

# ANNUAL REPORT 2021/22



**Devonport City Council**  
*The City with Spirit*



# Contents

3

## ABOUT COUNCIL

Message from the Mayor  
Message from the General Manager  
Mission, Vision, Values  
The Council  
Committee representation  
Councillor expenses  
Summary of decisions made by Council  
Meeting attendance  
Planning framework  
Organisational structure  
Workforce profile

15

## GOAL 1 LIVING LIGHTLY ON OUR ENVIRONMENT

Highlights  
Goal 1 - Annual Plan action summary

18

## GOAL 2 BUILDING A UNIQUE CITY

LIVING CITY highlights  
Capital works program  
Regulatory services  
Asset management  
Goal 2 - Annual Plan action summary

27

## GOAL 3 GROWING A VIBRANT ECONOMY

Highlights  
Goal 3 - Annual Plan action summary

32

## GOAL 4 BUILDING QUALITY OF LIFE

Highlights  
Goal 4 - Annual Plan action summary

39

## GOAL 5 PRACTICING EXCELLENCE IN GOVERNANCE

Good governance  
Financial performance snapshot  
Performance measures  
Legislative requirements  
Contracts and tenders  
Public health statement  
Community grants  
Highlights  
Goal 5 - Annual Plan action summary

56

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

### Professional service providers

**Auditors:** Tasmanian Audit Office  
**Bankers:** Commonwealth Bank of Australia  
**Insurance Broker:** Jardine Lloyd Thompson  
**Valuers:** Office of Valuer-General

### Photographers

The Devonport City Council thanks all photographers featured in this Annual Report including Acacia Chapman, Scott Newman, Jeffrey Sharman, Kelly Slater, Michael Mouat and Ian Macleod.



# About Council

## Acknowledgement of Country

The City of Devonport acknowledges the Tasmanian Aboriginal people as the traditional owners and ongoing custodians of lutruwita, Tasmania. We pay our respects to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and to their elders past, present and emerging.



# Message from the Mayor

It's my pleasure to present the Devonport City Council's Annual Report to our community for officially the last time.

After 15 years in Local Government, I have had the privilege of watching this amazing city grow and transform, and during the last four years have been honoured to be your Mayor.

While the last few years have been tough for many, our community spirit is something that always shines through and shows us that Devonport is a City with Spirit.

The highs and lows of my tenure as Mayor have also reminded me to never take anything for granted. There are some moments that are etched in our minds forever. As your Mayor, and as a mother and a grandmother, that moment will always be 16 December 2021. The day our hearts broke for the Hillcrest Primary School community.

The tragedy absolutely rocked our close-knit community, and it will for a long time. While it is still difficult to process for many, it is important that we all continue to support one another as best we can, or to seek help for ourselves or for those around us.

Council was honoured to support the AFL in hosting the Healing for Hillcrest Tribute Match in March this year, which saw a large turnout of people from all over the state.

The last financial year has seen a lot of change occur in our city and it's important to acknowledge how this came to be.

Council's LIVING CITY project has played a significant role in revitalising our city and I'm proud to have been a part of that bold vision.

Our community has seen this vision come to fruition as our Waterfront Precinct transforms through Council's \$17 million Waterfront Park and the privately funded \$49 million Novotel Hotel.

Council's Capital Work Program in 2021/22 delivered some fantastic projects for the community, including building and sports ground upgrades, playground transformations, road renewals, stormwater upgrades and sections of the Coastal Pathway completed.

A big thank you to our Council staff who help provide essential services and community events to our city to help make it a great place to live, work, invest and learn.

Providing community events to help our residents stay connected is vital, particularly as we emerge from the COVID-19 restrictions which prevented us from gathering together. These past 12 months have seen a wide range of activities held including Devonport Jazz, Diamonds of Devonport, Devonport Food and Wine, Harmony Week, Festival of Learning, Australia Day Awards, Seniors Week, Volunteer Breakfast and our Christmas and New Year activities. It was fantastic to see a spectacular finale to the New Year's Eve celebrations through the SeaRoad fireworks display.

One highlight for me personally, was the establishment of our Devonport Youth Advisory Group (DEVYAG), which includes 15 students aged between 14-18 years, who live, work, study and/or socialise in the Devonport Local Government Area. It was also great to see the Access and Inclusion Working group established to assist Council in delivering the activities in the Devonport Disability Inclusion Plan.

Our paranalpe art centre and convention centre have had a huge year of quality art exhibitions and conferences that have placed our city on the global stage. The Paper on Skin competition, featured 37 works from around the globe and was a stunning display of wearable paper art.

In our Town Hall Theatre program, there were plenty of big names that graced the stage, including Human Nature, Paul Kelly and Toni Childs.



Council also takes pride in supporting a range of sporting events, including the Cold Climate Classic touch football tournament, the national Skill Acquisition Phase Festival for our upcoming soccer talent and a Variety Active Inclusion Day, which saw people with disability enjoy a range of sports at our Devonport Recreation Centre.

In closing, I would like to personally say thank you to my community, my fellow Councillors and all the staff at Council.

You have all made my time in local government enjoyable, at times challenging, and above all memorable. I have a lifetime of memories to keep me going into the next chapter and I will never take this great opportunity for granted.

Thank you for trusting me to be your Mayor and I am really glad I took the advice of the wonderful late Mary Binks to run for Council all those years ago.



**Cr Annette Rockliff**  
Mayor





# Message from the General Manager

After two years of disruption from COVID-19, 2022 saw the beginning of what is starting to feel like normality with impacts from the global pandemic either past, reducing or accepted as part of normal life.

In planning for the 2021/22 financial year, Devonport City Council adopted a Budget and Annual Plan with a 'return to normal' approach anticipating the resumption of services and associated revenue streams which had not occurred the previous year. Importantly, for Council's ongoing financial sustainability the 2021/22 budget was based on a return to the established parameters within Council's long-term financial strategy. As Council now presents this 2021/22 Annual Report detailing its performance against anticipated budget and planned actions, it is pleasing to be able to report a strong performance both financially and in the successful delivery of many important initiatives and services.

The financial result from ordinary activities was a \$3.7 million surplus, an improvement of \$3.2 million on a budgeted surplus of \$459,000. The surplus was primarily due to additional income, which increased by 8.1% on budget whilst expenditure was contained, with actuals within 0.3% of budget. The additional income was generated in numerous areas including higher than anticipated returns from TasWater and Dulverton Waste Management Authority, additional parking and development fees, supplementary rate income and extra operating grants, in particular an additional quarterly Federal Assistance Grant (FAG) payment.

The net worth of Council increased by \$12.3 million to \$617.6 million, consolidating Council's strong financial position. Total debt reduced from \$47.9 million to \$46.9 million in line with anticipated principal and interest repayments detailed in Council's Long Term Financial Management Plan.

The most visible component of Council's transformational LIVING CITY initiative in recent years has been construction of the waterfront precinct, which is nearing completion. Involving a

\$17 million waterfront park redevelopment and a fully privately funded \$49 million waterfront hotel, the city centre will soon open up to the mouth of the Mersey River fulfilling a key objective of the LIVING CITY Master Plan.

The 187-room Novotel hotel is expected to be a shift change for the region, complementing LIVING CITY Stage 1 and creating previously unattainable opportunities in the tourism and corporate sectors.

Although less visual, yet just as important, has been the investment and development growth that is occurring as a result of the momentum and confidence generated from LIVING CITY. 'Growing the pie' has always been a key objective of LIVING CITY and evidence of success can be seen through increased development applications, rate base growth and general local business confidence.

The ongoing digital transformation of Council services and operations has provided the community far greater opportunity to transact with Council on a 24/7 basis. Internal and external forms and subsequent processes have been transitioned online during the year with back end 'AI' technology utilised to remove manual administrative processes. Business Intelligence dashboards have been developed over recent years with the first of these made publicly available on Council's website during the year, further increasing transparency and providing real time accountability of Council's performance. 'Rose', the first known chatbot on a local government website in the country went live at the beginning of the year. Rose had nearly 11,000 conversations during the year providing instant answers and assistance to the community.

With the Federal Government continuing to provide financial stimulus to support the economy, Council obtained additional funding which resulted in a number of new unplanned capital works projects. This funding allowed new capital infrastructure to proceed earlier than originally anticipated, however it did result in the diversion of design and administration resources from other projects in some instances. Contractor availability also

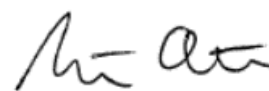


impacted on project delivery during the year as Council sought to maintain competitive prices on major tenders resulting in the need for greater flexibility on project timelines. Despite these challenges significant capital delivery was still achieved with expenditure of \$13 million for the 12-month period, above Council's long-term targeted asset investment.

This Annual Report is the last of the current Council with a local government election scheduled for October 2022. I would like to thank the current Councillors for their commitment and support over the last four years and wish those re-standing all the best for the upcoming election.

It would be remiss not to specifically recognise and honour the service of three long serving Councillors, in Mayor Annette Rockliff, former Mayor Cr Lynn Laycock and former Deputy Mayor Cr Leon Perry who are not re-standing. Each has served the community for between 14 and 20 years and has made a significant contribution, providing steadfast leadership during a period which has seen Devonport experience transformational change.

I would also like to thank all our staff for their ongoing commitment and tireless effort and thank them for their dedication to serving Devonport and its community.



**Matthew Atkins**  
General Manager





# Mission

Devonport City Council is committed to excellence in leadership and service.

## Values

### **Leadership**

We will embrace a culture of leadership founded on respect, professionalism and integrity, to ensure we make strategic decisions today for tomorrow.

### **Customer satisfaction**

We will strive to consistently engage and communicate with our internal and external customers to meet desired outcomes.

### **Our people**

We will respectfully work together by recognising each other's talents, skills, experience and knowledge.

### **Continuous improvement and innovation**

We will continually evaluate current practices and changing needs to foster an adaptive and innovative environment.

### **Results and accountability**

We will be results focused and take pride in our successes and efforts and be accountable for our actions.

## Vision

Devonport is a thriving and welcoming regional city, living lightly by river and sea.

### **Strong, thriving and welcoming**

Devonport is a regional leader with a strong economy. It is a great place to live, work and play.

### **Valuing the past, caring for the present, embracing the future**

We have been shaped by a rich cultural heritage and enthusiastically embrace present challenges and future opportunities.

### **Engaging with the world**

We have an outward focus and send quality products and experiences to the world. We welcome all to share our beautiful City and all it offers.

### **Living lightly by river and sea**

We live lightly on our valued natural environment of clean rivers, waterways and beaches; rich agricultural land; and coastal landscapes, so future generations can also enjoy this special place.



# The Council

The Devonport City Council is established under the provisions of the *Local Government Act 1993*. Council is made up of nine elected members who each serve a four-year term, with elections held on an 'all-in-all-out' basis. The term for the popularly elected Mayor and Deputy Mayor is also four years.



**Annette Rockliff**  
Mayor  
Councillor



**Alison Jarman**  
Deputy Mayor  
Councillor



**John Alexiou**  
Councillor



**Gerard Enniss**  
Councillor



**Peter Hollister**  
Councillor



**Lynn Laycock**  
Councillor



**Sally Milbourne**  
Councillor



**Leigh Murphy**  
Councillor



**Leon Perry**  
Councillor

## Decision Making Structures of Council

Decisions are made through Council meetings and a Planning Authority Committee established in accordance with Section 23 of the *Local Government Act 1993* (the Act).

Council meetings are held monthly and the Planning Authority meets as required.

Meetings are open to the public, except where an item is considered to be of a confidential nature in accordance with the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015*. Meeting schedules are available on Council's website and at the Council Offices. Meetings are recorded in line with Council's Digital Recording Policy and streamed live on YouTube.

Members of the public can have input into Council decision making through community consultation and engagement, tabling of petitions and public question time at Council meetings.

Delegations of authority also support effective decision making by Council. Under section 22 of the Act, Council may delegate its powers and functions to the General Manager, who may sub-delegate certain powers and functions to Council officers, in accordance with section 64 of the Act.

Delegations allow for timely and efficient decision making at an operational level.

Council is further supported by an Audit Panel, which is an advisory committee to the Council, established in compliance with Part 8 of Division 4 of the Act and the *Local Government (Audit Panels) Order 2014*. The Audit Panel's objective is to review the Council's performance under section 85A of the Act and report its conclusions and recommendations. Current external Audit Panel members are Mr Robert Atkinson (Chair) and Mr Stephen Allen.



# Committee representation

Local Government			
Local Government Association of Tasmania	Cr Rockliff	Cr Jarman (proxy)	
Shareholdings in Corporations			
TasWater	Cr Rockliff	Cr Jarman (proxy)	
Membership/Joint Authorities			
Dulverton Regional Waste Management Authority	Cr Rockliff	General Manager	Cr Jarman (proxy)
Cradle Coast Authority Representatives Group	Cr Jarman	General Manager	Cr Perry (proxy)
Controlling Authorities and Board Membership			
Maidstone Park Controlling Authority	Cr Rockliff	Cr Milbourne	
Tasmanian Arboretum Inc.	Cr Rockliff	Cr Milbourne	
Section 23 Committees			
Planning Authority Committee	Cr Rockliff	Cr Alexiou	Cr Hollister
	Cr Milbourne	Cr Murphy	Cr Perry
Special Interest Groups/Working Groups			
Financial Assistance Working Group	Cr Rockliff	Cr Hollister	Cr Murphy
Dame Enid Lyons’ Trust Fund	Cr Rockliff	Cr Laycock	
Devonport Food and Wine Working Group	Cr Jarman	Cr Laycock	Cr Milbourne (proxy)
Devonport Regional Gallery Advisory Committe	Cr Alexiou	Cr Hollister	
East Devonport Working Group	Cr Alexiou	Cr Murphy	Cr Jarman
Public Art Committee	Cr Jarman	Cr Murphy	
General Manager’s Performance Review Committee	Cr Rockliff Cr Perry	Cr Jarman Cr Laycock	Cr Hollister
Access and Inclusion Working Group	Cr Rockliff	Cr Jarman	
Live and Learn Steering Group	Cr Rockliff		
External Committees			
Cement Australia Community Liaison Committee	Cr Hollister		
Mersey-Leven Emergency Management Committee	Cr Rockliff	Cr Jarman (proxy)	
Statutory Council Committees			
Audit Panel	Cr Perry	Cr Murphy	

# Councillor expenses

Allowances and Expenses	Mayor - \$	Deputy Mayor - \$	Councillors - \$	Total - \$
Councillor allowances	82,844	42,169	165,683	290,696
Vehicles	6,339	0	0	6,339
Other expenses	4,220	3,566	24,962	32,748
<b>Total</b>	<b>93,403</b>	<b>45,735</b>	<b>190,645</b>	<b>329,783</b>





## Summary of decisions by Council

Meeting	No. of meetings	Open session items	Closed session items	Total	% Items dealt in closed session
Council*	13	205	15	220	6.81
Planning Authority Committee	6	18	0	18	0
TOTAL	19	223	15	238	6.30

\* Includes Special Meetings and Annual General Meeting.

In addition to the number of items listed in Closed Session, there were also six Leave of Absence Requests and nine Minutes of Joint Authorities (provided to Council on the condition that they remain confidential). Figures do not include confirmation of previous Council meeting minutes including section 23 committee minutes or moving into and out of closed session.

## Meeting attendance

	Council	Planning Authority		Workshops
	13	6		12
	Member	Member	Non Member	Member
Cr Rockliff, Mayor	13	5	-	11
Cr Jarman, Deputy Mayor	12	-	4	11
Cr Alexiou	13	6	-	12
Cr Enniss	11	-	1	12
Cr Hollister	13	6	-	12
Cr Laycock	12	-	5	11
Cr Milbourne	12	4	-	11
Cr Murphy	13	5	-	11
Cr Perry	13	5	-	11

# 26,150

POPULATION OF  
DEVONPORT

25,747 in 2020/21



# Planning framework

Devonport City Council has a robust planning framework which focuses on short and midterm objectives to deliver on priorities outlined in Council's Strategic Plan 2009-2030.

## **STRATEGIC PLAN 2009 - 2030**

### **SPECIFIC PLANS AND STRATEGIES**

Specific plans and strategies, where necessary, provide an expansion of the Strategic Plan outlining in more detail the medium-term intent in important areas or functions.

#### **BUSINESS AS USUAL**

Important service delivery to the community across diverse functions ranging from animal control and regulatory assessments, through to asset maintenance and the operation of community facilities. BAU is undertaken in accordance with legislative requirements, established service levels and where applicable, objectives and actions from Council's Strategic Plan, strategies and plans.

#### **ANNUAL PLAN ACTIONS**

Targeted actions aimed to move the dial on strategic priorities outlined in the Strategic Plan. The actions are different from BAU, in that they only occur until completed, rather than being an ongoing function of Council. They are annual steps, providing focus and direction toward the long-term strategic priorities.

#### **CAPITAL EXPENDITURE**

Council maintains a 10-year capital works program, outlining investment in identified capital projects. Asset renewal projects are identified through asset management plans, with new asset projects driven from priorities in the Strategic Plan, or other Council strategies or plans.

**Performance is measured and recorded through specific periodic reporting, and in Council's Annual Report and Financial Statements.**



# Organisational structure



**GENERAL MANAGEMENT**  
**MATTHEW ATKINS**

- Councillor Support
- External Representation
- Strategic Planning
- Emergency Management
- Governance
- Communications

**DEPUTY GENERAL  
MANAGER**

**JEFFREY GRIFFITH**

**EXECUTIVE MANAGER  
CITY GROWTH**

**MATTHEW SKIRVING**

**EXECUTIVE MANAGER  
PEOPLE AND FINANCE**

**KYM PEEBLES**

**Development Services**

- Environmental Health
- Statutory Planning
- Building/Plumbing
- Risk
- Animal Control
- Compliance

**Community Services**

- Events
- Environmental Sustainability
- Community Development
- Volunteers
- Financial Assistance
- Sport and Recreation

**Corporate Services**

- Records
- Information Technology
- Business Systems
- Customer Service
- Parking

**Economic Development**

- LIVING CITY
- Property Management

**Infrastructure**

- Engineering
- Technical Support
- Asset Management

**Works**

- Civil
- Parks and Reserves
- Building Maintenance
- Plant Maintenance
- Waste Management

- Finance
- Human Resources

**Convention and Arts**

- paranapple arts centre
- paranapple convention centre
- Bass Strait Maritime Centre
- Home Hill
- Tourism



# Workforce profile

Category	Full-time	Part-time	Casual
Male	91	10	9
Female	35	25	14
<b>Total</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>23</b>
General Manager	1	0	0
Deputy General Manager	1	0	0
Executive Managers	1	1	0
Administrative/Technical	60	13	7
Operations/Works	55	6	0
Facilities/Satellite Sites	8	15	16
Number of FTE	146.79		
% of female staff	40%		
% of male staff	60%		
Staff turn over rate	12.12%		
	2021/22	2020/21	2019/20
Absenteeism (sick leave, average number of days lost)	9.38 days	9.8 days	10.35 days
Lost Time Injury Frequency Rate (LTIFR)	17.07	13.42	17
Medical Treatment Injury Frequency Rate (MTIFR)	12.80	17.89	10.2

## Workers compensation as at 30 June 2022

Policy year ending 30 June	Number of workers compensation claims lodged with Council's insurer	Current open claims	Gross value incurred by the insurer \$
30/06/2022	7 claims	1	179,589.01
30/6/2021	7 claims	1	35,935.70
30/6/2020	6 claims	0	29,481.08
30/6/2019	12 claims	0	347,651.52
30/6/2018	6 claims	0	32,029.49
30/6/2017	7 claims	0	27,839.69

### Senior Officer remuneration

Council is required to report on the total annual remuneration paid to employees who hold senior positions. For the purpose of this disclosure, all staff appointed to the Executive Leadership Team are included as Senior Officers. Details relating to Senior Officer remuneration are outlined in the Financial Report.



## GOAL 1

# Living lightly on our environment





# Highlights

## Solar panel system installation

As part of Devonport City Council's obligations under the Cities Power Partnership, a new solar panel system was installed on the roof at the paranaple arts centre. The 148 panel, 55kw micro inverter solar system will assist Council to reduce the City's carbon footprint and reduce energy costs.



**16,203**

**TONNES WASTE TAKEN  
TO LANDFILL**

16,072 in 2020/2021

**20,282**

**LITRES UNLEADED PETROL  
CONSUMED**

19,417 in 2020/2021

**194,459**

**LITRES DIESEL  
CONSUMED**

188,269 in 2020/2021

## Environmental sustainability

- **Bat Discovery Nights, with Dr Lisa Cawthen** - 66 people attended Bat Discovery Nights held in January and March. The groups discovered 6 species of bats out of the 8 in the State, which is very impressive for a small reserve.
- **Friends of the Don Reserve, Wildcare Group and Gateway Church** - These groups were very busy throughout 2021/22, weeding areas of the Don Reserve and Pardoe Beach. Friends of Don Reserve also worked to rehabilitate illegal mountain bike trails and planted 1,800 seedlings in the Don Reserve, and 3,300 plants around Coles Beach near the old Gun Club to provide more coastal habitat and support erosion control. 20 volunteers from the Gateway Church also planted 600 plants in the area between Pardoe Beach and Teatree Lane.

## Public recycling bins

A total of 17 new public recycling bins were installed in the Devonport CBD, Victoria Parade, the Mersey Bluff, Fourways and Valley Road during 2021/22. The bins are a practical way of encouraging the community to be more mindful of waste disposal, and providing people with opportunities to recycle waste and positively reduce their carbon footprint. Approximately 90% of the bins were new, however some were former waste bins that have been repurposed as recycling bins.







## GOAL 1 ANNUAL PLAN ACTION SUMMARY

Strategy	Action	Outcome	Status
<b>1.1</b>	<b>DEVONPORT IS AN ENERGY EFFICIENT CITY</b>		
	Implement Devonport's obligations under the Cities Power Partnership, including the installation of solar panels on selected buildings and completion of greenhouse emissions audit.	Installation works for the new solar panel system located at the paranapple arts centre is complete.	✓
<b>1.2</b>	<b>SUSTAINABILITY IS PROMOTED AND INTEGRATED ACROSS ALL SECTORS</b>		
	Participate in the North-West Regional Cat Management Group to finalise and implement a regional cat management strategy.	The Regional Cat Management Strategy has been finalised. The current project is funded until 2025 and the next stage will focus on how priorities identified can be implemented.	✓
	Review and update the 2015-2020 Don Reserve Environmental Management Plan.	The first stage of community consultation closed in January 2022. The Don Reserve Environmental Management Plan will sit under the overarching Public Open Space Strategy, therefore, development of the Plan is on hold until the revised Public Open Space Strategy focus areas and priorities are known.	➔
<b>1.4</b>	<b>OUR ENERGY USE IS REDUCED</b>		
	Prepare Council and the community for the introduction of a State Waste Levy.	Waste Levy considered in the 2022/23 budget. Waste Transfer Station operations modified in response to the levy.	✓
	Develop business and operational planning for implementation of a kerbside organics (FOGO) collection service within the local government area.	Council is required to commit to a regional FOGO collection service by 1 February 2023. Analysis of service delivery options is in progress in line with the deadline.	✓
<b>LEGEND</b> Completed ✓ In progress ➔ Ongoing ➔ Deferred ➔			





## GOAL 2

# Building a unique city



# Regulatory services

Regulatory functions such as development and planning assessment, permit authority services, animal control, compliance and environmental health functions continue to be a core part of the services Council provide to the community.

Overall development and investment in Devonport is continuing to grow, with Council approving 224 planning applications in the 2021/22 financial year.

Worth more than \$86.58 million - an approximate increase of just over 75% from 2021/22 - this figure signals a strong recovery from the COVID period and continued growth and confidence in the region and its economy.

Providing high-level customer service continues to be a focus for Council's Regulatory team, with improvements such as an online renewal process for food licenses and online application forms for planning permit applications introduced throughout the year.

An overview of environmental health services is provided on page 48.

## Residential Growth Strategy

The Residential Growth Strategy was adopted in June 2022, after a period of community consultation which received 24 public submissions.

The purpose of the Strategy is to provide an overarching direction for residential growth in the Devonport area over the next 20 years, and seeks to build upon the economic confidence and positive momentum for growth catalysed by Council's recent LIVING CITY urban renewal initiative.

The Strategy is prepared around the following policy directions:

1. aspirational population growth;
2. residential land supply;
3. strategic direction for future residential growth;
4. providing diversity in housing options; and
5. monitoring and review.

These five central strategic policy directions enable a focused consideration for Council to leverage appropriate mechanisms and measures to stimulate and encourage residential growth.

The Strategy is available on Council's website.

**64**

**BUILDING PERMITS  
ISSUED**

108 in 2020/21

**152**

**BUILDING CERTIFICATES OF  
LIKELY COMPLIANCE ISSUED**

164 in 2020/21

**42**

**PLUMBING PERMITS ISSUED**

50 in 2020/21

**134**

**PLUMBING CERTIFICATES OF  
LIKELY COMPLIANCE ISSUED**

165 in 2020/21

**20**

**PLUMBING ON-SITE  
WASTEWATER ISSUED**

31 in 2020/21

**625**

**PROPERTY CERTIFICATES  
ISSUED**

627 in 2020/21

**\$86.58M**

**ESTIMATED VALUE OF  
DEVELOPMENT APPROVALS**

\$49.1M in 2020/21

**224**

**DEVELOPMENT  
APPLICATIONS APPROVED**

196 in 2020/21



# LIVING CITY highlights

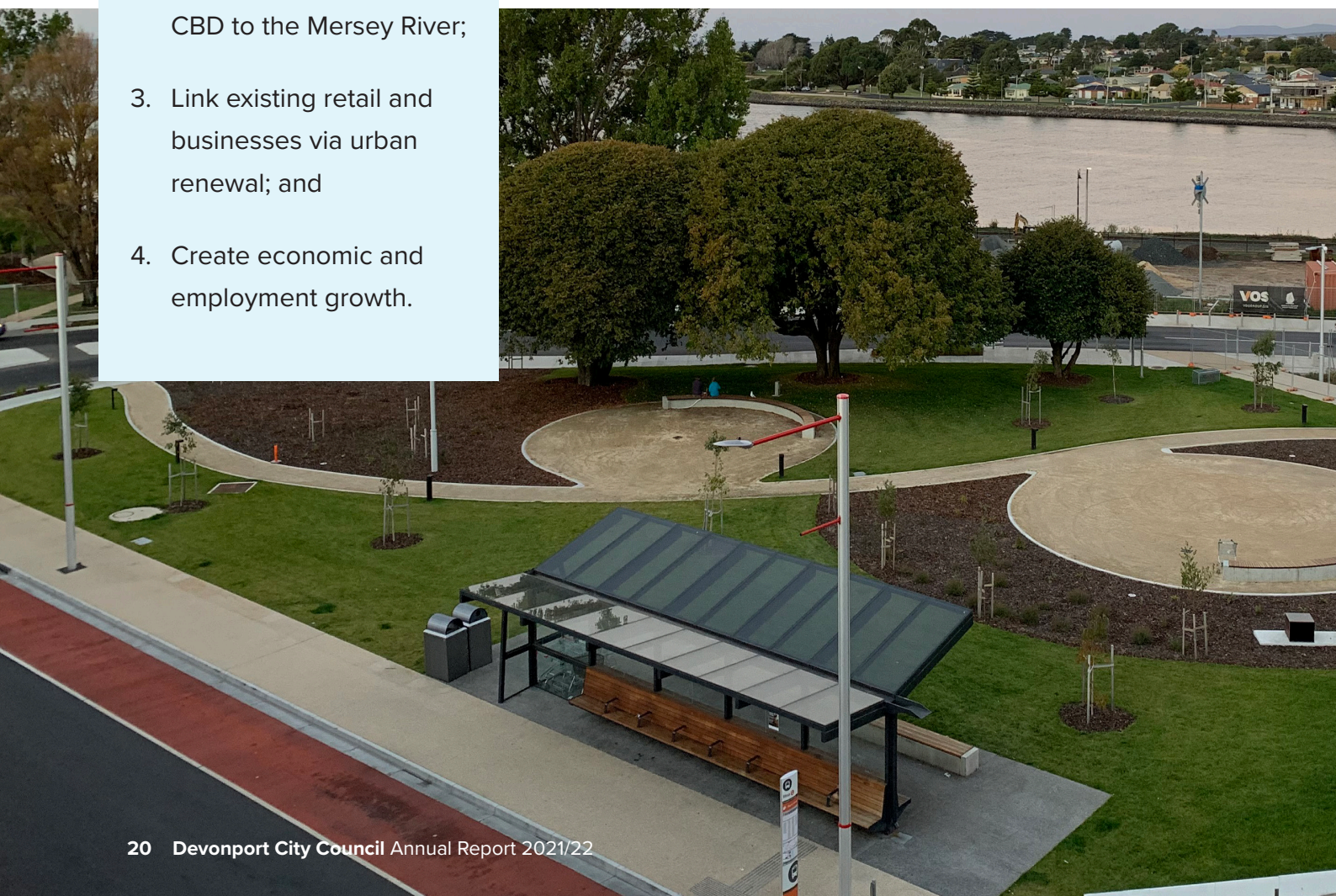
As one of Council's principle strategic initiatives, the LIVING CITY master plan represents the largest urban redevelopment plan ever undertaken in regional Tasmania. The reimagining of Devonport's CBD as the economic and cultural heart of the region is guided by a four-part vision:

1. To strengthen the regional attraction for the north west of Tasmania and the State's tourist market;
2. Connect the Devonport CBD to the Mersey River;
3. Link existing retail and businesses via urban renewal; and
4. Create economic and employment growth.

In partnership with both State and Federal governments, the initial investment by the Devonport City Council commenced a transformational journey for the City, building on and celebrating all that is good about our place and community, while also recognising that there was potential for the City and region to aim higher.

Marking a significant milestone for the City, The LIVING CITY waterfront development, which includes the \$17 million waterfront precinct and the privately-funded \$49 million hotel development, will open to the public in late 2022, realising one of the key objectives of the Master Plan and a long-held community vision of connecting the Devonport CBD to the Mersey River foreshore precinct.

As completion of this significant second stage of the LIVING CITY vision is now approaching, Council has commenced planning for the future stages and further enhancement of the plan. An integral element of the original master plan was the vision for a new night-time attraction to be located within the waterfront precinct. Late in this reporting year, Council was able to secure the necessary grant funding to deliver the Devonport Sound and Light Show project concept. Celebrating the special culture and natural character of the City and region, the Sound and Light Show will create a unique and memorable experience for visitors and local community members, and will make a further contribution to growing visitation and economic activity in the region.







During this year, Council has also completed several significant projects that contribute directly to the vision and objectives of LIVING CITY and will further enhance the prosperity and liveability of the City. The Greater Devonport Residential Growth Strategy outlines Council's vision for the future growth and development of the region, setting an aspirational goal for the municipal population to reach 30,000 by 2030. Despite setting an ambitious target for future growth, recent population growth data aligns with this target, and the plan provides the strategic framework to support property owners and developers in meeting market demand.

Council also completed detailed analysis on the retail catchment served by the City during this year, with the Devonport Retail Study providing guidance as to the turnover, spending capacity, and market opportunities for further growth and development of this important sector of the City's economy. As with all stages of the LIVING CITY plan, this study will provide the evidence-based foundation for further private-sector investment within the City, and also inform Council's future development of the retail

and activity precinct to the west of Market Square (the former Library and Service Tasmania land). Investigation of the development options for this precinct, and specific targeting of major new retail attractors for the Devonport CBD is a key Annual Plan action for the coming year, along with publishing an Investment Prospectus for the City to provide a consolidated overview and promotion of the benefits and opportunities for investment in the City and region.

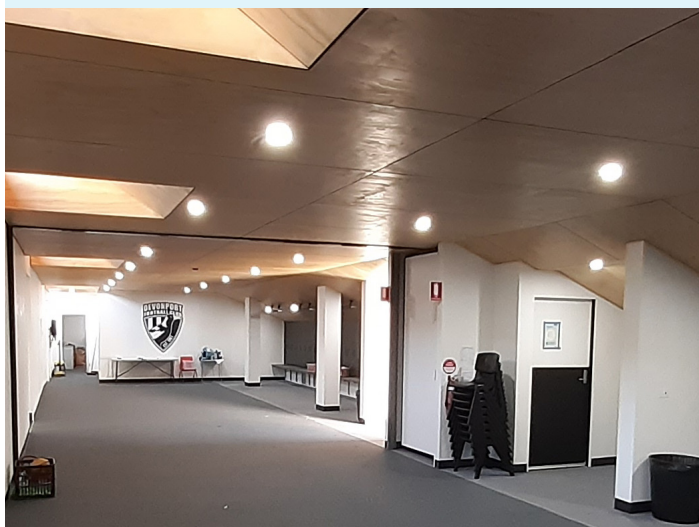
With utilisation of the cultural, community, and events infrastructure created via the initial stages of the LIVING CITY plan continuing to grow year-on-year, and the nearing completion of the long-held vision for a vibrant new waterfront precinct, LIVING CITY is having a profoundly positive impact on the City and community. Supported by strong population growth, Gross Domestic Product growth above the statewide average, and demonstrated resilience to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and associated challenges, LIVING CITY has been the catalyst for the further strengthening of the City as the cultural and economic heart of the region.



# Capital works program

## Building and sports ground upgrades included:

- an upgrade to the changerooms at the Devonport Football Club;
- replacement of the backboard at the Devonport Recreation Centre;
- upgrades to seats at the Spreyton Netball Centre and Maidstone Park;
- upgrades to the changerooms at the Devonport Aquatic Centre; and
- a new internal door at the Bass Strait Maritime Centre.



## Playground upgrades

Council is excited to be working in partnership with the Devonport Community House to transform **Highfield Park** into a space where family and community gatherings can be held, and where people can connect, form friendships and feel a sense of ownership, belonging and pride. In late 2021, barbeque and picnic shelters were installed and the **Highfield Park nature play area** was officially opened by the Premier of Tasmania, the Honourable Jeremy Rockliff MP, at a community event in July. This play area is an action from the Highfield Park Master Plan 2018-2028, and was funded by phase two of the Australian Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program.

The new improved **Don Reserve Playground** opened to the public in January 2022. Situated outside the Splash Aquatic Centre, the playground includes a flying fox, known as the Swift Rider, (named in recognition of the Swift Parrot habitat the Don Reserve provides), a rock wall, spinning seats, a climbing net and a 360-degree basket swing.







# \$13M

## CAPITAL WORKS COMPLETED

\$15M in 2020/2021

### Transport projects included:

- North Fenton Street - kerb renewal (Oldaker to Parker Streets);
- Kelcey Tier Road - renewal;
- Valley Road and Greenway Avenue - traffic and pedestrian improvements;
- Durkins Road - renewal and seal plus guard rail extension;
- Victoria Parade car park - improvements (James to George Streets); and
- pedestrian access improvements in Nixon Street, Charles Street, Steele Street and Forbes Street.

### Stormwater upgrades included:

- Victoria Parade - stormwater renewal;
- Webberleys Road - stormwater upgrades; and
- North Fenton Street - pipe renewal.

### Coastal Pathway

The River Road pathway project was completed, providing a continuous path between Oakwood Drive and Ambleside and joining the Coastal Pathway section that was completed in 2021.

The 6.7km Don-Leith section of the pathway commenced with the construction of the new bridge over the Don River. In addition to the new bridge, this section will include a path from Waverley Road to Leith, which is due to be completed as part of the 2022/23 Capital Program.





# Asset management

In 2021/22 staff involved in asset management activities continued to build on the improvements made as part of Project Transform in 2020/21. A new Geographical Information System (GIS) viewer was implemented, which will allow Council to provide accurate and detailed spatial data to the community via its website. Other new services will be delivered to the community as capacity is built.



**271.3KM**

**ROADS**

271.3KM in 2020/2021

**14**

**SPORTS GROUNDS**

14 in 2020/2021

**268KM**

**FOOTPATHS/PATHS  
AND WALKWAYS**

265.9KM in 2020/2021

## Revaluation of Transport (Roads) and Building Assets

Council undertakes a scheduled revaluation of infrastructure assets which are valued in accordance with AASB 116: Property, Plant and Equipment and AASB 113: Fair Value Measurement.

Current replacement costs are calculated (except for land and buildings) using current construction costs, or detailed estimations provided by qualified or experienced staff. As part of the revaluation, asset useful lives are reviewed and amended as required. Transport (Roads), Building and General Land assets were revalued in 2021/22.

Summary – Roads	Pre-valuation \$M	Post-valuation \$M	Variance amount \$M	Variance %
Asset cost	321.58	324.16	2.58	0.80
Accumulated depreciation	181.10	182.52	1.42	0.78
Written down value	140.47	141.63	1.16	0.85

Summary – Buildings	Pre-valuation \$M	Post-valuation \$M	Variance amount \$M	Variance %
Asset cost	143.24	134.31	-8.93	-6.18
Accumulated depreciation	52.71	44.64	-8.06	-15.30
Written down value	91.72	90.86	-0.86	-0.94

Summary – General Land	Pre-valuation \$M	Post-valuation \$M	Variance amount \$M	Variance %
Asset cost	75.69	68.57	-7.12	-9.40
Accumulated depreciation	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Written down value	75.69	68.57	-7.12	-9.40



# Smart City Project: Devonport Live

In 2021/22 Council commenced a project involving the development of 'smart devices'. A variety of sensors have been installed in and around the Bluff precinct, collecting data including:

- pedestrian numbers on the coastal pathway;
- vehicle numbers and speeds on Bluff Road;
- weather data including temperature, wind, rainfall and humidity;
- soil moisture content on the Meercroft Park sports fields;
- flow through a major stormwater outlet;
- amount of waste in bins around the playground and BBQ area; and
- utilisation of public BBQs and toilets.

It is intended that in the coming year, tools will be developed to analyse the data to streamline maintenance and operational work, and to provide valuable information about the way the community uses the area. Examples include:

- automating irrigation to align with the drying of the soil, which will optimise the use of water and provide a consistent and quality playing surface;
- comparison of rainfall and stormwater flow rates may identify upstream pipe blockages and ensure the stormwater system is working as expected;
- optimising the bin collection schedule so that bins are emptied when required; and
- being able to identify and respond to public toilet cleaning or maintenance issues prior to receiving complaints.

Other data, including weather data may provide value to the community when made available online.



## Strategy updates

During 2021/22 Council commenced reviewing a number of strategies, including the Bike Riding Strategy, the Road Network Strategy, the Signage Strategy and the Open Space Strategy.

Significant community consultation was undertaken in the development of the Open Space Strategy, with 500 people providing feedback at a series of pop-up sessions and via an on-line survey. The Strategy has been adopted by Council and is available on Council's website.





## GOAL 2 ANNUAL PLAN ACTION SUMMARY

Strategy	Action	Outcome	Status
<b>2.1</b>	<b>COUNCIL'S PLANNING SCHEME FACILITATES APPROPRIATE PROPERTY USE AND DEVELOPMENT</b>		
	Develop and adopt a residential strategy.	Strategy adopted by Council in June 2022.	✓
<b>2.3</b>	<b>INFRASTRUCTURE PRIORITIES SUPPORT WELL PLANNED, MANAGED AND APPROPRIATELY FUNDED DEVELOPMENT WITHIN OUR UNIQUE CITY</b>		
	Extend Council's forward Capital Works Program from 5 years to 10 years.	10 year Capital Works Program adopted by Council in June 2022.	✓
	Review and update Council's 2015-2020 Bike Riding Strategy and the 2016-2021 Pedestrian Strategy and incorporate into a single Active Transport Strategy.	Draft document in development. Public consultation planned for July/August 2022.	➔
	Develop a Public Open Space Strategy.	Following extensive consultation, final strategy has been adopted.	✓
	Review and update Council's 2017-2022 Signage Strategy.	Signage Strategy reviewed and adopted.	✓
	Review and update Council's Road Network Strategy 2016.	Draft document being finalised by consultant following internal review.	➔
<b>2.4</b>	<b>PROMOTE THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CBD IN A MANNER WHICH ACHIEVES THE LIVING CITY PRINCIPLES PLAN</b>		
	Oversee the continuation and completion of the LIVING CITY Waterfront Park and secure external funding to incorporate a sound and light show into the Park.	Final landscaping treatments to the amphitheatre and geo-garden areas is progressing and expected to be completed during September 2022. The final element of the coastal play-space zone is progressing well, with the main structure now installed. Planning for project completion and handover processes are currently underway.	➔
	Advance expressions of interest in the development of selected CBD sites to contract execution phase, allowing works to commence.	Agreement documentation associated with the Fenton Way/Oldaker Street site provided to the shortlisted project proponent for review and completion. An action to continue the development of these sites is included in the 2022/23 Annual Plan.	✓
<b>LEGEND</b> Completed ✓ In progress ➔ Ongoing ➔ Deferred ➔			



## GOAL 3

# Growing a vibrant economy





# Highlights



## DEVONPORT JAZZ

The Devonport Jazz Festival was held from 22-25 July 2021.

The four day festival had 22 performances scheduled in 16 venues throughout Devonport and surrounding areas. Due to COVID travel restrictions, an emphasis was placed on securing a higher proportion of Tasmanian artists for the 2021 festival, however there were unfortunately three interstate acts that were unable to attend due to interstate lockdowns or quarantine requirements. This equated to the loss of eight performances from the program and reduced the number of participating venues to 12.

Fortunately Council has a very proactive volunteer Jazz Taskforce, who assist with staging the festival. In 2021, 20 volunteers contributed 301.5 hours in preparation for the festival, as well as assisting during the festival itself. Their duties included ushering, venue liaison, provision of support, managing COVID requirements and procedures and general event assistance. Without the wonderful support of these volunteers, the Devonport Jazz Festival would not be possible.





## International Women's Week

The Ambassador for this year's Diamonds of Devonport, Carla Pizzirani-Rand, promoted International Women's Day, Diamonds of Devonport and Share the Dignity in the lead up to International Women's Week in March.

At the Diamonds of Devonport event, attended by 175 community members, 42 Diamonds of Devonport were celebrated across the categories of Young Achiever, Business Achievement, Personal Achievement and Community Achievement.

The theme for International Women's Week 2022 was #BreakTheBias and throughout the week, various local women who are advocates and leaders in the community, were invited to contribute their thoughts on celebrating women and raising awareness against bias in society.



## Devonport Food and Wine

Devonport Food and Wine saw the celebration of local produce and culinary expertise during the last two weeks in October. Events were generally well attended. Highlights included the Brandsema Farm Tour, Ashgrove cheese toastie competition and the Gin Festival at the Food and Wine Conservatory. Closer to the city, there was also French cooking demonstrations in the Drysdale training kitchens, Pete & Una's tasting nights and the North West Film Society's screening of Julie & Julia. Unfortunately, multiple events, including, Council's Street Eats event, were cancelled due to bad weather.



## Harmony Week (21-27 March 2022)

Harmony Day is an annual celebration of the diversity and coexistence of cultures in Australia.

The 2022 Harmony Day celebrations included a Citizenship Ceremony that welcomed seven new Australian citizens.

The community was also invited to contribute to a Harmony Day Recipe Book. The result was a culturally diverse collection of recipes from Devonport residents who shared a dish from their home country, a country they have lived in, or simply a dish they love.

The recipe book was available in printed and electronic formats.



As part of Harmony Week, the paranapple convention centre was lit up in yellow and blue to show support for the people of Ukraine and as a reminder for the community to reflect and appreciate Australia's cultural diversity and freedom.



# Christmas/New Year Activities

A number of activities were held to celebrate Christmas and the New Year, including:

- Christmas in the East;
- Festive Friday in the mall;
- A house decorating competition;
- A Christmas colouring-in competition;
- A December celebrations calendar branded 'Treat Your Elf' promoting local events;
- A pet photo competition; and
- 'Around the World' - New Year's Eve.

**Christmas in the East** was a successful event that saw Santa travel through East Devonport and surrounding suburbs visiting families as they waited outside their houses. The tour was coordinated by the East Devonport Child and Family Learning Centre, East Devonport Neighbourhood House, Rotary Club of Devonport South-East, Housing Choices, Devonport Anglican Church, Devonport Council, Tasmania Fire Service and many volunteers.

## Around the World - New Year's Eve

New Year's Eve 2021 was celebrated with a family focused event in Market Square. The Around the World theme was designed to enable patrons to travel the world without leaving Devonport and celebrate our multicultural community.

Live entertainment, street stalls, a community ribbon fence and children's activities kept the crowd entertained, and a fireworks display, sponsored by SeaRoad, proved a spectacular finale to the event.







## GOAL 3 ANNUAL PLAN ACTION SUMMARY

Strategy	Action	Outcome	Status
<b>3.1</b>	<b>DEVONPORT IS THE BUSINESS, SERVICE AND RETAIL CENTRE FOR NORTH WEST TASMANIA</b>		
	Develop a prioritised plan regarding retail precinct development within the CBD.	Retail study completed and action plan adopted by Council.	✓
	Identify and deliver multiple smart city initiative pilot projects.	The Smart City Pilot project is complete.	✓
	Review existing Council tourism and marketing strategies and develop a consistent or new approach for promoting the City of Devonport.	The 2022-25 Devonport City Council Tourism Strategy has been endorsed by Council.	✓
<b>3.2</b>	<b>DEVONPORT'S VISITOR INDUSTRY IS DEVELOPED AROUND ITS NATURAL ASSETS, HISTORY AND LOCATION</b>		
	Develop and initiate the following events and activities in accordance with COVID-19 requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New Year's Eve</li> <li>• Harmony Day</li> <li>• Devonport Food and Wine Festival</li> <li>• Seniors Week</li> <li>• International Women's Day</li> <li>• Jazz Festival</li> </ul>	Jazz Festival, Devonport Food and Wine Festival, New Year's Eve, Seniors Week, International Women's Day and Harmony Day events and activities were all delivered in 2021/22.	✓
<b>3.4</b>	<b>OUR ECONOMIC PROGRESS CONTINUOUSLY IMPROVES</b>		
	Develop a partnership agreement with the Devonport Chamber of Commerce and Industry which includes support for the implementation of their Retail Strategy.	A two-year partnership agreement has been endorsed.	✓
<b>LEGEND</b> Completed ✓ In progress ➔ Ongoing ➡ Deferred ➡			





## GOAL 4

# Building quality of life



# Highlights



## DEVONPORT YOUTH ADVISORY GROUP

Council resolved to establish a Devonport youth council as an advisory committee to promote youth issues and concerns in Devonport, at their meeting held 28 June 2021. The group comprises 15 members from Devonport High School, Reece High School, Don College and St Brendan Shaw College who were nominated by their principals.

The first meeting of the group was held on 29 March 2022. Members have had the opportunity to shape the operations of the group, including agreeing on a suitable name, Devonport Youth Advisory Group (DEVYAG). The key purpose of the Devonport Youth Advisory Group is to involve young people in community decision-making processes, and to represent the voice of young people aged between 14 and 18 years who live, work, study and/or socialise in the Devonport Local Government Area.

The group provides an avenue for young people to share their views and have their voice heard. It is a forum that allows young people to develop their confidence, social connections, and leadership skills, whilst playing a key role in planning and delivering initiatives for the community.

Meetings have involved discussions with Mayor Rockliff and Council staff focused on raising the group's understanding of the role of local government and opportunities to increase youth participation in community strengthening activities. Members have also represented Devonport at the recent Statewide Youth Network of Tasmania forum, and are planning to hold a youth event in December 2022.

The establishment of DEVYAG will assist Council to facilitate and build upon strategies identified in the Regional Youth Strategy 2019-2024.

# 72

**NEW CITIZENS  
WELCOMED TO  
DEVONPORT**

31 in 2020/2021

# 1,058

**VOLUNTEER HOURS  
RECORDED**

1,634 in 2020/2021

# 243,171

**ENTRIES TO  
SPLASH AQUATIC  
& LEISURE CENTRE**

235,733 in 2020/2021



## Australia Day Award recipients honoured

Congratulations to the following 2022 Australia Day award winners who were honoured at a ceremony on 26 January 2022:

- **Citizen of the Year** – Dr Catherine Broun
- **Young Citizen of the Year** – Emma Evison
- **Community Event of the Year** – Devonport Poultry Club 67th Annual Show

Mayor Annette Rockliff also welcomed 43 new citizens to Devonport at the ceremony – conferees originated from Canada, Denmark, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Nepal, New Zealand, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Taiwan, Thailand, Ukraine, United Kingdom and Vietnam.



## Access and Inclusion

The Access and Inclusion Working Group was established in February 2022. The group aims to help Council carry out the activities in the Devonport Disability Inclusion Plan, including providing advice on making Council information, services and facilities available to all community members, and advocating for the rights of people with disability. During May, members of the group joined Council staff in an inspection of kerbside ramps throughout the City, in order to discuss functionality and suitable modifications.



## Seniors Week

Council facilitated a community calendar of events involving 15 organisations and businesses, including functions such as free hearing checks, a cocktails and canapes event, wi-fi networks and safety online sessions, film evenings and a bus trip to Mole Creek. Council also hosted the sixth annual 50+ year ratepayers' lunch in the paranapple convention centre. Attended by over 100 ratepayers, the 2021 luncheon was the biggest yet.

## Festival of Learning

The sixth annual Festival of Learning was held throughout the month of September. The Live and Learn Steering Group coordinated a calendar of events with a mix of on-line activities and small COVID safe events. A total of 62 different learning activities for both adults and children, from cooking classes to fun activities, ensured there was a wide range of events for the community to attend. Thanks to Council's partners in making the festival such a success - Devonport Community House, International Cafe, The Devonport Playhouse and 26Ten.

## Volunteer Breakfast

To celebrate International Volunteers Day, a community breakfast was held in Market Square on Monday, 6 December 2021, with over 100 volunteers in attendance. The breakfast was cooked by Councillors and management for volunteers within the Devonport community.

## Sister Cities

Devonport residents were invited to share a photo of something they love about their City, with the people of Minamata, Japan, as part of Council's project titled, 'Through each other's eyes'. Fifty submissions from the community were received in the form of photos and images of artwork. The Devonport Regional Gallery hosted two community workshops as part of the project. The descriptions of the images were translated into Japanese and displayed online and in person in Devonport and Minamata.



# paranaple arts centre and convention centre

Council's paranaple arts and convention centre continued to feel the impacts of COVID-19 restrictions in 2021/22, but as restrictions eased, the facilities hosted a number of events, performances and exhibitions. The Gallery was also very happy to once again commence on-site education and public programs and host school holiday programs for children in the Creative Space. A new Public Art Committee was established and a new Public Art Policy and Strategy was endorsed by Council in June. Highlights from the Devonport Regional Gallery include:

- North West Art Circle exhibition - July - August 2021 and May - June 2022;
- *Undercurrent* - Soren Risby and Tallulah Eaves, July - September 2021 - Tasmanian art through the lens of the ocean;
- *Minds Do Matter* - October - November 2021 - a community exhibition celebrating art and mental health;
- *Moon in a Dewdrop* - Lindy Lee, February - April 2022 - photography and sculpture influenced by the philosophies of Daoism and Ch'an (Zen) Buddhism, which explore the connections between humanity and nature;
- *A Place in Flux - Queering the North West* - George Kennedy, April - May 2022;
- *This is Us* - Devonport Youth Exhibition, April - May 2022;
- *The Koinobori Project* - May 2022 - an art exchange program with Devonport's sister city, Minamata; and
- *These Stories Will Be Different* - Zanny Begg, June 2022 - an eclectic range of video installations.



## Paper on Skin

Hosted by Devonport City Council in partnership with the Burnie Arts Council, Paper on Skin, was presented at a gala event at the paranaple convention centre in June 2022. Australian and international artists were invited to submit entries with the challenge of creating wearable art works made from a minimum of 80% paper. The judges selected 37 works from around the globe, by 42 artists from 13 countries, including five from Tasmania. The winning artist, Kaori Kato, from Japan, took home \$5,000 for her work *Bilateral Relations*.

In addition to the gala event, submissions were displayed in the Gallery from 23 June until 30 July 2022, and finalist Leonie Oakes presented an 'artist talk'.





## Town Hall Theatre

Despite performances at the Town Hall Theatre continuing to be impacted by State Government restrictions and cancellations due to COVID-19, there were a number of very popular events held throughout 2021/22, including Ring of Fire, presented by Cradle Coast Theatre Inc. in May, which attracted over 2,000 people.

Other notable events included:

- A Taste of Ireland
- Pete the Sheep
- Paul Kelly and Band
- We will Rock You
- The City of Devonport Eisteddfod
- Human Nature
- Toni Childs - Retrospective

## Convention Centre

Bookings in the paranple convention centre were strong throughout 2021/22 and included a diverse array of events and conferences. The centre was utilised as an early voting centre in the Federal election and as a vaccination centre for the State Government's COVID response. Other events of note included:

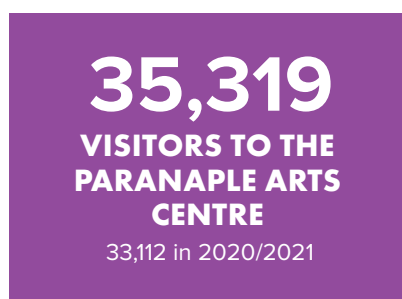
- The Tasmanian Energy Conference;
- National Reconciliation Week Breakfast;
- The Devonport Job Fair;
- The Tasmanian Band Championships;
- Dementia Prevention and Wellbeing Expo;
- The Tasmanian Export Awards; and
- a number of charity events and galas.

## Bass Strait Maritime Centre

Two major exhibitions were held at the Centre in 2021/22 - *Cats and Dogs, All at Sea*, a travelling exhibition from the Australian National Maritime Museum, and *Instrumental: Navigating and Communicating on the High Sea*, a collection of maritime instruments and their stories.

The Centre also hosted a number of educational visits from the University of Tasmania, colleges, schools and childcare centres, and the maritime and history talks again proved popular.

In April 2022, the Centre held an Open Day to coincide with the statewide Maritime and Heritage Trail weekend. A live band performed on the deck, raising funds for Soldier On, the Centre presented various workshops and the 'boat to float' activity table proved to be very popular.





# Sport and recreation

Increasing the utilisation of sport and recreation facilities and multi-use open spaces in Devonport, is one of Council's key strategies under Goal 4. In December 2021 Council endorsed the Devonport Sports Infrastructure Master Plan. Developed in consultation with the community by the Sports Infrastructure Working Group, the Master Plan provides a framework to develop public sports infrastructure that supports wider community participation in sport, health, and wellbeing initiatives to 2035 and beyond.

The Master Plan vision is:

*A healthy and active city with high quality accessible and affordable sports infrastructure delivering community-wide social, economic and environmental benefits.*

The objectives of the Master Plan are to:

- Improve community health and wellbeing through fostering sport participation via the provision of accessible, inclusive facilities.
- Consider the wider social, economic, and environmental impacts and benefits in precinct and facility planning.
- Create spaces that can be used for community activities that complement sport and recreation.
- Enhance the quality of facilities to meet infrastructure and sporting standards.
- Identify and prioritise facilities to meet infrastructure and sporting standards.
- Foster partnerships for capital development and management of facilities.

Council is now responsible for coordinating the implementation of the Master Plan, in conjunction with sporting clubs, state sporting organisations and other partners.

Other sport and recreation highlights from the year include:

- Cold Climate Classic - held in October 2021, with the event being limited to Tasmanian teams only due to COVID travel restrictions;
- Healing for Hillcrest AFL Tribute Match - Council worked with external stakeholders to create a successful and meaningful community event in March 2022;
- SAP Festival - National Skills Acquisition Phase Festival - staged in Devonport at the Valley Road Soccer Ground for the fourth year in a row;
- Variety Active Inclusion Day - Devonport Recreation Centre hosted Devonport's first Variety Active Inclusion Day on Tuesday, 21 June 2022. Variety the Children's Charity and Disability Sports Australia brought the event to approximately 40 north west students, who got the opportunity to practice skills for wheelchair basketball, AFL, cricket and bowling; and
- Health and wellbeing programs at the Devonport Recreation Centre, including Ageing Stronger, Active Longer, continue to be very popular with consistent, regular participants and new participants joining on a regular basis.





## GOAL 4 ANNUAL PLAN ACTION SUMMARY

Strategy	Action	Outcome	Status
<b>4.1</b>	<b>SPORT AND RECREATION FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS ARE WELL PLANNED TO MEET COMMUNITY NEEDS</b>		
	Undertake precinct planning and feasibility studies for identified areas in the Sports Infrastructure Master Plan.	The Sports Infrastructure Master Plan was endorsed at the December 2021 Council meeting.	✓
<b>4.2</b>	<b>A VIBRANT CITY IS CREATED THROUGH THE PROVISION OF CULTURAL ACTIVITIES, EVENTS AND FACILITIES</b>		
	Undertake a feasibility study into the likely usage and return of a Black Box theatre at the paranapple arts centre.	Feasibility study endorsed.	✓
	Develop a 5-Year Public Art Strategy.	Council has endorsed an updated Public Art Policy and a 2022-25 Public Art Strategy.	✓
<b>4.3</b>	<b>HERITAGE IS VALUED</b>		
	Develop a feasibility study and outline potential future operational models to preserve and enhance the historic Home Hill property.	Due to delays in receiving the committed grant funding to undertake this project, this action will be carried forward to 2022/23.	➔
<b>4.5</b>	<b>EDUCATION AND LEARNING IS ACCESSIBLE AND RESPONSIVE</b>		
	Facilitate and support actions from the Live and Learn Strategy including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Festival of Learning to be held in September</li> <li>Develop connections with UTAS and raise their profile to the Devonport community</li> <li>Source funding for a Project Officer to deliver the Live and Learn Strategy</li> </ul>	Festival of Learning held September 2021. The Live and Learn Steering Group are presently collaborating with UTAS to address the barriers to women participating in the workforce and the community. Council has committed staffing resources in 2022/23 to deliver the Live and Learn Strategy.	✓
<b>4.6</b>	<b>INTEGRATED HEALTH AND WELLBEING SERVICES AND FACILITIES ARE ACCESSIBLE TO ALL</b>		
	In collaboration with UTAS/CAPITOL, actively work towards developing and implementing age targeted health improvement activities.	Following from the CAPITOL project, a Health and Wellbeing Plan is under development with assistance from the University of Tasmania. Sport and Recreation staff continue to deliver the Ageing Stronger, Active Longer program designed to improve strength, balance and coordination of older residents.	✓
<b>4.7</b>	<b>AN ENGAGED COMMUNITY PROMOTES AND VALUES DIVERSITY AND EQUITY</b>		
	Deliver the year one outcomes of the Disability Inclusion Plan, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish an Access and Inclusion Working Group</li> <li>Identify and promote opportunities for people to be involved in public events</li> <li>Update the Event Application Pack to include accessibility</li> <li>Seek to attract major sporting and cultural events involving participants with a disability</li> <li>Support community groups and organisations with disability awareness training</li> </ul>	The Access and Inclusion Working Group has been established and is promoting inclusive events, providing advice to Council on a number of infrastructure projects and preparing feedback on a range of strategies.	✓
<b>LEGEND</b> Completed ✓ In progress ➔ Ongoing ➔ Deferred ➔			





**GOAL 5**

**Practicing excellence  
in governance**



# Good governance checklist

## GOOD GOVERNANCE ELEMENT

### ACCOUNTABLE

### TRANSPARENT

### LAW-ABIDING

### RESPONSIVE

### EQUITABLE

### PARTICIPATORY AND INCLUSIVE

### EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT

### CONSENSUS ORIENTED

**3,839**

**DOGS REGISTERED**  
3,950 in 2020/2021

**16,903**

**PARKING INFRINGEMENTS ISSUED**  
15,324 in 2020/2021

#### HOW DOES COUNCIL ACHIEVE THE GOOD GOVERNANCE ELEMENTS?

- Council policies
- Public Interest Disclosures
- Integrity Commission training and awareness
- Audit Panel
- Community consultation
- Special Interest Groups
- Declarations of Interest
- Related Party Disclosures
- Workshops
- Active disclosures
- Delegations Register
- Compliance Register
- Gifts and Benefits Register
- Declaration of Interest Register
- Reporting compliance
- Planning compliance
- Budget and estimates
- Meeting procedures
- Common law
- Strategic Plan
- Reports, policies and Annual Plan actions linked to Strategic Plan
- Long-term plans and strategies
- Annual Plan
- Annual Report
- Councillor, employee and community involvement in Strategic Plan development and input in updated plans
- KPIs (financial and non-financial)
- Regular review of policies and strategies
- Public questions/notices
- Surveys
- Expressions of interest
- Budget and other submissions
- Public question time
- Feedback opportunities
- Petitions
- Continuous improvement and lean activities
- Induction and targeted ongoing training and development opportunities (councillor and employee)
- Speak Up Devonport

#### RELATED/SUPPORTIVE RESOURCES FOR ADDRESSING GOVERNANCE ELEMENTS

##### LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

(includes but not limited to):

- *Local Government Act 1993*
- *Local Government (General) Regulations 2015*
- *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015*
- *Right to Information Act 2009*
- *Public Interest Disclosures Act 2002*
- *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993*
- *Resource Management and Planning Appeal Tribunal Act 1993*
- *Building Act 2016*
- *Public Health Act 1997*
- *Food Act 2003*
- *Dog Control Act 2000*
- *Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994*
- *Vehicle and Traffic Act 1999*
- *Roads and Jetties Act 1935*
- *Burial and Cremations Act 2019*

##### INTERNAL DOCUMENTS

(includes but not limited to):

- Code of Conduct (Councillor and Employee)
- Governance Policy
- Fraud and Corruption Control Policy
- Public Question Time Policy
- Information Disclosure and Right to Information Policy
- Community Engagement Policy
- Related Party Disclosure Policy
- Rates and Charges Policy
- Council By-Laws
- Strategic Plan 2009-2030
- Annual Report
- Annual Plan
- Long Term Financial Management Plan
- Long Term Asset Management Plans (Transport; Stormwater)
- Financial Management Strategy
- Asset Management Strategy
- Risk Management Framework
- Whistleblower Policy



# Financial performance snapshot

## Financial summary

A summary of key elements of Council's finances are outlined below.

Full details on Council's financial performance can be found in the Annual Financial Statements which are provided as an appendix to this Annual Report.

The Annual Financial Statements meet the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1993* and relevant Australian Accounting Standards and have been audited by the Tasmanian Audit Office.

An unqualified audit opinion was issued by the Delegate of the Auditor General on 29 September, 2022.

With the inclusion of all items, Council achieved a total comprehensive result of \$12.3 million for the year ending 30 June 2022.

The result from ordinary activities was far more favourable than budget, with a surplus result of \$3.7 million against a budget surplus position of a \$459,000.

The net worth of Council increased by \$12.3 million to \$617.6 million.

FINANCIAL RESULTS (000)	2020/21 ACTUAL \$000	2021/22 BUDGET \$000	2021/22 ACTUAL \$000
Total income	41,038	41,675	45,067
Total expenses	39,038	41,216	41,344
Net operating result	2,000	459	3,723
Comprehensive result	40,179	8,422	12,288
Total assets	662,090	636,296	673,844
Total liabilities	56,741	53,224	56,207
Net assets	605,349	583,072	617,637
Cash balance	13,720	8,436	18,945



## Income

Council's total operating income for 2021/22 was \$45 million, \$3.4 million more than budget. A further \$5.7 million in capital grants was received.

Income source (\$m)	2020/21 Actual \$000	2021/22 Budget \$000	2021/22 Actual \$000	% of Total Operating Income
Rates and service charges	29,064	30,090	30,310	67.3%
Fees and charges	5,505	5,950	6,785	15.1%
Operating grants	2,914	2,637	3,504	7.8%
Contributions	4	8	63	0.1%
Investments revenue*	2,330	2,194	3,075	6.8%
Other income	1,221	796	1,330	2.9%

\*includes share of profit of associates

## Expenses

Council's total operating expenditure for 2021/22 was \$41.3 million, or 0.3% higher than budget. Increases in employee costs were offset by savings in materials and services and other expenses.

**\$42.3**  
**SPENT ON MATERIALS,  
CONTRACTS AND WAGES**  
\$42M in 2020/2021

Expenses (\$m)	2020/21 Actual \$000	2021/22 Budget \$000	2021/22 Actual \$000	% of Total Operating Expenses
Employee benefits	12,307	12,975	13,354	32.3%
Materials and services	14,785	16,200	16,057	38.9%
Depreciation	10,284	9,986	9,969	24.1%
Financial costs	724	908	917	2.2%
Other expenses	938	1,147	1,047	2.5%

## Capital expenditure

Council delivered \$13 million in capital expenditure during 2021/22, with the majority spent on road projects and the continuation of Council's LIVING CITY initiative.

	\$000
Open space and recreation	471
Facilities	1,210
Stormwater	718
Roads	4,135
Plant and fleet*	346
Equipment/other	501
LIVING CITY	5,580

\*Does not include trade in.

**\$22.7M**  
**TOTAL GENERAL RATE  
REVENUE RECEIVED**  
\$22M in 2020/2021  
**12,626**  
**NUMBER OF RATEABLE  
PROPERTIES**  
12,558 in 2020/2021  
**\$1,199**  
**AVERAGE GENERAL  
RESIDENTIAL RATE**  
\$1,179 in 2020/2021



# Key financial indicators

The table below provides a selection of the key financial indicators for the year. Further analysis and other financial indicators are included in Note 43 of the Financial Statements.

Indicator	Council Target	2022 Actual	2021 Actual
<b>Financial operating performance</b>			
Underlying surplus ratio	0-15%	3.49%	3.06%
<b>Liquidity position</b>			
Current ratio	1:1 or greater	2.72:1	2.17:1
Cash reserves \$'000	6,000	18,945	13,720
Net financial liabilities \$'000		(32,936)	(38,614)
Net financial liabilities ratio	0% to (50%)	(74.03%)	(94.78%)
Net interest cost	below 7%	1.9%	1.5%
<b>Asset management performance</b>			
Asset consumption ratio – roads	40-60%	44%	44%
Asset sustainability ratio	60-100%	67%	79%



# Performance measures

		Target	Result
<b>GOVERNANCE</b>	Council decisions made during closed session of Council meetings.	<10%	6.3%
	Councillor attendance at Council meetings.	>90%	95.72%
<b>PERMIT AUTHORITY</b>	Time taken to assess building applications (maximum # days from receipt to decision).	7 days	4 days
	Time taken to assess plumbing applications (maximum # days from receipt to decision).	14 days	9 days
	Building and Plumbing applications decided within required time frame (% decided).	100%	100%
<b>STATUTORY PLANNING</b>	Discretionary planning applications (maximum # days).	42 days	42 days
	Permitted planning applications (maximum # days).	28 days	26 days
	Planning applications decided within required time frame (% decided).	100%	100%
<b>ANIMAL MANAGEMENT</b>	Animal complaints actioned within five days.	100%	100%
<b>FOOD SAFETY</b>	Food Complaints actioned within five days.	100%	100%
	Food safety assessments undertaken in accordance with the Tasmanian Food Business Risk Classification System.	100%	100%
<b>ASSET MANAGEMENT</b>	Capital works projects/expenditure completed.	90%	89%
	Work requests completed for the year (internal and external).	3,000	13,390
<b>WASTE COLLECTION</b>	Cost of domestic kerbside garbage bin collection service - excluding landfill disposal charges (per week per property).	\$2.50	\$2.79
	Domestic resource recovery rate.	20%	18%
<b>CEMETERY MANAGEMENT</b>	Number of available plots/interment sites available (excluding reservations).	500	470
<b>TURNOVER</b>	Resignations and terminations as a % of average staff numbers.	<10%	12.12%
<b>WORK HEALTH AND SAFETY</b>	Lost time injury frequency rate.	0	17.07

**\$41M**

**OPERATIONAL EXPENDITURE**

\$39M in 2020/2021

**\$45M**

**OPERATIONAL REVENUE RECEIVED**

\$41M in 2020/2021

**238**

**ITEMS CONSIDERED BY COUNCIL**

237 in 2020/2021



# Legislative requirements

## Code of Conduct Complaints

In accordance with section 72 (1) (ba) of the *Local Government Act 1993*, there was one code of conduct complaint upheld by the Local Government Code of Conduct Panel, and four that were dismissed during 2021/22.

In accordance with section 72 (1) (bb) of the *Act*, the total costs met by Council during 2021/22 in respect of all code of conduct complaints dealt with under Division 3A or Part 3 during 2021/22 was \$8,451.20 (inc. GST).

## Public Interest Disclosure Statement

Council is committed to the aims and objectives of the *Public Interest Disclosures Act 2002*. Council also recognises the value of transparency and accountability in its administrative and management practices, and supports the making of disclosures that reveal corrupt conduct, involving substantial mismanagement of public resources, or conduct involving substantial risk to public health and safety of the environment. In accordance with the *Public Interest Disclosures Act 2002*, Council provides information pertaining to the Act on Council's website – [devonport.tas.gov.au/Council/council-Policies](http://devonport.tas.gov.au/Council/council-Policies). The mandatory disclosures under section 86(b)(i) of the *Public Interest Disclosure Act 2002* are:

The number and types of disclosures made to the relevant public body during the year and the number of disclosures determined to be a public interest disclosure	1 Protected Disclosure
The number of disclosures determined by the relevant public body to be public interest disclosures that it investigated during the year	1
The number and types of disclosed matters referred to the public body during the year by the Ombudsman to investigate	0
The number and types of investigations of disclosed matters taken over by the Ombudsman from the public body during the year	0
The number and types of disclosed matters that the relevant public body has declined to investigate during the year	0
The number and type of disclosed matters that were substantiated upon investigation and the action taken on completion of the investigation	0
Any recommendations made by the Ombudsman that relate to the relevant public body	0

## Complaints in accordance with Customer Service Charter

During 2021/22 there were a total of 21 complaints made in accordance with Council's Customer Service Charter:

- eleven complaints related to a failure to adhere to Council's service standards; and
- ten related to staff behaviour

## Land donations

In accordance with section 72 (1)(da) of the *Local Government Act 1993* the following land was donated under section 177 of the *Act* in 2020/21:

- 108 Tarleton Street, East Devonport was donated to Housing Choices Tasmania Limited for the purposes of a community housing project. Information from the Valuer General's Office in 2020 assessed the land value as \$220,000 and the capital value as \$245,000.

## Joint authorities

Section 30 (1) *Local Government Act 1993* - Devonport City Council participates in two joint authorities; the Cradle Coast Authority and Dulverton Waste Management Authority.

## Enterprise powers

Council did not undertake any activities pursuant to section 21 of the *Local Government Act 1993*.



# Contracts and tenders

For the purposes of section 72(1)(e) of the *Act*, a council is to report the following in its annual report in relation to any contract, for the supply or provision of goods or services valued at or exceeding \$250,000 (excluding GST), that is entered into, or extended under regulation 23(5)(b), in the financial year to which the annual report relates:

Contract number	Contractor/supplier	Description of contract	Contract or supply period (plus options)	\$ Value exc GST
<b>CT0298</b>	Kentish Construction & Engineering Co. Pty Ltd	Kelcey Tier Road reconstruction	August 2021 - October 2021	722,526
<b>CT0301-01</b>	Hardings Hotmix Pty Ltd	Supply and placement of hotmix asphalt	September 2021 - March 2022	471,295
<b>CT0301-02</b>	Roadways Pty Ltd	Supply, delivery and placement of sprayed bituminous surfacing services	September 2021 - January 2022	309,999
<b>CP0219</b>	Buildrite Construction	Figure of Eight Creek pedestrian bridge	January 2022 - August 2022	446,951
<b>CT0322</b>	Kentish Construction & Engineering Co. Pty Ltd	William Street renewal	July 2022 - February 2023	1,267,012
<b>CT0325</b>	Walters Contracting	North Fenton Street renewal	January 2022 - August 2022	336,787

In accordance with section 23(5)(b) there was no instances of extending a contract (entered into by tender, where the contract does not specify extensions) by an absolute majority.

For the purposes of section 72(1)(e) of the *Act*, a council is to report the following in its annual report in relation to any contract, for the supply or provision of goods or services valued at or exceeding \$100,000 (excluding GST) but less than \$250,000, that is entered into, or extended, in the financial year to which the annual report relates:

Contract number	Contractor/supplier	Description of contract	Contract or supply period (plus options)	\$ Value exc GST
<b>CT0316</b>	Civilscape Contracting	Greenway Avenue threshold treatments	September 2021 - October 2021	121,491
<b>CS0104</b>	Walters Contracting	Webberleys Road stormwater drainage	January 2022 - July 2022	240,570
<b>CB0113</b>	DES Electrical	paranaple art centre solar panel installation	November 2021 - April 2022	110,135

For the purposes of section 72(1)(e) of the *Act*, there were no instances where regulation 27(a) and (i) have been applied.







# Public health statement

Section 72(1)(ab) of the *Local Government Act 1993* requires that Council provide a statement of its goals and objectives in relation to public health activities in the Annual Report.

## Staff resources throughout 2021/22:

- One full-time Environmental Health Officer
- One part-time Environmental Health Officer
- One casual Environmental Health Officer
- One part-time Administration Officer.

School Immunisation Clinics were administered by Council staff and contract Immunisation Nurses.

## Functions of the Environmental Health Department include:

- Food Safety
- Disease prevention and control
- Public health education and promotion
- Assessment of public events
- Public health risk activities
- Immunisations
- Exhumations
- On-site waste disposal systems
- Water carters and private suppliers
- Cooling towers and warm water systems
- Recreational and bathing water quality
- Public health nuisances
- Air, water and soil pollution
- Public health emergency management
- By-law compliance
- Environmental complaints

## Summary of 2021/22 Outcomes

Administered school-based immunisation program in conjunction with the Department of Health.

Food premise and other licence applications were determined with high-quality and responsive processes.

Inspections, licensing and registration of relevant businesses and temporary food stalls were undertaken and education programs for food handlers were promoted.

Monitoring of water quality in recreational water was conducted and concerns were investigated.

Sharps disposal containers were provided in Council's public amenities and the community sharps disposal unit was supported.

Complaints relating to environmental and public health issues were responded to in a timely manner.

Public education of health and environmental matters was supported where appropriate.

Public Health advice was promoted through Council's communication channels, including communication of COVID-19 information from the Department of Health.

## Key Public Health statistics:

- 274 Food Premises permits issued
- 274 Food Inspections carried out
- 5 Improvement Notices issued
- 42 New Premises Permits issued
- 59 Temporary Premises Permits issued
- 15 Food related complaints received and investigated





# Community grants

## Community partnerships and agreements

Organisations	Description	Amount \$
Devonport Brass Band	3 year Agreement – 30 June 2025	10,000 pa
Devonport Community House	3 year Agreement – 30 June 2025	18,000 pa
Devonport Men's Shed	3 year Agreement – 1 July 2025	8,000 pa
Devonport Motor Show	5 year Agreement – 29 January 2024	2,500 pa
Devonport Surf Club	3 year Agreement – 1 July 2023 (ceased 30 June 2022)	2,000 pa
National Trust of Australia – Home Hill operations	3 year Agreement – October 2022	28,000 pa
RANT Arts	5 year Agreement – November 2026 – Subsidised rent for property at 45-47 Stewart Street, for provision of delivery of arts and cultural services to the community.	Partnership Agreement/Arts and Cultural services/in-kind funding
Tasmanian Arboretum	3 year Agreement – 30 June 2025	20,000 pa
Youth and Family and Community Connections	5 year Agreement – 29 January 2024 – Subsidised rent for property at 62 and 64 Stewart Street for the delivery of service to support young people and families; marketing and promotion; and assistance in funding applications	Rental agreement/ Youth services/ in-kind funding
Merseylink	3 year Agreement – 8 April 2022 – Contribution towards Devonport Ferry operations	25,000 pa
Carols by Candlelight	2 year Agreement – 1 July 2023	3,500 pa
City of Devonport Eisteddfod	3 year Agreement - 2022	10,000 pa
Julie Burgess Inc	5 year Agreement – 30 January 2025	40,000 pa





## Major grants

Organisations	Description	Amount \$
<b>Devonport Junior Soccer Association</b>	Replacement goals	4,639
<b>Devonport Table Tennis Association</b>	Taraflex flooring project	10,000
<b>East Devonport Bowls Club</b>	Replacement of existing furniture	3,690
<b>Spreyton Cricket and Community Club</b>	Replace damaged and unsafe windows on clubroom building	7,500
<b>East Devonport Football Club</b>	Repairs to social room bar	5,400
<b>Burnie Arts</b>	Design eye Creative 'Paper on Skin' - developing profile and engagement across community and business	9,920
<b>Devonport Football Club</b>	Dishwasher upgrade	3,890
<b>Devonport Table Tennis Association</b>	Equipment upgrade - table tennis tables	4,053
<b>Lifeway Devonport Baptist Church</b>	Solar power system	5,000
<b>Reclink Australia</b>	Reclink community series	5,000

## Minor grants

Organisations	Description	Amount \$
<b>Devonport Seniors Club</b>	Purchase of 'as new' refurbished piano	1,800
<b>North West Film Society - Devonport Sister Cities Association</b>	Minamata film screening	1,475
<b>Devonport Tennis Club</b>	Extension of underground power supply	1,250
<b>Mersey-Leven Sub Branch Inc. - Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia</b>	To assist in the purchase of a bench seat	550
<b>Maidstone Park Management Controlling Authority</b>	Spreyton-Quoiba Memorial Hall	990
<b>Devonport Surf Life Saving Club</b>	Swimming equipment for youth development at Devonport SLSC	614
<b>God Squad NWTAS</b>	Graveyard tree removal	2,640
<b>Devonport Cricket Club</b>	Pavilion stools	556
<b>Community Hub Play and Cafe - Gateway Community Care</b>	Sensory play equipment	2,160
<b>Rotary Club of Devonport North Inc.</b>	Splash playground picnic table and bench seats	2,200
<b>Gateway Community Care</b>	Cooking with care	1,560



## Sport and recreation – grants and sponsorship

Organisations	Description	Amount \$
<b>Cradle Coast Sports and Events</b>	Devonport Triathlon	30,000
<b>Touch Football Australia</b>	Cold Climate Classic	14,000
<b>Football Federation Tas</b>	National SAP Championships	10,000
<b>Basketball TAS</b>	Under 12 State Championships	4,000
<b>Basketball TAS</b>	Pre Season Classic	6,000
<b>Devonport Warriors</b>	Primary School Tournament	2,000
<b>Everyday Lions</b>	RUN Devonport	5,000
<b>Squash Tasmania</b>	City of Devonport Tas Open Squash	12,000
<b>Devonport Junior Soccer Association</b>	Devonport Cup	3,000
<b>Devon Netball Association</b>	Devon Netball Tournament	3,000
<b>Devonport Athletic Club</b>	Devonport Christmas Carnival	8,000
<b>Tasmanian Indoor Bias Bowls Council Northwest Division</b>	National Indoor Bias Bowls Championships	7,500

## Community donations

Organisations	Description	Amount \$
<b>Reece High School</b>	End of Year Award	50
<b>Nixon Street Primary School</b>	End of Year Award	50
<b>Spreyton Primary School</b>	End of Year Award	50
<b>East Devonport Primary School</b>	End of Year Award	50
<b>Devonport Primary School</b>	End of Year Award	50
<b>Devonport High School</b>	End of Year Award	50
<b>Devonport Lapidary Club</b>	Jewellery, Gem and Mineral Fair	250
<b>Devonport Orchid Society</b>	2021 Spring Show	250
<b>Tasmanian Special Children's Christmas Party</b>	2021 Christmas Party	250
<b>Tasmanian Special Children's Christmas Party</b>	2022 Christmas Party	250
<b>Tasmanian Country Women's Association in Tasmania Online Branch</b>	Materials to be used by the Devonport members of the online branch	250
<b>Hillcrest Community Public Fund</b>	Donation to public fund	30,000



## Individual development grants

Number	Description	Amount \$
8	Approved and paid	800

## Rate remissions – not-for-profit organisations

Organisations	Description	Amount \$
Mersey Community Care Association Inc.	Rate remission	3,124
East Devonport Tennis Club	Rate remission	1,167
Mersey Rowing Club Inc.	Rate remission	1,638
Cancer Council Tasmania	Rate remission	3,531
Mersey District Scout Association - Fulton Park	Rate remission	3,520
1st Spreyton Scouts, Scout Association of Australia	Rate remission	1,117
Girl Guides Tasmania, Devonport	Rate remission	1,464
The Devonport Golf Club	Rate remission	18,841
Van Diemen Light Railway Society t/a Don River Railway	Rate remission	9,713

## Other pecuniary benefits

Organisations	Description	Amount \$
Mersey Bluff Caravan Park*	Rent	29,423
SES (via Latrobe Council)	Financial support	8,866

\*The Lessee at the Mersey Bluff Caravan Park is undertaking capital improvements at the park, in lieu of paying rent as agreed by Council, resolution no. 218/17.

## Summary of grants and benefits

Description	Amount \$
paranapple centre, convention centre and art centre room hire subsidies	58,414
Community partnership and agreements	167,000
Major grants	59,092
Minor grants	15,795
Sport and recreation grants and sponsorship	104,500
Community donations	31,550
Individual development grants	800
Rate remissions – not-for-profit organisation	44,115
Other pecuniary benefits	38,289
<b>Total</b>	<b>519,555</b>







# Highlights

## Digital transformation

Devonport City Council embarked on a whole of Council Digital Transformation in 2018, and now digital improvement is embedded into Council as a culture of innovation that continually inspires a push for new and better ways to operate.

In 2021/22, Council continued to modernise and automate a number of business process and services, including an improved Customer Request Management system, and the integration of licence renewals with the financial management system. In addition to the development of a cloud based GIS system and the Smart City Pilot Program, major projects in the digital transformation space included the development of community facing dashboards on Council's website and the implementation of accounts payable automation.

In the last financial year, Council continued to deliver real time reporting and analytics using dashboards developed through Microsoft PowerBI. A number of dashboards, including Planning, Plumbing and Building, are available on Council's website, allowing the community to have access to a range of information and real-time data.

Council commenced a project in late 2021 to support the full automation of more than 7,000 supplier invoices that are received annually. 'AP Automate' involved the electronic capture and processing of supplier invoices including the adoption of PEPPOL eInvoicing. Council was one of the first local government entities in Australia to implement PEPPOL - the new ATO eInvoicing standard. The project has improved a previously labour-intensive process for the accounts payable team and improved operational efficiency for many Council officers who are involved in procurement.

## Local Government Management Challenge

Devonport City Council's team, the Paranaple Pioneers, proudly claimed the State title in the 2022 Tasmanian Local Government Professionals Management Challenge.

The Management Challenge is a highly regarded simulation-based contest, that uses real local government themes and tackles issues that a council would most likely face as part of every-day operations.

The teams respond to a series of tasks in a 'pressure cooker' environment and are scored on observations of how well they display energy, synergy, effectiveness and creative thinking.

The opportunity to participate in the challenge enables staff to develop their skills and become more effective in their roles.

The challenge attracts in excess of 100 teams each year from across Australia and New Zealand.

As State winners, the Paranaple Pioneers go on to represent Tasmania in the National final to be held in South Australia in August.





## GOAL 5 ANNUAL PLAN ACTION SUMMARY

Strategy	Action	Outcome	Status
<b>5.2</b>	<b>PROMOTE ACTIVE AND PURPOSEFUL COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND PARTICIPATION</b>		
	Develop a consolidated Communications and Engagement Strategy.	Operational Communication and Engagement Strategy is under development.	→
<b>5.3</b>	<b>COUNCIL LOOKS TO EMPLOY BEST PRACTICE GOVERNANCE</b>		
	Modernise and system enable an increased number of Council's business processes - i.e. equipment hire automation, correspondence automation, internal electronic forms automation.	Substantial automation and system enablement delivered in 2021/22.	✓
<b>5.4</b>	<b>COUNCIL IS RECOGNISED FOR ITS CUSTOMER SERVICE DELIVERY</b>		
	Deliver an improved Customer Request Management System.	The Customer Request Management System is extensively used and working well.	✓
	Increase service delivery on digital platforms to make it easier for the community to engage Council services - chat bot, electronic forms, electronic payments, GIS viewer on Council website and digitise septic records.	Multiple administrative processes, including kennel renewal licensing, food license renewal and street trading licenses have been system enabled, allowing for faster submissions and online payments by the community, and reduced overheads for employees. A cloud hosted GIS platform has been delivered.	✓
<b>5.5</b>	<b>COUNCIL'S SERVICES ARE FINANCIALLY SUSTAINABLE</b>		
	Review Council's rates methodology and apply updated Valuer General property valuations.	Review of rates methodology complete and updated valuation data applied.	✓
<b>5.8</b>	<b>SKILLED, ENGAGED AND MOTIVATED EMPLOYEES HAVE A SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT</b>		
	Expand development of a real time Business Intelligence dashboard including community facing dashboards.	Community facing dashboards have been delivered.	✓
	Implement Accounts Payable Automation.	AP Automation delivered.	✓
	Review scope and content of routine reporting to Council.	Review of the scope and content of routine reporting to Council is complete. Recommendations pending.	✓
<b>LEGEND</b> Completed ✓ In progress → Ongoing ➡ Deferred ➡			



**Independent Auditor's Report**  
**To the Councillors of Devonport City Council**  
**Devonport City Council**  
**Report on the Audit of the Financial Report**

**Opinion**

I have audited the financial report of Devonport City Council (Council), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2022 and statements of comprehensive income, changes in equity and cash flows for the year then ended, notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, other explanatory notes and the statement of certification by the General Manager.

In my opinion, the accompanying financial report:

- (a) presents fairly, in all material respects, Council's financial position as at 30 June 2022 and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended
- (b) is in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993* and Australian Accounting Standards.

**Basis for Opinion**

I conducted the audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of my report. I am independent of Council in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)* (the Code) that are relevant to my audit of the financial report in Australia. I have also fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

The *Audit Act 2008* further promotes the independence of the Auditor-General. The Auditor-General is the auditor of all Tasmanian public sector entities and can only be removed by Parliament. The Auditor-General may conduct an audit in any way considered appropriate and is not subject to direction by any person about the way in which audit powers are to be exercised. The Auditor-General has for the purposes of conducting an audit, access to all documents and property and can report to Parliament matters which in the Auditor-General's opinion are significant.

My audit responsibility does not extend to the budget figures included in the financial report, the asset renewal funding ratio disclosed in note 43, nor the Significant Business Activities disclosed in note 3 to the financial report and accordingly, I express no opinion on them.



I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

## Key Audit Matters

Key audit matters are those matters that, in my professional judgement, were of most significance in my audit of the financial report of the current period. These matters were addressed in the context of my audit of the financial report as a whole, and in forming my opinion thereon, and I do not provide a separate opinion on these matters.

Why this matter is considered to be one of the most significant matters in the audit	Audit procedures to address the matter included
<b>Valuation of property and infrastructure</b> <i>Refer to notes 24 and 44</i>	
<p>At 30 June 2022, Council's assets included land, land under roads, buildings, parks and open space, cultural and heritage assets and infrastructure assets, such as roads and stormwater assets were valued at fair value totalling \$526.67 million. The fair values of these assets are based on market value or current replacement cost.</p> <p>Council undertakes formal revaluations on a regular basis to ensure valuations represent fair value. In between valuations, Council considers the application of indexation to ensure the carrying values reflect fair values.</p> <p>During 2021-22, Council undertook a full revaluation of land, building and road assets. Indexation was applied to parks and open space, cultural and heritage, and stormwater assets. The valuations were determined by experts and are highly dependent upon a range of assumptions and estimated unit rates.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assessing the scope, expertise and independence of experts involved in the valuations.</li> <li>Evaluating the appropriateness of the valuation methodology applied to determine fair values.</li> <li>Critically assessed assumptions and other key inputs into the valuation model.</li> <li>Testing, on a sample basis, the mathematical accuracy of the valuation model calculations.</li> <li>Evaluating indexation applied to assets between formal valuations.</li> <li>Evaluating the adequacy of disclosures made in the financial report, including those regarding key assumptions used.</li> </ul>

## Responsibilities of the General Manager for the Financial Report

The General Manager is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the *Local Government Act 1993* and for such internal control as determined necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the General Manager is responsible for assessing Council's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless Council is to be dissolved by



an Act of Parliament or the Councillors intend to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

## **Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report**

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of Council's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the General Manager.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the General Manager's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on Council's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusion is based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause Council to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with the General Manager regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

From the matters communicated with the General Manager, I determine those matters that were of most significance in the audit of the financial report of the current period and are



therefore the key audit matters. I describe these matters in my auditor's report unless law or regulation precludes public disclosure about the matter or when, in extremely rare circumstances, I determine that a matter should not be communicated in my report because the adverse consequences of doing so would reasonably be expected to outweigh the public interest benefits of such communication.



Stephen Morrison  
**Assistant Auditor-General**  
**Delegate of the Auditor-General**  
Tasmanian Audit Office

29 September 2022  
Hobart





137 Rooke Street,  
Devonport TAS 7310

03 6424 0511  
[council@devonport.tas.gov.au](mailto:council@devonport.tas.gov.au)  
[www.devonport.tas.gov.au](http://www.devonport.tas.gov.au)

Postal address  
PO Box 604 Devonport TAS 7310

Office hours  
8:45am–4:45pm, Mon–Fri

After hours emergency  
03 6423 3074

