

Port Sorell Community Information Evening

Meeting held at 7:00 pm

16 April 2026, Meeting Rooms A and B

Banksia Centre, Port Sorell

Notes

1 Welcome and Introduction

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

The mayor introduced Detective Acting Inspector Luke Negri and Sergeant Angela Phipps from Tasmania Police and thanked them for attending and addressing the community this evening.

1.1 Attendees

Councillors	
Mayor Peter Freshney - Chair	Deputy Mayor Vonette Mead
Cr Jacki Martin	Cr David Fidler
Council	
Paul West – Acting General Manager	Amanda Knott – Minute Taker
Guest Speakers	
Detective Acting Inspector Luke Negri – Tasmania Police	
Sergeant Angela Phipps	
Community Members	
There were 71 community members in attendance	

1.2 Update from the Previous Meeting

The Notes from the previous Port Sorell Community Information Evening held on 9 October 2025 are available on the Council website.

The next Port Sorell Community Information Evening will be held on Thursday, 10 September 2026.

2 Guest Speakers: Detective Acting Inspector Luke Negri and Sergeant Angela Phipps – Tasmania Police

Detective Acting Inspector Luke Negri Tasmania Police



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On public transport

- Plan your bus trips to minimise waiting times, especially at night. Wait in well-lit or busy areas.
- Sit near the driver on empty buses for added safety.
- Verify rideshare/taxi details before boarding (e.g. for rideshares check the number plate, vehicle description and driver name/photo match, and for taxis, check that the taxi displays a taxi service registration number). Avoid vehicles with visible damage.

Handling door-to-door sellers or charity collectors

- Keep interactions short and through a locked security door where possible.
- Request identification.
- Do not feel pressured to make a decision immediately.
- Avoid sharing personal information unless you are comfortable that the legitimacy of the person/business/charity is confirmed.
- Independently verify details before making any decision to share your details or make a purchase.

How to get help

- If it is an emergency** – the incident is happening now, the suspect is still at the scene, or someone is injured or in danger – always call **000 (Triple Zero)**.
- To report a non-urgent safety concern or crime, call the Police Assistance Line on **131 444** at any time and provide details of the incident.

Other useful contacts

- Crime Stoppers:** visit crimestoppers.tas.gov.au or call 1800 333 000. If you'd like to make a report anonymously.
- Keeping Children Safe:** call 1800 093 758 or visit keepingchildrensafe.tas.gov.au
- eSafety Commissioner:** visit esafety.gov.au for help with personal online safety.
- 1800RESPECT:** call the free national domestic, family and sexual violence counselling, information and support service line 24 hours a day.

police.tas.gov.au/pol

 Tasmania Police – working with you

Personal safety tips

Whether you are at home or out and about in the community, you deserve to feel safe.

These simple personal safety tips can help you stay safe, be more aware of your surroundings, and increase your confidence in different situations.

When out and about

- Remove your headphones/ear buds when crossing roads or busy intersections.
- Carry a charged mobile phone and some personal ID (photo ID preferred).
- Keep valuables in your front pockets or zipped bags, not back pockets.
- Use cross-body bags or handbags with secure closures.
- Never leave items unattended.

When walking

- Let someone know how long you intend to be and your intended walking/running route.
- Stick to well-lit, busy streets, especially at night, and avoid secluded areas.
- If there are no footpaths, walk facing the traffic.
- Cross streets at safe spots and ensure that drivers can see you.
- Stay aware of your surroundings. If someone seems threatening:
 - cross the street to deter them
 - seek help from others, call **000 (Triple Zero)**, or make noise to attract attention
 - move to a safer area like a shop or public space.

Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management 



Tasmania Police – working with you

General safety tips for businesses

Your safety and the safety of others in your workplace should always come first.

These practical business safety tips can help you stay safe, protect your workplace, and support a safe and secure environment for both your employees and customers.

Staying secure at work

- Maintain a clear workspace and follow all Work Health and Safety regulations.
- Keep doors and windows properly secured and ensure all access points are monitored.
- Be aware of your surroundings and get to know neighbouring businesses so that you can share updates on suspicious activity.
- Provide regular staff training on how to spot suspicious behaviours and how to handle them safely – including using security systems and contacts.



Handling threats or aggressive customers

- Never pursue an offender – it may escalate the situation and complicate the police response, and you run the risk of getting hurt or injured.
- If you notice signs of a disturbance or break-in when arriving, avoid entering the premises and call for assistance.

Working alone

- Inform someone (for example, a family member or colleague) about your schedule when working solo and notify them when you arrive at and leave the premises.
- Ensure doors and windows are properly secured and limit public access points if possible.

Handling cash deposits

- Take precautions when depositing cash – vary your routes/times and avoid stops enroute to the bank.
- Consider armed-guard services for large sums.



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Strengthen your security

- Install locks, alarms, motion-sensor lights, and high-quality CCTV.
- Use policies such as locking display cases, securing registers, limiting fitting room items, and always providing receipts.
- Keep doors/windows locked unless essential, and ensure all access points are monitored.
- Design premises with security in mind – for example, well-lit interiors, good exterior lighting, and clear sightlines.

Shoplifting prevention

- Train staff to deter theft by being attentive and offering assistance to all customers.
- Use policies such as locking display cases, securing registers, limiting fitting room items, and always providing receipts.
- Display clear signage that shoplifting will be prosecuted.
- Maintain high-quality CCTV and educate staff on procedures for theft situations.

What to do in an emergency

- **In an emergency, call 000 (Triple Zero).**
- Cooperate with armed offenders to stay safe – **do not confront them.**
- Hand over any cash or valuables being sought.
- If there are threats of violence or danger to life, activate your hold-up alarm or call 000 (Triple Zero) discreetly, and try to move to a safer location – **if it is safe to do so.**
- Observe from a safe distance and take note of as many details as you can, such as a description of the offender, vehicles, and suspicious behaviours.

Other useful contacts include:

- **Police Assistance Line** on 131 444 – for non-urgent police assistance (i.e. to report a break-in or encounter where the offender is no longer at the scene) call
- **Crimestoppers** on 1800 333 000 or call 1800 333 000 if you'd like to make a report anonymously
- **Tasmania Police Online Crime Reporting Portal** – report theft or property damage online at police.tas.gov.au/reportonline

Find out more

- For more general business safety tips – including what to do after a robbery has occurred – visit police.tas.gov.au or download the **Tasmania Police Business Security Audit Checklist** and **Business Risk Assessment Checklist** to find out how you can improve your business security.
- Find out how to report retail theft or property damage online at police.tas.gov.au/reportonline.

police.tas.gov.au/poli



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Home safety tips

Take proactive steps to improve your home's safety and deter potential criminals.

Home burglaries can occur at any time day or night – combining security devices, practical measures, and community support can significantly reduce crime risks around your home.

Key security measures

- Install sturdy locks, alarms, motion-sensor lights, and cameras.
- Keep your gardens well-maintained to eliminate hiding spots for trespassers.
- Avoid leaving ladders, tools, or loose items outside that could aid burglars.
- Ensure your house number is clearly visible for emergency services.
- Do not leave hidden keys outside your home – instead, leave a spare key with a trusted neighbour, friend or relative.

If you are away from your home

- Always secure your premises and lock up when leaving, even if you are only planning to be away for a short time.
- Ask a trusted neighbour to bring bins in or collect your mail if you're gone for an extended period.
- Consider installing smart lighting options and security cameras – particularly over entry/exit doors, in your driveway and/or garage.



Staying safe indoors

- Lock doors when using noisy equipment like vacuum cleaners, or when working in the garden, home workshop, or shed.
- Fit windows with locks, stoppers, or grills for added safety while open.
- Keep your garage closed when you are not in it and close it when you are away from home.
- Make sure that pet doors are installed in a position that doesn't allow for access to door locks if someone is able to reach through the pet door.
- Lock/close off pet doors when not in use, or consider an electronic/smart pet door if you have large-breed dogs.



Tasmania Police – working with you

Keep a list of high value items

- Keep a detailed inventory of items in your home, garage and outbuildings such as sheds and storage units. Record the purchase date, make, colour, size and serial number of items (where relevant).
- Don't forget to update the inventory when you get new items. Keeping photographs or adding photos to your inventory may assist police to recover stolen items.
- Engrave high value items that thieves target where it is practical to do so, e.g. tools. You can also use a UV marker pen to mark items (you will need a blue light to see the UV marking).

Build a community network

- Get to know your neighbours! Ask them to keep an eye on your property and offer to do the same for them.
- Join community programs like Neighbourhood Watch to foster community ties and mutual support in preventing or minimising crime in your local area.

How to get help

- **If you are in immediate danger – call 000 (Triple Zero).**
- For non-urgent police help – call the **Police Assistance Line** on 131 444.
- If you are faced with an intruder, focus on staying safe – do not confront them. If possible, exit your house and seek a safe spot nearby and call police. Try to take note of a description of the intruder's, suspicious vehicles (including number plates) and as much detail about the situation as you can.

Other useful contacts include:

- **Crime Stoppers:** visit crimestoppers.tas.gov.au or call 1800 333 000 if you'd like to make a report anonymously
- **Tasmania Police Online Crime Reporting Portal** – you can report theft or property damage online at police.tas.gov.au/reportonline.

Find out more

- For more home safety tips – including extra tips on how to protect your home in a rural environment – visit the **Tasmania Police website: police.tas.gov.au** or download the **Tasmania Police Home Security Audit Checklist** to find out how you can improve your home security.

Scooters and push bikes information will be published on social media shortly, including rules relating to motorised scooters (PMDs – personal mobility devices). Information will also be distributed to schools and included in newsletters to parents to assist with education and awareness.

It was confirmed that these rules apply across the local area, including Latrobe and Shearwater. Police advised there will not be marked patrol vehicles specifically targeting compliance; the focus is on education and awareness, as not all members of the public are familiar with e-scooter and related regulations. The role of local police includes covert, intelligence-led patrols, and attendees were invited to speak with Luke following the meeting if further information was required.

Sergeant Phipps provided an overview of her role and noted increased staffing presence in Port Sorell during the summer period. It was also noted that the station is opened during summer for public access; however, there is no full-time station in the area, with police services available 24/7 via the non-emergency number 131 444.

Question

Why is there an increase in family violence reporting.

Response

Increased reporting is being seen nationwide, and a dedicated family violence unit operates in Devonport. More people are feeling comfortable reporting incidents, which is contributing to higher recorded numbers, and that Police continue to work closely with support agencies.

It was further noted that serious crime has decreased by 25 per cent.

Question

Can we get a temporary speed camera on Alexander Street.

Response

Speed cameras are managed by State Growth, and we can make a recommendation regarding potential locations of concern; however, an assessment would need to be undertaken by the relevant authority. The process has commenced, with Sergeant Angela initiating contact through the mayor's office earlier this week.

Question

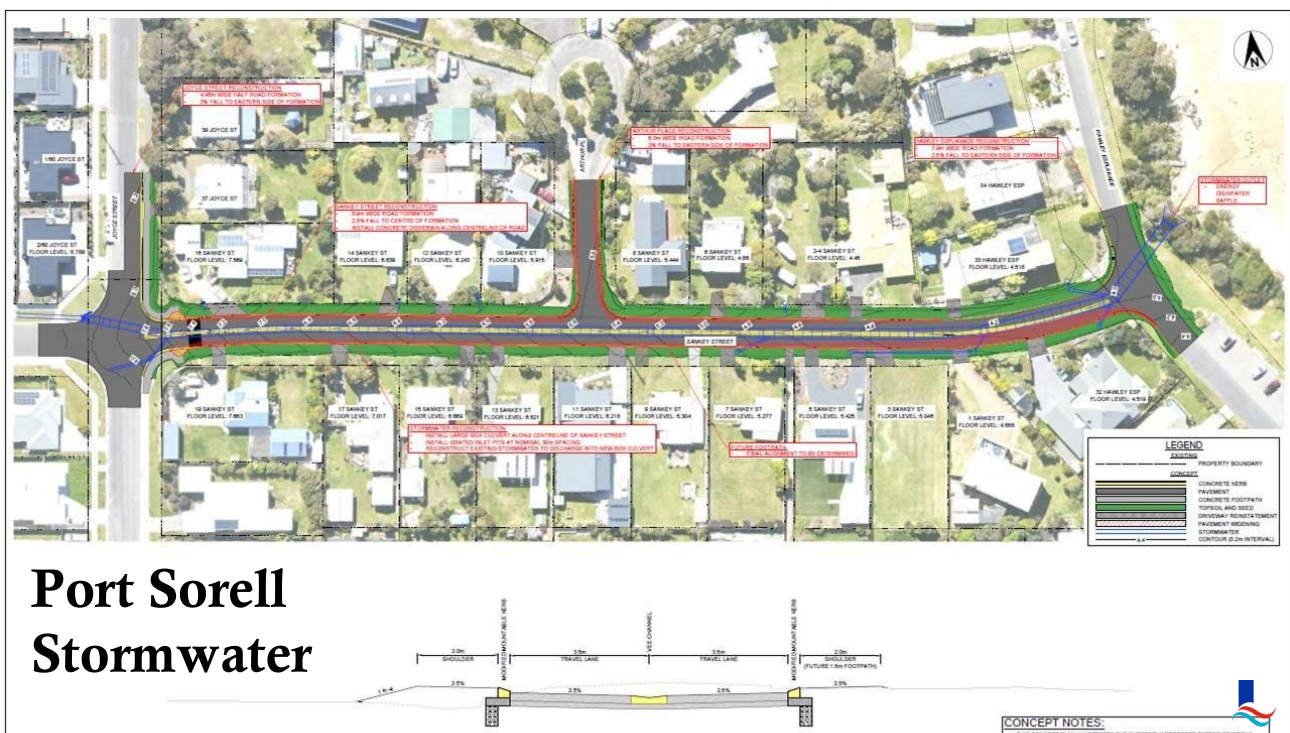
Is illegal tobacco managed at a local or state level.

Response

The Tasmanian Government is continuing to crack down on the sale of illicit tobacco and vaping products, with enforcement activity ramping up across the State and new laws to be debated. This builds on extensive enforcement activities by the Department of Health's Tobacco Control Unit.

The mayor advised that meetings have been held with Police over recent months, including discussions with the Commander based in Launceston. It was noted that matters raised on social media were already known to Police through existing intelligence networks.

The mayor acknowledged that Police have strong local awareness and surveillance capabilities and expressed his view that the community is well served by the Tas police. The mayor thanked Police for their ongoing work and commitment.



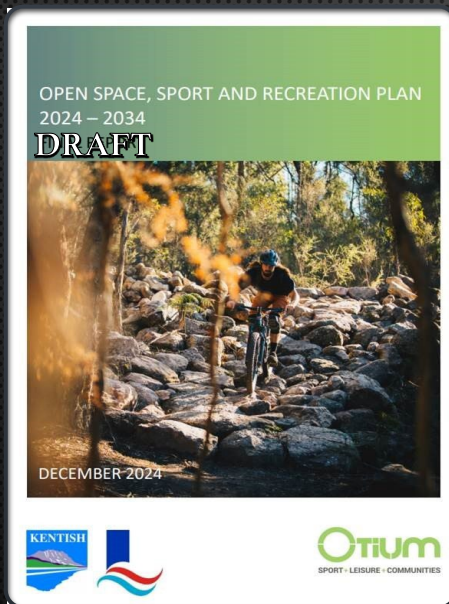


Hawley Esplanade Pathway



Panatana Footbridge



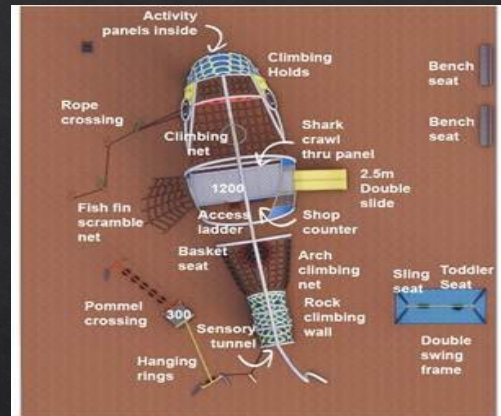


Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study



Port Sorell Dog Park

Rubicon Reserve Playground



Child Care

Annual Budget and Process Followed by Council



3 Regional Highlights

Port Sorell Stormwater Plan

Council have been working closely with the Port Sorell Golf Club on a project to reduce the amount and duration that the course is flooded. The reports have also allowed the comprehensive assessment and conditioning of the recently commenced residential subdivision located to the west of the Burgess Industrial Area, and assessment of the expansions of the OneCare site in Club Drive.

The stormwater detention basin associated with the residential development and greater catchment area behind the industrial area that feeds into Poyston Creek is well underway as shown on the slide.

The Port Sorell Golf Club are progressing their site works with financial assistance from Council to minimise the amount of lost play days due to flooding of the course.

A consultation plan has recently been provided to residents in Sankey Street. The project is likely to consist of an underground box culvert the length of the street with crossfall towards the centre of a lowered roadway to function as an overland flow path.

Taroona Street Stormwater Update

Design work is continuing, with a likely project included in the draft capital works budget for 2026/27 to intercept and convey runoff from the roadway through the installation of open drains and driveway culverts before it enters properties on the northern side of the road and potentially improving existing infrastructure at other locations.

The draft design prepared for kerb and channel; footpath and road widening is not currently being pursued due to recent resident sentiment and budget implications.

Hawley Esplanade Foreshore Pathway

Council is continuing to receive great feedback about the pathway. The four stages of construction are now complete, and a fifth stage to finalise the project is currently being actioned. This fifth stage includes bollards, localised line marking, wheel stops, bins, seats and revegetation.

During construction it was identified that upgrading supporting infrastructure such as bin surrounds and picnic table settings was warranted. Unfortunately lead times for this upgraded infrastructure are longer than hoped, although orders have been placed with expected installation early in the new financial year. The tables chosen are depicted in the slide.

Panatana Footbridge

Latrobe Council's contractor, SICC Services, commenced essential maintenance works on the Panatana Rivulet Footbridge at Port Sorell on 8 February 2026.

The project involves preparation and recoating of the bridge's existing steel components, along with replacement of the perished wire mesh barrier infill. These works are necessary to maintain the structural integrity and long-term safety of the bridge.

The bridge was initially programmed to be reopened partially on weekends leading up to a final completion date of 16 April 2026.

There has been an unavoidable delay to the initially advertised reopening dates. This is primarily due to a necessary increase in scope associated with replacing the timber bearers which was not identified until the walkway decking had been removed. Due to these unforeseen delays, the revised reopening dates are:

- Partial reopening (only on weekends): 16 May 2026.
- Full reopening: Jun 2026.

To ensure public safety, the footbridge will remain inaccessible to all pedestrians and cyclists.

We apologise for the inconvenience caused by this delay and thank the community for their patience and cooperation while these essential works are carried out. For further enquiries, please contact Prashant Kafle, Roads and Drainage Project Officer
prashant.kafle@kentish.tas.gov.au (03) 6426 4117

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 Council's 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 received are not on Council controlled land and/or Council does not have suitable landholdings for the suggested developments.
- Before further development of any of Council's open, sport and recreation spaces additional site-specific consultation will occur.

Port Sorell Dog Park

It's taken a while to get a sufficient volume of economically viable fill to the north-western corner of the Port Sorell Recreation Ground to enable the budgeted off leash dog area to be constructed. Now that the fill is on site and the area shaped and compacted, the Stage 1 works including grassing, fenced area and double gated 'airlock' and water stations can be created. Council has also been able to secure enough fill for a potential Stage 2 project which 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.

Banksia Stadium Glare - Blind Installation

Installation of three blinds and a fixed mesh infill at the south-west end of Banksia Stadium is scheduled in the coming weeks. While there will be a short-term interruption to users during the works, this improvement represents a considered response to long-standing concerns regarding glare and afternoon sun within the stadium.

Following installation, Council officers will assess the effectiveness of these measures, with the aim of creating a safer and more comfortable environment for all recreational users. The findings will also help inform whether further installations are required to address the issue more broadly across the Stadium.

Port Sorell Structure Plan

Informed by a recent residential supply and demand study, Council commenced the process of preparing a draft structure plan for Latrobe and Port Sorell townships 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 in June and that the plans will then be placed on final exhibition.

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.

4 Annual Budget and Process followed by Council – Paul West

The budget process has been underway for approximately three weeks, following preparatory work over the past three to four months.

Significant challenges are anticipated over the next 6–12 months, including impacts from the Iran conflict. The current budget is considered one of the most challenging Council has undertaken. It is acknowledged that adjustments may be required during the financial year due to fluctuating fuel and supplier costs.

The draft capital budget is to be presented at the Council meeting this month and released to the community toward the end of April. The budget remains a work in progress, and the rate increase is not yet determined. Community feedback will be considered, and the March CPI, due at the end of the month, will be incorporated into the budget. Capital projects will proceed to tender, noting that pricing remains uncertain at this stage.

The mayor provided an example of two projects carried forward—the Tarleton Road upgrade and Percival Street Latrobe project—highlighting a 50% increase in asphalt costs. As a result, the budget for both projects may now only be sufficient to complete one. The cumulative effect is that budget reviews will need to be more frequent than ever before, making it one of the most challenging budget periods for some time.

5 Mayor Freshney invited questions from the floor

Comment

Taroona, Sankey and Hugh streets currently don't have footpaths and as a result, you have to walk on the road.

Response

While the Hawley pathway is now in place, the Taroona–Sankey Street corridors have been identified as a potential future project for a shared pathway/footpath. We acknowledge that the area has a high number of children, mobility device users and cyclists, etc, highlighting the need for improved pedestrian access.

Question

Cars on the foreshore come flying past, can it not be made into a one way.

Response

Community consultation is well understood and valued; the Port Sorell Structure Plan will incorporate ideas and feedback received and this issue is best raised during that process. Community input will be key to informing the recommendations and outcomes from that body of work.

Comment

I would like to express my appreciation to Council for the wonderful Hawley Esplanade footpath. There has been some opposition, but the outcome is a lovely footpath, appreciated by so many community members.

Response

Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, with strong community support for the project. The design has been developed to blend into the foreshore environment rather than stand out, and we acknowledge the work of staff, designers, and all others involved in delivering the project, and commend the valuable input received from our community.

Comment

Panatana footbridge – kids that ride and walk to school – they have to now be transported around.

Response

To ensure public safety, the footbridge will remain closed to both pedestrians and cyclists. We apologise for any inconvenience caused by this delay and thank the community for their patience and cooperation while these essential works are undertaken. The bridge is a key community asset, and maintenance is key to ensuring its safety and longevity.

Question

What are the budget implications of the Panatana footbridge work.

Response

It is not fully known at this stage, and I will take this question on notice. Further budgetary implications will be included in financial reporting at council meetings with further project updates to be shared via Council's Facebook page.

Question

Are there any plans for a footpath on Parkers Ford Road.

Response

Existing gravel pathways extend to St Louis Drive I believe, but any further extensions are problematic given the terrain and road reserve constraints. This issue would be appropriate to raise in Port Sorell Structure Plan forums which we hope to facilitate in coming months.

Comment

Open space, sport and rec – the community submitted a lot of feedback, what is the timeframe and when will we know the outcome. How will we be notified. Fairway Crescent, what is happening with that after the incorrect representation made by the consultants, will that be rectified?

Response

An email enquiry was received following feedback provided to consultants. The outcomes of all submissions will be communicated to those who made submissions. The anticipated timeframe for notification is June 2026. The question regarding Fairway Crescent is taken on notice.

Question

Will the new dog park have fenced areas for small and large dogs.

Response

As with Bosworth, there will be two large yards, with the second yard and airlock included in the budget. Stage one involves one yard but may be reviewed.

With reference to the segregation of animals, noting considerations for temperament and behaviour, including that smaller animals may be more reactive while larger animals may be more placid, and vice versa.

Topsoil that was removed has been reinstated on site. Deputy Mayor Mead encouraged responsible dog ownership and the importance of training animals.

Question

Will the dog park include a formal drainage system? I am concerned that the runoff may flow into the creek in front of the Cricket Club rooms rather than being managed via sand infiltration. The Port Sorell Recreation Ground got a one sentence summary.

Response

There is a very high water table in the area with associated drainage issues identified. Again, we encourage these concerns to be raised during the Structure Plan forums.

Question

There are five to ten people regularly working on the Latrobe Recreation Ground, yet we are not seeing any similar benefits or improvements at the Port Sorell oval. How do we go about applying for funding.

Response

Before a season opens, there will be a significant workforce present. We need to have further discussions with you on this matter; however, we need to reiterate that facilities at the Latrobe Recreation ground are for all community members and cater for higher level

participation and competitions. If there are specific needs, please come and speak with Councillors and the team. These concerns will also be considered as part of the strategic planning process.

Question

Can Council put in a retention basin.

Response

A retention basin at the end of the catchment is not effective in my limited experience but I will raise this with Infrastructure & Assets; the matter has been taken on notice.

Response from Jonathan Magor - Manager Infrastructure & Assets

The catchment area for the drain that passes in front of the cricket clubrooms has not increased as a result of the dog park works. With the dog park remaining a pervious surface, and with relatively gradual fall towards the drain intercepted by fence plinths, it is likely that the soil placed will absorb some surface water which previously may not have occurred due to the low lying and waterlogged nature of the area.

Question

Rubicon Reserve playground - what happened to the old play equipment.

Response

Three people have expressed interest in purchasing it, it is currently held at the depot. The matter has been taken on notice, as some parts may be suitable for refurbishment.

Question

What is the life cycle of the new play equipment.

Response

The mayor advised that the expected lifespan of the playground is approximately ten years.

Question

Is it stainless steel equipment? It gets hot in summer.

Response

As far back as I can recall, we have always had stainless steel play equipment, and slides in particular have been subject to high and low temperatures. The new equipment is designed for specific environments, and we rely on advice from specialists in the field who ensure compliance with associated guidelines and requirements.

Question

Can this be used by kids in summer.

Response

We expect so as it has been designed for year-round usage.

Comment

Banksia blind installation - A thank you from Steve, noting it has been quite a journey.

Question

Is it called the strategic or the structure plan.

Response

It can be called either, but either way this is the most important piece of work this Council will undertake with regard to planning the future of the greater Port Sorell area.

Question

With more people being encouraged to use bikes and e-bikes, are there plans to provide additional dedicated cycling paths.

Response

Past footpath works enable children to cycle safely to school; this area now has one of the highest percentages of students cycling to school in Tasmania.

There is a broader aspiration to extend the Port Sorell–Shearwater–Hawley network through to Devonport, supported by strong community interest.

This is recognised as a long-term, large-scale project. The Hawley pathway, for example, is budgeted at \$2.7 million, and extrapolating that cost out over the work required to build a pathway to East Devonport, would indicate the scale of investment required.

Comment

There are pathways with a designated colour marking to indicate areas for bicycle use.

Response

Please share your knowledge and insights with Council, particularly regarding how similar approaches are implemented in the Netherlands.

Question

Will there be further community consultation with regards to the strategic plans.

Response

Certainly, community input is important, and I can confirm that updates will be shared via social media and newsletters, with a need to ensure these are well published and communicated in advance.

Question

Could the structure plan be presented to the community in person, rather than relying solely on social media. Have it back on display here in the building.

Response

That it is a very good idea, and I will seek confirmation that we include your suggestion in our comms strategy.

Response from Jan Febey

Progress will be reviewed closer to the next Community Information Evening date.

Question

Paul West is the Board Chairman at Dulverton; how is this potential conflict being managed.

Response

Paul's role has been identified to Dulverton and both Councils. He is not directly involved in Dulverton-related discussions, and appropriate governance measures are in place. The

Dulverton Board manages this carefully. His involvement here is short-term, and the two roles are being kept strictly separate.

Question

Congratulations, these meetings are very important and community information evenings are one way to hear what the community has to say. Now, can you please tell me step-by-step how to become a Councillor.

Response

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 the responsibility of the General Manager in accordance with the Local Government Act.

A guide will also be featured in the next Council newsletter.

Question

Do you have to complete any training.

Response

There is currently a bill before parliament that training should become mandatory but that will not be mandated for this election.

Question

Is there any training once you have become a councillor.

Response

There is no mandatory training, but regular online training and learning modules are available. It is up to the individual but currently, the local Government Act does not mandate training. I encourage you to come and speak with current councillors directly to obtain information and understand their experiences.

Question

What steps are being taken to address environmental degradation over many years, particularly in the tip area and surrounding residential properties? Latrobe Council has responsibility for the Port Sorell area.

Response

Landfill gas and leachate are recognised as legacy issues at the former tip site, and ongoing monitoring is being undertaken on a regular basis, with results provided to the relevant environmental agency. At an appropriate time, a rehabilitation plan will be developed, with consideration given to using the land for passive recreational space.

The area was subject to dumping by various parties many decades ago, and Council continues to work with state agencies, which have oversight of these matters. The nature and extent of any toxicity remain under investigation and management.

Question

Is there an end date.

Response

There is no end date at this point in time.

Question

Congratulations to Council on the excellent work delivered on the Hawley pathway.

However, why does the council-owned footpath end at Squeaking Point, particularly given that the road is considered dangerous? This issue was first raised around 13 years ago, and I was advised there was no funding available. A formal submission was also made last year.

There is a concern that the southern side of Panatana is not receiving equitable investment. A clear commitment is sought to ensure the safety of pedestrians and cyclists in Squeaking Point is treated on the same basis as Shearwater.

Response

Community input is required to enable effective long-term planning. These issues are already known to Council and are considered as part of future development in the area. Where development occurs, associated costs may be incorporated as part of the project. All planning processes need to be completed first, followed by consideration of funding allocations.

This remains on the agenda, with competing priorities requiring assessment and staging. At present, the response from State Government regarding funding has been that no additional funds are available, and this position is expected to remain unchanged for the foreseeable future.

Comment

Squeaking point – not all people want infrastructure.

Response

Horse riders and pedestrians need to be kept safe, with attention to behavioural issues where they arise. The aim is to create a safe environment for everyone, balancing what people enjoy with what is required for safety and shared use.

Comment

We need to be mindful of the frog habitats.

Comment

Why not build apartments.

Response

A development application for 16 apartments on a block in Latrobe is coming before Council. Consideration will be given to ensuring development occurs in areas where existing infrastructure can be effectively utilised. There is also a trend of landowners subdividing or intensifying their properties to increase housing supply. Ultimately, it is a matter for developers, and the financial return on investment may vary. This is an important and well-posed question with further consideration as a component of our strategic planning processes.

Question

I wish to address the disparity of residential versus rural rates and the services offered. The title for a new build is taking longer to produce than to actually build the house. Farmers have no capacity for any more rate increases, AAV or CPI.

Response

The broader issues around red tape and under-resourcing within government, is highlighting the need to understand where Council can influence outcomes and where engagement with State Parliament and Ministers is required. Feedback of this nature is important and has a significant impact.

Rates for rural properties have been carefully considered, with recognition that farmers are able to treat rates as a business expense. Property valuations are undertaken by the Valuer-General on a six-year cycle, with adjustment factors applied every two years. These valuations are provided to all councils and ratepayers. The process is not based on CPI, but on valuation methodology set by the Valuer-General.

The issues raised will be taken into consideration.

Question

Resource sharing with Kentish has not been followed up, and there are concerns that meeting notes are not being published on the website. This issue was also raised last year.

This is a request for clarification on the cost of resource sharing and how much it is currently costing Council.

Response

There are ongoing discussions around the alliance and what its future structure may look like, with a need to identify the preferred direction moving forward. Key considerations include attracting and retaining staff and recognising that the current arrangement may have reached its practical limits. At present, there are effectively two of everything—two budgets, two audits, and two capital works programs—which raises questions about overall cost and efficiency.

There is a need to understand the full cost implications and determine the best path forward, with input from both Council and the community. A comprehensive analysis is required to support informed decision-making, however there is currently limited staff capacity to undertake this work.

Local Government Reform will have an impact on the current structure.

I can confirm that all the previous Port Sorell Community Information Evening Notes are available on the Latrobe Council website.

Question

So, with all the red tape in paperwork for Council, why don't we just do it.

Response

The new CEO will be focused on progressing this work. Development applications are assessed in accordance with established compliance guidelines, working closely with Jan Febey and her team. This is not about red tape but ensuring proper regulatory compliance.

Question

Why will rates be going up again.

Response

Rates increases are reflective of the current economic climate we are operating in.

Question

Wesley Vale - is there any programmed and planned maintenance.

Response

Programmed and planned maintenance is reviewed as part of our regular processes.

Question

Frankford Road, any plans to address the specific safety issues at Moriarty raised with the mayor and council.

Response

The minister's office has confirmed that there are no plans to upgrade or review that section of Frankford Road. The mayor has committed to continue working and advocating for a risk assessment and review of the safety issues identified and that will be a priority during the next six months.

Comment

Some of the trees in south Esplanade are unsafe – half in the bank and half out. Trees between the workshop café and slipways, huge trees with dangerous limbs.

Response

This question is taken on notice.

The Mayor thanked community members for attending in such large numbers and for their active and engaged participation throughout the evening.

Meeting closed at 9:32 pm.

Upcoming Events Calendar

26 April	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.
27 April	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

7 - 9 May	Agfest - visit https://agfest.com.au
3 May	Latrobe Cemetery Working Bee on Gilbert Street, Latrobe from 10:00 am to 11:15 am. Contact Councillor Graeme Brown on 0417 598 116 for more information
9 May	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, text only
10 May	Mother's Day
18-24 May	National Volunteer Week
21 May	Banksia and U3A Morning Tea, Cancer Council fund raiser at the Banksia Centre, from 10:30 am to 12:00 pm. Bring a plate. Email: communication@portsorellu3a.org.au. Sassafras Biggest Morning Tea, 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.
25 May	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 .
22 May – 1 Aug	BreastScreen Tasmania Mobile Screening Unit will be in the Banksia Centre carpark from 22 May to 1 June. To make an appointment (you do not need a doctor's referral) call 13 20 50.
31 May	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.