

## Latrobe Community Information Evening

Meeting held at 7:00 pm

23 April 2026, Supper Room, Latrobe Memorial Hall

### Meeting Notes

#### 1 Welcome and Introduction

Deputy Mayor Mead provided a warm welcome to all attendees and introduced elected members and staff.

##### Attendees

| Councillors                                      |                 |
|--------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Deputy Mayor Vonette Mead - Chair                | Cr Gerrad Wicks |
| Cr Lucy Gorniak                                  | Cr Graeme Brown |
| Cr David Fidler                                  |                 |
|                                                  |                 |
| Apologies Councillors                            |                 |
| Mayor Peter Freshney                             |                 |
| Apologies Council                                |                 |
| Paul West – Acting General Manager               |                 |
| Community Members                                |                 |
| There were seven community members in attendance |                 |

#### Update from the Previous Meeting

The Notes from the previous Latrobe / Tarleton Community Information Evening held on 13 November 2025 are available on the Council website.

#### 2 Regional Highlights

##### 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 consultants 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.

Twenty 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.

### **Latrobe Structure Plan**

Informed by a recent residential supply and demand study, Council commenced the process of preparing a draft structure plan for Latrobe township to guide its position on future growth and development. Building on the objectives of Council’s Strategic plan 2020-2030, the aim of the structure plan is to ensure that the aspects that are valued by the community are maintained but also recognising modern day challenges and looking at how these may be addressed.

A draft structure plan together with a constraints and opportunities map was placed out for consultation and a community information session was also held in Latrobe in May 2025. Over 60 submissions were received. Council and planning staff have been working through the submissions together with seeking to resolve some identified servicing issues. The plans have taken longer than expected due to planning staff being heavily involved in a working group drafting the Cradle Coast Regional Land Use Strategy. It is anticipated that a final draft will be considered at a Council workshop on 9<sup>th</sup> June and that the plans will then be placed on final exhibition.

### **Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study**

Community input on the following reports was received earlier in the year:

- Open Space, Sport and Recreation Plan 2024-2034 Summary Report
- Cycling and Shared Use Trails Plan – Final Report
- Open Space, Sport and Recreation Plan 2024-2034- Final Report
- Open Space Master Plans – Final Report

The submissions have been collated and presented to the elected members. These comments and Councils views are being provided back to the consultant for validation prior to responding in writing to those that made submissions.

In the meantime, general clarification on the project scope is offered below:

- The project is limited to Council controlled land. Many requests and suggestions are not on Council controlled land and Council does not have suitable landholdings for the suggested developments.
- Before further development of any of Councils open, sport and recreation spaces additional site-specific consultation will occur.

### **A New Chapter For The Latrobe Recreation Precinct**

Council is currently renewing the Latrobe Recreation Precinct Development Plan to help guide the future of sport and recreation in the Latrobe area.

While consultation is underway with key local sporting clubs and facility user groups for prioritisation in line with precinct development goals and available funding opportunities, feedback from the broader community is also encouraged prior to the end of May.

The renewed plan seeks to provide a strategic framework for the future development of sporting facilities, ensuring the needs of a growing community are supported while improving access to sport and recreation for residents. A draft version of the updated plan is scheduled to be presented at a Council workshop in June, where it will be considered for feedback and potential endorsement.

### **Iconic Game Features Latrobe's Platypus**

The Big Platypus, situated outside the Australian Axeman's Hall of Fame at Latrobe has long been a favourite for locals and visitors alike, drawing people to the scenic Bells Parade precinct. It has now reached icon status and gained national recognition, securing a place on two iconic Australian games that celebrate the country's famous roadside attractions.

The larger-than-life platypus has been featured in the *Big Things Australia* editions of *Monopoly* and *Top Trumps*. Its inclusion places Latrobe alongside some of Australia's most recognisable "Big Things," further cementing the town's reputation as a must-visit destination for travelers exploring Tasmania.

The achievement follows a year-long effort and marks a proud moment for the local community, helping to put Latrobe on the map for visitors seeking unique and memorable attractions.

A limited number of these special edition games are available for purchase locally, with select copies stocked at the Latrobe Visitor Information Centre, offering a fun and collectible way to celebrate this local icon.

### **New Keepsakes Capture The Spirit Of Latrobe**

Visitors to Latrobe now have even more ways to remember their time in the region, with the introduction of new retail products at the Latrobe Visitor Information Centre on the corner of James and George Streets, Latrobe.

In response to community and visitor feedback, the centre has expanded their products to include a range of town-specific pens and stickers. These items provide a simple yet meaningful keepsake for travelers looking to take home a reminder of their visit.

As demand continues to grow, the Latrobe Visitor Information Centre remains committed to enhancing the visitor experience by offering a variety of souvenirs that capture the welcoming spirit of the community.

### **Port Sorell Dog Park**

For the dog lovers in the area, another dog park is underway, this time at Port Sorell. Council considered feedback from community to help determine the location and Stage 1 works are well underway.

This includes grassing, fenced area and double gated 'airlock' and water stations. While Council has also been able to secure enough fill for a potential Stage 2 project this is yet to be budgeted.

Stage two will include shade structures, Seating, planting and agility equipment. Opening of stage one will depend on weather and grass growing conditions.

### **Rubicon Reserve Playground**

The budgeted replacement of the playground near the Port Sorell Surf Club is underway with demolition complete and ground works starting. The giant Stainless-Steel fish has arrived in the Sturdy Built workshop and is being fitted for our selected equipment with the final installation of equipment expected to be delivered by the end of May 2026.

This redevelopment will breathe new life into this space and provide fun, inclusive, and engaging play opportunities for children of all ages for many years to come.

### **Childcare Gap Filled**

Lady Gowrie Tasmania now has an interim education and care service 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.

Council has approved a DA for another Child Care Centre in Earl Town. If this development proceeds it is anticipated to provide care 86 children.

## **3 Council Highlights**

### **Community Events**

The Lions Club of Latrobe's Christmas Parade is extremely important for our community, and we recognise the commitment and all the work that goes into making sure events are well planned with great outcomes. Over 35 groups participated in last year's parade which brought festive joy to all.

This was followed soon after by the traditional Henley on Mersey, an event that has been held at Bells Parade since 1911 and under many coordinating bodies.

The next significant event on our calendars is this weekend's ANZAC Day Services at the Latrobe Cenotaph and Port Sorell Defence Memorial.

The day will include a Dawn Service at Port Sorell and a Dawn Service preceded with a March from Barclay Street, stepping off at 5.50 am as well as the Citizens Commemorative Service preceded with a March again from Barclay Street stepping off at 9.50 am. Please note that road closures will apply in Latrobe from 5:30 am until 6.30 am and again from 9.30 am until 11.00 am or the conclusion of the service, whichever is earlier.

This then brings us to Chocolate Winterfest, Latrobe which is confirmed to be held on Sunday, 9 August. With the program nearing finalisation, if you know of an organisation that wishes to participate, please ask them to contact Caroline Cooper at the Latrobe Council office as soon as possible.

## **Volunteer Recognition**

As evident through community events but community services more generically, people of all ages and backgrounds give their time, talents, gifts and hearts to improve the quality of community life and build a stronger and more cohesive community through volunteering.

Each year, Latrobe Council seeks to celebrate the contribution made by volunteers to our community through a Volunteer Recognition Event.

Not-for-profit organisations and groups that provide community-based services within the Latrobe Council area are invited to nominate their organisation for annual recognition as well as up to five (5) individuals that have achieved specific hours or milestone years of cumulative volunteer service with the nominating organisation, specifically:

- 500 hours of service; or
- Special service
  - - 10 years continuous service
  - - 20 years continuous service
  - - 30 years continuous service
  - - 40+ years continuous service

Nominations close on 1 May with the nomination form available on Council's website or by contacting Danielle Beer at the Council office.

I urge you to encourage nominations for these Awards as doing so not only recognises the individual and organisation but also their important role they play in our community which potentially encourages volunteer succession.

## **Bells Parade / Sherwood Hall**

A Sherwood Hall Working Group was established last year to:

- 1) Develop a proposed future management and operational plan for Sherwood Hall.
- 2) Develop key objectives with an evaluation and monitoring framework to formally review and report to the Bells Parade Precinct Committee on potential outcomes.
- 3) Develop a nomination for Historic Heritage significance registration with the Tasmanian Heritage Register (THR) and Local Heritage Register listing; and
- 4) Identify and seek funding through grants to assist with approved facility upgrades, interpretation and other facets that expand Sherwood Hall to become a destination attraction. This would occur following the endorsement of 1-2 above and needs to be relative to Council providing relevant financial support where required.

The Working Group, entirely volunteer, have completed the SWOT for the site and, at their next meeting, will consider the operation plan for Sherwood Hall prior to reporting back to the Bells Parade Precinct Committee.

Once a way forward is agreed to, it is envisaged that Sherwood Hall will once again be open to the public.

## Have your say: Stand for Council

Tasmania has 29 councils, including six city councils. Each council governs a municipal area and is made up of between seven and 12 elected members, including a Mayor and Deputy Mayor. Councillors are elected to represent their community, set strategic directions, make policy decisions, and advocate for local priorities. Councils deliver essential local services such as managing roads and parks, waste and recycling, animal control, planning and environmental services, and supporting community activities and events.

Local government elections are held every four years by full postal ballot, with the next election to be held later this year. Elected members serve their community for a four-year term. Voting is compulsory. Tasmanians are encouraged to consider standing for council as a way to contribute to their local community.

To be eligible, candidates must be enrolled to vote in the council area they wish to represent and have their principal place of residence in Tasmania. Some people are ineligible to nominate, including council employees of the relevant council, current councillors of another council, and those disqualified under legislation. Candidates may only nominate for one municipal area. Any eligible candidate may also nominate for Mayor or Deputy Mayor (but not both), noting that a person must first be elected as a councillor to hold either role.

Candidates are required to lodge a nomination form supported by at least two electors from the municipal area before nominations close. Candidates may also submit a personal statement and photograph for inclusion in the official election brochure mailed to voters. Further information about nominating and election requirements is available in the Local Government Candidate Handbook: <https://bit.ly/4lQbyog>.

Following the election, candidates must submit an electoral advertising return outlining all campaign-related expenditure. These returns are publicly available for 12 months, and failure to lodge a return is an offence. Elected Members are not involved in the day-to-day operation of Council, which is carried out by the General Manager in accordance with the Local Government Act.

## 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 Councils 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.

#### **4 Deputy Mayor Mead opened the floor to questions**

##### Question

The playground equipment being removed from the Rubicon Reserve playground, can it be sold or re-used.

##### Response

It will be dependent on the condition of the equipment.

### Question

The March 2026 Audit Panel minutes note that General Manager Browne stated that Technology One and SharePoint are not fit for purpose. What is Council doing about this.

### Response

Several other councils utilise TechnologyOne. While it requires significant resources to maintain and enhance, the cost of transitioning to an alternative system is also substantial.

### Question

The previous General Manager Jason Browne stated that assets are to be sold and rates raised. We have a financial issue. How are we going to move forward.

### Response

Council will continue to progress through its budget process.

### Comment

How good is the sporting precinct in Latrobe. There has been a notable increase in cricket participation, including a 32% rise in women's participation. Australian Under 19s and Masters cricket events are also scheduled to be held at the recreation ground. I would like to express my appreciation to Council, with particular recognition of the curator, Simon, for his work.

### Response

Thank you, we will pass on the kind comment and compliment.

### Comment

I came into Council in December and asked for contact. In February I was informed I can't make an appointment with compliance, and I can't make an appointment with the Manager. I then asked for a meeting with the General Manager, and I couldn't make an appointment. I have been threatened with a \$3,000 fine with only two caravans on site and another operator had 40 and is still allowed to operate.

## **Upcoming Events Calendar**

|                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>26 April</b>  | <b>Artisan Alley Makers Market</b> at Latrobe memorial hall, 168 Gilbert St, Latrobe 9:30 am until 1:30 pm. Enquiries to 0439 548 702, text only.                                                                    |
| <b>27 April</b>  | <b>Latrobe Council Meeting</b> at 170 Gilbert Street, Latrobe from 5:00 pm. Attendance registration is essential to 03 6426 4444, or join online link at <a href="https://bit.ly/49Q1pDD">https://bit.ly/49Q1pDD</a> |
| <b>7 - 9 May</b> | <b>Agfest</b> - visit <a href="https://agfest.com.au">https://agfest.com.au</a>                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>3 May</b>     | <b>Latrobe Cemetery Working Bee</b> on Gilbert Street, Latrobe from 10:00 am to 11:15 am. Contact Councillor Graeme Brown on 0417 598 116 for more information                                                       |
| <b>9 May</b>     | <b>Banksia Makers Market</b> in the Rubicon Room, Banksia Centre, Pitcairn Street, Port Sorell from 9:30 am until 1:30 pm. Enquiries to 0439 548 702, text only                                                      |
| <b>10 May</b>    | <b>Mother's Day</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                  |

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|------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>18-24 May</b> | <b>National Volunteer Week</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>21 May</b>    | <p><b>Banksia and U3A Morning Tea</b>, Cancer Council fund raiser at the Banksia Centre, from 10:30 am to 12:00 pm. Bring a plate. Email: <a href="mailto:communication@portsorellu3a.org.au">communication@portsorellu3a.org.au</a>.</p> <p><b>Sassafras Biggest Morning Tea</b>, Cancer Council fund raiser at the Sassafras Community Hall, 76 Chapel Road, Sassafras from 10:00 am. Bring a plate. Cost \$5 entry donation. RSVP 18 May. Contact Dianne 0409 907 282 or Annabel 0439 314 989</p> |
| <b>22 May</b>    | <b>Volunteer Recognition Awards presentation by Latrobe Council</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>25 May</b>    | <p><b>Latrobe Council Meeting</b> at 170 Gilbert Street, Latrobe from 5:00 pm. Attendance registration is essential to 6426 4444 or join online at <a href="https://bit.ly/49Q1pDD">https://bit.ly/49Q1pDD</a>.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>31 May</b>    | <b>Artisan Alley Makers Market</b> at Latrobe Memorial Hall, 168 Gilbert St, Latrobe 9:30 am until 1:30 pm. Enquiries to 0439 548 702, text only.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>6 June</b>    | <b>Northdown Market</b> at the Northdown Hall, 829 Port Sorell Main Road, Northdown from 8:30 am to 2:00 pm. Enquiries to 0419 390 919.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>8 June</b>    | <b>King's Birthday Public Holiday</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>13 June</b>   | <b>Banksia Makers Market</b> 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.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>14 June</b>   | <b>Port Sorell Surf Live Saving Club Annual General Meeting</b> at the Club For more information contact Laura on 0401 842 966 or via email at <a href="mailto:portsorellslc@gmail.com">portsorellslc@gmail.com</a> .                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>22 June</b>   | <p><b>Latrobe Council Meeting</b> at 170 Gilbert Street, Latrobe from 5:00 pm. Attendance registration is essential to 03 6426 4444 or join online link at <a href="https://bit.ly/49Q1pDD">https://bit.ly/49Q1pDD</a>.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |