cusick

**Young Citizen of the Year** Daniel Smith

**Community Group of the Year**  
Sorell Men's Shed

**Community Event of the Year**  
Sorell Community Christmas Carols by  
South East Tasmania Salvos

Sincere congratulations to these individuals and groups for the outstanding contribution they make to our community.



## Plastic Free Places

**Council is pleased to be working with 'Plastic Free Places Tasmania' to assist our local food retailers as they adapt to a single-use plastic free future.**

The Plastic Free Places program offers free assistance to our local businesses as part of a national effort to combat plastic pollution. Thanks to funding from the Federal Government, food retailers including cafes, bars, restaurants, kiosks & vans are eligible for the program. The focus will be on single-use takeaway items where sustainable practices and alternative products already exist.

If you, or anyone you know, own a food or beverage related retail business within the Sorell Municipality you can register your interest at [plasticfreeplaces.tas.org](http://plasticfreeplaces.tas.org). You can also show your support by following the efforts on Instagram or Facebook and by encouraging your local cafe or bar etc... to join.





## Mayor's Message



There are three extremely important current issues affecting the future growth and sustainability of our community that I'd like to touch on in this Mayor's Message.

**Council elections are coming up this October.** Council elections happen once every 4 years. This is your chance to choose who represents you and is your voice on Council making decisions on your behalf. It is so important to be informed on who you are voting for. Councillors make major decisions concerning large amounts of money and projects which affect our community in the present and also in the mid to long term future.

This year for the first time, Council elections will see compulsory voting. Use this chance to vote wisely and vote for candidates who you feel will best represent you and your priorities. Councillors need broad knowledge on a range of issues and the ability to understand the regulations and legislation Local Government operates under. In saying this, it's important we have people nominate to run for Council, so I urge you all to consider what skills and experience you could bring to Council and your community. Whilst it can be frustrating at times to be on Council, as a whole, it's a very rewarding and fulfilling role.

Sorell Council has worked effectively over the last few years to create a robust induction process for new Councillors. This induction introduces newcomers to the processes, regulations and legislation required to fulfill the role. Likewise, the Local Government Association of Tasmania conduct excellent training and information days for potential and newly elected Councillors. I've found these sessions extremely beneficial in the past. There is plenty of support available to help you be successful in your role as Councillor.

I encourage you to consider throwing your hat in the ring and nominate yourself in the upcoming elections.

**The Southern Tasmanian Regional Land Use Strategy (STRLUS) is coming up for review over the next few years.** A review of the STRLUS will determine what level of growth and investment we can achieve and sustain over the next 30-40 years.

The current STRLUS is based on 2006 ABS census data and is very much out of date with the requirements of our present community. Our community and the greater south-east region has since grown considerably, and unless it's updated then the south east region isn't able to adequately plan for our future requirements.

It's extremely difficult for us to work within the present planning regulations and provide the level of infrastructure growth and services that our community requires. We are currently hamstrung by this planning framework. The connectivity of our communities, creating future residential opportunities through infilling and being able to provide the assets and structures required is reliant on the STRLUS changing to allow us greater flexibility. Our current funding levels are restricted by our limited rate base. If we can't attract additional business development and investment then we can't fund the new assets and infrastructure our growing community requires.

If we can provide more commercial and light industrial zoned land it will allow for specific jobs and employment growth in these areas. In turn reducing the need for people to travel outside our Municipality for this type of work and the demand on the road transport corridor.

The STRLUS review is our opportunity to look at our regions current and future residential, commercial, light industrial and community zoning requirements. We need to achieve a sensible balance of these in order for our region to be sustainable and prosper into the future.

A review is urgently needed and something we have been advocating for the Government to carry out for some years now.

Sorell's future relies on the ability of the STRLUS to provide for our future growth requirements.

**The Future of Local Government Review is currently underway.** This review will focus on the role, function, and design of local government in Tasmania. The objective of the Review is to create a more robust and capable system of local government, for the benefit of all Tasmanians. This is the perfect opportunity for everyone to have their say and help shape our community for generations to come. It's our chance to create our vision for the future.

Many people believe the present Local Government model doesn't reflect modern day needs and requirements of communities. I personally believe that the present model is unsustainable for many small to medium Councils.



## Community Conversations

Our series of Community Conversations are back! Please join us for an informal chat with the Mayor, Councillors and General Manager about what's happening in your local community.

The first meeting for the year was recently held at the newly renovated Carlton Park Surf Life Saving Club.

### Sorell

Thursday 28 July at 6.00pm in the Sorell Memorial Hall.

### Primrose Sands

Thursday 25 August at 6.30pm in the Primrose Sands Community Hall.

Updates on local community projects of interest will be provided. All community members are welcome to attend.

Short and long term financial viability and sustainability need to be a major focus of any reform. Regional benefits is vital. We need to look at the bigger picture of our role within the region and current Council boundaries. I believe a focus on this aspect will ensure the long-term viability and sustainability of Local Government in Tasmania.

To date the reviews have involved initial consultation with the public, Council staff and elected members. There will be further opportunities to have input as the review progresses. I hope the review will reshape the way Local Government operate and the role of Councillors. Again, I encourage you not to miss your opportunity to have your say on this important issue – [www.futurelocal.tas.gov.au](http://www.futurelocal.tas.gov.au)

Your say is important, so use it wisely to help shape how you want our community to look in the future.

**Mayor Kerry Vincent**

## News In Brief

### CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY

Sorell Council's NRM Officer, local resident Samantha Milburn and Landcare Tasmania held a Clean Up Australia Day event at Sorell Rivulet in March. Assisted by a group of locals, they collected 9 bags of rubbish!! A range of waste was collected including soft plastics, aluminium foil, broken glass, milk crates and even a shopping trolley. The group separated the collected waste into recyclables and general waste, which was then disposed of by Council.



A big thank you to all those who help clean up our community and make a positive impact on our local environment. We really appreciate your efforts!

### BUILDING SURVEYING SERVICES

A reminder that we no longer provide building surveying services. If you require a building surveyor to sign off on works, you will need to engage a suitably qualified and licensed surveyor. We have a list of surveyor options available on our website.

## Waste Management Update

### FOOD ORGANICS AND GARDEN ORGANICS (FOGO)

Council are committed to implementing a Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) scheme for our community. However, the timing of implementing such a program is contingent on numerous things currently outside our control. The development of a FOGO processing facility within our region and the commencement of the State Government's Waste Levy and Container Refund Scheme will all impact how, when and what format we introduce FOGO. We understand some people are keen to see this implemented as soon as possible but we need to ensure it meets the needs and requirements of our diverse community and that we do it correctly to achieve a sustainable outcome.

### LANDFILL LEVY

The *Waste and Resource Recovery Act 2022* has passed through Parliament. It introduces a state-wide levy on waste disposed to landfill both as a disincentive to landfilling and as a way to provide funding into Tasmania's waste and resource recovery sectors.

The landfill levy commenced on 1 July 2022.

Essentially, the levy will involve an additional \$20 per tonne charge that will be applied to waste taken to a landfill. The levy will rise to \$40 per tonne after two years, then rise to \$60 per tonne after another two years.

A landfill levy is one of a range of strategies being developed by the Tasmanian Government to improve resource recovery in Tasmania.

This levy will impact the Waste Management Services charges we collect from our community. Based upon the levels of waste previously collected by our contractors and increasing costs associated with collection and disposal of household garbage and recycling, our charges will increase by 5.8% for the 2022/2023 financial year.

## Community Grants Program

**Council recently provided \$2000 in funding as part of the Community Grants Program to Southern Beaches Landcare Coastcare to begin a pilot Nest Box project in the Dodges Ferry Recreation Reserve.**

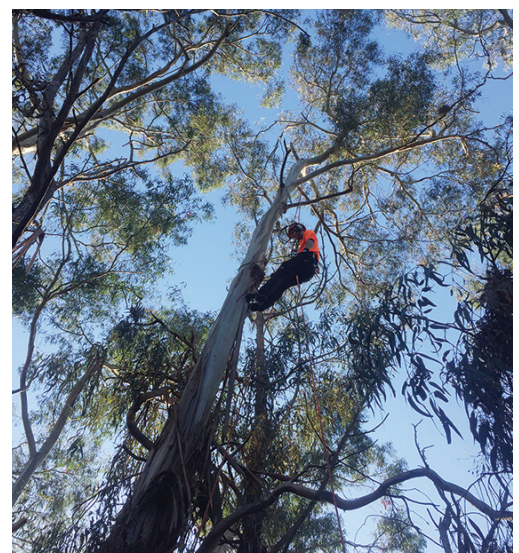
The group used the funding to engage an arborist to install 20 nest boxes within mid to mature sized eucalypts in the Reserve, providing critical nesting habitat for native species – specifically microbats, eastern rosellas, pardalotes and owls. A eucalyptus tree takes approximately 100 years to form a hollow, and hollow-bearing trees are in short supply in Dodges Ferry.

Nest boxes help native animals find refuge and raise young in an environment where suitable habitat is hard to find. With mature trees in decline and plenty of competition for hollows with invasive kookaburras, noisy miners and starlings, nest boxes can provide critically important real estate. They're also a useful way to monitor what kind of critters call Dodges Ferry home.

The nest boxes will be regularly checked to make sure pest species haven't moved in and to keep the nest boxes safe and hygienic for native species. The Sorell Men's Shed have constructed five different designs of nest boxes for the project. Southern Beaches Landcare and Coastcare volunteers and Dodges Ferry Primary School students will be monitoring and maintaining these 20 new homes in the Reserve over the next year. Thanks to the grant they will be able to undertake important research.

Head to [www.tinyurl.com/dodgesferry](http://www.tinyurl.com/dodgesferry) for more info and updates on the project.

Southern Beaches Landcare Coastcare has a long history of supporting our local flora and fauna. We congratulate them on another wonderful project that will undoubtedly have long lasting positive impacts on our wildlife.



# Local Government Elections 2022

Every 4 years, residents and ratepayers elect councillors to represent them. Councillors are elected by the community, for the community.

The State Government recently passed a bill (amendment) making voting compulsory at the Local Government elections this year. Voting is an important way of having your say on local issues. Councillors are elected to represent the interests of the community. They make many decisions about the infrastructure, services and facilities provided to their communities, often involving significant amounts of money.

**Nominations:** Standing for election provides an opportunity to positively influence the future of our community. We encourage a diverse range of representatives from our community to consider nominating for election. Nominations will open in September. Full details are on the Tasmanian Electoral Commission website.

**Enrolment to vote:** If you are currently on the House of Assembly electoral roll for an address in the Sorell Municipal area you are automatically enrolled.

Please head to the Tasmanian Electoral Commission website to ensure you are enrolled correctly so you don't miss the opportunity to have your say and help shape our community for the future –

[www.tec.tas.gov.au/Info/Enrolment.html](http://www.tec.tas.gov.au/Info/Enrolment.html)

**General Managers Roll:** The General Manager's Roll is a list of people who are eligible to vote in local government elections, even if they don't live in the Sorell Municipality. If you are not on the House of Assembly electoral roll for an address in the Sorell Council Municipal area, but you own or occupy land in the Sorell Municipal area, you may apply to be included on the General Managers Electoral Roll. To enrol under these special provisions you need to complete a Local Government Electoral Enrolment form which is located on our website at [www.sorell.tas.gov.au/elections](http://www.sorell.tas.gov.au/elections)

## Your Councillors

Contact details for our Councillors can be found on our website at [www.sorell.tas.gov.au/contact-us](http://www.sorell.tas.gov.au/contact-us)

## Contact Us

**Address** 47 Cole Street, Sorell  
**Telephone** 6269 0000  
**Fax** 6269 0014  
**Email** [sorell.council@sorell.tas.gov.au](mailto:sorell.council@sorell.tas.gov.au)  
**Website** [www.sorell.tas.gov.au](http://www.sorell.tas.gov.au)

Any feedback about the newsletter is welcomed and can be forwarded to [sorell.council@sorell.tas.gov.au](mailto:sorell.council@sorell.tas.gov.au)

## Responsible Dog Ownership

For many in our community dogs are an important member of the family.

In fact there are approximately 3300 dogs registered within the Sorell Municipality which means there's at least one dog for every four people! Dogs can bring a lot of joy, but they are a big responsibility. Your dog needs to be desexed, wormed, vaccinated and microchipped by your vet. It also needs to be registered with Council once it reaches 6 months of age. Current dog registrations expire on 30 June and are now due. Penalties apply for failure to re-register your dog, so please ensure registrations are completed as soon as possible.

One of the most common nuisance complaints Council receives is about barking dogs. Dogs will bark for many different reasons, but excessive barking can quickly become a source of irritation for neighbours. In the first instance we encourage you, if you are comfortable, to attempt to resolve the issue in a neighbourly manner by talking to your neighbour/dog owner and letting them know their dogs excessive barking is an issue for you. If the neighbour takes no action or does not agree that a problem exists, you can contact us. For any further specific advice on responsible dog ownership or excessive barking please call Council on 6269 0000 and ask to speak to a member of the Animal Management Team.

## Budget and Rates Information

Council recently approved the 2022/2023 annual plan and budget with a rate rise of 4.5%, which is in line with our Financial Management Strategy, Long Term Financial Plan and the Long Term Asset Management Plans.

The rate rise applies to the total amount of rate revenue required and is generated by the fixed charge and variable rate based on the assessed annual value (AAV). The Office of the Valuer General completed a valuation adjustment review in 2021/2022 with AAV's increasing between 30% and 220%.

The rate rise of 4.5% of total rate revenue, however, is spread across more than 9,300 properties and is an average increase. From an individual property perspective, some will be higher than the 4.5% increase and some less depending on each properties AAV.

### CAPITAL WORKS

Our capital budget for 2022/2023 provides funding for essential services, maintenance of existing assets and new infrastructure growth. This budget commits substantial funds of \$14.7 million for capital works projects including:

- › \$4.9 million for road resealing and resheeting
- › \$260,000 for renewal of footpaths
- › \$1.4 million for upgrade and renewal of stormwater infrastructure
- › \$460,000 for replacement of plant and equipment
- › \$1.4 million for walkways, parks and reserves renewals and upgrades
- › \$2 million for building works and facilities
- › \$150,000 for upgraded IT infrastructure
- › \$775,000 for streetscape upgrades

### SUPPORTING THE COMMUNITY

In addition the annual budget provides support for the activities and events of our community groups and organisations through \$65,000 funding in Council's Community Grants Program.

### PAYMENT OF RATES AND CHARGES

Rates, if paid in full, are due by 14 September 2022. Alternatively, they can be paid by way of four equal instalments as outlined on your Rates Notice. Direct debit options are also available. Rates can be paid online through Council's Website, over the phone, in person at the Council Offices or Australia Post outlets, or via BPAY through your preferred financial institutions online banking system. Full details are on your Rates Notice.