



Sorell Council **ANNUAL PLAN** 2025-2026



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Sorell Council's Annual Plan for the 2025/2026 financial year has been prepared and adopted by Council in accordance with Section 71 of the *Local Government Act 1993* in that it:

- is consistent with Council's Strategic Plan 2019 – 2029;
- includes a statement of the manner in which Council is to meet the goals and objectives of the Strategic Plan;
- includes a summary of the budget estimates adopted by Council; and
- includes a summary of the major strategies to be used in relation to the Council's public health goals and objectives.

In 2025/2026 Council will engage with our communities and stakeholders to meet the goals and objectives of the Strategic Plan in an inclusive manner.

Councillors at 30 June 2025



Mayor
Janet
Gatehouse



Councillor
Michael
Larkins



Councillor
Melinda
Reed



Deputy Mayor
Charles
Wooley



Councillor
Marisol Miro
Quesada
Le Roux



Councillor
Natham
Reynolds



Councillor
Shannon
Campbell



Councillor
Beth
Nichols



Councillor
Carmel
Torenus

Summary of the estimates for the 2025/2026 Financial Year

Estimated Operating Revenue	\$24,389,153
Estimated Operating Expenditure	\$25,336,608
Estimated Borrowing	N/A
Estimated Capital Income	\$5,798,982
Estimated Capital Works	\$16,063,134

Our VISION

A proud, thriving and inclusive South East Community.



Our VALUES

Integrity —————

We work in good faith, are honest and forthcoming and take accountability for our decisions.

Unity —————

We work cohesively as one Council, supporting our community and each other to achieve better outcomes.

Respect —————

We listen to and consider the opinions and input of each person and acknowledge each other's contribution.

Innovation —————

We are committed to finding new solutions, adapting to change and continuously improving in order to deliver the best outcomes for the community.

Snapshot of SORELL

Community
Buildings &
Facilities

35 



1,075
Local
Businesses
supporting 4,221
local jobs

97 km
of Pathways 

14 Community
Parks and
recreation
reserves



Estimated
population *

17,919



Retail
Largest
industry
(by employment)
generating 5449
local jobs.

Language
other than
English spoken
at home **3.8%**

4.8%
identify as Aboriginal
or Torres Strait Islander

2,138 **
Residents are
registered volunteers



2,544 **
Families

10,167 
total properties

42 ** Median
resident
age



\$1,369 **
Median weekly
household income



3,157
Registered
dogs

583 km²
 **TOTAL
AREA
OF LGA**

Stormwater
pits **3,572**
104km of
Stormwater pipes

4,691 
52.6%
of the workforce leave
the community for
work



10.2%
Residents born overseas

87
Bridges



14.8%
of our community
are employed in
retail trade

10.6%
of our community
are employed in
construction

11.8%
of our community
are employed in
health care and
social assistance



314
TONNES
Bulk Hardwaste collected
24/25

Gross Regional [#]
Product (GRP)

Estimate of each region's
unique contribution to
the national economy.

\$0.65 billion



871
TONNES
Greenwaste (kerbside)
collected 24/25



3,373
TONNES
General waste collected
24/25



970
TONNES
Recycling collected
24/25

Fauna Species
1242⁺
More than 1242 Fauna - 39
Species under EPBC 1999, 38
species under TSPA 1995



Flora Species
1363⁺
More than 1363 Flora - 8
Species under EPBC Act
1999, 51 species under TSPA
Act 1995



347 km
of road network
217km is sealed, and 130km is unsealed



Council formal and
other reserves

1698 ha

Includes 7 formal
Council reserves



Threatened Vegetation
Communities

6,222

10 under NCA 2002

(ha total)

1 Ramsar
Wetland

3,334 ha

Site of International Importance
Pitt Water-Orielton Lagoon

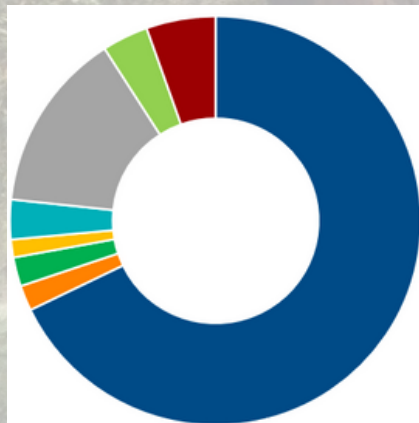
179 km (total)
Shoreline



* Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics,
Regional Population Growth, Australia (3218.0)

** 2021 Census

National Institute of Economic
and Industry Research 2023



■ Rates and charges	\$20,635,594
■ Statutory fees and fines	\$ 605,914
■ User fees	\$ 690,906
■ Operating grants	\$ 426,952
■ Interest	\$ 945,895
■ Capital grants	\$ 4,303,982
■ Recognition of completed subdivisions	\$ 1,095,000
■ Other income	\$ 1,643,893

Revenue

Where does it come from?



■ Roads and Infrastructure	\$183,335,000
■ Buildings	\$ 25,969,000
■ Assets under construction	\$ 1,747,000
■ Land	\$ 65,202,000
■ Bridges	\$ 14,097,000
■ Plant and Equipment	\$ 2,253,000
■ Stormwater	\$ 66,845,000
■ Land Improvements	\$ 13,065,000

Assets

This is what we own

Objective 1

Facilitate Regional Growth

		Strategic Plan Reference
1.1	Support the delivery of the final South East Traffic Solution Projects (Causeways duplication and Arthur Highway upgrades) through continued engagement with Department of State Growth.	1.1, 1.8
1.2	Continue engagement with TasWater, Inghams and Government to advocate for funding for the Sorell to Penna re-use watermain to deliver increased capacity and supply to the Coal Valley, enable employment generating land use development and, progression of the Sorell East growth corridor and SE sewerage strategy.	1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.8
1.3	Work with TasWater to finalise long-term water and sewerage servicing strategies for Sorell, delivery timeframes and funding commitments. Continue engagement with TasWater on exploring appropriate and affordable servicing options for Southern Beaches.	1.3, 1.7, 1.8
1.4	Enable sustainable investment and support job creation by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring regional economic trends using NIEIR (National Institute of Economic and industry Research) data and maintaining regular engagement with Regional Development Australia, the Sorell Business Association, Destination Southern Tasmania and Business and Employment Southeast Tasmania to share insights, identify emerging opportunities and collaborate to strengthen the local economy. Advocating to the Tasmanian Government to progress lease arrangements for the Dunalley Marina development, unlocking private investment and job creation. 	1.4
1.5	Support and promote SERDA programs and strategies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> re-commit to a partnership and shared ownership of new SERDA strategy including required structural updates and funding to deliver staged outcomes. with Glamorgan Spring Bay Council, finalise business case and management guidelines of the Wielangta Mountain Bike Trail Project and establish if project proceeding and required staged capital funding. 	1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.5, 1.6, 1.8, 1.9, 1.10

Objective 1- continued

Facilitate Regional Growth

		Strategic Plan Reference
1.6	<p>Continue to support improvements in local education infrastructure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Advocate for the delivery of additional education capacity and contemporary Kindergarten – Year 12 facilities for the south-east region with Government and private sector providers.• With TasWater and the Department of Education, finalise the upgrade of the Dodges Ferry School wastewater treatment plant in conjunction with a collaborative review of the Master Plan that considers Okines, the recreation ground & clubrooms, and the potential relocation of Ferry Hall.	1.3, 1.6, 1.8
1.7	<p>Continue engagement and advocacy with State Government to achieve timely delivery of the revised Southern Tasmania Regional Land Use Strategy (completion was originally Dec 2024 revised to July 2026).</p> <p>Community consultation and finalisation of the review of the Sorell Urban Master Plan.</p>	1.7, 1.8

Objective 2

Responsible Stewardship and a sustainable organisation

		Strategic Plan Reference
2.1	<p>Review and adopt the Financial Management Strategy and underpinning 10 Year Long Term Financial Plan ensuring it delivers benchmark thresholds and Council's Strategic Planning objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Critically review and adopt revenue generation options required to meet the thresholds and objectives in the Financial Management Strategy. • Review the forecast new / upgrade capital projects ensuring they are financially sustainable and meet Council's Strategic Planning objectives inclusive of lower capital value asset development that achieve high social impacts. 	2.1, 2.7
2.2	<p>Commit to asset revaluation cycles and managing risk profiles, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop treatment plans for high level residual risks and provide implementation resourcing in accordance with revised Risk Management Framework. 	2.3, 2.4, 2.7
2.3	<p>Provide cost effective waste management services by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engaging with Southern Waste Solutions to develop a regional FOGO facility and education program and, to explore waste transfer / recycling centre options. • Commence community consultation for FOGO introduction in 2026/27. • Continuing to identify opportunities for regional service delivery with TasWaste South and Southern Waste Solutions. • Investigate soft plastics recycling options. 	2.4, 2.7, 2.8, 2.10
2.4	<p>Continuing elected member engagement with DPAC and LGAT Local Government Learning and Development Framework, Local Government Reform program and review of Council Governance Framework.</p>	2.7

Objective 2 - continued

Responsible Stewardship and a sustainable organisation

		Strategic Plan Reference
2.5	<p>Establish commitments, resourcing and engagement related to: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving stormwater capacity management and quality discharge to receiving waters through implementing the Council Stormwater in New Development Policy and integrating into Council maintenance operations. • Implementing stormwater outlet upgrade projects associated with Year Three of the Coastal Estuary Risk Mitigation Program. • Implementation of NRM Strategy with appropriate and achievable environmental actions including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Climate change mitigation and adaptation including EV fleet transition plan. ◦ Development of Weed Management Plan. ◦ Reserve Management Plan review and implementation. ◦ Tree Management options assessment. • Staged implementation of Southern Beaches Onsite Wastewater and Stormwater Plan. 	2.3, 2.4, 2.8
2.6	<p>Strengthen proactive stakeholder relations and issue-based advocacy, including for Regional Strengthening Projects and required grant funding consistent with Financial Management Strategy.</p>	2.6, 2.10

Objective 3

To ensure a liveable and inclusive community

		Strategic Plan Reference
3.1	Strengthen cultural understanding and recognition of First Nations peoples - past, present, and emerging - foster meaningful relationships within the community and integrate inclusive practices that honour their history, culture and ongoing contributions into Council policies and practices.	
3.2	Finalise the Municipal Playground Audit and develop a playground accessibility, upgrade and development plan. Incorporate into Financial Management Strategy.	3.4
3.3	Implementation of the Active Transport Strategy through short-term priorities and planning for medium – long term priorities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • advocacy and engagement with Federal and State government on related infrastructure planning, scope design and grant opportunities. • inclusion of staged Council capital projects as per revised Financial Management Strategy. 	3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 3.9
3.4	Continue to lobby for affordable and increased public transport services and Park and Ride facilities for the Southern Beaches and Sorell East.	3.5
3.5	Finalise the South East Sporting Complex Master Plan and advocate with partner organisations for further capital funding to facilitate ongoing staged development and upgrades.	3.6, 2.6
3.6	Continue to implement the South East Youth Report recommendations, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appointment of a dedicated Youth resource. • Repurpose 11 Fitzroy St as a Youth Hub. • Advocate for and support delivery of services and programs for young people. 	3.2, 3.3
3.7	Continue to develop the Community Cultural Precinct: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocate for staged project funding. • Open and activate the Sorell Railway Carriage Shed. • Support short term activation opportunities at the site. • Cultural heritage preservation (Sorell Memorial Hall & Railway Shed). 	3.4, 3.7, 3.8
3.8	Advocate for and support the delivery of an Urgent Care Clinic in Sorell.	3.3
3.9	Commence the review and update of the Sorell Heritage Study with a particular focus on 20 th century heritage.	3.7

Objective 4

Increased community confidence in Council

		Strategic Plan Reference
4.1	Advocate and plan for investment in infrastructure and services as identified in the Social Strategy and Active Transport Strategy.	4.2, 4.4, 4.7
4.2	Advocate for increased availability of affordable housing with Homes Tasmania and land owners.	4.1, 4.2, 4.4, 1.8
4.3	Undertake a review of our engagement activities, including Community Conversations and advisory groups, to ensure they are aligned with the updated Communication and Engagement Strategy.	4.1, 4.4, 4.6, 4.7
4.4	Undertake a strategic review of population forecasts and demographics to inform planning and decision making.	4.1, 4.2
4.5	Commence development of a Southern Beaches Structure Plan utilising completed on-site wastewater and on-site stormwater plan.	4.2, 4.4, 2.4

Public Health goals and objectives

In accordance with Section 71(2)(d) of the *Local Government Act 1993*, council is required to include a summary of the major strategies to be used in relation to council's public health goals and objectives.

Key activities that work towards achieving Council's public health goals are:

- Conduct a school immunisation program aligned with State and Federal Department of Health immunisation goals and targets and continued promotion of immunisation within our community.
- Ensure proper provision of sustainable on-site wastewater management in accordance with the current regulatory framework, codes, standards and best environmental practice.
- Undertake routine inspections of food premises, public events, public health risk activities, unhealthy housing, private water suppliers and water carriers to ensure compliance with relevant legislation.
- Promote safe food handling in our community through the use of media and social media platforms to provide current food safety advice and information to our community.
- Apply the Tasmanian food business risk classification system.
- Provide effective and efficient collection, recycling and disposal of solid waste to the community.
- Promptly investigate public and environmental health complaints.
- Maintain an effective monitoring and analysis program for food, recreational waters and general complaints.
- Continue to actively participate and contribute to policy and legislative development at a regional and State level to further the public and environmental health of our community.

KEY PROJECTS & STRATEGIES

PROJECTS

- Staged implementation of Social and Active Transport Strategy priority projects.
- Establishment of a Youth Hub in Sorell.
- Coastal Estuarine Risk Mitigation Program final year upgrades.
- Stage 1 planning to develop Craigs Hill bushland site into a community nature recreation space.
- Staged implementation of Community Precinct Master Plan -
 - Completion of South East Jobs and Training Hub facility
 - Commencement of forecourt / civic plaza
 - Project manage relocation of Men's Shed facility
 - Activation of restored Railway Carriage Shed
- Staged implementation of Reserve Management Plan priority actions.
- Staged review of Sorell Heritage Register to determine sites for inclusion in Local Provisions Schedule.



STRATEGY REVIEW & DEVELOPMENT

- Commence Southern Beaches Structure Plan.
- Engagement with State Planning Office to deliver Southern Tasmania Regional Land Use Strategy review.
- Review of Sorell Township Urban Master Plan.



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