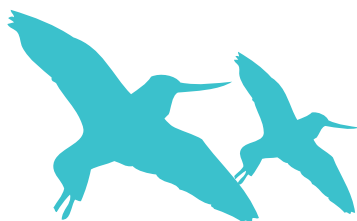


JULY 2025

Sorell Community News

community coast country

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Simple Steps for Safe & Clean Tank Water

Many households in our community rely on rainwater tanks for their drinking water — but did you know that regular maintenance is essential to keep your water clean and safe to drink?

Here are some handy tips for looking after your tank water:

- Clean your roof and gutters regularly — animal droppings, leaves and dust can easily contaminate your water.
- Install leaf guards and first flush diverters on your downpipes to stop the first dirty runoff from entering your tank.
- Use water filters where needed, and remember to replace filter cartridges as per the manufacturer's instructions.
- Disinfect when necessary — if your tank water becomes contaminated, you can disinfect with chlorine, UV systems, or by boiling water for at least 3 minutes before drinking.
- Prevent mozzies — cover tank inlets with a fine screen to stop mosquitoes from breeding in your tank.

Remember: keeping your tank clean is the best way to protect your water. Chlorinating is a short-term fix — regular maintenance is the key to safe, healthy drinking water.

For more information, visit the Australian Government **Department of Health website**.

Shaping the Future of Sorell's Community Heart

We are continuing to progress plans for the Sorell Community Cultural Precinct — an exciting project set to create a vibrant, inclusive public space in the centre of town.



Restored Railway Carriage Shed

The vision for the precinct has been developed over several years, with strong community input helping to shape its direction. Initial consultations in 2020, including public forums, a survey and Facebook group, highlighted community priorities such as creating welcoming outdoor spaces, celebrating Sorell's heritage, and ensuring the area is well connected and flexible for different uses.

In response, Council worked with Loci Architecture and Inspiring Place to develop concept plans. A Community Reference Committee, formed in 2021 through an Expression of Interest process, continues to play a key role in guiding the project and reflecting community aspirations.

The precinct will be delivered in stages:

- Stage 1 includes restoration of the heritage-listed Rail Carriage Shed with fencing and landscaping.
- Stage 2 is the removal of outdated structures and potential soil decontamination of the associated sites.
- Stage 3 proposes new community facilities such as an amphitheatre, market space, shelters, gardens, amenities and seating.

Stage 1 is already well underway, with the Railway Carriage Shed recently restored thanks to Federal Government funding, making it safe, accessible, and ready to activate the precinct with community events.

It's now time for you to have your say and tell us what you love about our concept plans for the space and how you see you and your family and friends using it.

Head to our website to view the concept plans and tell us what you like the most.

We look forward to working with our community to bring this shared vision to life and create a precinct that supports connection, creativity and celebration in Sorell. The Federal Government has committed \$2.25 million in funding to make this vision a reality for our community.



Mayor's Message



The first 6 months of 2025 have skipped by and the groundwork that Council has done over the last 12 months will start to bare visible fruit for the municipality in this financial year.

Whilst progress can at times seem slow, the reality is the foundation work that takes place, takes time. There is a sound process to operations and projects and the process is constantly being reviewed as development happens.

The Community is evolving and increasingly the community's input is having a positive impact on that evolution. Over the last year Council have travelled into our communities to engage face to face as well as the traditional invitation to comment. This collaboration with communities and organisations has built that solid foundation, a consensus drawn from community input. Council takes this consensus with the aim of getting the job done right the first time.

Environmental awareness is high in this municipality, and Natural Resource Management has been at the forefront of both engagement and operations. The NRM Strategy and the Coastal and Estuarine Risk Mitigation Program (CERMP) are good examples of this. Going forward what we have learnt and heard from experts in their field and passionate community members will shape Councils actions going forward.

We also hear where we need to focus, particularly where negative human environmental impact is affecting our lifestyle. An example of this is the poor water quality at Primrose Sands beach. We are using new technology and skills available to address this problem on a ground level, and at a higher level we are developing a Southern Beaches Onsite Wastewater and Stormwater Plan which focuses on better management of household stormwater and sewage. This will identify where and how we can operate better in this space.

Along the same lines, while taking advantage of new technology, we will continue to provide a cost effective waste management service. We are continuing to progress towards FOGO (Food Organics and Garden Organics) and look at other ways of diverting waste from landfill.

Recycling more, we have the container refund scheme and looking to explore waste transfer and recycling centre options.

To maintain our lifestyle in this beautiful corner of the world we need to increase economic opportunity. I know I have a responsibility to facilitate regional growth, creating that healthy balance between lifestyle and livelihood. This is not a stand alone subject. It is about having employment opportunities, advocating for available land, selling our proximity to markets to investors and lobbying for childcare, education and healthcare. Using respected organisations such as South East Region Development Association (SERDA) or Business and Employment Services Tasmania (BEST) to our advantage.

The new South East Jobs, Training and Study Hub that will be the home of BEST, will present opportunities for community and business that are only limited by imagination. I will continue to lobby as Sorell Mayor and a member of SERDA to underpin the financial sustainability of this organisation. This will enable the team to extend their bespoke services to this region.

Another opening will be the updated Memorial Hall and the restored Railway Carriage Shed. Both social spaces that celebrate recent history and bring us together. We need a "together" space, and collectively we will bring the proposed Community Precinct to life. To uphold our neighbourhood strengths, community and Council can strengthen our Cultural understanding as diversity within our municipality grows. Council aims to be inclusive in both physical design of spaces and in our behaviour, leading by example.

The Community Precinct will be an ongoing project along with many other items on the "to do list", from getting the urgent care clinic up and running asap, looking at many ways to improve regional public transport to acting on the South East Youth report to open our own Youth Hub in Sorell.

I have had nearly a year as your Mayor and I would like to thank you for being supportive and honest with me. I am thoroughly enjoying the role, challenges and all, and am excited to see what the next year brings.

Mayor Janet Gatehouse



Ryan Jones Citizen of the Year

Australia Day Awards

Our Australia Day Awards for 2025 were presented to recipients in a presentation event at the Sorell Memorial Hall in January.

Four Awards were presented and 13 new citizens were welcomed in Citizenship Ceremonies, including our own, Mayor Janet Gatehouse.

Congratulations to the following recipients of our Awards:

Citizen of the Year –
Ryan Jones

Young Citizen of the Year –
Sophie O'Neill and Maximillian Giuliani

Community Group of the Year –
Disabled Surfers Association of Tasmania

Community Event of the Year –
Sorell Relay for Life

Congratulations once again to all our recipients, as well as all nominees. Your dedication, service and commitment make a real difference, and we're proud to celebrate your contributions. Thank you for everything you do to help make our community stronger, more connected, and a better place for all.

Annual Plan and Budget 2025-2026

Our 2025-2026 Annual Plan and Budget was approved with a rate increase of 3.7%.

Each year, we work out how much rate income we need based on the cost of running our services, looking after our infrastructure, and planning for new projects. We know many people are feeling the pressure of living costs, so we've done our best to keep rate increases as low as possible.

Our growing community means we need more and better roads, facilities, and services, which puts extra strain on our budget. We're always looking for ways to meet these needs while staying financially responsible. We will continue to push for more Government support to help us deliver for the south east region.

There are several factors in this year's budget that will impact your rates. These come from property revaluations by the Office of the Valuer-General and a review of our waste management service charges.

Property Revaluations

You will notice updated property values listed on your 2025-2026 rates notice. This follows a revaluation process conducted by the Office of the Valuer-General, as part of its regular six-yearly cycle.

The Valuer-General provides three types of values for each property:

- Land Value – the value of the land only
- Capital Value – the total value of the land and any improvements (like buildings)
- Assessed Annual Value – the estimated yearly rental value of the property

These values are recorded in the official Valuation Roll for the Municipality and we use the Assessed Annual Value as the basis for calculating general rates.

These updated property values do not mean your rates will automatically go up or down. Rates are based on a combination of assessed annual values of properties and the revenue Council needs to deliver our services to the community. Whether your rates go up, down, or stay about the same will depend on how your property's new value compares to changes across the municipality.

If you believe your property has been incorrectly valued, you can lodge a formal objection with the Office of the Valuer-General within 60 days of receiving your notice. For more information about the revaluation process or how to lodge an objection, visit:

nre.tas.gov.au/land-tasmania

Changes to Waste Management Charges

We have reviewed how we charge for waste services to make the system clearer and fairer for everyone.

Currently, residential properties that receive kerbside garbage and recycling collections also pay for broader community waste services such as public bin collections, recycling centres, Bulk hard and green waste collections, Mornington Park waste levy and managing dumped rubbish. These services benefit the whole community, but until now, only households with kerbside bin collections have been covering the cost.

To make things fairer, we're introducing a new "Community Waste Charge". This will be added to all ratepayer accounts from 2025-2026, including properties that haven't previously paid for waste management charges.

The change means:

- The cost of shared community waste services will now be spread more evenly across all properties.
- Properties with kerbside collection will see a small reduction in their current waste charges.
- Properties without previous waste charges will now contribute through the new Community Waste Charge.

This change helps ensure that our waste management charges are transparent and everyone contributes to the services that keep our whole community clean and safe.

Capital Works and Projects

Our capital budget for 2025-2026 provides funding for our core services, maintenance of our assets and new infrastructure growth. This budget commits \$16.1 million for the following projects:

\$6.1 million for roads and transport
\$2.4 million for footpaths and cycleways
\$2.5 million for stormwater infrastructure
\$1.4 million for parks and reserves
\$2.4 million for building works and facilities
\$0.9 million for plant, equipment & ICT
\$0.37 million for preliminary work on future capital projects

Some of the works and projects we will be undertaking this financial year include:

- Employ a Youth Officer and establish a Youth Hub in Sorell.
- Commence the Southern Beaches Structure Plan.
- Review of Sorell Township Urban Master Plan.
- Finalisation of the Blue Lagoon Weed Management Plan.

Balancing The Budget, Building The Community

Council is responsible for managing community money and resources wisely to provide services, maintain infrastructure, and plan for the future. We have recently updated our Financial Management Strategy (the Strategy) to help us achieve this.

This Strategy is important because it helps ensure we stay financially strong while meeting the needs of our growing community and delivering on key projects.

Right now, we are in a good financial position. We have healthy cash flow, low debt, well-maintained assets, and enough money to keep renewing and maintaining those assets. Our everyday income covers our everyday expenses, which means our finances are sustainable.

The Strategy is based on a 10-year Long-Term Financial Plan. This helps guide decisions about our yearly budget, especially when it comes to balancing spending on new projects, maintaining current services, and ensuring future affordability.

Some of the key challenges we face are meeting the needs of a growing population and being ready for unexpected costs. We have been working with the community and other partners to create master plans and strategies for many of our future projects. These have been included in our budget planning where possible.

Over the next 10 years, we expect to spend \$29.4 million on new and upgraded assets, with \$8.9 million funded by Council. Another \$33 million worth of projects are planned but not yet included in our budget. We will need to consider how these are funded, including applying for grants and possibly contributing some of the funds ourselves.

Our future spending decisions will be based on need and affordability. We aim to keep our rate increases fair and manageable, and continue to seek grants to help deliver important projects for the community.

- Staged implementation of NRM Strategy.
- Planning for commencement of FOGO service in 2026.
- Commencement of Sorell Community Precinct.
- Construction of viewing platforms at Carlton and Park Beaches.

A full list of our Capital Works projects can be found on our **website**.

FOGO is Coming!

As part of our Waste Management Strategy 2023, we are getting ready to introduce a FOGO kerbside collection service for our municipality.

We want you to have your say on how you want us to roll out our FOGO service.

Detailed information and a range of FAQs is provided on our website to assist you understand what FOGO is and why we are implementing it. We encourage you to read this information.

What is FOGO?

FOGO is a Food Organics and Garden Organics waste collection system. The kerbside collection service is for both food and garden waste including kitchen scraps, lawn clippings and small branches. It is an extension of the existing garden waste service which has been adopted by over 7,400 homes across Sorell since it started twelve months ago.

The existing green waste (light green lid) wheelie bins at your home will be used for FOGO.

Why is Council implementing FOGO?

We know that approximately 50% of the average household garbage bin is food or organics waste, and a further 10% is garden waste. By collecting this organic material and composting it into nutrient rich soil, the FOGO service reduces waste to landfill and the release of greenhouse gas emissions.

Implementing FOGO will help us align with National and State Waste Policies. The Tasmanian Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy 2023–2026 emphasises the importance of transitioning to a circular economy, where waste is minimised, and

resources are reused and recycled. The National Waste Policy Action Plan 2019 sets a target to halve the amount of organic waste sent to landfill by 2030.

Diverting organics from landfill is the most significant action Council can take to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. 83% of Councils corporate emissions are generated from sending waste to landfill. This is why diverting organics from landfill is a key priority for us.

Furthermore, the Tasmanian Government Landfill levy rate will be increasing to over \$68 per tonne in 2026/2027. As a result, it will be cheaper per tonne to process FOGO which will in turn create savings for Council and the community.

What are the benefits of FOGO?

A FOGO service offers a range of benefits, including reducing landfill waste and extending landfill lifespan by diverting a significant portion of household garbage. It cuts greenhouse gas emissions by preventing organic waste from producing methane in landfill, while also creating high-quality compost that supports a circular economy. Over time, FOGO can lower waste management costs by reducing reliance on landfill and associated levies, and it promotes community sustainability by encouraging more thoughtful waste and food practices.



Have Your Say

We want to know what frequency of FOGO collection would suit our community best. **Scan the QR Code to complete our survey:**



Southern Beaches Onsite Wastewater and Stormwater Plan

We're progressing work on the Southern Beaches Onsite Wastewater and Stormwater Plan - a key project aimed at improving water quality and supporting sustainable growth in our coastal communities.

Informed by technical assessments and community input, the plan outlines practical actions to reduce the environmental impacts of stormwater and ageing onsite wastewater systems, particularly in areas like Dodges Ferry. It will also recommend targeted solutions for improving the water quality at Primrose Sands Beach.

This work reflects Council's commitment to protecting the environment, enhancing liveability, and planning for the future.

Separate to the plan, a new onsite wastewater system is being delivered as part of the Dodges Ferry Primary School upgrade. TasWater is leading this project, including the decommissioning of the old sewage ponds. Design and investigation work is underway, with community engagement to follow. This upgrade will significantly improve environmental outcomes in the area.

A draft of the Southern Beaches Plan will be released soon for public feedback.

Why Trees Matter and How You Can Help

Trees are essential to our environment and community - they clean the air, provide shade, provide a home for wildlife, and make our towns more attractive and liveable.

We are committed to protecting and managing trees through key initiatives, including our Tree Management and Tree Vandalism Policies and our NRM Strategy. Our NRM Strategy serves as a framework for managing land, water, and biodiversity and includes several initiatives that support tree conservation and enhancement.

Every resident can play a part in preserving our community's green canopy:

Plant Wisely: Choose trees that suit your space and conditions. Native Tasmanian species are ideal — they support local wildlife and thrive with minimal care. Local nurseries can offer advice.

Think Twice Before Removing: Only remove a tree if it's truly necessary. If it's not dangerous or causing major issues, consider pruning or other solutions instead.

Replant After Removal: If a tree must be removed, consider planting another in its place.

Care for Your Trees: Water young trees during dry spells and mulch properly to promote healthy growth.

Be a Good Neighbour: Try and resolve tree disputes amicably or seek advice from the Tasmanian Civil & Administrative Tribunal if needed.

You might require a permit for cutting down vegetation in your backyard if they are protected under laws such as heritage trees or vegetation within Tasmanian threatened native vegetation community. It is always best to check Forest Practices Authority's website for further details on clearing vegetation: **Landowners - Forest Practices Authority**



Aerial image of the Sorell East area

Urban Growth Boundary Expansion

What is it and What Does it Mean for the Future of Sorell?

The Tasmanian Government has expanded the Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) in Sorell, opening up 166 hectares of land that could be used for new housing and other community needs. This is part of a wider plan across Greater Hobart to tackle the housing shortage and support sensible, long-term growth.

Where Will the Growth Happen?

The majority of newly included land lies south of the Arthur Highway - commonly known as Sorell East, near the Sorell bypass.

In addition, two smaller areas have been added at Gatehouse Drive and Weston Hill Road, located in existing low-density residential zones, and an extension of Leirim Avenue into a small part of Weston Hill.

Being inside the UGB means these areas can now be considered for future development — but it doesn't mean development can start straight away. Any land changes must still go through a proper planning and re-zoning approval process before anything can be built.

What Positive Changes Will This Bring to Sorell?

- **More Homes** – With more land available, we can plan for different types of housing to suit families, young people, and older residents, helping to ease the pressure on the housing market.
- **More Parks and Community Spaces** – New neighbourhoods will also include green areas, playgrounds, and community facilities where the community can come together.
- **New School and Services** – The Catholic Archdiocese of Hobart has already bought 63 hectares of land in Sorell East and plan to build a K-12 school, a church, and social and affordable housing.
- **More Local Jobs** – Land available for business and light industrial use means more local job opportunities and less need for people to travel out of Sorell for work. It also helps us advocate for better services like healthcare and childcare.
- **Community Input** – Before rezoning occurs, master planning and consultation is needed to guide how these areas should grow.

Any development will also include consultation with key infrastructure providers like TasWater, TasNetworks, and the Department of State Growth to ensure development aligns with capacity and planning standards.

Understanding the Planning and Rezoning Process

In Tasmania, being included within the Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) does not automatically mean land is rezoned for development. Rezoning follows a formal process with public consultation to ensure development is properly planned and meets community and infrastructure needs.

Expanding the Urban Growth Boundary is a key step in planning for Sorell's future. It gives us the chance to grow in a way that brings more homes, more jobs, and better services, while keeping the special character of our town that we all value.



Pictured L- R: Sue Hickey – Glenorchy Mayor, Leigh Gray – Brighton Mayor, Brendan Blomeley – Clarence Mayor, James Dryburgh – Brighton CEO, Anna Reynolds – Hobart Lord Mayor, Michael Stretton – Hobart CEO, Ian Nelson – Clarence CEO, Janet Gatehouse – Sorell Mayor and Tim Marks -Glenorchy Alderman.

We Stand Together

'We stand together against racism' is an initiative of the six Councils of Greater Hobart — Brighton, Clarence, Glenorchy, Hobart, Kingborough and Sorell.

The campaign aims to make a public stand against racism in all its forms, and to demonstrate how everyone has a role to play in stamping out racism in our communities.

The campaign was officially launched with a walk along Hobart's waterfront, led by the Mayors and CEO/GMs of the six Councils on 21 March, the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. The walk to Parliament Lawns was an opportunity for community members to show solidarity, raise awareness, and commit to a future free from racial discrimination.

How can you help?

You can learn more about racism and how it operates in society, talk with your friends and family about race and racism, or find out what to do if you witness a racist attack. By making a stand together, we can show there is strength in diversity and power in unity.



Scan the QR Code to find out more:



Lift the Tone

The Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT) has launched 'Lift the Tone', a campaign urging Tasmanians to speak with respect — online and in person.

Almost 80% of elected members have faced abuse or threats in the last two years, often on social media or in public. Some have even reported death threats and harassment at home.

We encourage our community to call out abuse, promote healthy debate, and sign an online pledge to commit to respectful communication. Let's raise the standard, let's Lift the Tone.

Scan this QR code to join the movement and take the pledge:



Your Councillors



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Youth Update

Youth Hub and Youth Plan — Supporting Young People in Our Region

We are proud to share an exciting update on our work to support young people across the south east.

In 2024, thanks to funding from the Tasmanian Community Fund, we engaged the Youth Network of Tasmania (YNOT) to carry out an in-depth consultation with young people aged 12–19 years living in our region. Over 245 young people and 34 organisations took part, with a further 71 online surveys submitted.

One of the strongest messages we heard was the need for a dedicated Youth Hub in Sorell — a safe, inclusive space for socialising, support, and connection. In response, Council has committed to establishing a Youth Hub in our Fitzroy Street building and employing a dedicated Youth Officer to lead its development and activities. We envisage the Youth Hub will:

- Be a multipurpose space for all young people, supported by youth-focused organisations.
- Include access to the arts, education, health and wellbeing, emotional support, and recreation.
- Offer free internet access.
- Host youth-led community events, including Youth Week and creative arts projects.

We are also in the process of developing a Youth Plan, based on the recommendations in the YNOT report. The Plan will guide our ongoing work to build a more connected, engaged, and empowered youth community in Sorell and the wider south east.

Stay tuned for more updates as this important work progresses.