



# COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

17 MARCH 2026

COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
COMMUNITY ADMINISTRATION  
CENTRE (CAC)





## **MINUTES**

FOR THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE  
COMMUNITY ADMINISTRATION CENTRE (CAC), 47 COLE STREET,  
SORELL ON 17 MARCH 2026

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### **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

<b>1.0</b>	<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY – MAYOR GATEHOUSE</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>2.0</b>	<b>ATTENDANCE</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>APOLOGIES</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5.0</b>	<b>CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF 17 FEBRUARY 2026</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6.0</b>	<b>MAYOR’S REPORT</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>7.0</b>	<b>SUPPLEMENTARY ITEMS</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>8.0</b>	<b>COUNCIL WORKSHOPS REPORT</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>9.0</b>	<b>COUNCILLOR QUESTIONS ON NOTICE</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>10.0</b>	<b>COUNCILLOR MOTIONS ON NOTICE</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>11.0</b>	<b>WORKGROUP REPORTS</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>12.0</b>	<b>PETITIONS STILL BEING ACTIONED</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>13.0</b>	<b>PETITIONS RECEIVED</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>14.0</b>	<b>LAND USE PLANNING</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>14.1</b>	<b>SORELL PLANNING AUTHORITY MINUTES</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>15.0</b>	<b>GOVERNANCE</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>15.1</b>	<b>REVIEWED GIFTS AND BENEFITS POLICY</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>16.0</b>	<b>INFRASTRUCTURE AND ASSETS</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>17.0</b>	<b>COMMUNITY RELATIONS</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>18.0</b>	<b>FINANCE</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>18.1</b>	<b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY – FINANCIAL REPORT FEBRUARY 2026 YTD</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>18.2</b>	<b>2025-2026 CAPITAL BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>18.3</b>	<b>SORELL MEMORIAL HALL – GREEN ROOM - HIRE RATES</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>19.0</b>	<b>PLANNING</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>20.0</b>	<b>HEALTH AND COMPLIANCE</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>21.0</b>	<b>ROADS AND STORMWATER</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>22.0</b>	<b>FACILITIES AND RECREATION</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>23.0</b>	<b>QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>24.0</b>	<b>CLOSED MEETING</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>24.1</b>	<b>CONFIRMATION OF THE CLOSED MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF 17 FEBRUARY 2026</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>24.2</b>	<b>AUTHORISATION TO DISCLOSE CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>24.3</b>	<b>TENDER C-25-B-003 – MADISON LYDEN PARK AMENITIES BLOCK</b>	<b>18</b>

**24.4 TENDER C-26-LI-005 – FLYWAY PARK PUMP TRACK**

**18**

**25.0 ACRONYMNS**

**19**

The meeting commenced at 6.07 pm.

## AUDIO-VISUAL RECORDING OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

I would like to advise that an audio-visual recording is being made of this meeting. I also remind everyone present to be respectful and considerate towards others attending the meeting. Language or behaviour that could be perceived as offensive, defamatory, or threatening to any person attending the meeting, or to those listening to the recording, will not be tolerated.

### 1.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY – MAYOR GATEHOUSE

[^](#)

I would like to begin by paying respect to the traditional and original owners of this land the Mumirimina people, to pay respect to those that have passed before us and to acknowledge today's Tasmanian Aboriginal community who are custodians of this land.

### 2.0 ATTENDANCE

[^](#)

Mayor J Gatehouse  
Deputy Mayor M Larkins  
Councillor S Campbell  
Councillor M Miró Quesada Le Roux  
Councillor B Nichols  
Councillor M Reed  
Councillor B Shaw  
Councillor C Torenus  
Chief Executive Officer R Higgins  
General Manager Operations J Hinchin  
Manager Infrastructure & Assets J Mann

### 3.0 APOLOGIES

[^](#)

Councillor N Reynolds

### 4.0 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

[^](#)

The Mayor requested any Councillors to indicate whether they had, or were likely to have, an interest in any item on the agenda.

No Councillor indicated they had, or were likely to have interest in any items on the agenda.



Councillor Torenus advised prior to the commencement of debate for Item 18.3, that she is a patron of Sorell on Stage and that this may constitute a perceived non-pecuniary interest.

## 5.0 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF 17 FEBRUARY 2026

[^](#)

### RECOMMENDATION

"That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2026 be confirmed."

#### 30/2026 NICHOLS/REED

"That the recommendation be accepted."

The motion was put.

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

Against:

The Motion was **CARRIED**

## 6.0 MAYOR'S REPORT

[^](#)

### RECOMMENDATION

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

#### 31/2026 LARKINS/REED

"That the recommendation be accepted."

The motion was put.

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

Against:

The Motion was **CARRIED**



## 7.0 SUPPLEMENTARY ITEMS



### RECOMMENDATION

“That the Council resolve by absolute majority to deal with any supplementary items not appearing on the agenda, as reported by the General Manager in accordance with the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015*.”

In accordance with the requirements of Part 2 Regulation 10 (7) of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025*, the Council by absolute majority may approve the consideration of a matter not appearing on the agenda, where the General Manager has reported:

- a) The reason it was not possible to include the matter on the agenda; and
- b) That the matter is urgent; and
- c) That advice has been provided under section 65 of the *Local Government Act 1993*.



## 8.0 COUNCIL WORKSHOPS REPORT

△

The following Council Workshop was held:

Date	Purpose	Councillor Attendance	Councillor Apologies
3 March 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Southern Beaches Structure Plan – presentation by ERA and Manager Planning</li> <li>• Waste Management matters update</li> <li>• Gifts and Benefits Policy and Register (reviewed)</li> <li>• Community Grants               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Bream Creek Show – request for additional ongoing funding</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Councillor Items               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ AI Matters – Councillor Miro Quesada Le Roux</li> <li>○ Councillor Tax Reform advocacy doc – Councillor Reed</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gatehouse, Larkins, Nichols, Reynolds, Reed, Torenius</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Miro Quesada, Shaw, Campbell</li> </ul>

## 9.0 COUNCILLOR QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

△

## 10.0 COUNCILLOR MOTIONS ON NOTICE

△

## 11.0 WORKGROUP REPORTS

△

### RECOMMENDATION

"That the workgroup reports as listed be received."

### 32/2026 LARKINS/REED

"That the recommendation be accepted."

The motion was put.

For: Gatehouse, Reed, Shaw, Torenius, Nichols, Larkins, Campbell, Miro Quesada

Against:

The Motion was **CARRIED**



## 12.0 PETITIONS STILL BEING ACTIONED



Petition	Tabled at Council Meeting	Status
<p>Withdrawal of the Blue Lagoon Management Plan Draft</p>	<p>18<sup>th</sup> July 2023 ordinary Council meeting – S.58(2) LGA 1993.</p>	<p>Council laid the matter on the table for further consultancy on review and options assessment for stormwater management at Blue Lagoon. Variation to the operating budget approved at August 2023 Council meeting to facilitate this - \$50k.</p> <p>Final consultant reports received April 2024.</p> <p>Council staff continue to progress matters with Red Handfish research team (NHRT) in first instance through exchange of consultant reports, development of an interim water level management SOP and ongoing engagement prior to determining further actions.</p> <p>Exchange of all project materials expanded to relevant state and federal agencies.</p> <p>Engagement with NRM EAG has also occurred.</p> <p>Alternative permanent outfall design exiting at Boat Ramp underway. Detailed LIDAR survey and tidal level data indicate drain grade and tidal inundation limitations. Alternate approaches being investigated between Council and consultant. Two options completed. Original concept via Kannah and Boat Park to ramp most feasible / least cost. Revised PM Plan required to finalise planning, required budget and impacts of associated maintenance works of lagoon as per mechanical cumbungi removal.</p> <p>Preferred design concept to be distributed for community engagement then Reserve Management Plan update and completion and revised EPBC process to be undertaken concurrently to meet CERMP project funding timing commitment.</p>

## 13.0 PETITIONS RECEIVED

[^](#)

At the time of preparation of this agenda no petitions had been received.

## 14.0 LAND USE PLANNING

[^](#)

The Mayor advised in accordance with the provisions of Part 2 Regulation 29 of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025, the intention of the Council to act as a planning authority pursuant to the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993* is to be noted.

In accordance with Regulation 29, the Council will act as a planning authority in respect to those matters appearing under item 14 on this agenda, inclusive of any supplementary items.

### 14.1 SORELL PLANNING AUTHORITY MINUTES

[^](#)

#### RECOMMENDATION

"That the minutes of the Sorell Planning Authority ("SPA") Meeting of 10<sup>th</sup> March 2026 be noted."

### 33/2026 LARKINS/TORENIUS

"That the recommendation be accepted."

The motion was put.

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

Against:

The Motion was **CARRIED**



## 15.0 GOVERNANCE

[^](#)

### 15.1 REVIEWED GIFTS AND BENEFITS POLICY

#### RECOMMENDATION

"That Council resolves to endorse the reviewed Gifts and Benefits Policy."

#### 34/2026 LARKINS/REED

"That the recommendation be accepted."

The motion was put.

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

Against:

The Motion was **CARRIED**

## 16.0 INFRASTRUCTURE AND ASSETS

[^](#)

Nil reports.

## 17.0 COMMUNITY RELATIONS

[^](#)

Nil reports.

## 18.0 FINANCE

[^](#)

### 18.1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY – FINANCIAL REPORT FEBRUARY 2026 YTD

#### RECOMMENDATION

"That the Executive Summary – FINANCIAL REPORT FEBRUARY 2026 YEAR-TO-DATE be received and noted by Council."

Councillor Campbell left the room at 6.26pm.

**35/2026 NICHOLS/LARKINS**

"That the recommendation be accepted."

The motion was put.

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

Against:

The Motion was **CARRIED**

**18.2 2025-2026 CAPITAL BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS****RECOMMENDATION**

"That Council resolve pursuant to Section 82 of the Local Government Act 1993 to accept and adopt the below adjustments to the 2025/2026 Capital Budget estimates."

**36/2026 LARKINS/REED**

"That the recommendation be accepted."

The motion was put.

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

Against:

The Motion was **CARRIED**

Councillor Campbell returned to the room at 6.31pm.

### 18.3 SORELL MEMORIAL HALL – GREEN ROOM - HIRE RATES

#### RECOMMENDATION

“That Council resolves to endorse the proposed green room hire rates for the Sorell Memorial Hall as outlined in this report.”

#### 37/2026 NICHOLS/LARKINS

“That the recommendation be accepted.”

The motion was put.

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

Against:

The Motion was **CARRIED**

### 19.0 PLANNING

[^](#)

Nil Reports.

### 20.0 HEALTH AND COMPLIANCE

[^](#)

Nil Reports.

### 21.0 ROADS AND STORMWATER

[^](#)

Nil Reports.

### 22.0 FACILITIES AND RECREATION

[^](#)

Nil Reports.



## 23.0 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC



In accordance with Regulation 36 of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025, Council will conduct a Public Question Time.

At each meeting the Mayor will invite those members of the public present to ask questions. When requested please:

- Stand up; and
- State clearly your name and address.

This time is allocated for questions from the public. Questions are to be kept brief and specific to the topic to which they relate.

Members of the public are reminded that questions and any answers to such questions are not to be debated.

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

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Sharon Fotheringham of Forcett questioned regarding the additional funding request from the Bream Creek Show as mentioned in the Council workshop report and what that is about.

The Mayor advised that the Bream Creek Show is like any other organisation that has its challenges particularly with insurance and providing the facilities required, toilets and traffic management. It is a significant event for our community and draws a lot of people to the area and is a benefit to the region. There is a current agreement with the Break Creek Show regarding insurance of the building which is under Council insurance. They are seeking assistance to continue to expand on the show that will need to upgrade their existing infrastructure.

Sharon further questioned if there was any update from the government regarding the causeway upgrades.

The Mayor advised that there are no further updates, this project is still in the government's budget. This appears to be pushed out into the 2029 budget. No further updates were provided by the Minister of Infrastructure at his recent visit to Council.

Dierdre Biggar of Dodges Ferry requested an update on the status of ownership of the foreshore land at First Avenue Dodges Ferry.

The Mayor advised that she was copied into an email sent to Dierdre a month ago which is the latest update.

The CEO advised that he has a meeting with the Public Trustee and Crown Solicitor next Wednesday.



## 24.0 CLOSED MEETING

△

The Chief Executive Officer advised that in his opinion the listing of agenda item/s:

Reference	Item
24.1	Confirmation of the Closed Council Minutes of the Council Meeting of 17 February 2026 - <i>Regulation 40(3)</i>
24.2	Disclosure of confidential information – <i>Regulation 17(7)</i>
24.3	Tender C-25-B-003 – Madison Lyden Park Amenities Block – <i>Regulation 17(2)(e)</i>
24.4	Tender C-26-LI-005 – Flyway Park Pump Track – <i>Regulation 17(2)(e)</i>

As prescribed items in accordance with Regulations 17 and 40 of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025, and therefore Council may by absolute majority determine to close the meeting to the general public.

### RECOMMENDATION

That the meeting be closed to the public to enable Council to consider agenda items 24.1 - 24.4 which are confidential matters as prescribed in Regulations 40 and 17 of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025.

### 38/2026 LARKINS/NICHOLS

“That the recommendation be accepted.”

The motion was put.

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

Against:

The Motion was **CARRIED**

The open meeting concluded at 6.43 pm.



## CLOSED MEETING

Members are advised that items listed below in the CLOSED SESSION AGENDA are classified as CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS in accordance with the provisions of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

A Councillor must not discuss any item listed in a CLOSED SESSION AGENDA with any person (except another elected member, the General Manager or the author of a report to the closed session of Council or a Council Committee) without a specific resolution of the Council or a Council Committee that considered the report.

Section 338A (1) of the *Local Government Act 1993* states that a Councillor must not disclose information:

- (a) seen or heard by the Councillor at a meeting or part of a meeting of a council or council committee that is closed to the public that is not authorised by the council or council committee to be disclosed; or*
- (b) given to the Councillor by the mayor, deputy mayor, chairperson of a meeting of the council or council committee or the general manager on the condition that it be kept confidential.*

Section 338A (3) states that a member must not disclose information acquired as such a member on the condition that it be kept confidential.

Additionally, Section 339 of the *Local Government Act 1993* states that:

- (1) A councillor or a member must not make improper use of any information acquired as a councillor or member.*
- (3) Improper use of information includes using the information –*
  - (a) to gain, directly or indirectly, an advantage or to avoid, directly or indirectly, a disadvantage for oneself, a member of one's family or a close associate; or*
  - (b) to cause any loss or damage to any council, controlling authority, single authority, joint authority or person.*



### MINUTES

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING  
17 MARCH 2026

The closed meeting commenced at 6.43 pm.

**24.1 CONFIRMATION OF THE CLOSED MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF 17 FEBRUARY 2026**

[^](#)

**39/2026 REED/LARKINS**

"That the recommendation be accepted."

The motion was put.

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

Against:

The Motion was **CARRIED**

**24.2 AUTHORISATION TO DISCLOSE CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION**

[^](#)

**40/2026 LARKINS/NICHOLS**

"That the recommendation be accepted."

The motion was put.

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

Against:

The Motion was **CARRIED**



**24.3 TENDER C-25-B-003 – MADISON LYDEN PARK AMENITIES BLOCK**

Councillor Campbell left the room at 6.47 pm.

**41/2026 NICHOLS/REED**

"That the recommendation be accepted."

The motion was put.

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

Against:

The Motion was **CARRIED**

Councillor Campbell returned to the room at 6.49 pm.

**24.4 TENDER C-26-LI-005 – FLYWAY PARK PUMP TRACK****42/2026 REED/LARKINS**

"That the recommendation be accepted."

The motion was put.

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

Against:

The Motion was **CARRIED**

The closed meeting concluded at 6.53 pm.

## 25.0 ACRONYMS



AGM	Annual General Meeting
AFL	Australian Football League
AIR	Australian Immunisation Register
ASU	Australian Services Union
ATO	Australian Taxation Office
AWTS	Aerated Wastewater Treatment Systems
BEST	Business and Employment Southeast Tasmania
CAC	Community Administration Centre
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CLRS	Councillors
CRM	Customer Request Management
CRDSJA	Copping Refuse Disposal Site Joint Authority
DEDTA	Department Economic Development, Tourism & The Arts
DECYP	Department for Education, Children and Young People
DPAC	Department of Premier & Cabinet
DPFEM	Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management
DSG	Department of State Growth
DST	Destination Southern Tasmania
EBA	Enterprise Bargaining Agreement
EOI	Expressions of Interest
EOFY	End of Financial Year
EPA	Environment Permit Authority
EWaste	Electronic Waste
FMAC	Fire Management Assessment Committee
GM	General Manager
LGAT	Local Government Association of Tasmania
LPS	Local Provisions Schedule
LTFP	Long Term Financial Plan
MAST	Marine & Safety Tasmania
MEMC	Municipal Emergency Management Committee
NRE	Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania
NRM	Natural Resource Management
PWS	Parks and Wildlife Service
RDA	Regional Development Australia
RTI	Right to Information
SBIP	School Based Immunisation Program
SEI	South East Irrigation
SERDA	South East Region Development Association
SES	State Emergency Service
SPA	Sorell Planning Authority
STCA	Southern Tasmanian Councils Association
STRWA	Southern Tasmanian Regional Waste Authority
STRLUS	Southern Tasmania Regional Land Use Strategy
SWSA	Southern Waste Strategy Association
SWS	Southern Waste Solutions
TasCAT	Tasmanian Civil and Administrative Tribunal
TAO	Tasmanian Audit Office



### MINUTES

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

17 MARCH 2026