



# COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

18 NOVEMBER 2025

COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
COMMUNITY ADMINISTRATION  
CENTRE (CAC)



## MINUTES

FOR THE COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD AT THE  
COMMUNITY ADMINISTRATION CENTRE (CAC), 47 COLE STREET,  
SORELL ON 18 NOVEMBER 2025

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## AGENDA

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING  
18 NOVEMBER 2025

The meeting commenced at 6.05 pm.

## 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 M Larkins  
Councillor S Campbell  
Councillor M Miró Quesada Le Roux  
Councillor B Nichols  
Councillor M Reed  
Councillor N Reynolds  
Councillor B Shaw  
Councillor C Torenus  
Chief Executive Officer R Higgins  
General Manager Operations J Hinchin

### 3.0 APOLOGIES

[^](#)

### 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 an interest in any items on the agenda.



## 5.0 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF 21 OCTOBER 2025



### RECOMMENDATION

"That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2025 be confirmed."

#### 171/2025 LARKINS/NICHOLS

"That the recommendation be accepted."

The motion was put.

For: Reynolds, Gatehouse, Reed, Shaw, Torenus, Nichols, Larkins, Campbell, Miro Quesada

Against:

The Motion was **CARRIED**

## 6.0 MAYOR'S REPORT



### RECOMMENDATION

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

#### 172/2025 REED/LARKINS

"That the recommendation be accepted."

The motion was put.

For: Reynolds, Gatehouse, Reed, Shaw, Torenus, Nichols, Larkins, Campbell, Miro Quesada

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 10 (7) of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025*, 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   |
|-----------------|---|--|--|
| 4 November 2025 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy/Planning/Governance               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Ferry Hall</li> <li>○ LGAT General Meeting Motions x 12</li> <li>○ DPAC Targeted Amendments to the Local Government Act – Draft Bill</li> <li>○ Wielangta Mountain Bike Project</li> <li>○ Follow up Governance Framework</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Councillor Items               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Raprinner Street &amp; Walkway access</li> <li>○ Understanding population dynamics workshop</li> <li>○ DSG DDA bus stop upgrade projects</li> </ul> </li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gatehouse, Larkins, Campbell, Nichols, Reed, Reynolds, Torenus</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Miro Quesada, Shaw</li> </ul> |



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**9.0 COUNCILLOR QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**[△](#)**10.0 COUNCILLOR MOTIONS ON NOTICE**[△](#)**11.0 WORKGROUP REPORTS**[△](#)**RECOMMENDATION**

"That the workgroup reports as listed be received."

**173/2025 LARKINS/NICHOLS**

"That the recommendation be accepted."

The motion was put.

For: Reynolds, Gatehouse, Reed, Shaw, Torenus, Nichols, Larkins,  
Campbell, Miro Quesada

Against:

The Motion was **CARRIED**



## 12.0 PETITIONS STILL BEING ACTIONED



| Petition  | Tabled at Council Meeting   | Status   |
|---|---|--|
| Withdrawal of the Blue Lagoon Draft Management Plan | 18 <sup>th</sup> 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 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 designs exiting at Boat Ramp underway. Detailed LIDAR survey and tidal level data indicate drain grade and tidal inundation limitations. Alternate approaches investigated between Council and consultant with 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>Preferred design concept to be distributed for community engagement then Reserve Management Plan update and completion and revised DA process to be undertaken concurrently to meet CERMP project funding timing commitment.</p> |



### 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.

### 15.0 GOVERNANCE



#### 15.1 COUNCILLOR REPRESENTATIVES ON COMMITTEES

##### RECOMMENDATION

"That Council resolves to appoint Councillor Representatives on various committees as nominated in the accompanying report."

#### 174/2025 TORENIUS/LARKINS

"That the recommendation be accepted."

The motion was put.

For: Reynolds, Gatehouse, Reed, Shaw, Torenus, Nichols, Larkins, Campbell, Miro Quesada

Against:

The Motion was **CARRIED**





## 16.0 INFRASTRUCTURE AND ASSETS



Nil reports

## 17.0 COMMUNITY RELATIONS



Nil reports

## 18.0 FINANCE



### 18.1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY – FINANCIAL REPORT OCTOBER 2025 YTD

#### RECOMMENDATION

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

#### 175/2025 REED/NICHOLS

"That the recommendation be accepted."

The motion was put.

For: Reynolds, Gatehouse, Reed, Shaw, Torenus, Nichols, Larkins, Campbell, Miro Quesada

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."

#### 176/2025 LARKINS/REED

"That the recommendation be accepted."

The motion was put.



For: Reynolds, Gatehouse, Reed, Shaw, Torenus, Nichols, Larkins, Campbell, Miro Quesada

Against:

The Motion was **CARRIED**

## 19.0 PLANNING



Nil reports.

## 20.0 HEALTH AND COMPLIANCE



Nil reports.

## 21.0 ROADS AND STORMWATER



Nil reports.

## 22.0 FACILITIES AND RECREATION



Nil reports.

## 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.



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

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Marina Campbell of Dodges Ferry asked a question as to what the discussion regarding Ferry Hall at the Council workshop was about.

The CEO responded that the discussion was a follow up from the previous Council Meeting on the statutory process that has concluded and whether a community comms and engagement process will take place in the new year to determine the need for a community facility in the Southern Beaches, preferred type and location and, awareness / potential use of existing facilities.

Marina further questioned that at the last meeting it was raised that timing is of the essence for Ferry Hall and is there an update on what steps might be taken around community engagement.

The CEO advised not at this stage. There has been an update from the DECYP project team that the DA won't be lodged until Q1 in the new year and that they will be doing their own comms and engagement around this. It is anticipated the tender will be around start of next financial year with construction commencing near the end of 2026.

Marina questioned the CEO's meeting with the DECYP project team and whether it was discussed that DECYP contribute to the cost of moving Ferry Hall.

The CEO advised that the meeting was with the architect and project manager, they are currently working on the QS which is indicating higher costs than earlier estimations and that they will be considering savings to achieve the project outcomes. No new financial commitment was made for moving Ferry Hall.

Sharon Kent of Dodges Ferry questioned if Ferry Hall was moved close to the school, if there is any room to negotiate with the school to utilise this as a performance space for the school as well.

The Mayor advised this would be a good point to raise at the next community engagement stage of the project.

Sharon further questioned if Council would contribute to moving Ferry Hall if the community demonstrates a need for it.

The CEO advised that it is a matter Council may consider in time noting long term financial management implications of the asset also need to be clarified as part of this.



Dierdre Biggar of Dodges Ferry questioned lowering of the gum trees on the foreshore land in front of her property and are we any further advanced.

The Mayor advised that we are no further along in determining the ownership of the land as it remains a matter with the Public Trustee.

Marina Campbell asked what the Southern Beaches Structure Plan is.

The CEO advised that it is a project to be run by the Planning Workgroup over the current FY and into next FY, and which will utilise consultants. In simple terms, it contemplates the future footprint of the Southern Beaches from Lewisham to Primrose Sands taking into account land capability, population growth and servicing. It will involve engagement with the community to understand on a range of issues, what they want the Southern Beaches to be. Outputs from a Structure Plan may translate into strategic planning / zoning changes and development standards particular to an area / precinct ie. SAP (Special Area Plan).

The open meeting concluded at 7.03 pm.



## 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.*



### AGENDA

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING  
18 NOVEMBER 2025

The closed meeting commenced at 7.11 pm.

## 24.0 CLOSED MEETING



The Chief Executive Officer 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 21 October 2025 and Special Council Meeting 4 November 2025– <i>Regulation 40(3)</i> |
| 24.2      | Disclosure of confidential information – <i>Regulation 17(7)</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 - 24.2 which are confidential matters as prescribed in Regulations 40 and 17 of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025.

### 177/2025 REYNOLDS/NICHOLS

"That the recommendation be accepted."

The motion was put.

For: Reynolds, Gatehouse, Reed, Shaw, Torenus, Nichols, Larkins, Campbell, Miro Quesada

Against:

The Motion was **CARRIED**



## 24.1 CONFIRMATION OF THE CLOSED MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF 21 OCTOBER 2025 AND SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING 4 NOVEMBER 2025



### RECOMMENDATION

"That the Closed Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2025 and Special Council Meeting 4<sup>th</sup> November 2025 be confirmed."

### 178/2025 NICHOLS/LARKINS

"That the recommendation be accepted."

The motion was put.

For: Reynolds, Gatehouse, Reed, Shaw, Torenus, Nichols, Larkins, Campbell, Miro Quesada

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."

### 179/2025 REYNOLDS/TORENIUS

"That the recommendation be accepted."

The motion was put.

For: Reynolds, Gatehouse, Reed, Shaw, Torenus, Nichols, Larkins, Campbell, Miro Quesada

Against:

The Motion was **CARRIED**

The closed meeting concluded at 7.12 pm.



## 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  |
| 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  |
| LGAT   | Local Government Association of Tasmania                 |
| LPS    | Local Provisions Schedule                                |
| LTFP   | Long Term Financial Plan                                 |
| MAST   | Marine & Safety Tasmania                                 |
| MEMC   | Municipal Emergency Management Committee                 |
| NRE    | Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania |
| NRM    | Natural Resource Management                              |
| PWS    | Parks and Wildlife Service                               |
| RDA    | Regional Development Australia                           |
| RTI    | Right to Information                                     |
| SBIP   | School Based Immunisation Program                        |
| SEI    | South East Irrigation                                    |
| SERDA  | South East Region Development Association                |
| SES    | State Emergency Service                                  |
| 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                                   |



### AGENDA

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