



COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

19 MAY 2026

COUNCIL CHAMBERS
COMMUNITY ADMINISTRATION
CENTRE (CAC)





MINUTES

FOR THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE
COMMUNITY ADMINISTRATION CENTRE (CAC), 47 COLE STREET,
SORELL ON 19 MAY 2026

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MINUTES

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
19 MAY 2026

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The meeting commenced at 6:02 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 B Nichols
Councillor M Reed
Councillor N Reynolds
Councillor C Torenus
Councillor B Shaw
Chief Executive Officer R Higgins
General Manager Operations J Hinchin

3.0 APOLOGIES

△

Councillor M Miró Quesada Le Roux

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.

#During the Closed Meeting for Agenda Item 24.3, Councillor Larkins declared a non-pecuniary conflict of interest and subsequently abstained from voting.

5.0 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF 21 APRIL 2026

[^](#)

RECOMMENDATION

"That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 17 April 2026 be confirmed."

54/2026 NICHOLS/REED

"That the recommendation be accepted."

The motion was put.

For: Gatehouse, Reed, Nichols, Larkins, Reynolds, Campbell, Torenus, Shaw

Against:

The Motion was **CARRIED**.

6.0 MAYOR'S REPORT

[^](#)

RECOMMENDATION

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

The Mayor noted the following additional items for inclusion:

- Red Shield Breakfast
- Interpretative sign opening at Flora Park

55/2026 LARKINS/REED

"That the recommendation be accepted."

The motion was put.

For: Gatehouse, Reed, Nichols, Larkins, Reynolds, Campbell, Torenus, Shaw

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
5 May 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 26/27 operating and capital budget briefing, rates modelling, fees & charges. • Draft Annual Plan • Draft Youth Policy • Primrose Sands beach dog management • Ferry Hall 	Mayor J Gatehouse Deputy Mayor M Larkins Councillor B Nichols Councillor M Reed Councillor N Reynolds Councillor C Torenius Councillor M Miró Quesada Le Roux	Councillor B Shaw Councillor S Campbell

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."

56/2026 LARKINS/REED

"That the recommendation be accepted."

The motion was put.

For: Gatehouse, Reed, Nichols, Larkins, Reynolds, Campbell, Torenus, Shaw

Against:

The Motion was **CARRIED**.

12.0 PETITIONS STILL BEING ACTIONED

[^](#)

Petition	Tabled at Council Meeting	Status
Withdrawal of the Blue Lagoon Management Plan Blue Draft	18 th July 2023 ordinary Council meeting – S.58(2) LGA 1993.	<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</p>



		<p>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>
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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 21 April 2026 be noted."

57/2026 LARKINS/NICHOLS

"That the recommendation be accepted."

The motion was put.

For: Gatehouse, Reed, Nichols, Larkins, Reynolds, Campbell, Torenus, Shaw

Against:

The Motion was **CARRIED**.



15.0 GOVERNANCE

△
Nil Reports

16.0 INFRASTRUCTURE AND ASSETS

△
Nil Reports

17.0 COMMUNITY RELATIONS

17.1 △ YOUTH POLICY

RECOMMENDATION

“That Council adopt the Youth Policy as attached.”

58/2026 REED/LARKINS

“That the recommendation be accepted.”

The motion was put.

For: Gatehouse, Reed, Nichols, Larkins, Reynolds, Campbell, Torenus, Shaw

Against:

The Motion was **CARRIED**.

18.0 FINANCE

18.1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY – FINANCIAL REPORT APRIL 2026 YTD

RECOMMENDATION

“That the Executive Summary – FINANCIAL REPORT APRIL 2026 YEAR-TO-DATE be received and noted by Council.”

59/2026 LARKINS/NICHOLS

“That the recommendation be accepted.”

The motion was put.



For: Gatehouse, Reed, Nichols, Larkins, Reynolds, Campbell, Torenus, Shaw

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."

60/2026 TORENIUS/LARKINS

"That the recommendation be accepted."

The motion was put.

For: Gatehouse, Reed, Nichols, Larkins, Reynolds, Campbell, Torenus, Shaw

Against:

The Motion was **CARRIED**.

18.3 2026-2027 FEES AND CHARGES

Local Government Act 1993 (Tas) – Part 12

"In accordance with Section 205 of the Local Government Act 1993 (Tas), the Council hereby makes the following fees and charges for the period commencing on 1 July 2026 and ending on 30 June 2027."

61/2026 LARKINS/NICHOLS

"That the recommendation be accepted."

The motion was put.

For: Gatehouse, Reed, Nichols, Larkins, Reynolds, Campbell, Torenus, Shaw



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.

23.1 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC ON NOTICE

Eleanor Coombe of Midway Point asks:

As residents close to the pump track in Honolulu Street, we are concerned about noise and light pollution from the track as well as personal privacy. Could Council please regenerate the slope behind our 3 homes with trees and bushes to provide us with privacy, cut any noise and light pollution? The bank would need to be landscaped so bike riders wouldn't use it as an extra fun area. Could a resident be consulted as to what would be best for them?

CEO Response:

Council understands the importance of maintaining amenity for nearby residents, particularly in relation to noise, lighting and privacy. There is no lighting proposed for the pump track.

To address privacy and help manage noise, landscaping is being considered as a natural buffer between the pump track and adjoining properties. This approach would involve planting trees and vegetation along the embankment to act as a visual screen, help contain activity within the designated track area, and contribute positively to the overall appearance of the space. The intent is also to design this area in a way that discourages use of the slope as an extension of the track.

23.2 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC WITHOUT NOTICE

Sharon Fotheringham from Forcett asked what the workshop item for Primrose Sands Dog Management was about.

The Mayor advised that Council has received several requests from Primrose Beach residents asking Council to look at opening part of the beach, mainly the central part of the beach, for dog access all year round. Several options have been presented to Council on ways to make this work and the matter will be assessed more fully as part of the upcoming review of the Dog Management Plan commencing 2026/27.

Sharon asked if Sorell East mentioned for development is Mount Garrett?

The CEO advised that Sorell East is the land between the bypass and Mount Garrett, it does not include Mount Garrett.

Sharon asked if Council has a procedure to carry out spot checks for drugs on outside workers that operate large equipment. How many times are year are checks happening?

The CEO advised Council does have a policy on zero alcohol and drug use in the workplace that all employees and contractors must adhere to.

The General Manager Operations advised it is done approximately 8 times a year, the policy does allow it to happen more than that but it is not set by a schedule, as that would detract from it being random.

Sharon asked if a development by Council or a private party has occurred at the top of the hill in Primrose Sands, where the sewage issues were.

The CEO advised that Council has done works at the top of the hill in relation to the groundwater testing and monitoring underway.

Sharon asked if there is any update from the Government on the causeway development. Can Council ask the Government for an update on behalf of the community?

The Mayor advised there may be something in the upcoming state budget, but Council has received no updates and yes, we will ask for an update.

Marina Campbell from Dodges Ferry asked if the trees removed for a footpath development on Carlton River Road happened due to a communication error between Council staff and a contractor.

The CEO advised that Council is aware and not satisfied with what has happened. It was not a communication error, the contractor was acting in accordance with instructions. Currently investigating the incident and and

subject to that process being concluded, we will advise the community of the outcome with an appropriate response.

Marina asked if Council can please provide an update regarding Ferry Hall.

The CEO advised that Council has completed their analysis of all the responses received and a range of options were workshopped with Councillors. A summary document of those options will be sent to participants very soon. Building surveying and heritage assessments by Council are also being organised.

Debbie Salter from Carlton asked if work from the Southern Beaches Plan and future visioning work from Okines will feed into the Ferry Hall Consultation Report.

The CEO advised that those have been considered.

24.0 CLOSED MEETING

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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 21 April 2026 - <i>Regulation 40(3)</i>
24.2	Disclosure of confidential information – <i>Regulation 17(7)</i>
24.3	Tender C-26-B-004 – Sorell Men's Shed New Building

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 - 24.3 which are confidential matters as prescribed in Regulations 40 and 17 of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025."

62/2026 REYNOLDS/LARKINS

"That the recommendation be accepted."

The motion was put.

For: Gatehouse, Reed, Nichols, Larkins, Reynolds, Campbell, Torenus, Shaw

Against:

The Motion was **CARRIED**.

The open meeting concluded at 6:57 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.*

The closed meeting commenced at 6:58 pm.

24.1 CONFIRMATION OF THE CLOSED MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF 21 APRIL 2026

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63/2026 NICHOLS/LARKINS

"That the recommendation be accepted."

The motion was put.

For: Gatehouse, Reed, Nichols, Larkins, Reynolds, Campbell, Torenus, Shaw

Against:

The Motion was **CARRIED**.

24.2 AUTHORISATION TO DISCLOSE CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION [^](#) RECOMMENDATION

64/2026 LARKINS/CAMPBELL

"That the recommendation be accepted."

The motion was put.

For: Gatehouse, Reed, Nichols, Larkins, Reynolds, Campbell, Torenus, Shaw

Against:

The Motion was **CARRIED**.

24.3 TENDER C-26-B-004 – SORELL MEN'S SHED NEW BUILDING

65/2026 CAMPBELL/NICHOLS

"That the recommendation be accepted."

The motion was put.

For: Gatehouse, Reed, Nichols, Reynolds, Campbell, Torenus, Shaw



Against: Larkins (Abstained from voting)

The Motion was **CARRIED**.

The closed meeting concluded at 7:07 pm.

25.0 ACRONYMNS

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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