

Moriarty, Wesley Vale and Sassafras Community Information Evening held at 7:00 pm 5 March 2026 Moriarty Hall - Notes

1 Welcome and Introduction

Mayor Freshney provided a warm welcome to all attendees, introduced elected members and staff.

Attendees

Councillors	
Mayor Peter Freshney	Deputy Mayor Vonette Mead
Cr David Fidler	
Apologies	
Cr Claudia Baldock	Cr Graeme Brown
Cr Lucy Gorniak	Cr Garry Sims
Cr Gerrad Wicks	Cr Jacki Martin
Council	
Cameron Parsons – Director Corporate & Business Services	
Apologies	
Jason Browne – General Manager	
Community Members	
There were five community members in attendance	

Update from the previous meeting

The Notes from the previous Moriarty, Sassafras and Wesley Vale Community Information Evening held on 3 April 2025 are available on our website.

2 Regional Updates

Regional Land Use Strategy Update

The Cradle Coast Regional Land Use Strategy (CCRLUS) is the strategic land use and planning framework for north-west Tasmania, prepared under the Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993 to guide how land is used, developed, and conserved across the region.

It provides a regional perspective between State planning policies and local planning schemes, helping to ensure land use decisions are coordinated across municipal boundaries and support sustainable development outcomes.

The strategy identifies key directions for settlement patterns, growth areas, economic development opportunities, environmental protection, natural hazard risk management, and community well-being.

It aims to balance economic, social, and environmental objectives so that planning outcomes align with both local aspirations and broader State strategic priorities.

Regional land use strategies also help councils and developers interpret where and how growth could occur and provide a basis for preparing Local Provision Schedules and structure plans. Since its initial declaration in 2011, the Cradle Coast Regional Land Use Strategy has been periodically amended to respond to emerging conditions and regional priorities.

A comprehensive review and update of the strategy is underway, with funding support from the Tasmanian Government and coordination led by the Cradle Coast Authority in partnership with member councils, infrastructure stakeholders and the community.

This review process will generate a new draft strategy for consultation, with delivery aimed for 30 June 2026, and is designed to ensure the final strategy reflects current regional priorities for sustainable growth, liveability, environmental stewardship, and infrastructure planning. The strategy will then be released for community consultation in the second half of 2026.

Industrial Land Strategy

Council recently undertook an analysis of industrial land in the area, titled the Mersey Leven Sub Regional Industrial Study.

Council has been jointly working on this study with Latrobe, Devonport and Central Coast Councils as part of the Mersey Leven Strategic Alliance.

The Councils jointly engaged the services of Ethos Urban, an economic consulting firm based in Melbourne, working with Tasmanian consultants Moore Consulting and 6tyo Consulting to assist in the analysis of industrial land that will provide Council with the critical information it needs to confidently make strategic decisions regarding the supply of industrial land.

The Study determined that there is a clear need to identify and plan for additional industrial land to ensure the industrial sector can grow and service the needs of a growing population across the Mersey Leven Region and leverage economic development that is aligned to specialisations in the local economy such as agriculture and downstream food processing and manufacturing.

The study found that Latrobe has substantial industrial land supply of 32.4ha which is equivalent to 18.3% of the total industrial land in the region. 20 hectares of this is associated with the former Wesley Vale Pulp Mill site which can attract large scale users with particular servicing and infrastructure requirements. The remaining 12.4ha can cater for mid-scale development in the Piping Lane Precinct, Bellfield Precinct and Port Sorell light industrial estate.

A key outcome of the Study was the focus for “substantial new investment in industrial activity of regional significance to occur in a cluster of existing industrial land, and areas identified for future investigation, in proximity to Devonport Airport” through the concept of a Mersey Leven Major Enterprise Precinct. This outcome will be considered through the Mersey Leven Strategic Alliance.

Community Grants

Cradle Coast Waste Services

The Community Clean Up Grant opened on 1 February 2026 and will remain open until 31 March 2026. With Clean Up Australia Day on Sunday 1 March 2026 the Cradle Coast Waste Services Group the grant is available to assist any community clean-up costs like labour and equipment hire, disposal and recycling costs, and preventative measures. For further information or to access the grant, please contact Latrobe Council 03 6426 4444.

Telstra Connected Communities Grant

Telstra, in partnership with Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR), is offering grants of up to \$10,000 to support remote, rural, and regional communities across Australia. With \$200,000 available this round, funding supports not-for-profit projects that build:

- Resilient communities
- Sustainable communities
- Liveable (digitally capable) communities

Applications close 5.00pm Thursday 26 March 2026 with successful applicants announced in June. For further information please head to Telstra's website.

Childcare Gap Filled

Lady Gowrie Tasmania has announced an interim education and care service opening at 187 Gilbert Street. This service ensures continuity of care for local children and families during a period of critical need. In thanking the local community for engaging so openly with them, Lady Gowrie recognised Latrobe Council for their incredible support and advocacy to help make this happen.

Additionally, a new purpose-built Child Care centre in Cotton Street is being constructed, expected to open in late 2026. Updates are being shared prior to welcoming families for tours and settling visits before opening.

Where the weird things go

X-rays and film negatives are an interesting chemical cocktail and if you still have these at home they have been around a while.

Dispose of them safely and securely in the locked collection bins at the Port Sorell Waste Transfer Station, Hawk Hill Road, Shearwater or Spreyton Waste Transfer Station, Bay Drive, Spreyton depending on your residential base. Pills and leftover medicine are accepted at your local pharmacy. The team will then safely dispose of it. This is a safer approach than flushing tablets or tossing them in the kerbside bin.

Whether your vapes are on script or from a drawer at home before the law changed, you can drop them for free in a locked bin at the above Waste Transfer Stations or in the designated vape bin at Latrobe Council. They will then be safely deconstructed so the battery in them does not cause a different kind of glow up.

Old light bulbs and fluoro tubes, are free to be disposed of at the Waste Transfer Station. They contain gases and chemicals that can harm your health so pack them in a box to move without breaking and dropping them in. Have any questions? Send it through to the Cradle Coast Waste Services at ccws@dulverton.com.au and they will get back to you. If you do not know, it is likely others don't either.

3 Council Highlights

Annual Plan / Budget Update Q2

Council approved the FY2025/26 Annual Plan and Budget in June 2025, which is a snapshot of the work we are progressing with the continued aim of achieving our vision where *'Latrobe is a friendly and welcoming community recognised for*

- *The high quality of life enjoyed by residents and visitors within an attractive built environment*
- *The preservation of the rural character and rich soils of the area which enables agricultural to be a key component of our economy*
- *The uniquely beautiful natural environment including the seaside settlement areas*
- *An efficient, responsive, and adaptive Council which provides strong, visionary, and consultative leadership.'*

A key reference to our annual plan work is our 2020 – 2030 Strategic Plan and Councillor Term Plan, both of which outline our objectives and guide our decisions with a view to supporting us in achieving our vision.

We have also considered our highest rating strategic risks to ensure we continue to progress initiatives that support us in responding to these areas that threaten achieving our vision.

Council received a report in January 2026 sharing progress over the first half of the year and included the following highlights:

- Council is progressing with its Waste Reduction and Minimisation Strategy. Community engagement is currently being sought through a survey. The draft will then be released for public consultation.
- The economic development strategy provides a renewed vision for sustainable economic growth across the municipality. A new five-year strategy is currently being developed and will be the subject of broad consultation with business and community stakeholders
- Council continues to progress as a child-safe organisation and has collaborated with students in the development of youth created artworks for Council's child safe instructional and advocacy posters
- Council is finalising the new Enterprise Agreement which is important to attract, retain, and reward staff whilst negotiating a sustainable position for ratepayers.
- Safety for our team and the community remains a priority with initiatives including 10 staff completed traffic management training
- Procurement of new in-vehicle monitoring system was finalised. The solution includes critical safety features to detect rollovers, duress buttons to support remote or isolated workers, and capabilities for emergency management.
- The 2024/25 Annual General Meeting was held in December in the Latrobe Memorial Hall
- The Net Result for Council's Operating Budget year to date ending 31 January 2026 is \$6.730m, which is \$0.713m (11.9%) favourable to budget. Council's forecast underlying surplus for FY2025/26 is \$0.417m.

Community Satisfaction Survey

Early 2025, over 200 people participated in a survey to understand our Community Satisfaction, which highlights the community's recognition of Council's efforts and performance.

Conducted by National Field Service, the results saw Council achieve an overall performance index score of 60 - well above the Victorian average of 53 - affirming Council's commitment to serving the Latrobe municipality.

Standout results for the Council included high scores in the appearance of public areas, arts centres, emergency management, and tourism development.

These areas are a testament to the collaborative efforts of Council and community partners in maintaining the character and vitality of the municipality.

While celebrating these accomplishments, Council acknowledges that there are areas where improvement is needed - particularly in waste management, road maintenance, and planning services. These aspects, which negatively influenced public perception, are receiving targeted attention.

Over the coming year, Council has committed to finalising the development of its waste strategy, documenting and communicating its service levels relating to our roads and operations within the community. Council will also be improving our communication and engagement relating to planning matters. More broadly, greater transparency and engagement with the community will be a key focus.

Staff Values

Since we last gathered, all staff have had the opportunity to work together to create our council values and behaviours. Organisational values are the fundamental principles and beliefs that guide behaviour and culture, shaping its decision-making and interactions. They serve as a compass, providing direction and purpose, and influencing everything from daily operations to long-term strategic planning. Essentially, they define what we stand for and how we intend to achieve our goals.

Council has adopted our values of

- SAFETY
- TEAMWORK
- ACCOUNTABILITY
- RESPECT

Hawley Beach Shared Pathway

Council recently announced that the raised walkway near the Port Sorell Surf Club was open - an important milestone in the ongoing Hawley Beach Shared Pathway project.

The new walkway makes it safer and easier for people to walk, run, or ride their bikes through the foreshore area. Designed to protect sensitive coastal vegetation and enhance usability, the elevated walkway continues Latrobe Council's commitment to balancing community recreation with environmental stewardship.

Council also thanked the Oliver Kelly Group for creating an upgrade that is both environmentally friendly and enjoyable for the community.

Operations Department Report

The following works are scheduled to be undertaken throughout March/April

Civil construction and maintenance

- Drain maintenance and culvert cleaning
- Stormwater works in both urban and rural areas
- Road resurfacing and resealing across Latrobe and Shearwater
- Ongoing pothole repairs
- Roadside spraying program for verge control and lichen spray treatments
- Tree assessments

Road grading to maintain unsealed roads at -

Thomas Street
Bradshaw Street
Pardoe Industrial Service Road
Herbert Place
Breteeca Close
Rice Street and Seahorse Lane

East Esplanade
Port Street
Panatana Drive
Milldam Road and Shannon Drive
Greens Creek Road
Appleby Road

Green spaces

- Replanting works for the Shearwater Bvd/Pitcairn Street and Alexander Street/Club Drive roundabouts
- New tables and chairs on the Franklin Court open space
- Seasonal recreation ground changeover from cricket to football
- Mountain bike trail maintenance.
- Regular mowing, garden, mulching and weed management in public spaces.

4 Questions raised from the floor

Question:

The fill from Berth 3 (Devonport) was moved into the area. Was this considered in the industrial land study.

Response:

This question was taken on notice and will be followed up.

Question:

As a landowner near Native Plains Road, I note the high volume of trucking and freight movements in the area. Is there potential for a future trucking depot, as the land has few residences and is not used for farming?

Response:

Noted. It was discussed how the Tasmanian Government is also looking to minimise the number of times freight is handled. It was agreed that transport depot locations hold strategic importance.

Comment:

I attempted to contact Council six times during the day and only one call was answered.

Response:

Council apologised for the experience and advised that efforts are underway to enhance processes and improve service delivery.

Comment:

On East Sassafras Road, at the top end near the Telstra box, there is significant traffic movements from Nichol's Chickens, particularly around shift change. This is a narrow crossroad. I would like to see that this is designated Local Traffic Only, and steer others to Chapel Road / the highway. This could also be considered as a one-way street. It may be difficult to police Local Traffic.

Response:

This question was taken on notice and traffic management will be explored more broadly.

Comment:

At the bottom of Native Plains Road, there is often flooding. It would be a good opportunity to talk to the Sassafras Fire Brigade to conduct a burn through the culvert. This would remove leaf litter and bark which clogs the culvert and provide a good training exercise.

Response:

This is a great suggestion; we will raise this with the brigade / Tasmania Fire Service.

Comment:

A significant increase in vehicle traffic has been observed on Native Plains Road.

Response:

We acknowledge that several events have taken place recently. Any resulting increases in traffic are addressed through event management, with event permits requiring organisers to manage traffic responsibly.

Question:

Which recruitment firm will be engaged for the replacement of the General Manager?

Response:

The firm is called Local Government Services Group. The advertisement and further information will be available from Monday, 9 March 2026. An advertisement will be placed in The Advocate the following weekend. We are working with a recruitment firm to ensure Council adheres to the Ministerial Direction for the processes we are obligated to undertake for this important recruitment.

Comment:

The Latrobe Community Shed is still without a home.

Response:

We continue to engage with the group; however, their evolving needs and preferences have added complexity. The group is seeking space within the CBD, which presents challenges. It was noted that Council has previously donated or contributed land for the establishment of the Port Sorell Men's Shed.

Comment:

The Country Women's Association is seeking a shopfront in Latrobe to support additional fundraising activities.

Response:

The recent work on the Latrobe Structure Plan has identified opportunities around the Old Glee Club / Reece's Car Park.

Question:

Regarding the upgrades on the Frankford Highway, is any further work planned, such as beyond the T-junction leading to Parkers Ford/Woodbury Lane and on into Port Sorell?

Response:

This is a Council-managed road. Traffic volumes are increasing, the road is narrow, and the edges are sometimes in poor condition. We will note this for investigation. With the commencement of the new irrigation scheme, heavy vehicle movements are expected to rise, so this will be reviewed as a priority.

Question:

Could the speed limits on Beveridges Road be reviewed, given the presence of children and instances of unsafe driving behaviour?

Response:

Noted. This will require supporting evidence, such as speed measurements and traffic counts. We will add it to our deployment schedule for car counters.

Comment:

Many Naval Veterans are requesting burials via a columbarium near the Teddy Sheehan Statue.

Response:

The concept for this area remains under consideration; it has been noted and requires further exploration.

Deputy Mayor Mead acknowledged the recent passing of Sharni Radford and Stuart Greenhiill, reflecting on their significant contributions to the local community and the wider region.

5 Upcoming Events Calendar

7 March 2026	Northdown Market at the Northdown Hall, 829 Port Sorell Main Road, Northdown from 8:30 am to 2:00 pm. Enquiries to 0419 390 919.
8 March 2026	The Port Sorell Mr Perfect BBQs held the 2nd Sunday of every month. From 11:00 am – 12:30 pm at 'Don Brown's Gazebo' located at East Esplanade Port Sorell-adjacent to where Meredith Street becomes East Esplanade.
14 March 2026	Banksia Makers Market in the Rubicon Room, Banksia Centre, Pitcairn Street, Port Sorell from 9:30 am until 1:30 pm. Enquiries to 0439 548 702.
15 March 2026	Canine Community Walk hosted by Delta Therapy Dogs. Registrations open at 10:30 am, from the Port Sorell Fire Station, Rice Street, Port Sorell.

19 March 2026	Tarleton Council Community Information Evening at Tarleton from 7:00 pm. Registration https://www.latrobe.tas.gov.au/community/community-meetings .
22 March 2026	Harvest Thanksgiving Service , at the Sassafras Baptist Church, 14 Chapel Road, Sassafras, at: 10:30 am. Singing, musical items, children's original poems and messages followed by morning tea. Contact: Ruth 6426 7206 or Rosie 6426 7334.
23 March 2026	Latrobe Council Meeting at 170 Gilbert Street, Latrobe from 5:00 pm. Attendance registration is essential to 6426 4444 or join online at https://bit.ly/49Q1pDD .
29 March 2026	Neighbour Day visit https://tas.relationships.org.au/ to find your local Neighbour Day event.
3 April 2026	Good Friday , at the Sassafras Baptist Church, 14 Chapel Road, Sassafras. From 9:30 am to 10:15 am. Contact: Ruth 6426 7206 or Rosie 6426 7334.
4 April 2026	Northdown Market at the Northdown Hall, 829 Port Sorell Main Road, Northdown from 8:30 am to 2:00 pm. Enquiries to 0419 390 919.
5 April 2025	Daylight saving turn your clocks back 1 hour.
11 April 2026	Banksia Makers Market at the Rubicon Room, Banksia Centre, Pitcairn Street, Port Sorell from 9:30 am until 1:30 pm. Enquiries to 0439 548 702, text only.
16 April 2026	Port Sorell Council Community Information Evening at Meeting Rooms A and B, Banksia Centre, Pitcairn Street, Port Sorell, from 7:00 pm. Register at https://www.latrobe.tas.gov.au/community/community-meetings .
19 April 2026	Music from the War Years by Latrobe Federal Band Concert at the Latrobe Memorial Hall, 168 Gilbert Street, Latrobe from 2:00pm. Tickets from \$12 at the door. Contact Linda 0410 021 434 or Melissa 0448 564 561 for details.
23 April 2026	Latrobe Council Community Information Evening at Supper Room, Latrobe Memorial Hall, James Street, Latrobe, from 7:00 pm. Register at https://www.latrobe.tas.gov.au/community/community-meetings .
25 April 2026	ANZAC Day - Latrobe Dawn Service at the Latrobe Cenotaph, 113 Gilbert Street, Latrobe. March steps off from Barclay Street, Latrobe at 5:45 am. Marchers register at 0417 806 129. Breakfast is at Belly's Bar and Grill, 160 Gilbert Street, Latrobe - bookings essential 03 6426 3086. Port Sorell Dawn Service , at the Port Sorell Defence Memorial, Pioneer Park, corner and Meredith Street, Port Sorell commencing at 6:00 am. Breakfast followed at Port Sorell Memorial Hall, Meredith Street, Port Sorell. Latrobe Citizens Commemorative Service at the Latrobe Cenotaph, 113 Gilbert Street, Latrobe. March steps off from Barclay Street, Latrobe at 9:40 am. Marchers register at 0417 806 129 or email latrobers12@gmail.com Wreath/book layers to register at 6426 4444 or email council@latrobe.tas.gov.au before Easter
26 April 2026	Artisan Alley Makers Market at Latrobe Memorial Hall, 168 Gilbert St, Latrobe 9:30 am until 1:30 pm. Enquiries to 0439 548 702, text only.
28 April 2026	Latrobe Council Meeting at 170 Gilbert Street, Latrobe from 5:00 pm. Attendance registration is essential to 03 6426 4444, or join online link at https://bit.ly/49Q1pDD