



Sorell Council Annual Plan 2026-2027

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Sorell Council's Annual Plan for the 2026/2027 financial year has been prepared and adopted by Council in accordance with Section 71 of the *Local Government Act 1993* in that it:

- is consistent with Council's Strategic Plan 2019 – 2029;
- includes a statement of the manner in which Council is to meet the goals and objectives of the Strategic Plan;
- includes a summary of the budget estimates adopted by Council; and
- includes a summary of the major strategies to be used in relation to the Council's public health goals and objectives.

This Annual Plan outlines the priority actions for 2026/27 to progress Council objectives, guide delivery and support transparent reporting to the community and stakeholders.

Councillors at 30 June 2026



Mayor
Janet Gatehouse



Councillor
Marisol Miro Quesada Le Roux



Councillor
Natham Reynolds



Deputy Mayor
Michael Larkins



Councillor
Beth Nichols



Councillor
Ben Shaw



Councillor
Shannon Campbell



Councillor
Melinda Reed



Councillor
Carmel Torenus

Summary of the estimates for the 2026/2027 Financial Year

Estimated Operating Revenue	\$28,487,493
Estimated Operating Expenditure	\$27,947,886
Estimated Borrowing	N/A
Estimated Capital Income	\$ 6,165,717
Estimated Capital Works	\$15,054,286

Our Vision

A proud, thriving and inclusive South East Community.



Our Values

Integrity

We work in good faith, are honest and forthcoming and take accountability for our decisions.



Respect

We listen to and consider the opinions and input of each person and acknowledge each other's contribution.



Unity

We work cohesively as one Council, supporting our community and each other to achieve better outcomes.



Innovation

We are committed to finding new solutions, adapting to change and continuously improving in order to deliver the best outcomes for the community.



Snapshot of Sorell

Community Buildings & Facilities

35 



1,075 **
Local Businesses
supporting 4,221 local jobs

114 km
of Pathways 

14 Community Parks and recreation reserves 

Estimated population *
17,919



Retail
Largest industry
(by employment)
generating 5449 local jobs.

Language other than English spoken at home **3.8%** **

4.8% **
identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

2,138 **
Residents are registered volunteers



2,544 **
Families

10,215 
total properties

42 ** Median resident age



\$1,369 **
Median weekly household income



3,217
Registered dogs

583 km²



TOTAL AREA OF LGA

Stormwater pits **3,607**
94km of Stormwater pipes

4,691 **
52.6% 
of the workforce leave the community for work



10.2% **
Residents born overseas

87
Bridges 

14.8% ** of our community are employed in retail trade

10.6% ** of our community are employed in construction

11.8% ** of our community are employed in health care and social assistance



459 TONNES
Bulk Hardwaste collected 25/26 (to end of May)



3,299 TONNES
General waste collected 25/26 (to end of May)

Gross Regional Product (GRP) #

Estimate of each region's unique contribution to the national economy.

\$0.65 billion 



829 TONNES
Greenwaste (kerbside) collected 25/26 (to end of May)



889 TONNES
Recycling collected 25/26 (to end of May)

Fauna Species
1242+
 More than 1242 Fauna - 39 Species under EPBC 1999, 38 species under TSPA 1995



Flora Species
1363+
 More than 1363 Flora - 8 Species under EPBC Act 1999, 51 species under TSPA Act 1995



351 km
 of road network
 219km is sealed, and 132km is unsealed

Council formal and other reserves

1698 ha
 Includes 7 formal Council reserves



Threatened Vegetation Communities
6,222
 10 under NCA 2002 (ha total)

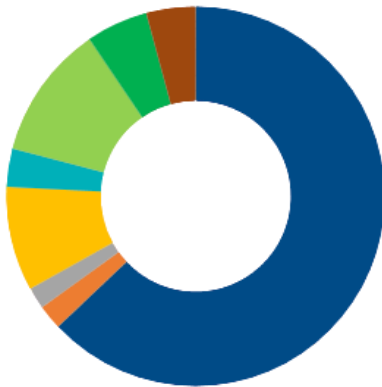
1 Ramsar Wetland
3,334 ha

Site of International Importance
 Pitt Water-Orielton Lagoon

179 km (total)
 Shoreline



* Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Regional Population Growth, Australia (3218.0)
 ** 2021 Census
 # National Institute of Economic and Industry Research 2023



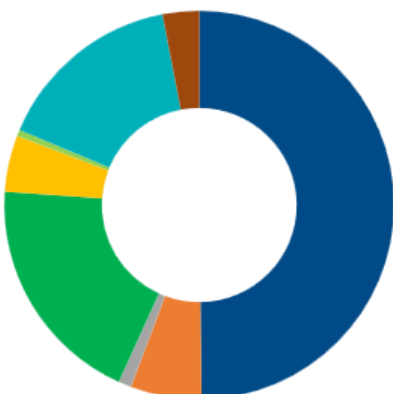
■ Rates and charges	\$21,819,510
■ Statutory fees and fines	\$ 734,545
■ User fees	\$ 633,285
■ Operating grants	\$ 3,080,016
■ Interest	\$ 1,126,316
■ Capital grants	\$ 3,972,888
■ Recognition of completed subdivisions	\$ 1,827,829
■ Other income	\$ 1,458,821

Revenue
 Where does it come from?



■ Employee Benefits	\$ 9,071,607
■ Materials and services	\$ 8,900,223
■ Depreciation & amortisation	\$ 7,568,524
■ Finance costs	\$ 87,168
■ Other expenses	\$ 2,320,365

Expenses
 Where is it Spent?



■ Roads and Infrastructure	\$241,415,800
■ Buildings	\$ 25,354,164
■ Assets under construction	\$ 4,595,709
■ Land	\$ 83,163,460
■ Bridges	\$ 20,241,810
■ Plant and Equipment	\$ 2,195,203
■ Stormwater	\$ 67,425,743
■ Land Improvements	\$ 13,014,697

Assets
 This is what we own

Objective 1

Facilitate Regional Growth

Outcome: Support coordinated infrastructure, investment and partnerships that enable sustainable, managed and staged growth across the region.

		Strategic Plan Reference
1.1	Support the timely delivery of the final South East Traffic Solution projects (Causeway duplication and Arthur Highway upgrades) through continued engagement with State and Federal Government partners.	1.1, 1.8
1.2	Work with TasWater, TasNetworks, relevant State and Federal Government agencies and landowners to finalise: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infrastructure servicing strategies for Sorell; • Master planning for the expansion of the urban growth boundary; and • Delivery timeframes and funding commitments to enable progression of the Sorell East Growth Area and Inghams. 	1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.7, 1.8
1.3	Maintain ongoing engagement with the State Government through the newly restructured Building Tasmania Department, while strengthening effective partnerships with key agencies.	1.8
1.4	Enable sustainable investment and support job creation and local business by monitoring regional economic trends using NIEIR data and maintaining engagement with Regional Development Australia, the Sorell Business Association, Destination Southern Tasmania and Business Employment Southeast Tasmania (BEST).	1.4
1.5	Continue advocating to the State Government, the Office of the Coordinator-General and the proponent to finalise lease arrangements for the Dunalley Marina development.	1.8, 1.9
1.6	Support and promote SERDA programs and strategies, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalisation of the regional advocacy document and engagement with State and Federal Governments on priorities. • Working with Glamorgan Spring Bay Council to progress the Wielangta Mountain Bike Trail Project, including partner engagement, project planning, grant funding exploration and establishment of a project working group. 	1.1, 1.5, 1.8, 1.10
1.7	Continue to support improvements in local education infrastructure by advocating for additional education capacity and contemporary Kindergarten–Year 12 facilities for the south-east region with Government and private sector providers.	1.6

Objective 2

Responsible Stewardship and a sustainable organisation

Outcome: Maintain a financially sustainable, well-managed organisation that delivers services responsibly and protects environmental values.

		Strategic Plan Reference
2.1	Review and adopt revenue-generation options required to meet the thresholds and objectives in the Financial Management Strategy.	2.1, 2.2
2.2	Provide cost-effective and environmentally responsible waste management services by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with Southern Waste Solutions to undertake a feasibility assessment for a local waste transfer facility. • Consulting on the potential closure of the Dodges Ferry Recycling Centre. • Implementing a FOGO kerbside collection service, including community awareness and education. • Investigate options to divert materials typically collected during hard waste from landfill. • Participating in regional discussions with TasWaste South on soft plastics collection options. 	2.3, 2.4, 2.8, 2.10
2.3	Deliver the Primrose Beach water quality improvement program by continuing targeted catchment monitoring, particularly at Carlton Bluff to assess impacts from on-site wastewater systems and undertaking a feasibility assessment of improvement options, including stormwater and seepage treatment.	2.1, 2.4, 2.8
2.4	Implement the Southern Beaches Onsite Wastewater and Stormwater Strategy 2025 by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewing the specific area plan (SAP). • Providing community education on operation, maintenance and stormwater management. • Commencing periodic compliance checks of existing onsite wastewater systems. 	2.1, 2.3, 2.4, 2.8
2.5	Implement the NRM Strategy through achievable environmental actions, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying biodiversity corridors and promoting backyard biodiversity. • Promoting responsible cat ownership and protecting native species. • Preparing priority weed actions and an eradication plan, supporting landholders in their implementation. • Continuing to invest in nature reserves and Landcare partnerships. 	2.4, 2.8, 2.10
2.6	Strengthen proactive stakeholder engagement and issue-based advocacy, including advancing Regional Strengthening Projects and securing grant funding aligned with the Financial Management Strategy.	2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.6, 2.7, 2.10

Objective 3

To ensure a liveable and inclusive community

Outcome: Strengthen community wellbeing, inclusion and access to services, facilities and public spaces.

		Strategic Plan Reference
3.1	Deliver a coordinated program of community development initiatives covering access and inclusion, health and wellbeing and arts and culture, providing meaningful opportunities for participation and connection.	3.1
3.2	Develop an operating model for the Community Precinct and activate it for community use.	3.2, 3.8
3.3	Develop the Access and Inclusion Advisory Group, in collaboration with Mission Australia, to reduce barriers to participation and support under-represented voices in decision-making.	3.2
3.4	Continue to lobby for affordable and increased public transport services in addition to park-and-ride facilities for the Southern Beaches and Sorell East.	3.3, 3.5
3.5	Review and update the Open Space Strategy, incorporating the 25/26 audit and playspace planning work.	3.4, 3.9
3.6	Progress a Coastal Action Plan and recommendations as the review and implementation mechanism for the Foreshore Access Management Strategy.	3.9
3.7	Develop business cases for active transport strategy priorities not currently included in the Financial Management Strategy.	3.2, 3.4
3.8	Continue implementation of Stage1 of the Social Strategy Implementation Plan for identified high priority actions, with short delivery timeframes.	3.2

Objective 4

Increased community confidence in Council

Outcome: Increase transparency, engagement and trust through effective governance, planning and communication.

		Strategic Plan Reference
4.1	Plan for and engage with newly elected members to ensure they are well informed on Council strategy and plans following the October Local Government elections.	4.1, 4.2
4.2	Progress key strategic land use planning activities, including completing structure plans for Sorell and the Southern Beaches, advancing associated rezonings and contributing to State and regional planning reforms.	4.2
4.3	Provide diverse opportunities for the community to engage with Council and provide feedback that informs decision-making.	4.6
4.4	Advocate for increased availability of affordable housing with Homes Tasmania and landowners.	4.4
4.5	Deliver Council's Communications and Engagement Strategy by implementing actions outlined in the 26/27 Communication and Engagement Plan.	4.6

Public Health goals and objectives

In accordance with Section 71(2)(d) of the *Local Government Act 1993*, Council is required to include a summary of the major strategies to be used in relation to Council's public health goals and objectives.

Key activities that work towards achieving Council's public health goals are:

- Conduct a school immunisation program aligned with State and Federal Department of Health immunisation goals and targets and continue promotion of immunisation within our community.
- Ensure proper provision of sustainable on-site wastewater management in accordance within the current regulatory framework, codes, standards and best environmental practice.
- Undertake routine inspections of food premises, public events, public health risk activities, unhealthy housing, private water suppliers and water carriers to ensure compliance with relevant legislation.
- Promote safe food handling in our community through the use of media and social media platforms to provide current food safety advice and information to our community.
- Apply the Tasmanian food business risk classification system.
- Provide effective and efficient collection, recycling and disposal of solid waste to the community.
- Promptly investigate public and environmental health complaints.
- Maintain an effective monitoring and analysis program for food, recreational waters and general complaints.
- Continue to actively participate and contribute to policy and legislative development at a regional and State level to further the public and environmental health of our community.

KEY PROJECTS & STRATEGIES

Projects

- Develop the Community Precinct, including the construction of a new community building incorporating event and makers workshop spaces.
- Construct new Men's Shed facility at Penna.
- Complete Active transport footpath projects at Dunalley, Dodges Ferry and Carlton.
- Construction of the Blue Lagoon permanent outfall solution.
- South East Sporting Complex and Dodges Ferry Recreation Reserve LED lighting upgrades.
- Playground Consultation & Construction:
 - Primrose Sands Beach playground, toilet and car park.
 - Midway Point Hall / Neighbourhood House playground.
- Consult on the development of a concept plan for the redevelopment of Sorell Memorial Hall surrounds.

Strategy Review & Development

- Finalisation of the Southern Beaches Structure Plan.
- Consult on the Sorell Structure Plan.
- Consult on the Coastal Access Plan.
- Asset Management Strategy to be endorsed by Council.
- Review of Financial Management Strategy & Long Term Financial Plan.