



COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

19 AUGUST 2025

COUNCIL CHAMBERS
COMMUNITY ADMINISTRATION
CENTRE (CAC)



MINUTES

FOR THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE COMMUNITY
ADMINISTRATION CENTRE (CAC), 47 COLE STREET, SORELL ON
19 August 2025

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.0	ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY – MAYOR GATEHOUSE	4
2.0	ATTENDANCE	4
3.0	APOLOGIES	4
4.0	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	4
5.0	CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF 15 JULY 2025	5
6.0	MAYOR’S REPORT	5
7.0	SUPPLEMENTARY ITEMS	6
8.0	COUNCIL WORKSHOPS REPORT	6
9.0	COUNCILLOR QUESTIONS ON NOTICE	7
10.0	COUNCILLOR MOTIONS ON NOTICE	7
11.0	WORKGROUP REPORTS	7
12.0	PETITIONS STILL BEING ACTIONED	7
13.0	PETITIONS RECEIVED	8
14.0	LAND USE PLANNING	9
14.1	SOARELL PLANNING AUTHORITY MINUTES	9
15.0	GOVERNANCE	9
15.1	ENDORSEMENT OF REVIEWED AND NEW COUNCIL POLICIES	9
15.2	PROPOSED DISPOSAL OF PUBLIC LAND – PART OF 532 OLD FORCETT ROAD, DODGES FERRY – CT 101072/1 & 3	10
16.0	INFRASTRUCTURE AND ASSETS	10
17.0	COMMUNITY RELATIONS	11
17.1	COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM	11
17.2	COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM	11
17.3	COUNCILLOR REPRESENTATION ON COMMUNITY GRANTS ASSESSMENT PANEL	12
18.0	FINANCE	12
18.1	EXECUTIVE SUMMARY – FINANCIAL REPORT JULY 2025 YTD	12
18.2	2025-2026 CAPITAL BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS	13
19.0	PLANNING	13
19.1	AMENDMENT TO THE STATE COASTAL POLICY	13
20.0	HEALTH AND COMPLIANCE	13
21.0	ROADS AND STORMWATER	14
22.0	FACILITIES AND RECREATION	14
22.1	BLUE LAGOON WEED MANAGEMENT PLAN 2025 - 2035	14
23.0	QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC	14

24.0	CLOSED MEETING	17
24.1	CONFIRMATION OF THE CLOSED MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF 15 JULY 2025	17
24.2	AUTHORISATION TO DISCLOSE CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION	18
24.3	COPPING REFUSE DISPOSAL SITE JOINT AUTHORITY MEETING MINUTES -15 MAY 2025	18
25.0	ACRONYMNS	20

The meeting commenced at 6.02pm

AUDIO-VISUAL RECORDING OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

I would like to advise that an audio-visual recording is being made of this meeting. I also remind everyone present to be respectful and considerate towards others attending the meeting. Language or behaviour that could be perceived as offensive, defamatory, or threatening to any person attending the meeting, or to those listening to the recording, will not be tolerated.

1.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY – MAYOR GATEHOUSE

[^](#)

I would like to begin by paying respect to the traditional and original owners of this land the Mumirimina people, to pay respect to those that have passed before us and to acknowledge today's Tasmanian Aboriginal community who are custodians of this land.

2.0 ATTENDANCE

[^](#)

Mayor J Gatehouse
Deputy Mayor C Wooley
Councillor B Nichols
Councillor M Reed
Councillor N Reynolds
Councillor M Larkins
General Manager R Higgins
Director People & Performance J Hinchin

3.0 APOLOGIES

[^](#)

Councillor C Torenus
Councillor M Miró Quesada Le Roux
Councillor S Campbell

4.0 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

[^](#)

The Mayor requested any Councillors to indicate whether they had, or were likely to have, an interest in any item on the agenda.

No Councillor indicated they had, or were likely to have interest in any items on the agenda.

5.0 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF 15 JULY 2025



RECOMMENDATION

“That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 15th July 2025 be confirmed.”

117/2025 LARKINS/REED

“That the recommendation be accepted.”

The motion was put.

For: Reynolds, Gatehouse, Wooley, Reed, Nichols, Larkins

Against:

The Motion was **CARRIED**

6.0 MAYOR'S REPORT



RECOMMENDATION

“That the Mayor's communication report as listed be received.”

118/2025 NICHOLS/LARKINS

“That the recommendation be accepted.”

The motion was put.

For: Reynolds, Gatehouse, Wooley, Reed, Nichols, Larkins

Against:

The Motion was **CARRIED**

7.0 SUPPLEMENTARY ITEMS



RECOMMENDATION

"That the Council resolve by absolute majority to deal with any supplementary items not appearing on the agenda, as reported by the General Manager in accordance with the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015*."

In accordance with the requirements of Part 2 Regulation 8 (6) of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015*, the Council by absolute majority may approve the consideration of a matter not appearing on the agenda, where the General Manager has reported:

- a) The reason it was not possible to include the matter on the agenda; and
- b) That the matter is urgent; and
- c) That advice has been provided under section 65 of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

8.0 COUNCIL WORKSHOPS REPORT



The following Council Workshop was held:

Date	Purpose	Councillor Attendance	Councillor Apologies
01 August 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sorell Structure Plan review Community Grants Assessment Panel Special Committee – Councillor reps Update on funding request to Council from BEST - 'Regional Engagement & Experience Program' (REEP) – TCF application Governance matters – proposed & revised policies Dodges Ferry Primary School – Gymnasium ownership options Updates – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Red Ochre Steps project update Men's Shed / Lions relocation to Penna Potential Municipal Road Map updates and costs – Bay Rd & Russell St, Dunalley Community Grants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gatehouse, Wooley, Nichols, Torenus, Miro Quesada, Le Roux, Reed, Larkins, Campbell 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reynolds



9.0 COUNCILLOR QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

△

NIL

10.0 COUNCILLOR MOTIONS ON NOTICE

△

NIL

11.0 WORKGROUP REPORTS

△

RECOMMENDATION

"That the workgroup reports as listed be received."

119/2025 NICHOLS/WOOLEY

"That the recommendation be accepted."

The motion was put.

For: Reynolds, Gatehouse, Wooley, Reed, Nichols, Larkins

Against:

The Motion was **CARRIED**

12.0 PETITIONS STILL BEING ACTIONED

△

Petition	Tabled at Council Meeting	Status
Withdrawal of the Blue Lagoon Management Plan Draft	18 th July 2023 ordinary Council meeting – S.58(2) LGA 1993.	<p>Council laid the matter on the table for further consultancy on review and options assessment for stormwater management at Blue Lagoon. Variation to the operating budget approved at August 2023 Council meeting to facilitate this - \$50k.</p> <p>Final consultant reports received April 2024.</p> <p>Council staff continue to progress matters with Red Handfish research team (NHRT) in first instance through exchange of consultant reports, development of an interim water level</p>



<p>Restore and Revegetate Platypus Habitat – Dodges Ferry</p>	<p>17th June 2025 ordinary Council meeting – S.58(2) LGA 1993.</p> <p>15th July 2025 ordinary Council meeting – S.60(2)(b) LGA 1993.</p>	<p>management SOP and ongoing engagement prior to determining further actions.</p> <p>Exchange of all project materials expanded to relevant state and federal agencies.</p> <p>Engagement with NRM EAG has also occurred.</p> <p>Alternative permanent outfall design exiting at Boat Ramp underway. Detailed LIDAR survey and tidal level data indicate drain grade and tidal inundation limitations. Alternate approaches being investigated between Council and consultant. Two options completed. Original concept via Kannah and Boat Park to ramp most feasible / least cost. Revised PM Plan required to finalise planning, required budget and impacts of associated maintenance works of lagoon as per mechanical cumbungi removal.</p> <p>Petition tabled.</p> <p>Recommended action of Council was: <i>'Pending receipt of the eDNA monitoring results, to then consider options including the development and implementation of an appropriate habitat improvement plan'.</i></p> <p>eDNA results subsequently returned negative evidence from test sites across three waterways.</p> <p>Council NRM Facilitator in conjunction with NRM Environmental Advisory Group to develop a broader waterway habitat management approach consistent with the NRM Strategy, that appropriately considers risk, regulatory framework and tenure, and which provides localised, staged and funded (where required) actions.</p>
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13.0 PETITIONS RECEIVED



At the time of preparation of this agenda no petitions had been received.

14.0 LAND USE PLANNING



The Mayor advised in accordance with the provisions of Part 2 Regulation 29 of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025, the intention of the Council to act as a planning authority pursuant to the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993* is to be noted.

In accordance with Regulation 29, the Council will act as a planning authority in respect to those matters appearing under item 14 on this agenda, inclusive of any supplementary items.

14.1 SORELL PLANNING AUTHORITY MINUTES



RECOMMENDATION

"That the minutes of the Sorell Planning Authority ("SPA") Meeting of 5th August 2025 be noted."

120/2025 REED/LARKINS

"That the recommendation be accepted."

The motion was put.

For: Reynolds, Gatehouse, Wooley, Reed, Nichols, Larkins

Against:

The Motion was **CARRIED**

15.0 GOVERNANCE



15.1 ENDORSEMENT OF REVIEWED AND NEW COUNCIL POLICIES

RECOMMENDATION

"That Council resolves to endorse the following governance documents as presented:

- i) reviewed Councillor Code of Conduct;
- ii) reviewed Enforcement Policy;
- iii) reviewed Fees Refund and Remission Policy;
- iv) reviewed Personal Information Protection Policy;
- v) reviewed Related Party Disclosure Policy; and
- vi) new Dispute Resolution Policy."



121/2025 LARKINS/REED

"That the recommendation be accepted."

The motion was put.

For: Reynolds, Gatehouse, Wooley, Reed, Nichols, Larkins

Against:

The Motion was **CARRIED**

15.2 PROPOSED DISPOSAL OF PUBLIC LAND – PART OF 532 OLD FORCETT ROAD, DODGES FERRY – CT 101072/1 & 3**RECOMMENDATION**

"That Council:

1. Resolve pursuant to Section 178 of the *Local Government Act 1993* ("the Act") that Council intends to sell, exchange or dispose of public land, being land ("the Land") described in Certificate of Title Volume 101072 Folio 1&3, Part of 532 Old Forcett Road, Dodges Ferry;

2. Authorise the General Manager to take all actions necessary to complete public notification of Council's intent to sell, exchange or dispose of the Land in accordance with Section 178 of the Act; and

3. Authorise the General Manager to consider and acknowledge any objection received pursuant to Section 178(6) of the Act."

122/2025 LARKINS/NICHOLS

"That the recommendation be accepted."

The motion was put.

For: Reynolds, Gatehouse, Wooley, Reed, Nichols, Larkins

Against:

The Motion was **CARRIED**

16.0 INFRASTRUCTURE AND ASSETS

△

Nil



17.0 COMMUNITY RELATIONS

17.1 [△] COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM

RECOMMENDATION

"That Council resolves to decline a grant application from Eventide Sanctuary (Guardians of Eventide) under the 2025-2026 Community Grants Program as per the following report."

123/2025 LARKINS/NICHOLS

"That the recommendation be accepted."

The motion was put.

For: Reynolds, Gatehouse, Wooley, Reed, Nichols, Larkins

Against:

The Motion was **CARRIED**

17.2 COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM

RECOMMENDATION

"That Council approve annual contributions to Sea Rescue and South East Arts as part of the Section 77 donations and grants budget."

124/2025 LARKINS/WOOLEY

"That the recommendation be accepted."

The motion was put.

For: Reynolds, Gatehouse, Wooley, Reed, Nichols, Larkins

Against:

The Motion was **CARRIED**

17.3 COUNCILLOR REPRESENTATION ON COMMUNITY GRANTS ASSESSMENT PANEL

RECOMMENDATION

"That Council resolves to endorse the appointment of the following Councillors to the Community Grants Assessment Panel (CGAP):

- Mayor Janet Gatehouse (Chair)
- Councillor Shannon Campbell
- Councillor Michael Larkins."

125/2025 REYNOLDS/NICHOLS

"That the recommendation be accepted."

The motion was put.

For: Reynolds, Gatehouse, Wooley, Reed, Nichols, Larkins

Against:

The Motion was **CARRIED**

18.0 FINANCE



18.1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY – FINANCIAL REPORT JULY 2025 YTD

RECOMMENDATION

"That the Executive Summary – FINANCIAL REPORT JULY 2025 YEAR-TO-DATE be received and noted by Council."

126/2025 REED/LARKINS

"That the recommendation be accepted."

The motion was put.

For: Reynolds, Gatehouse, Wooley, Reed, Nichols, Larkins

Against:

The Motion was **CARRIED**

18.2 2025-2026 CAPITAL BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS

RECOMMENDATION

"That Council resolve pursuant to Section 82 of the Local Government Act 1993 to accept and adopt the below adjustments to the 2025/2026 Capital Budget estimates."

127/2025 LARKINS/NICHOLS

"That the recommendation be accepted."

The motion was put.

For: Reynolds, Gatehouse, Wooley, Reed, Nichols, Larkins

Against:

The Motion was **CARRIED**

19.0 PLANNING



19.1 AMENDMENT TO THE STATE COASTAL POLICY

RECOMMENDATION

"That Council resolves to make a submission to the Tasmanian Planning Commission on draft amendment 01-2025 to the *State Coastal Policy 1996* as set out in the following report."

128/2025 LARKINS/NICHOLS

"That the recommendation be accepted."

The motion was put.

For: Reynolds, Gatehouse, Wooley, Reed, Nichols, Larkins

Against:

The Motion was **CARRIED**

20.0 HEALTH AND COMPLIANCE



NIL



21.0 ROADS AND STORMWATER

[^](#)

NIL

22.0 FACILITIES AND RECREATION

[^](#)

22.1 BLUE LAGOON WEED MANAGEMENT PLAN 2025 - 2035

RECOMMENDATION

"That Council resolve to:

- a) endorse the Blue Lagoon Weed Management Plan;
- b) recommend for formal reserve status,
- c) incorporate management actions in Council's long term financial plan allocate appropriate resources for the recommended activities."

129/2025 LARKINS/REED

"That the recommendation be accepted."

The motion was put.

For: Reynolds, Gatehouse, Wooley, Reed, Nichols, Larkins

Against:

The Motion was **CARRIED**

23.0 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

[^](#)

In accordance with Regulation 36 of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025, Council will conduct a Public Question Time.

At each meeting the Mayor will invite those members of the public present to ask questions. When requested please:

- Stand up; and
- State clearly your name and address.

This time is allocated for questions from the public. Questions are to be kept brief and specific to the topic to which they relate.



Members of the public are reminded that questions and any answers to such questions are not to be debated.

Questions may be submitted to Council in writing at least seven (7) days before an ordinary Council meeting.

Diedre Bigger of Dodges Ferry questioned if there is a Blue Lagoon Weed Management Plan, can there be a Dodges Ferry Weed Management Plan given there is lots of boneseed along the front of First Avenue.

Mayor Gatehouse advised that the foreshore in front of First Ave is Crown and /or Public Trustee and not Council owned and the weed management plans in place are for Council owned land.

Diedre Bigger of Dodges Ferry questioned if a streetlight can be installed on the Cole Street Council entrance to avoid traffic hazards in the dark.

The General Manager responded that Council are responsible for streetlight power and replacement of broken lights, with TasNetworks required to install new streetlights. Council can put in a request accordingly if an area needs one.

The open meeting concluded at 7:04pm

CLOSED MEETING

Members are advised that items listed below in the CLOSED SESSION AGENDA are classified as CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS in accordance with the provisions of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

A Councillor must not discuss any item listed in a CLOSED SESSION AGENDA with any person (except another elected member, the General Manager or the author of a report to the closed session of Council or a Council Committee) without a specific resolution of the Council or a Council Committee that considered the report.

Section 338A (1) of the *Local Government Act 1993* states that a Councillor must not disclose information:

- (a) seen or heard by the Councillor at a meeting or part of a meeting of a council or council committee that is closed to the public that is not authorised by the council or council committee to be disclosed; or*
- (b) given to the Councillor by the mayor, deputy mayor, chairperson of a meeting of the council or council committee or the general manager on the condition that it be kept confidential.*

Section 338A (3) states that a member must not disclose information acquired as such a member on the condition that it be kept confidential.

Additionally, Section 339 of the *Local Government Act 1993* states that:

- (1) A councillor or a member must not make improper use of any information acquired as a councillor or member.*
- (3) Improper use of information includes using the information –*
 - (a) to gain, directly or indirectly, an advantage or to avoid, directly or indirectly, a disadvantage for oneself, a member of one's family or a close associate; or*
 - (b) to cause any loss or damage to any council, controlling authority, single authority, joint authority or person.*

The closed meeting commenced at 7.05pm

24.0 CLOSED MEETING



The General Manager advised that in his opinion the listing of agenda item/s:

Reference	Item
24.1	Confirmation of the Closed Council Minutes of the Council Meeting of 15 JULY 2025- <i>Regulation 40(3)</i>
24.2	Disclosure of confidential information – <i>Regulation 17(7)</i>
24.3	Copping Refuse Disposal Site Joint Authority Meeting Minutes – 15 May 2025 – <i>Regulation 17(2)(d)</i>

As prescribed items in accordance with Regulations 17 and 40 of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025, and therefore Council may by absolute majority determine to close the meeting to the general public.

RECOMMENDATION

That the meeting be closed to the public to enable Council to consider agenda items 24.1 - 24.3 which are confidential matters as prescribed in Regulations 40 and 17 of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025.

130/2025 REYNOLDS/NICHOLS

"That the recommendation be accepted."

The motion was put.

For: Reynolds, Gatehouse, Wooley, Reed, Nichols, Larkins

Against:

The Motion was **CARRIED**

24.1 CONFIRMATION OF THE CLOSED MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF 15 JULY 2025



RECOMMENDATION

"That the Closed Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 15th July 2025 be confirmed."



131/2025 WOOLEY/NICHOLS

"That the recommendation be accepted."

The motion was put.

For: Reynolds, Gatehouse, Wooley, Reed, Nichols, Larkins

Against:

The Motion was **CARRIED**

24.2 **AUTHORISATION TO DISCLOSE CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION**
RECOMMENDATION

"That in accordance with Regulation 17(7) of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025, the Mayor and General Manager be authorised to disclose information from this 'Closed Section' of this meeting in the course of implementing the decisions of Council."

132/2025 NICHOLS/LARKINS

"That the recommendation be accepted."

The motion was put.

For: Reynolds, Gatehouse, Wooley, Reed, Nichols, Larkins

Against:

The Motion was **CARRIED**

24.3 **COPPING REFUSE DISPOSAL SITE JOINT AUTHORITY MEETING MINUTES -15 MAY 2025**

133/2025 REED/LARKINS

"That the recommendation be accepted."

The motion was put.

For: Reynolds, Gatehouse, Wooley, Reed, Torenus, Nichols, Larkins, Campbell

Against:

The Motion was **CARRIED**

The closed meeting concluded at 7:07pm

25.0 ACRONYMS



AGM	Annual General Meeting
AFL	Australian Football League
AIR	Australian Immunisation Register
ASU	Australian Services Union
ATO	Australian Taxation Office
AWTS	Aerated Wastewater Treatment Systems
BEST	Business and Employment Southeast Tasmania
CAC	Community Administration Centre
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CLRS	Councillors
CPR	Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation
CRM	Customer Request Management
CRDSJA	Copping Refuse Disposal Site Joint Authority
DEDTA	Department Economic Development, Tourism & The Arts
DECYP	Department for Education, Children and Young People
DPAC	Department of Premier & Cabinet
DPFEM	Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management
DSG	Department of State Growth
DST	Destination Southern Tasmania
EBA	Enterprise Bargaining Agreement
EOI	Expressions of Interest
EOFY	End of Financial Year
EPA	Environment Permit Authority
EWaste	Electronic Waste
FMAC	Fire Management Assessment Committee
GM	General Manager
ICT	Information Communication Technology
LGAT	Local Government Association of Tasmania
LPS	Local Provisions Schedule
LTFP	Long Term Financial Plan
LTI	Lost Time Injury
MAST	Marine & Safety Tasmania
MEMC	Municipal Emergency Management Committee
NBN	National Broadband Network
NRE	Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania
NRM	Natural Resource Management
PWS	Parks and Wildlife Service
RACT	Royal Automobile Club of Tasmania
RDA	Regional Development Australia
RSL	Returned Services League
RTI	Right to Information
SBIP	School Based Immunisation Program
SEI	South East Irrigation
SEBA	South East Basketball Association
SENA	South East Netball Association
SERDA	South East Region Development Association
SEUFC	South East United Football Club



MINUTES

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
19 AUGUST 2025

SES	State Emergency Service
SFC	Sorell Football Club
SFL	Southern Football League
SMH	Sorell Memorial Hall
SPA	Sorell Planning Authority
STCA	Southern Tasmanian Councils Association
STRWA	Southern Tasmanian Regional Waste Authority
STRLUS	Southern Tasmania Regional Land Use Strategy
SWSA	Southern Waste Strategy Association
SWS	Southern Waste Solutions
TasCAT	Tasmanian Civil and Administrative Tribunal
TAO	Tasmanian Audit Office
TCF	Tasmanian Community Fund
TOR	Terms of Reference
UTAS	University of Tasmania